



## Public Safety is on AFCA's Agenda

by John Naland

Arlington County police and fire department representatives are the guest speakers at this Wednesday's AFCA meeting at 7 PM in the Barrett School library. The question and answer sessions that follow will be excellent opportunities for residents to raise issues or get clarifications regarding public safety.

The police department's Corporal Lennon will report on recent crime statistics in Arlington Forest and will share helpful crime prevention hints for the upcoming holiday season (related article on page 6). The commander of our local fire station, Captain Higgins, will present "Home Fire Safety 101".

Also on the agenda is continued discussion of plans for

Arlington Forest's 75th anniversary celebration next year. See pages 2 and 5 for information on two anniversary related activities. On page 4 is a short history of the construction of our neighborhood.

This is the month that we issue the last call for annual \$10 AFCA dues. If you did not send in your dues in September or October, please do so today using the form on page 9. Last year, 312 of the 853 households in Arlington Forest (37%) paid dues. So far this fiscal year, 247 (29%) have responded. Participation rates are Southside (35%), Greenbrier (28%), and Northside (27%). Your dues support AFCA's activities which enhance the quality of life in our neighborhood.

## Santa's On His Way

by Chris Scheer

Arlington Forest kids of all ages get a jump on the holidays with an early visit by Santa on Friday, December 6, at the annual Arlington Forest Holiday Party in the Lubber Run Recreation Center.

The jolly old elf will arrive at 7 PM borne by an Arlington fire truck -- his traditional mode of transportation -- and he won't depart until he's had a personal chat with every child. But don't wait until 7 PM to arrive! Before Santa shows, everyone will gather on the lawn along George Mason Drive to light the Lubber Run 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 for the Arlington Forest holiday

party. Volunteers are needed at the party 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 crafts for kids, elf assistance for Santa, caroling - please contact Chris Scheer at 703-276-9725 or by email at [scheerjchris@gmail.com](mailto:scheerjchris@gmail.com).

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*AFCA Meeting 7 p.m. November 20 at Barrett School Library*

## THE ARLINGTON FORESTER

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Editor & Advertising: John Naland  
703-888-0125, newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org

Layout & Design: Laura Smialowicz  
703-528-3889, smialowicz@hotmail.com

Distribution: Tracy Tucker  
407-963-1094, TracyLTuck@aol.com

### *2013 - 2014 AFCA Officers*

President: Julie Kirchhoff  
571-338-4828, juliek4828@yahoo.com

Vice President, Northside: Allison Kennett  
703-528-1174, allison.kennett@gmail.com

Vice President, Southside: Douglas Sims  
703-892-7077, douglasesims@hotmail.com

Vice President, Greenbrier: Tom Smialowicz  
703-528-3889, smialowicz@hotmail.com

Co-Secretary: Jennifer Walter  
703-243-0668, jenwalter1@verizon.net

Co-Secretary: Jim Graham  
703-908-9384, sujigraham@gmail.com

Treasurer: Erin Clougherty  
703-271-5445, erin.clougherty@gmail.com

Neighborhood Conservation Plan:  
Timothy O'Leary, 703-525-0975, tfoleary310@gmail.com

Arlington Civic Federation Representatives:  
Michael Kerley and Salvatore D'Itri

Historian: John Naland  
703-888-0125, nalandfamily@yahoo.com

Website: <http://www.arlingtonforestva.org>  
Join AFCA listserv by e-mailing address to:  
ArlingtonLife@gmail.com

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## Editor's Note

The *Arlington Forester* welcomes articles, news notes, letters, and photos focusing on non-commercial events or issues specific to our neighborhood. The next deadline is January 2 for the issue to be distributed January 11-12. E-mail submissions of up to 400 words to newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org. Space sometimes fills up prior to the deadline.

## Home and Garden Tour Date Set

By Monica Darnell and Jennifer Claffey

AFCA Home Tour Chairpersons

It's that time again! The Arlington Forest Home and Garden Tour will take place on Saturday, May 3, 2014. This event is only held every three or four years. It is not to be missed! Especially, as it coincides with our 75th anniversary of our neighborhood.

*Save the Date:  
Saturday  
May 3, 2014*

This is a great way to show off all the sacrifice that goes along with additions and renovations. We are looking for about a dozen plus homes to showcase. The tour is only open to Forester residents. The home tour enables us to share the different ways we customize these special brick colonial homes. We are also looking for original homes that have creative solutions to small space living, well-decorated homes and or beautiful gardens to admire.

