

The Arlington Forester



Volume 52, Number 3

Arlington, VA

November 2010

AFCA Addresses Neighborhood Concerns

The October meeting of the Arlington Forest Citizens Association picked up where the previous month's meeting left off in discussing several neighborhood issues.

Southside Traffic

Participants received an update on the safety concerns related to non-resident traffic exiting Arlington Boulevard at South Columbus Street and using the service road as an alternate thoroughfare to avoid Route 50 congestion. AFSA President Julie Kirchoff and Southside resident Lilli Tnaib reported on their on-site meeting with County traffic engineer Ramzi Awwad during the morning traffic rush on October 6. After witnessing first-hand the heavy traffic on formerly-quiet neighborhood streets, Mr. Awwad confirmed that the County will conduct a formal evaluation, including collecting various traffic data.

In an October 18 e-mail, Mr. Awwad said that data collection would take an additional three to four weeks. Once the data is analyzed, the County staff will make recommendations for action. The recommendations will need to be

forwarded to the Virginia Department of Transportation requesting action since VDOT controls Route 50 and its access points.

On October 26, Ms. Tnaib e-mailed Mr. Awwad a petition signed by 62 neighbors outlining the safety concerns and asking the County and VDOT to address them.

Northside Traffic Circles

Also discussed at the AFCA meeting was the issue of the abandoned traffic circles on North Second Street from Henderson Road to Park Drive. The four traffic circles were installed in the mid-1990s after years of lobbying by neighborhood residents who were tired of traffic speeding past their homes. Long-time residents recall that the County installed the circles on the condition that local residents would be responsible for their upkeep. That arrangement worked for a while, but eventually volunteers drifted away. Instead, in recent years AFCA has stepped in to pay contractors to maintain the circles. The bill last year was \$1800.

Continued page 2

Thank You, Chris

With the publication of last month's *Arlington Forester*, Chris Scheer completed an unprecedented 22 year run as the editor of the oldest community newsletter in Arlington County. Ably assisted for many years by his wife Karen, Chris juggled his office and home commitments month after month for over two decades to ensure that the *Forester* was delivered to your doorstep prior to the AFCA monthly meeting. All *Foresters* owe Chris a debt of gratitude for his dedicated service which began back when Ronald Reagan was in the White House.

By keeping Arlington Forest residents up to date with neighborhood events and issues, the newsletters that Chris produced helped to maintain a sense of community that united the 850 houses in our three-section neighborhood. Chris did such a great job that it is taking two people to

replace him. While Chris single-handedly edited and laid out each issue, those equally demanding duties have now been divided. With this issue, John Naland takes over as editor and Laura Smialowicz takes over doing layout. They will do their best to keep up the tradition of excellence that characterized Chris' editorship. Thank you, Chris.

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AFCA Meeting 7 p.m. Nov. 17 at Barrett School

THE ARLINGTON FORESTER

Official publication of the Arlington Forest Citizens Association, Arlington, Virginia founded in 1939. A nonpartisan, nonsectarian publication serving the common interests of the residents of Arlington Forest.

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AFCA Meeting ...from page 1

AFCA spent another \$650 for weed cutting this past October after complaints by County officials.

Presented with a new proposal for AFCA to spend an additional \$600 for a partial re-landscaping of the circles, AFCA meeting participants decided to table the proposal and focus instead on getting Northside residents involved in re-instituting a volunteer-based solution. Just as some Southside neighbors get together every spring to clean up the buffer strip along Route 50 and some Greenbrier section neighbors turn out twice a year to clean up a stretch of Four Mile Run, what is needed is for Northside residents to re-adopt the traffic circles. This issue will be on the agenda of the November AFCA meeting. Northside residents who benefit from the traffic calming provided by these circles are urged to attend.

Northside Parking

Northside resident Ester Bowring briefed AFCA meeting participants on ongoing efforts to reduce unsightly commercial parking on neighborhood streets adjacent to the Lubber Run Recreation Center and Barrett Elementary School. While AFCA previously convinced the County to put up signs limiting such parking during the work week, the offending companies have found ways to skirt the rules. Ms. Bowring reported that she continues to work with County staff to get them to enforce existing signs. She has also written to Commonwealth Senator Mary Margaret Whipple and Delegate Patrick Hope seeking their assistance in finding a longer-term solution.

