

The Arlington Forester



Volume 53, Number 3

Arlington, VA

November 2011

Dominion Power briefs AFCA

By Chris Scheer

Seventy years ago backyard power poles were considered cutting edge in the field of residential development and planning. Today it's causing power problems in Arlington Forest according to Dominion Power company representative Rob McIntyre who addressed residents at the October AFCA meeting.

One of the hallmarks of the Arlington Forest neighborhood layout was the location of utility line poles in back yards instead of on the streets, as was the usual practice. That kept the development's wide, winding streets free of poles and lines and aesthetically pleasing to this day.

But 70 years later, the location of those poles carrying electrical, phone and cable lines is causing problems. Trees planted when Arlington Forest was young have matured and now crowd those lines, and power pole access is hampered by backyard locations. Ninety percent of power outages in

Arlington Forest are tree related, according to McIntyre.

Dominion Power maintains the poles and lines that bring electrical power to Arlington Forest. McIntyre and a Dominion Power team including a local operations manager and arborist were at the October AFCA meeting to explain the challenges and operations that affect Arlington Forest.

McIntyre explained that Dominion Power manages 35,000 miles of tree trimming along its power lines and inspects residential circuits every three years, recently completing inspection of Arlington Forest. He noted that homeowners often voice concerns about the trimming done along power lines, but said that the trimming is essential to maintain "sustainable and reliable" power.

The team arborist said that notice of future trimming is listed on the power bills sent to residents – though it is not available to those paying on line –Continued on page 2

November AFCA Meeting

By John Naland

The Arlington County Police Department's liaison to our neighborhood, Corporal Beth Lennon, will be on hand at the next AFCA meeting on November 16th, 7 PM, in the Barrett School library. She will update us on local crime trends and answer questions. If you have safety concerns, including about traffic issues along Arlington Blvd, please attend this meeting. For those who cannot attend, the January issue of this newsletter will provide a summary (Note: The *Arlington Forester* is not published in December).

At the November AFCA meeting, we will also discuss plans for the annual Arlington Forest Holiday Party at Lubber Run Recreation Center on December 2nd (see page 3 for details).

Your membership dues support AFCA's many activities that enhance the quality of life in our neighborhood. If you have not yet returned your annual \$10 AFCA dues for the fiscal year that began this past September, please do so

today using the form on page 9. As of press time, 250 of the 853 households have paid. Participation rates by section are Greenbrier Section-32%, Southside-29% and Northside-26%.

In comparison, membership was 525 (62% participation) in 1945 soon after AFCA was formed. The record high was 655 (77%) in 1972. As Arlington Forest approaches our 75th anniversary in 2014, we want to increase AFCA membership along with the community spirit that it represents.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Playground Plan.....3	Forest Exchange.....10
Amphitheater.....3	Community Calendar.....10
Leaf Collection4	Nature News.....11
AF101: Snow.....6	Barcroft News.....12
Holiday Party/Winter.....7	Barrett News.....13
Around the Forest.....9	Kids for Hire.....14

AFCA Meeting 7 p.m. Nov 16 at Barrett School Library

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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Forester is printed by *Stanley Adams Printing Co.*

Editor's Note

The *Arlington Forester* welcomes articles, news notes and letters focusing on events or issues specific to our neighborhood. We also welcome photos accompanied by an explanatory caption. The next deadline is Jan 5 for the issue to be distributed the weekend of Jan 14 (we do not publish in Dec). E-mail submissions of 400 words or less to John Naland at newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org. Space fills up early, so check with the editor in advance if you plan to submit a long article. Submissions are subject to editing.

Dominion Power ...from page 1

and that homeowners can contact the Dominion Power Forestry line at 571-203-5026 to discuss their tree concerns in advance.

The team apologized for the outages that have seemed to plague the neighborhood recently, particularly the prolonged outages along South Aberdeen Street in September, but said that the challenges of trees and pole accessibility added to the problem.

When asked about the possibility of running lines underground, operations manager Tony Savage said it is considered in some extreme cases but it would involve considerable expense (as much as \$10,000 per home), land acquisition and disruption and thus tends to be impractical in most residential areas.