### **We also need volunteers for the planning committee.**

This is a great way to get involved in the community. We meet once a month and you can choose how involved you want to be (start to finish, just one task, just helping on the event day). All levels of participation are welcome.

If you are interested in having your home or garden on the tour, or if you want to join the planning committee, please contact Monica Darnell at 703-217-4559 or darnell70md@verizon.net.

## Many Thanks To All!

By Rich Dooley, Lisa Larimer, Ariel and Ciara

As we near the Thanksgiving holiday, we are taking the opportunity to thank the amazing Arlington Forest community for all your help, support, and encouragement since our car accident during spring break. You came to us in a time of need and showed us that we live in a truly vibrant, caring community. We have all been steadily recovering from our injuries and doing our best to move forward, one step and milestone at a time. Thank you so much for everything, and please know that your actions meant the world to us. May you and yours have a truly wonderful time during the holidays.

*Next AFCA Meeting:  
Wednesday, November 20th  
Holiday Party, December 6th*

# Autumn Leaves

By  
**Cliff Fairweather**  
 Park Naturalist,  
 Long Branch  
 Nature Center

for trees and now their job is done for the year. Their final act is to create a spectacular display of color that reaches its peak in the deciduous forests of eastern North America.

Deciduous trees, such as oaks, maples, and hickories, are the ones whose leaves change color and drop off in autumn. The green in spring and summer leaves comes from chlorophyll, a pigment that drives photosynthesis -- the process by which plants use sunlight, carbon dioxide, and water to create sugar that they use for food.

As days shorten and temperatures drop, photosynthesis becomes less efficient. No longer able to perform their primary purpose of feeding the tree, leaves are of little use

and can even become liabilities. Leaves torn from twigs by winter storms leave openings that can become entry points for disease. Also, snow and ice clinging to leaves can cause branches to break or even bring down entire trees.

Autumn leaf color is one of the great natural phenomena of our region. Those green leaves have been busy all summer making food

for trees and now their job is done for the year. Their final act is to create a spectacular display of color that reaches its peak in the deciduous forests of eastern North America.

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In preparation for dropping their leaves, trees form an abscission layer at the base of their leaf stems, sealing the leaves off from water and nutrients. Chlorophyll remaining in the isolated leaves breaks down, revealing other pigments that were masked during the growing season.

One group of these pigments is carotenoids, including carotene, the pigments that give carrots their orange color, and xanthophylls. They show through as yellows, oranges, and browns. These pigments are in the leaves all summer and contribute to photosynthesis, but their colors are overwhelmed by the green of chlorophyll.

The red in fall leaves comes from anthocyanins, which also give red apples, strawberries, blueberries, beets, and purple grapes their colors. Anthocyanins come from the breakdown of sugars trapped in the leaves after the abscission layer forms. A dry summer and a sunny autumn with cool nights are the best conditions for anthocyanins production.

Much of the brown in fall leaves comes from tannins, although some also comes from the breakdown of chlorophyll. Tannins are important defensive chemicals plants use to ward off insects and other plant eaters. Oaks are especially rich in tannins and many oaks species turn various shades of brown in the fall.

Other tree species also differ in their mix of pigments and that, along with other factors such as weather and the health of individual trees, determines which trees turn which colors. Hickories, for example, produce few anthocyanins, so they tend to turn yellow, whereas maples are rich in anthocyanins and usually turn orange or red.

Eventually, the leaves break off at the abscission layer and fall to the ground, leaving protective leaf scars on the twigs. Those fallen leaves will then decay, providing nutrients for next year's leaf growth and next autumn's color show.



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# Arlington Forest History

*Excerpts from Arlington Forest's successful 2005 application for listing on the National Registry of Historic Places (posted at [www.arlingtonforestva.org](http://www.arlingtonforestva.org) under "Neighborhood" tab).*

Planned and built by the Meadowbrook Construction Company, Arlington Forest features several variations of the same basic floor plan for Colonial Revival homes. The first building permits were issued July 13, 1939 for a portion of the Southside section. By the end of April 1940, Meadowbrook already had sold 130 homes in Arlington Forest. Construction in Southside continued through the summer of 1940.

The homes in Southside were advertised for the price of \$5,990. Buyers needed only a cash down payment of \$590, which included all settlement costs. Loans from the FHA were available at 4 1/2 percent interest for a payback period of either 20 or 25 years. On the 20-year financing plan, monthly payments, including principal, interest, taxes and insurance, totaled \$42.94. Monthly payments on the 25-year plan were \$38.82.