As the meeting concluded, participants unanimously applauded Chris Scheer for his 22 years as editor.

Editor's Note

The *Arlington Forester* is your community newsletter, so please consider submitting your news and views. Articles or letters of no longer than about 400 words are welcome. Also welcome are shorter news notes. Sending a photo is encouraged, either accompanying an article or by itself if a short caption can summarize the event. Please e-mail submissions to John Naland at nalandfamily@yahoo.com. Upcoming deadlines (which vary slightly depending on the date of the monthly AFCA meeting) are: Jan. 7, Feb. 4, Mar. 4, Apr. 8 and May 6. Submissions are subject to editing to meet space constraints.



HALLOWEEN PARADE: Pictured above, dozens of little princesses, ninjas and other costumed children turned out for the annual Halloween parade from the Arlington Forest Shopping Center to the Lubber Run Community Center on Oct 30. After playing at the playground, everyone headed down to the fire pit in Lubber Run Park for s'mores and other snacks. Special thanks go to Jennifer Beer for organizing this great neighborhood event and keeping this nice Arlington Forest tradition going.

Come to the Holiday Party

by Chris Scheer

He's got a list and he's checking it twice... and at the top of Santa's list is the Arlington Forest Holiday Party at the Lubber Run Recreation Center Friday, December 3.

He's scheduled to arrive on a strobe-flashing, siren-screaming Arlington County fire truck at 7 p.m. as he does every year. Then it's into the rec hall to greet excited kids, camera-toting parents and a many old-timers who just can't resist this long-standing neighborhood tradition. A word to the wise: get to Lubber Run Rec Center early -- around 6:45 p.m. -- to help light the Christmas tree outside the rec center along George Mason Drive and greet Santa as he arrives.

Forester Chris Bosch and his piano-playing buddy Ken Schellenberg (and maybe others) will provide sing-along music for carolers and tables will be laden with holiday treats brought by parents and neighbors to be enjoyed by kids and grownups, alike.

Santa is the star of the evening and will sit on his throne discussing holiday wishes with every child. No kid is left behind at this party and each will receive a special gift bag direct from the North Pole!

This Wednesday's AFCA meeting (Barrett School library at 7 p.m.) will discuss planning and preparation for the Arlington Forest holiday party set for Friday, December 3, at 7 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help set up and tear down, lead carol singing and coordinate craft tables for the kids. If you want to help or if you have a group that might provide special assistance -- table craft for kids, elf assistance for Santa, caroling -- please contact Chris Scheer at 703-276-9725 or by email at scheer4@comcast.net.

Amphitheatre Update

Tricia Freeman reports that the Lubber Run Amphitheater assessment is completed and is now wending its way toward public disclosure, but is not there yet. The County contracted Architect Wayne Neale to assess the site and examine three options: rebuild, repair, or remove. After completing his work, Mr. Neale provided additional material to address the impact of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance on each option. The report was forwarded to Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources (DPRCR) Director Dinesh Tiwari. AFCA has repeatedly asked to be included in the discussion of Amphitheater's future. However, it appears the community will be invited to do so only after DPRCR forwards recommendations to the County manager and they are presented to the County Board.

Before sending recommendations to the County manager later this month, DPRCR will review the feasibility study and also programming and budget factors. Ms. Susan Kalish, Director of Marketing & Communications, says "I believe the big hurdles will (be) ensuring that what we do

AF 101 - Fall Leaves

by John Naland

In a neighborhood with the word "Forest" in its name, dealing with leaves comes with the territory. Whether this is your first or fiftieth fall here, this issue of "Arlington Forest 101" has info that can help you survive leaf season.

Each fall, Arlington County collects leaves for recycling into mulch. Between Nov. 1 and Jan. 14, the County will not pick up leaves that are put in plastic garbage bags or trash carts. Instead, leaves should be put in biodegradable leaf bags for weekly collection or raked into piles at curbside for vacuum leaf collection. Home mulching or composting are other options.

Biodegradable leaf bags are collected on the next business day after the regular trash collection day from Nov. 1 to Jan. 14. Remove dirt, stones, litter and other debris and then place the leaves in biodegradable bags that the County will mulch along with the leaves. Close the paper bags by folding the top down and place them at the curb by 6:30 AM on pickup day. Free bags are available at eight locations (including Lubber Run Center and Long Branch Nature Center) or can be purchased at hardware stores.