Why do some lights go out in Arlington Forest while others stay on? McIntyre explained that each of Arlington Forest's three sections – Southside, Northside and Greenbrier – is served by a different substation; the main ones being on Carlin Springs Road near Four Mile Run and further down Four Mile Run in Alexandria.

Savage said the substations feeding Arlington Forest provide plenty of power, but that the transformers stepping the voltage down for home use are gradually being replaced to keep up with growing home power demands – modern appliances, TVs, computers and power tools.

Dominion Power is pilot testing “smart meters” that can be read remotely with cell phone technology and will eventually make them standard. Arlington meters are currently read using “drive by” technology.

How Maintain Reliability

.....
How can Arlington Foresters help maintain the reliability of their electrical power service?

--Always call Dominion Power (1-866-DOM-HELP) to report power outages. The more calls Dominion gets the better able it can analyze and pinpoint the problem.

--Plant the “right tree in the right place”. Think ahead and plant trees that will not be potential power interrupters.

--Stay safe. Most fatalities involving electrical power lines are people working around their homes. The Virginia Safety Act law prohibits private parties from working within 10 feet of power lines. Dominion Power has sole operational authority within that easement.

--Stay in touch. Use Dominion Power's call-in lines and check out its website at www.dom.com.

AFCA Approved Playground Plan by Chris Scheer

At its October meeting, AFCA unanimously approved a design concept developed by Arlington County Parks and Recreation that will use County Neighborhood Conservation Program funds to transform the current Glencarlyn Park kiddie playground just below the W&OD Trail access point from Arlington Forest's south side.

The park is located within the Arlington Forest neighborhood boundary and the project was proposed by AFCA for funding by the Neighborhood Conservation program. County playground designer Valery Moseley attended the September AFCA meeting and solicited feedback from Arlington Foresters on what the park should offer and look like. Based upon that information, she presented a general design concept for approval at last month's meeting.

That approval enables the County to offer the project to the Neighborhood Conservation Committee for voting into the next funding schedule in December. If approved by the committee, the project plan will be finalized in detail and construction could begin late next year.

Moseley reported that feedback indicated that For-esters wanted to see climbing, swinging, sand play and seating incorporated within a natural setting consistent with the playground's location next to Four Mile Run. Her design concept includes a sand area featuring a boulder obstacle course and a small hand-pump water source. There will be swings and a unique web-like climbing structure, as well as a low tier wall that will provide seating.

She noted that the site is within a designated resource protection area and will feature landscaping with native plants to provide a distinct border.

Kids Halloween Parade



Pictured above, well over 50 little princess, wizards and other costumed wee ones turned out for the annual Halloween parade from the AF Shopping Center to the Lubber Run Community Center on Oct 30. After playing at the playground, everyone headed down to the fire ring in Lubber Run Park for an old-fashioned camp fire with s'mores and treats. Again this year, special thanks go to Jennifer Beer for organizing this great neighborhood event to keep this nice tradition going.

Amphitheater Update

Here are brief notes on preparations for the 2012 season at the Lubber Run Amphitheater:

-- Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation board members attended an Oct 18 Arlington County Board meeting to thank the County Board and Arlington County Manager Barbara Donellan and her staff for their successful efforts over the past year to bring the amphitheater back to life. You can see a report of the meeting at www.arlnow.com/2011/10/18/lubber-run-performances-deemed-a-success/

- Last May, the County Board committed to a recurring budget allocation for programming at Lubber Run Amphitheater of \$20,000 per season (a fact inadvertently not mentioned in this newsletter's update last month). The Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation will be meeting with County staff in November to discuss what was spent on programming for the partial season that ran from July 29 through Sept 3. This discussion will help the Foundation better understand the funding needs anticipated for a full season of programming in 2012. Additional capital needs for the amphitheater will also be discussed.