The second phase of development also occurred in 1940 as Meadowbrook crossed Arlington Boulevard into the northern sector of the County east of Lubber Run Park. This Northside section was built on land historically associated with the Henderson family's estate. The first Northside building permits were approved on June 6, 1940. By October 1940, Meadowbrook had sold more than 230 Arlington Forest homes in just ten months. Building permits for Northside, including the Arlington Forest Shopping Center, continued to be issued through December 1941.

The third phase of the subdivision, known as Greenbrier (located west of Lubber Run Park) evolved in nine phases between 1941 and 1946. The first building permits for the Greenbrier section were issued on May 23, 1941. A considerable portion of Greenbrier was approved for construction during and soon after World War II. A final phase of construction occurred in 1948 adjacent to the western edge of Greenbrier.

Several additional small enclaves of homes dating from 1950 to 1968 border the original subdivision are more contemporary styled. In 1950 and 1951, an enclave of one-story brick homes called Forest Park were built on South Edison Street. Brick ramblers were constructed in 1956 on 2nd Street North, just east of Henderson Road. Four brick ramblers on North Carlin Springs Road [uphill from the Mary Carlin House] were constructed in 1958. Another group of seven spit-levels was constructed on the historic Mary Carlin property at 1st Place North in 1967 and 1968.

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# Sidewalk Survey

by John Naland

Most of the sidewalks, curbs, and gutters in Arlington Forest were laid down between 1939 and 1946. As the decades passed, factors such as weather and tree roots took a toll on sections of our sidewalks. In 1989, AFCA conducted a comprehensive survey to identify damaged sections that required replacement. The results were incorporated in our Neighborhood Conservation Plan (posted on AFCA's website at [www.arlingtonforestva.org](http://www.arlingtonforestva.org) under the "Neighborhood" tab) that the Arlington County Board approved in 1991. In the years that followed, the County replaced those deficient sidewalks, curbs, and gutters.

Today, a quarter century later, some sidewalks are again showing the effects of time. As AFCA celebrates the 75th anniversary of Arlington Forest in 2014, we will undertake a new comprehensive survey of our neighborhood's sidewalks. Following the County's criteria for eligibility for replacement, we will identify sidewalk, curb, and gutter sections that present serious tripping hazards or are severely spalled (i.e., the concrete surface has crumbled).

We will photograph the problem areas, annotate their locations on a map, and then present that data to the County's Department of Environmental Services so they can schedule replacement over the next few years at no

cost to the adjacent property owners. In instances where tree roots have pushed up the sidewalk, the County's practice is to replace the concrete with asphalt or provide an asphalt transition. Asphalt is a more flexible material that will "grow" with the tree roots, whereas brittle concrete cracks when displaced and requires frequent replacement.

To kickoff this project, AFCA is looking for two to four volunteers in each of the three sections of Arlington Forest (Northside, Southside, and Greenbrier Section). Their duties will be to methodically walk the sidewalks of their section by next spring to identify, photograph, and map the problem areas. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact me at [nalandfamily@yahoo.com](mailto:nalandfamily@yahoo.com).

By the way, residential driveway aprons are considered to be private appurtenances located in the public right-of-way. Therefore, property owners who want their cracked or damaged apron to be replaced are required to pay for it. The County does the work and typically charges \$750.

Several recent replacement jobs around the neighborhood look quite nice and appear to reduce the incidence of cars scraping when entering and exiting the driveway. For more information, search "sidewalks" on the County website or ask a neighbor who has had the work done.



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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*

## Crime Prevention

By John Naland

*For the last three years in a row, petty thieves have broken into cars in our neighborhood between mid-December and early January. The locations and dates have varied, but the common factor appears to be a motivation to raise quick cash. Here are suggestions gathered from various law enforcement agency websites on steps that we can take to prevent crime any time of year.*

-- Do not leave valuables in your vehicle: If you must leave packages, GPS devices or other valuables in your car, put them in the trunk. Park in a well-lit area when possible.

-- At home: Good locks, simple precautions, neighborhood awareness and common sense can help prevent most property crimes. Do not leave bicycles or other easily-stolen items outside. At night, you may want to leave on a porch light or install a motion-activated light that turns on when someone approaches.

-- Help your neighbors: Be alert to suspicious activity on your block since half of all home burglaries in the U.S. occur during the day when alert neighbors could potentially spot and report the thieves.