Vacuum leaf collection runs from Nov. 15 to Dec. 24. Rake leaves to curb (but away from storm drains) and remove stones, litter, branches, or other debris to prevent worker injuries or equipment damage. Crews make two passes, one in November and one in December. For the tentative schedule, look for bright yellow or orange signs posted on telephone poles several days before the scheduled collection. You can also check online or sign up for an e-mail alert on the County website (search term: 2010 Leaf Collection Program). The actual collection date will slip if the crews run behind schedule in other neighborhoods.

To be a good neighbor, keep an eye on the pickup schedule. If you miss a weekly leaf bag collection, please do not leave the bags at the curb for the whole week until the next pickup. If you miss a vacuum collection (especially the final one), then your leaves will sit in the street for weeks blowing onto your neighbors' lawns.

A final tip: do not park over a pile of dry leaves. Several years ago, a Honda Civic burned after a resident parked its hot engine over a pile of leaves on North Kenmore Street.

complies with the new environmental ordinances that weren't in place when the theater was built and that we can come up with a cost effective programming plan to make the theater viable (and thus relevant for the expenditures)". Ms. Kalish also indicated that County staff would then work with the community "to gather input to develop recommendations for the budget".

Arlingtonians made their voices heard in the Save the Season 2010 effort earlier this year. Most supported restoration of Amphitheater. Weigh in with your opinion at the Nov AFCA meeting or e-mail Tricia at TriFree@aol.com.

Neighborhood Notes

by Jane Scruggs

There has been recent chat on the AFMoms listserv (a Yahoo! Group subscribed to by 170 families in Arlington Forest) about a few cats that seem to be left to roam around the neighborhood. Some of us Foresters thought it might be helpful to remind neighbors that the best place for our cats is, in fact, inside our own homes. To this end, here is some helpful information from the Animal Welfare League of Arlington (awla.org):

"Arlington cats and their guardians are very fortunate to live in such a pet-friendly environment, but some rules and regulations are necessary to protect the health and well being of cats and people. In order to comply with Arlington animal laws, be certain to vaccinate cats for rabies; and to give them the longest and best quality of life, keep cats indoors at all times.

"The Arlington animal shelter is inundated with calls from frantic residents with lost cats. Arlington residents also bring in hundreds of stray cats to the shelter every year. Most of these cats wear no collars or tags and finding out who they belong to is very difficult. Animal control officers also find many cats that have been hit by cars and are

either severely injured or dead. Even if a cat is not injured outdoors, it can pick up fleas and ticks and even diseases from other free-roaming cats. The Animal Welfare League of Arlington encourages cat owners to keep their cats safely indoors. Playing with your cat, having another feline companion, and providing appropriate cat toys makes the indoor environment perfectly satisfying for a cat. Besides keeping them indoors, the other important factor in keeping cats happy and healthy is to make sure they are spayed or neutered. A spayed or neutered cat is much less likely to mark territory by spraying urine or to display aggression to people and other animals and is not subject to cancers that can develop in the reproductive organs. If you want to learn the joys of sharing your home with one or more cats, the best way is to adopt your own Arlington cat! The Animal Welfare League of Arlington always has beautiful, friendly cats looking for their forever homes. Since 1944, the League has been providing temporary care and refuge for homeless and suffering animals and placing animals in loving, responsible homes. The League is located at 2650 South Arlington Mill Drive, 703-931-9241, mail@awla.org."



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Jim

Snow Alert

by John Naland

Following last winter's paralyzing Snowmageddon, Arlington County passed an ordinance requiring residents to shovel their sidewalks or face penalties. The reason for the law is that residents who do not keep their sidewalks clear of snow and ice put their neighbors' safety at risk: children going to the school bus stop, commuters walking to mass transit, neighbors walking their dogs, senior citizens out for a health stroll, parents pushing baby carriages, etc.

The law requires residents to clear snow and ice off of the entire width and length of their sidewalks within 24 hours after snowfall ceases (within 36 hours if snowfall exceeds 36 inches). Noncompliance can result in a \$50 fine plus being billed for removal fees if the County does the shoveling. Despite the 24-hour rule, the County urges shoveling "as soon as possible" since snow and ice left for any length of time could cause a pedestrian to fall and be injured.