- The Foundation is seeking suggestions and ideas for programming at the amphitheater next summer. You can make a tax-deductible donation to help fund the amphitheater's 2012 season by sending a check made out the Arlington Community Foundation with "Lubber Run Amphitheater Fund" on the memo line to the Arlington Community Foundation, 818 North Quincy Street, Arlington, VA 22203. Email your ideas, suggestions, questions and comments to lubberrunamphitheater@gmail.com. Keep up with amphitheater news and activities on Facebook.

Leaf Collection Reminder - Ready. Rake. Recycle.

The Arlington County 2011 Leaf Collection and Recycling began on Oct. 31 for bag collection and Nov. 14th for vacuum truck collection. The leaf collection program is an important County service with nearly 100 people dedicated to the program and over 30 pieces of equipment collecting over 45,000 cubic yards of leaves for processing into leaf mulch. Arlington County's program has 3 easy ways to recycle leaves into mulch:

- Rake leaves to the curb for vacuum truck collection. Crews will make two passes through Arlington Forest between Nov & Dec.
- Place leaves in biodegradable bags. Bags will be collected one business day after your regular trash day. Free leave bags can be picked up at eight locations throughout the county.
- Compost leaves and yard waste. Take advantage of nature's recycling to turn the leaves into a valuable organic soil supplement.



SPECIAL COLLECTION: Pictured above, A young Forester watches Arlington County refuse trucks remove the final pieces from an enormous stack of cut branches and tree trunks resulting from cutting down two dead elm trees in backyards between N. Galveston and N. Granada Streets. Special brush collections like this are a free service and can be reserved via the Trash & Recycling section of the County's website (www.arlingtonva.us) as late as the day before your regular weekly pickup. Some limitations apply; so refer to the website for more details.

JINGLE ALL THE WAY TO THE
Holiday Party
 FRIDAY DEC 2, AT 7 PM

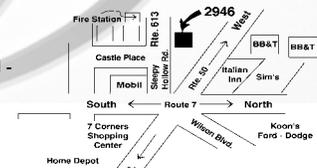


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Your Neighbor in Arlington Forest

If you are considering selling, please call me and let's arrange a time when we can discuss your future sale; there is no obligation. I want to show you how I market homes and help you determine what your selling price should be, and I have all the tools that Long and Foster has to offer. Don't wait too long to market your home as timing is very important. I look forward to meeting with you.

Jim

AF101: Snow Watch

By John Naland

Our neighborhood sidewalks were safer following last winter's snowstorms because more residents than in past years promptly cleared their sidewalks of snow and ice. Some credit likely goes to the County's new ordinance requiring residents to clear their sidewalks or face penalties. Credit may also go to the then-new "Kids for Hire" feature in this newsletter which gives residents who are unable or unwilling to shovel due to ill health, travel, or other reasons a low-cost way to comply with the law.

As another winter nears, now is a good time to remember that residents, businesses and churches are required to remove snow and ice within 24 hours after snowfall ceases (within 36 hours if snowfall exceeds 36 inches). Noncompliance can result in a \$50 or more 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. Likewise, while the ordinance allows handicapped residents to appeal their

finances, it nevertheless encourages them to make arrangements to have others clear their sidewalks.

Residents and businesses that fail to clear their sidewalks in a timely manner 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.

Last winter the County focused on educating residents and businesses about the new ordinance. This winter the County will presumably begin issuing fines to persistent scofflaws.

If you see a hazardous sidewalk that has not been cleared after a snowfall, you can report it to the County via an online form so they can investigate. You can also report streets that have not been plowed in a timely manner. Search "snow" on the County website to find the form and full details about the snow removal ordinance.

Bottom line: now, before the first winter weather warning is issued, is the time to make plans to clear your sidewalks of snow.



EARLY SNOWFALL: The first snow of the season arrived unusually early on the Saturday before Halloween. A classic nor'easter dumped snow along the East coast. The last time measurable snow fell in October was 1979.

If you need help shoveling, check out the "Kids for Hire" on page 14 for a list of energetic neighborhood students who stand ready to assist.

Arlington Forest United Methodist Church

"A Community of Love and Hope Where All Are Welcome"

4701 Arlington Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203

8:30 Casual Worship, Godly Play-Sunday School 10:00 a.m.,

Traditional Worship 11:00 a.m.