The County urges residents who may be out of town to "make arrangements for someone to clear your sidewalks in your absence – much as you would arrange to have your grass mowed" during summer. The County has not yet said if it will issue waivers for disabled residents. Regardless, the County urges all residents to "maintain clear sidewalks adjacent to their property."

So, plan ahead to assure that your sidewalk is shoveled if you cannot do it yourself. Perhaps a neighbor will agree to help. Another option is to pay a lawn service or teenager (see "Kids for Hire" below).

Kids for Hire

Need help shoveling snow this winter? These Arlington Forest students are available. For an updated list, check the AFCA website at www.capaccess.org/forest/.

Northside:

-- Joshua & Sammy Patecell, joshuapatecell@yahoo.com, 703-524-6891

-- Gabriel Yudken, gabriel_y@verizon.net, 703-623-7015

Southside: Check AFCA website.

Greenbrier Section:

-- Zephren Collinson, 703-528-3595

-- Alex Hendel, dhendel@gmail.com, 703-763-0070

-- Lucy & Alice Naland, nalandfamily@yahoo.com, 703-888-0125

If you are a middle school or high school student and want to be on this list in the January Arlington Forester and on the AFCA website, send your name, e-mail address, phone number and neighborhood to John Naland at nalandfamily@yahoo.com. If this list proves useful, we will expand it next year to include babysitting, dog walking, pet sitting, lawn mowing and leaf raking.

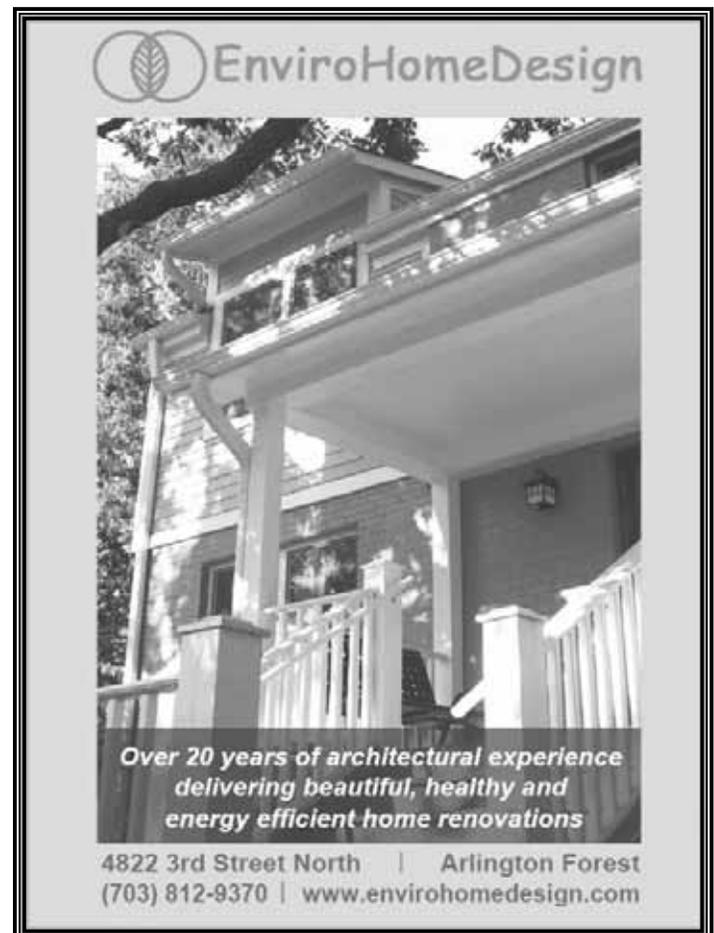
Crime Watch

by John Naland

Corporal Beth Lennon of the Arlington County Police Department gave an update on crime trends at the AFCA meeting on Oct. 20. Corporal Lennon said that 13 incidents were reported in Arlington Forest between July 15 and Oct. 15. Auto larceny (thefts from inside parked cars) was the most common offense with four reports. She urged residents not to leave valuables such as GPS devices visible inside cars. She said that even leaving the suction cups that held GPS devices could prompt break-ins.

In response to a question, Corporal Lennon acknowledged that police statistics may not reflect all crimes due to the fact that some residents may fail to report incidents. She urged all residents to report all incidents, even if the losses were minor and the criminals long gone. For example, she said that the police routinely fingerprint cars that suffered break-ins and that such evidence could result in convicting a crook responsible for dozens of thefts.

As always, on-going crimes and other emergency situations should be reported by calling 911. Non-emergency incidents should be reported by calling 703-558-2222 or by filling out an online form on the County website. The website also has an archive of crime reports and allows residents to sign-up for weekly e-mails that provide county-wide crime summaries. Illegally parked cars should be reported to Special Operations Section at 703-228-4141.



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Around the Forest

Newsletter Delivery Crew: Eight times a year, the *Arlington Forester* is delivered to your doorstep by one of our dedicated newsletter carriers. The next time you see these young people making the rounds, please say "Thank You." Southside: Sarah and Spencer Brown; Alex Brown. Northside: Marika Mortimer-Lotke; Gabe Yudken; Ryan and Justin Szczerbinski; Colin Mashkuri. Greenbrier Section: Chris & John Mutty; Andrew Elliott; Truman & Jackson Towle; Sam & Elli Bosch; Owen Walker.

Arlington Forest Club: The Arlington Forest Club (AFC), which replaced its swimming pool several years ago, is planning to replace its aging bathhouse with a new one-story structure in the next few years. AFC membership remains highly sought after. The wait for a rental membership is three to four years for residents of Arlington Forest and other nearby neighborhoods. For those further away, the wait is eight years. For details, see arlingtonforestclub.org/membership/.

Girl Scout Cookies: Neighborhood Girl Scouts will be going door to door between Dec 20 and Jan 22 taking orders for eight varieties of delicious cookies. Each box is \$4 payable on delivery in late winter.

Christmas Tree Recycling: Christmas tree collection runs from Jan 3 to 14 on your regular trash day. Place the tree at curb without a plastic bag, lights, decorations, or stand. Trees are ground into mulch.

AFCA Membership: Have you paid your tax-deductible \$10 Arlington Forest Citizens Association dues for the Sept 2010 to Aug 2011 budget year? If not, please do so today using the form below. As of early Nov, only 309 of the 853 households in Arlington Forest had paid. The participation rates are Greenbrier section-37 percent; Southside-37 percent and Northside-34 percent. In comparison, membership was 525 (62 percent participation) in 1945 soon after AFCA was formed. The record high was 655 (77 percent participation) in 1972. As Arlington Forest approaches its 75th anniversary in 2014, we want to increase AFCA membership along with the sense of community that it represents.

AFCA MEMBERSHIP DUES ANNUAL DUES \$10 PER HOUSEHOLD

Deliver this form and your check for \$10 payable to "AFCA" to your respective AFCA section vice president.

Greenbrier: Tom Smialowicz, 26 N. Granada St. 22203

Northside: Allison Kennett, 139 N. Park Dr. 22203

Southside: Douglas Sims, 119 S. Columbus St. 22204

NAME: _____

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Forest Exchange

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For sale: Kindle 3G with neoprene cover and screen saver. Virtually new. Cost \$189, plus \$29 for cover. It's yours for \$175. Contact Diane at 703/763-0070.

Ivy Removal: Forester Paul Kovenock, 703-525-5221, is available to advise Forest homeowners adjacent to Lubber Run Park on ridding their yards of invasive English ivy and voluntarily supervising day laborers to get it done.

See It, Say It

by John Naland

Despite the County's budget constraints, it is still good at responding to citizen reports of street maintenance problems. Twice recently I have reported such problems and twice they have been quickly fixed. One was an ever-deepening pothole in the southbound entrance ramp onto N. George Mason Drive from N. Carlin Springs Road. The second was an erosion problem at the foot of N. Greenbrier Street. In the second case, not only did the County repair the sidewalk but it also put in a new storm drain.

So, if you see a street pothole or a sidewalk, curb or gutter problem, please report it by telephone or via an online form. See the County website for details.

Advertise Here: Send your notice to nalandfamily@yahoo.com by Jan 7.

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Family and Children Christmas Eve Service, Saturday December 24, 5 p.m.
Candlelight Holy Communion Service, Saturday December 24, 7:30 p.m.
Christmas Caroling, Sunday December 19, 4 p.m.

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Barrett School News

Barrett Elementary School's **4-H Save the Earth Environmental Club** and **Peer Mediation Peacebuilders**, sponsored by the Counseling program and volunteer teachers, are joined together with Wesley Housing Project Staff to learn about homelessness and to go on a Mini-Homelessness Walk in our community later on this fall - they will be raising money to help children and families!