Breakfast with St. Nicholas, Saturday, Dec. 3, 10am

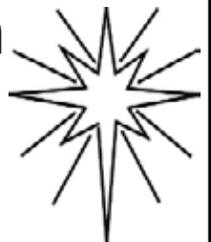
Children's Musical: "Hark Harold the Angel Sings" Sun., Dec. 11th, 4pm

Christmas Caroling, Sunday December 18, 2 pm

Family & Children Christmas Eve Service, Saturday December 24, 5 pm

Candlelight Holy Communion Service, Saturday December 24, 7:30 pm

"Your neighborhood church only a walk away"



Santa's On His Way

by Chris Scheer

Arlington Forest kids of all ages will get a jump on the holidays with an early visit by Santa on Friday, December 2 for the annual Arlington Forest Holiday Party at the Lubber Run Recreation Center.

The jolly old elf will arrive a 7 PM borne by an Arlington fire truck - his traditional mode of transportation in Arlington - and he won't depart until he's had a personal chat with every child.

Don't wait until 7 PM to show up, however. Before Santa arrives, everyone will gather on the lawn along George Mason Drive to light the tree and wait to greet Santa's exciting arrival aboard a siren-blaring pumper. Then it's inside for live music, caroling, holiday goodies and Santa lap-sitting.

Don't forget to bring a plate of goodies to share. AFCA will provide holiday punch and a few snacks to get things started. And parents, don't forget your cameras.

This Wednesday's AFCA meeting (Barrett School library at 7 PM) will discuss planning and preparation for the Arlington Forest holiday party set for Friday, Dec 2, at 7 PM. Volunteers are needed to help set up and tear down, lead singing and manage activities 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 scheerjchris@gmail.com.

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Are You Ready for Winter?

Old Man Winter paid an early visit to Arlington in late October with snow and cold temperatures. Were you surprised? Were you ready? Here is some advice from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management:

During winter months, there could be power outages, icy roads, closed schools and businesses, and health problems associated with wind, cold and snow. If you and your family aren't ready for winter, then take a few simple steps now to prepare.

-- Make a plan. Decide on a meeting place outside of your neighborhood if your family is separated and cannot return home because of closed roads. Choose an out-of-town relative or friend to be your family's point of contact for emergency communications. With your family, write down your emergency plan – get a free worksheet at www.ReadyVirginia.gov. Click on Make a Plan for more details.

-- Get a kit. Start with these basic supplies for winter weather: three days food; three days water (a gallon per person per day); a battery-powered or hand-crank radio with extra batteries; and your written family emergency plan. After you have these essential supplies, add a first aid kit, medications if needed, blankets and warm clothing, supplies for special member of your household, and pet items.

-- Stay informed. Before, during and after a winter storm, you should listen to local media for instructions from emergency officials. There may be times when you are advised to stay in place until it is safe to travel. Stay informed about winter storm watches and warnings and road conditions. You can get major road condition information 24/7 by calling 511 or checking www.511Virginia.org.

Go to www.ReadyVirginia.gov and print out an emergency supply checklist and a family emergency plan. Get ready now.

*Next AFCA Meeting:
Nov 16, 7 p.m. at Barrett School*

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Around the Forest

Parking on North Park and 3rd: Northside resident Esther Bowring contacted the County on behalf of AFCA alerting parking officials to the unwelcomed return of commercial vehicles parking along N. Park Drive and 3rd around the Lubber Run Recreation Center and Barrett School. She asked them to revise the posted parking restrictions in that area. The County responded promising to change the signs to limit parking to 2 hours on Monday thru Saturday, 8 AM to 6 PM.

Newsletter Delivery Crew: Eight times a year, this newsletter is delivered to your doorstep by one of our dedicated carriers. The next time that you see these young neighbors making the rounds, please say "Thank You." Southside: Sarah and Spencer Brown, Jonathan Tiernan. Greenbrier: Katherine Taylor, Alice Naland, Truman and Jackson Towle, Sam Bosch, Alex Hendel, Chris Mutty. Northside: Marika Mortimer, Alex Brown, Ryan and Justin Szczerbinski, Colin Mashkuri.

Washington-Lee HS Holiday Bazaar: Mark your calendar on Saturday, Dec 3, from 10 AM to 4 PM for Washington-Lee High School's annual holiday bazaar. Over 60 local artisans will be displaying their quality, handcrafted holiday and gift items, including ceramics, glassware, pet items, stationery, clothing and accessories. W-L clubs and sports teams will sell holiday greens, citrus, nuts, and other holiday items to raise funds for their activities. Enjoy homemade foods and baked holiday treats. There will be musical performances by The Madrigals and other school groups. Admission is free.

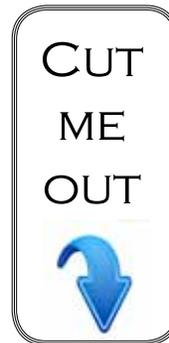
Kenmore's The Nutcracker: Kenmore Middle School invites you to the Dec 8 and 9, 7 PM, student performances of The Nutcracker. Admission is by donation. For more info, call 703-228-6800.

Better to Light One Candle ...: With the longer winter nights approach, now is a good time to look up and down your block at night to see if any street lights are out (for example, three street lights near the intersection of N. Greenbrier and Carlin Springs). You can report out lights to the County online or by telephone. See the County website for details. A resident recently reported that two lights were out near the foot of N. Granada and N. Greenbrier and the County fixed them within a week.

Leaf Season: Reminder, between now and mid-January, do not put leaves in plastic garbage bags or trash carts. Recyclable bag collection began Oct 31 and vacuum collection begins Nov 14. You can sign up for leaf vacuum schedule updates: www.arlingtonva.us/subscriptions/subscribe.asp.

St John's Episcopal Church: Our Glencarlyn neighbor and longtime Arlington Forester advertiser St John's Episcopal Church (415 S. Lexington) invites you to these events:
-- Dec 6, 7:30 PM: St John's Book Club, Little Princes by Conner Grennan
-- Dec 18, 4 PM: St John's Christmas Caroling in Glencarlyn; bring the whole family
-- Jan 3, 7:30 PM: St John's Book Club, Corduroy Mansions by Alexander McCall Smith

Carlin Hall Preschool: Also from our neighbors in Glencarlyn, the Carlin Hall Preschool (which several Forester families attend) invites you to these events:
-- Dec 1-16: Book Drive; we will collect gently used children's books to support Arlington Pediatric Center's Reach Out and Read program. Please drop books off at Carlin Hall (5711 S. 4th Street) between 9:30 AM and 1 PM weekdays.
-- Dec 9: Raffle Drawing. Get tickets now to win a photo session and 50 note cards from DC photographer Elizabeth Dranitzke of Photopia worth over \$500. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. To purchase tickets, email carlinhallparents@gmail.com. You do not have to attend the drawing to win.



Christmas Tree Collection: This newsletter does not publish in December, so here is an early notice that the County's Christmas Tree collection program will run Jan 3-16 on your regular refuse day. Since trees will be ground into wood mulch, please remove the tree stand, lights, and decorations. Please do not place the tree in a plastic bag.

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: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Forest Exchange

Maple Saplings: Would you like to add a tree to your yard? I have several maple tree saplings growing in my yard that I would love to donate to a good home. Call Kristen at 703-474-3681 or e-mail kmboehme@aol.com.

Wanted: AFCA annual dues. Send in your membership registration coupon along with \$10 in annual household dues today to your AFCA section VP. The dues form can be found on page 9. Thanks!

Kids for Hire: Need help with babysitting, yard work, snow shoveling, pet sitting, or other tasks? Check out "Kids for Hire" on page 14 for a list of neighborhood youths who are available to help. If you have a tween or teenager who has a service to offer, encourage them to sign up.

Put Your Notice Here: Send your notice by Jan 5 to newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org.