In happenings in **Barrett's Discovery Lab**, this year **Project Discovery** began with a traveling exhibit called, **SNAKES ALIVE**, on loan from the Virginia Living Museum in Newport News. Many thanks to our PTA for funding this opportunity as our students learned a lot about snakes and other reptiles and amphibians! (Do you know the differences between a reptile and an amphibian? Just ask any Barrett student!) Students continued to explore and learn more about living things as we have had several visits from Long Branch Nature Center, where the naturalists have come to the lab with snakes, salamanders, and other creatures!

Currently, kindergartners are learning about the migration of whooping cranes, first graders are learning about animal coverings and also designing puppets based on what they have learned, second graders are learning about endangered sea turtles, third graders are beginning a biome engineering design challenge, fourth graders are exploring current issues with our Chesapeake Bay, our watershed, and connecting their learning to their Virginia History studies, and our fifth graders are exploring living systems (biology) and how they relate to the quality of water and surroundings in nearby Lubber Run.

Check out the following link for some **pictures of our Barrett students in action** in the Discovery Lab: tinyurl.com/ProjectDiscovery

And, we LOVE it when people come in to share with students experiences about their careers! If you work/worked in a career that relates to science, mathematics, engineering and/or technology and enjoy talking to kids, feel free to contact Project Discovery teachers Allyson Greene (allyson_greene@apsva.us) and Laurie Sullivan (laurie_sullivan@apsva.us).



SCOUTING NEWS: Pictured above, **Joshua Patecell** of Arlington Forest's Boy Scout Troop 648 is awarded the rank of Eagle Scout from troop Scoutmaster **Rodney Sampson** during an Eagle Court of Honor ceremony on October 24. Also becoming Eagle Scouts were Thomas Burrill, Tom Morgan, Constantine Psaltis-Ivanis and Daniel Voigtsberger. All met the requirements for the rank of Eagle and completed individual service projects benefiting Lubber Run Park. Master of ceremonies for the Court of Honor was Rob Janson, the troop's assistant scoutmaster and Eagle committee chairman. He was assisted by Scoutmaster Sampson. Both Mr. Sampson and Mr. Janson are Arlington Forest residents. Pastor Mike Southall-Vess of the Arlington Forest United Methodist Church, the troop's charter organization and sponsor, attended and offered the invocation and benediction. Other honored guests included Lois Barb from Arlington County Parks and Recreation, who had sponsored all five scouts in their Eagle service projects, and Betty Hagler, Arlington Forest resident and widow of Col. Tom Hagler, the troop's scoutmaster from 1969-1971.

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Barcroft School News

Thanks to our neighbors who linked their **Harris Teeter VIC cards** to Barcroft Elementary School! The Barcroft PTA has linked 2999 cards and earned \$7052 this year. Please continue purchasing Harris Teeter products until May 2011.

There are many interesting events happening at Barcroft through January. Join us for our weekly **Monday Mornin' Movers** exercise program. Weather permitting, families and students meet at the outdoor track from 8:30–8:50 a.m. Monday Mornin' Movers will meet on Nov 15, 22, and 29, Dec 6 and 13, and Jan 3, 10, 24, and 31.

On Tuesday, Nov 16, Barcroft will host a **Family Economics Night** at 6 p.m., presented by the Virginia Cooperative Extension of Arlington. Each child will be assigned a career and a monthly income to use for recurring expenses such as food, clothing, transportation, savings, housing, insurance, charity, and entertainment. The kids have fun learning about budgets.

To celebrate **American Education Week**, Barcroft will distribute free books from Reading is Fundamental to all students on Thursday, Nov 18. The smiles and excitement generated show how much our students love to read!

On Friday, Nov 19, the Barcroft PTA will host its monthly **Family Fitness Night** with Spanish/Flamenco Dancing.

During December, 5th Graders will host a **Toys and Games Collection Drive**. Teachers use games and toys as learning tools in the classroom. Please donate any educational toys or board games you no longer use. Barcroft's Girls on the Run team will participate in a **5K Reindeer Romp Run** on Saturday, Dec 4. On Saturday morning, Dec 11, the PTA will host a **Holiday Shop**. Children may shop with parents or a personal shopper, who will assist the children in finding presents for everyone on their list. With many gifts between \$.25 and \$5.00, any budget can be accommodated.