*check this out & bookmark:
www.arlingtonforestva.org
it's the new afca website!*

Community Calendar

Next AFCA Meeting: Wednesday, Nov 16, 7 PM, at Barrett School library. Agenda includes Q&A with a representative of the Arlington County Police Department. See page 1 for details.

AFCA Holiday Party: Friday, Dec 2, 7 PM at Lubber Run Center. A neighborhood tradition with Santa and tables lined with treats. See page 7 for details.

Future AFCA Meetings: Jan 18, Feb 15, Mar 21, Apr 18 and May 16. No meeting in Dec.

Neighborhood Spring Cleanup: Saturday, April 21, 2012. Join us Earth Day weekend for our second annual volunteer clean-up of public spaces around Arlington Forest. Annual Community Yard Sale: Date in May 2012 to be determined. Turn unwanted stuff into cash.

Annual Community Yard Sale: Date in May 2012 to be determined. Turn unwanted stuff into cash.

Lubber Run Amphitheater 2012 programs: Performances resume in June for a full summer of live entertainment under the stars. See page 3 for details.

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Fabulous Flying Squirrels

By Christina Yacobi

Park Naturalist, Long Branch Nature Center

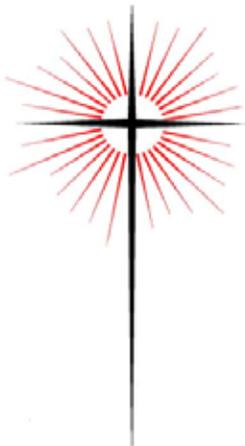
Some of our more unusual and fun-loving nocturnal park residents are the Southern Flying Squirrels (*Glaucomys volans*). The derivation of their scientific name comes from both Greek and Latin for “flying gray mouse”. The Greek word “*alaukos*” meaning “gray”, and “*mys*” meaning “mouse”, taken in combination with the Latin word “*volans*” which means “flying”. They reside across many forested areas in Virginia, except for the western most tip of the state. They usually dwell in tree cavities high up in the canopy in well-timbered deciduous forests, close to a natural water source. Their home-range is generally very small covering from about 5-6 acres. Carnivores, they eat a diet mainly of assorted nuts (hickory, acorn, walnut, etc) in the winter and fall. We have found that our local flying squirrels also seem to have a special preference for the seed pod of the tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) as a supplemental part of their fall diet. The rest of the year, their diet consists of various fruits, berries, flowers, insects, fungi, and even some lichens.

They are furry and small in size, ranging in length when full-grown from about 7.5 to 10 inches, including their tail. Their fur is generally grayish-brown on the back with an off-white to light brown underbelly. They have large black



eyes with a slight black ring around them which stand out in comparison to the size of their head. Most notable is the fold of fur-covered skin called a “patagium” that stretches from the wrists of their forelimbs to their ankles. They use this patagium to glide, not actually fly, from tree to tree through the forest. Contrary to popular belief, the Flying Squirrel is in the rodent family and not at all related to the Australian Sugar Glider which is a marsupial.

Families, ages 5 and up. Flying Squirrels are found throughout the wooded neighborhoods of Arlington, but are seldom seen. Join us to learn more about the ever present, but secretive flying squirrel and some of the lore that has surrounded these engaging nocturnal acrobats. After an indoor presentation, we'll tiptoe outside to see these little pixies glide in for an evening meal. These creatures are truly one of the natural wonders of Arlington! Registration required 703-228-4747. Meet at LBNC. \$5 fee per person, \$20 max per family.



Are you missing a connection with God?

St. John's Episcopal Church is a small congregation with a big heart. We believe that questioning and doubts are part of mature faith development. Always inclusive, we invite you to bring those questions inside the faith community where we help people establish a deeper relationship with God.

-Reverend Ann Barker, Rector

Sunday Worship Services

8 am and 10 am

Sunday Christian Education

Adults 9 am — Youth 9:20 am

Book Club:

December 6 7:30 pm *Little Princes* by Conner Grennan

January 3 7:30 pm *Corduroy Mansions* by Alexander McCall Smith

The St. John's community invites you to celebrate the birth of Christ with us.

December 18 – Christmas Caroling in the neighborhood - bring your whole family - 4 pm

December 24 – Christmas Eve Services - 5 pm family service and 11 pm

December 25 – Christmas Day Services - 10 am

January 1 – Hear the Christmas story in Bible lessons and Carols - 10 am

All are welcome to all services and activities!



St. John's Episcopal Church

We welcome everyone including believers, seekers and doubters to share God's love and acceptance in a community of worship and service.



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Barcroft School News

Thank you, Arlington Forest Citizens Association, for your most generous \$200 contribution to the Barcroft PTA. Given increased class sizes, the PTA's field trip expenses are significantly higher this year. AFCA's donation will be used to ensure that our students continue to have opportunities to learn outside of the classroom.

November and December promise to be both fun and busy. All students in Grades 3-5 have received personal laptop computers to use at home and at school. Students, teachers, and parents are excited! Barcroft will celebrate **American Education Week** (Nov 14-18) with its semi-annual **Reading is Fundamental (RIF) book distribution**. All students will be able to pick out a book to take home.

Prepare to do your holiday shopping early this year. The PTA will host a **Book Fair and Holiday Shop**, with evening hours on Thursday, Nov 17, from 6-8 PM. Choose from a selection of books and other goodies for everyone on your list. Please join us.

On Monday, Nov 21, the First Grade will host its **annual Thanksgiving Feast**. Students will help cook and prepare side dishes, and the parents will be invited to lunch. We wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Students will enjoy a break from school from Nov 23-25.

On Monday, Dec 5, the PTA will host a **restaurant fundraiser at the Silver Diner in Clarendon**, from 5-8 PM. Parents, families, neighbors, and friends are most welcome to join us for a delicious, fun-filled evening. Money raised will be used to sponsor teams of students and staff to participate in a charity basketball tournament in June 2012.

On Wednesday, Dec 14, Barcroft will host its 2nd Quarter **Leonardo Da Vinci Learning Day Open House**. Everyone is invited to the school to see what students have been learning this last quarter. That evening, the 4th Grade will host its Leonardo da Vinci Fair. All are welcome.

Students will break from school for the holidays on Friday, Dec 16, and school resumes on Tuesday, Jan 3. Students will be able to attend a **Winter Fitness and Nutrition (FAN) camp** from Dec 16-22. We wish everyone safe and happy holidays, and we'll see you again in the New Year!

To learn more about what's happening at Barcroft, go to www.apsva.us/site/default.aspx?domainid=388.

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Barrett School News

October was a very exciting month at K.W. Barrett Elementary School. Students and their families explored Barrett's Heritage Museum with artifacts and souvenirs exhibited by our families on Family Library night. Roving Readers visited classrooms and read books for Hispanic Heritage month. A highlight of the month was our United Nations Day & Heritage Celebration. The parade of nations showcased the wonderful and diverse heritages of our students.

We joined First Lady Michelle Obama and the rest of the world in trying to break the world record for the most jumping jacks in 24 hours. On October 12, 539 students and 90 staff did one minute of jumping jacks for a grand total of 31,450 jumping jacks! Barrett students and staff dressed up in costume for our Traditional Halloween Parade. We paraded through the neighborhood and visited Culpepper Gardens Retirement Home.

Barrett was featured in APS Snapshots. Check out Superintendent Murphy's visit to Barrett's Discovery Lab to learn about our wildlife refuge program:

www.apsva.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=40.

Upcoming Events:

-- Saturday, December 3 is Barrett's Barnes & Noble Bookfair at Barnes & Noble at Seven Corners. Listen to your

favorite teacher read a story, do holiday shopping, win door prizes and enjoy a day of fun while supporting Barrett. Join us there or shop online using the Barrett Bookfair #10573293.

-- Meet Emma Violand-Sanchez, Arlington School Board Member at our December PTA meeting on Tuesday, December 6 at 7:00 PM.

-- Barrett Family Bingo night, Friday evening, December 9!