On Thursday, Dec 16, Barcroft will host another **Leonardo Learning Day**. Each grade will have an Open House for students, families, and other important visitors to see what students have learned this quarter. That evening, the 4th Grade will host a **4th Grade Leonardo da Vinci Fair**. Join us!

Highlights in January 2011 include a **Winter Concert** on Tuesday, Jan 11. The annual **PTA Rummage Sale** will be Saturday, Jan 29, at 9 a.m. Donate furniture, clothing, toys, household goods, CDs, and other knick-knacks to Barcroft from Jan 24-28. To learn more, go to www.apsva.us/15452010312423667/site/default.asp.



Real Estate Facts

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Kenmore Middle School News

Book Fair - Books for middle school readers, younger children and adults will be on sale at the annual book fair open weekdays from Tuesday, Nov. 16 to Monday, Nov. 22 in the Kenmore library.

Storyteller Odds Bodkin - Renowned storyteller, musician and author Odds Bodkin will perform on Friday, Nov. 19 at 7 PM in the Kenmore Auditorium. Tickets are \$10 in advance (sold at Kenmore, Silver Diner in Clarendon, and Potomac Overlook Regional Park) and \$12 at the door. Suitable for ages 6 and up.

Winter Concert Series - Kenmore's band, orchestra and chorus will perform in mid-December. Chorus: Wednesday, Dec. 15. Strings: Thursday, Dec. 16. Band: Friday, Dec. 17. Performances start at 7 PM.

Science Fair - Volunteers with a science background are needed to help judge Kenmore's annual science fair on Wednesday, Jan. 19. If you can assist, contact Liz Castillo at Elizabeth_Castillo@apsva.us.

Washington-Lee High School News

Fall Musical "Grease" -- Thursday, Nov. 18, Friday, Nov. 19 and Saturday, Nov. 20 at 7:30 PM in the auditorium.

Holiday Bazaar - More than 70 local artisans will sell quality handcrafted gift items such as jewelry, ceramics, glassware, photography, artwork, collectibles and clothing at the Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 4, from 10 AM to 4 PM. Baked goods and multi-ethnic food will also be sold. Live performances by The Madrigals and Women's Chorale. Free admission.

U.S. Army Band - The U.S. Army Blues band plays Duke Ellington's arrangement of Nutcracker on Sunday, Dec. 5, at 3 PM. Joined by the Washington-Lee Jazz Big Band.

Get Connected with AFCA!

Website: www.capaccess.org/forest
 Listserv: ArlingtonForest@googlegroups.com
 Next AFCA meeting: Nov 17th at 7 pm



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Nature Center

Update from Naturalist Matthew Neff:

The leaves are illuminating the forests and neighborhoods with their brilliant colors while the wind brings a crisp feeling to the air. The animals are starting to hibernate or have already flown south, but that shouldn't keep us down. There are many ways to still enjoy nature. Bundle up and venture over to Long Branch Nature Center to enjoy some festive, indoor programs. Register in advance on site, by calling 703-228-4747, or online at registration.arlingtonva.us.

Holiday Wreath Workshop- Sat., Dec 4, 2-5 PM. Ages 12 and up. Using all-natural items, we'll create some delightfully decorative crafts you can use to spruce up your home or to give as special gifts. We'll provide music, refreshments, basic instruction and enough materials for each participant to make at least two seasonal decorations. Bring hand pruners or wire cutters (if you have them) and any extra materials or special decorations you may wish to add. \$30 fee. Program #612940-E

Wild Ones: Snow Globes- Weds., Dec 8, 4-5 PM. Ages 6 - 10. Your child is invited to join our exciting nature club which meets twice a month. Choose just a few programs or attend them all! At this session we'll study the favorite precipitation of children of all ages – snow. Learn about the properties of water, how snow forms, and make your very own snow globe! \$5 fee. Program #622920-C

Holiday Helpers- Sat., Dec 11, 1-5 PM, Program #622920-A and Sun., Dec 12, 1-5 PM, Program #622920-B. Ages 4 to 14. Everyone could use an extra hand around the holidays; we'd like to lend you one. We'll watch the kiddies while you shop 'til you drop! We'll keep them busy with fun and educational games, crafts, animal encounters and a few short films. Stay for all or

part of the time, one or both days. \$25 fee.