Barrett Book Buddies Seeks Volunteer: The Book Buddies Program is a one-on-one tutoring program for students who may need additional support learning to read. The Program was developed by UVA and Charlottesville City Schools and has been used in several Arlington schools successfully for the past several years. Volunteers make a commitment of 2 hours per week from October through May (1 hour, 2 times a week). The session includes a 45 minute lesson with one student and 15 minutes of prep/reflection. The volunteer follows a specific lesson plan written by the site coordinator who provides initial training and ongoing guidance/training. Barrett is in need of one tutor who can commit to a one hour block on Monday and Wednesday mornings between 8:45 and 10:15. For more information, please contact Carlin Schwartz at carlin.schwartz@apsva.us or 703.868.8481.

We Did it Again - Another Successful Outcome!

Here is a note from a client we recently helped. It makes my job rewarding to enhance someone's life situation!

Dear Casey, We can't thank you enough for all you did to help our parents, Jackie and Alan Hawes, sell their house at 117 N. Columbus Street. After living in the house for 49 years and raising four kids there, the thought of getting the house ready for sale was daunting. You were there for our parents with your advice and guidance through the whole process and we will always appreciate that. You found someone with a passion for bluegrass music, like our Dad, so we could feel good about donating 1000's of cassette tapes, albums, CDs, and record players, to a good home. In addition, you found a reliable and trustworthy contractor to get the much needed work done on the house to get it ready for

done on the house to get it ready for sale, and you managed the whole process for us. After the buyer's home inspection you orchestrated the necessary repairs. Lastly, you were so kind and thoughtful to our parents throughout this time that could have been so much more stressful without you. We were so pleased to get the house sold quickly and at a very fair price. Our parents are now happy living in a lovely apartment in Fairfax and thrilled to have this process behind them thanks to you! Carole & Cherie

Need expert advice before getting your home ready for the market? Contact me for a confidential meeting. You can significantly influence the selling price of your house by preparing it properly before putting it on the market. We can help with advice on what to do and also what not to (equally important!) *Call or email for a FREE 70 point checklist for preparing your home!*



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Kids for Hire

These Arlington Forest youths are available for babysitting, dog walking, leaf raking, snow shoveling and other services. They are listed by neighborhood, but some may prefer to work within a few blocks of home. Contact them to discuss availability and fees.

Students who wish to be on this list should send their name, services and contact info to John Naland at newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org by Jan 5. We are especially looking for additional students who offer snow shoveling services.

Northside:

-- Sophia Constantine, pet sitting, dog walking, cpconstantine@comcast.net, 703-841-9229

-- Sophie Frank, babysitting (Red Cross certified), soccer training, tutoring, sophie.e.frank@gmail.com, 703-859-0722

-- Fiona Hickey, babysitting (Red Cross certified), 703-351-7013

-- Sophie Hickey, babysitting, 703-351-7013

-- Isaac Mortimer-Lotke, babysitting (Red Cross certified), 703-276-9046

-- Marika Mortimer-Lotke, babysitting (Red Cross certified), 703-276-9046

-- Chris Werbos, leaf raking, snow shoveling, dog walking, pet sitting, yard work (can work with power tools), chris.werbos@gmail.com

Southside:

-- Jon Tiernan, mother's helper (Red Cross certified), dog walking, pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, jonny. boy4@hotmail.com, 703-979-5046

-- Liz Tiernan, mother's helper (Red Cross certified), dog walking, pet sitting, lizzytiernan@hotmail.com, 703-979-5046

Greenbrier Section:

--- Zephren Collinson, babysitting (references), pet sitting, dog walking, leaf raking, snow shoveling, tutoring, 703-528-3595

-- Kate Felsenheld, pet sitting, dog walking, k.cliffhero@gmail.com, 703-276-9874

-- Alex Hendel, babysitting (Red Cross certified), dog walking, tutoring, alexhendel@gmail.com, 703-763-0070

-- Alice Naland, babysitting (Red Cross certified), pet sitting, dog walking, leaf raking, snow shoveling, nalandfamily@yahoo.com, 703-888-0125

-- Lucy Naland, babysitting (Red Cross certified), pet sitting, dog walking, snow shoveling, LucyMNaland@gmail.com,



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