Theater- Weds., Jan 12, 4-4:45 PM. Children ages 3-12. Come one, come all to an exciting show at the Long Branch Puppet Theater. Watch as stories come to life in this rompin' puppet play. Stick around to meet the cast and (live animal) characters afterward. \$5 fee. Program #622920-F



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When considering discount points, it's best to conduct a break-even analysis done by calculating the monthly mortgage payment with no points, then subtracting the monthly mortgage payment with points. The difference is the monthly savings. Then divide the cost of the discount points by the savings. The result is the number of months until you breaks even.

Discount points for residential property are tax deductible in the year they are paid. Discount points are available when refinancing, but those are deductible over the life of the loan. It's best to consult with a tax advisor regarding details of these deductions.

30 Year Fixed rates as of 11/5/10: Up to \$417,000: 3.875% - 1 point, 4.00% - no points. 30 year Fixed from \$417,001 - \$729,750 4.000% - 1 point, 4.250% - no points. 30 year Jumbo from \$729,751 - \$1,000,000 4.750% - 1 point, 4.875% - no points.



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Culpepper Senior Center

SOUNDS OF MUSIC -- Listen to classical music and learn with Joe Sutchomel. Free. Fridays, 1-3 p.m.
 Dec. 3 -Musical Geography –Travels to Brazil, France, North Africa, Massachusetts, Spain and Japan.
 Dec. 10 -Richard Strauss – Recorded examples from opera, symphonic poem, songs, concerto and waltzes.
 Dec. 17 -Ballet Music – Formal dance from operas, Diaghilev ballet and independent works.

THE MERRYMAKERS -- Come join the Merry-makers in singing songs of yesterday, and put some music in your life! The group provides musical programs mainly using songs from the '20s, '30s and '40s—often with audience participation. Show tunes and country western music are favorites. The Merry-makers are directed by Helen Mulroney. For more information, call 703-228-4403. Free. Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

HOLIDAY BOOK SALE -- Indulge a favorite person on your gift list - or maybe yourself! The Culpepper Garden Advisory Council is sponsoring a used book sale for all who love to read. The sale will include books, baked goods and other small items that may be of interest to devoted readers. Monday-Thursday, Dec. 6–9, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

LISTENING LIBRARY – CHRISTMAS MUSIC GALORE -- Come to Culpepper Garden Senior Center for an hour of listening enjoyment, featuring “White Christmas” by Bing Crosby and “Christmas with Dino” (Dean Martin). Holiday cookies and punch will make the day merry and bright! Free. Tuesday, Dec. 21, 11 a.m.–noon. Please register by Dec. 17. 703-228-4403.

THE CAMEO JEWELS IN PERFORMANCE AT CULPEPPER GARDEN -- Come and enjoy a variety show by the Cameo Jewels. Contestants from the Ms. Virginia Senior America pageant will be performing their special talent. Free. Monday, Jan. 10, 11 am.

LISTENING LIBRARY – CHRISTMAS MUSIC GALORE -- Come to the Center for an hour of listening enjoyment, featuring “White Christmas” by Bing Crosby and “Christmas with Dino”. Holiday cookies and punch will make the day merry and bright! Free. Tuesday, Dec. 21, 11 a.m.–noon. Please register by Dec. 17. 703-228-4403.

“THE DIAMONDS” HOLIDAY PERFORMANCE -- Come and watch the The Diamonds shine! The Diamonds are a group of tap dancers who have been performing together throughout Virginia for more than 20 years. The tappers will brighten the holidays at Culpepper Garden Senior Center. Light refreshments will be served. Free. Wednesday, Dec. 15, 11 a.m.-noon.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON -- Culpepper Garden Senior Center has a great Christmas dinner planned! Join the friendly crowd for Culpepper Garden’s special luncheon celebration on Dec. 16: a ham and all the traditional fixin’s for Christmas dinner. Space is limited, so please make your reservation in advance. The Songfellows will lead the Christmas carols for a sing-along. Thursday, Dec. 16, noon–1 p.m. \$6. Register and pre-pay by Dec. 13. 703-228-4403.

AFCA Holiday Party at 7 p.m. on Dec. 3rd at Lubber Run



ELECTION DAY: Pictured below, Arlington Forest voters turned out on Nov. 2 for U.S. Congressional and local elections. Preliminary results show that 1064 of 2186 registered voters cast ballots at our Precinct 025 at Culpepper Gardens. That 48.7 percent turnout compares to the county-wide average of 43.2 percent.

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