-- Maintain the neighborhood: Dark streets and rundown areas attract criminals. Report streetlights that are out. Participate in neighborhood cleanups.

-- Take precautions in public: Stay alert and trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable in a situation, leave. Carry your purse close to you, with the opening or flap towards your body. Never leave a purse unattended in a shopping cart.

-- Carry a cell phone: If someone makes you uncomfortable, call the police.

-- When away, make your home look "lived in": Have a neighbor collect your mail and newspaper or have your service suspended. Use timers to turn lights on and off.

-- Involve all family members: Following rules such as "the last one in locks the door" and "store your bike when you finish riding it" can help to avoid thefts.

-- Protect credit card numbers and other personal data: Shred receipts that list credit card numbers. Never provide credit card data in response to unsolicited calls or emails.

-- Report all incidents: Even if the loss is minor and the criminals are long gone, reporting incidents allows the police to look for trends that might help to identify, arrest, and convict crooks responsible for multiple crimes. In Arlington, call 703-558-2222 for non-urgent reports.

## Oh Deer

By John Naland

White-tailed deer have returned to Arlington Forest after being absent for most of the last century. If your backyard borders Four Mile Run or you walk on the WO&D trail near dusk or dawn, you have probably seen deer in the past year (as I did just this morning). Some residents have even seen deer in their front yards.

As our deer population increases, so too do concerns about potential overpopulation. Absent natural predators such as wolves, deer populations can expand rapidly. When the deer population density is too high, it can overwhelm the environment by eating tree seedlings that are necessary for forest regeneration. Overly-plentiful deer can also come into conflict with humans. For example, I recently saw two deer dart in front of a car driving down N. Greenbrier Street around sunrise (another reason for us all to drive slowly on neighborhood streets).

Deer can pose a real challenge in urban areas. Just across the Potomac River in Washington, D.C., growing numbers of deer in Rock Creek Park have led the National Park Service to begin shooting deer (20 shot last spring with another 120 to be shot in the coming months).

I asked Arlington County's Natural Resources Manager about Arlington's growing deer population and he sent me this reply:

"We are currently evaluating population numbers, effects, and numerous means to deal with any overpopulation issues if that should be necessary, as well as researching what other local jurisdictions are doing in regards with this. We would base any options on the health of the environment, science, current best practice, and include public input. We have in fact recently hosted a regional panel of deer experts from numerous fields (including the Humane Society) so that we could collect as much pertinent information and expertise as possible. These include all current non-lethal means as well."

In the Rock Creek Park example, the Humane Society urged the use of contraception to control the deer population -- pointing to successful contraception programs elsewhere including Assateague Island, Md. The National Park Service rejected that option, saying it "would not act quickly enough to reduce the deer population and therefore would not protect Rock Creek Park's forest and other resources."

Hopefully, as Arlington considers similar issues, there will be enough time to try using non-lethal means if action is needed to avoid harmful overpopulation.



*Electronic versions of this  
newsletter are available:  
[www.arlingtonforestva.org](http://www.arlingtonforestva.org)*

## Snow Watch

By John Naland

As another unpredictable winter nears, please remember that Arlington County requires residents, businesses, and churches to clear snow and ice from their sidewalks 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.

While the ordinance exempts handicapped residents from being fined, it nevertheless encourages them to make arrangements to have others clear their sidewalks. Likewise, any resident who is unable to shovel due to ill health, travel, or other reasons should coordinate for someone else to do the work. A low-cost option is to utilize "Kids for Hire" on page 14 of this newsletter for a list of energetic neighborhood students who stand ready to assist (look for those offering yard work services).

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. Thus, 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. Search "snow" on the County website to find the form and full details about the snow removal ordinance.

You can also file an online report of streets that have not been plowed in a timely manner after snow fall has stopped. But keep in mind that the County clears neighborhood streets only after they have cleared main arteries, bus routes, and roads to hospitals, schools, fire stations, Metro stations, and the police station. After a severe snowstorm (greater than 10 inches), it may take 36 to 48 hours after the snow stops falling before County plows can start clearing residential streets. Avoid parking on the street to allow snowplows to clear the street from curb-to-curb.

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

## Personal Emergency Preparedness

By John Naland



Extended power outages following last year's derecho and earlier winter storms underscore the fact that, even in our urban environment, we must be prepared to essentially fend for ourselves for a few days.

Below are suggestions compiled from government websites on how to take charge of our own personal preparedness for natural or other emergencies.

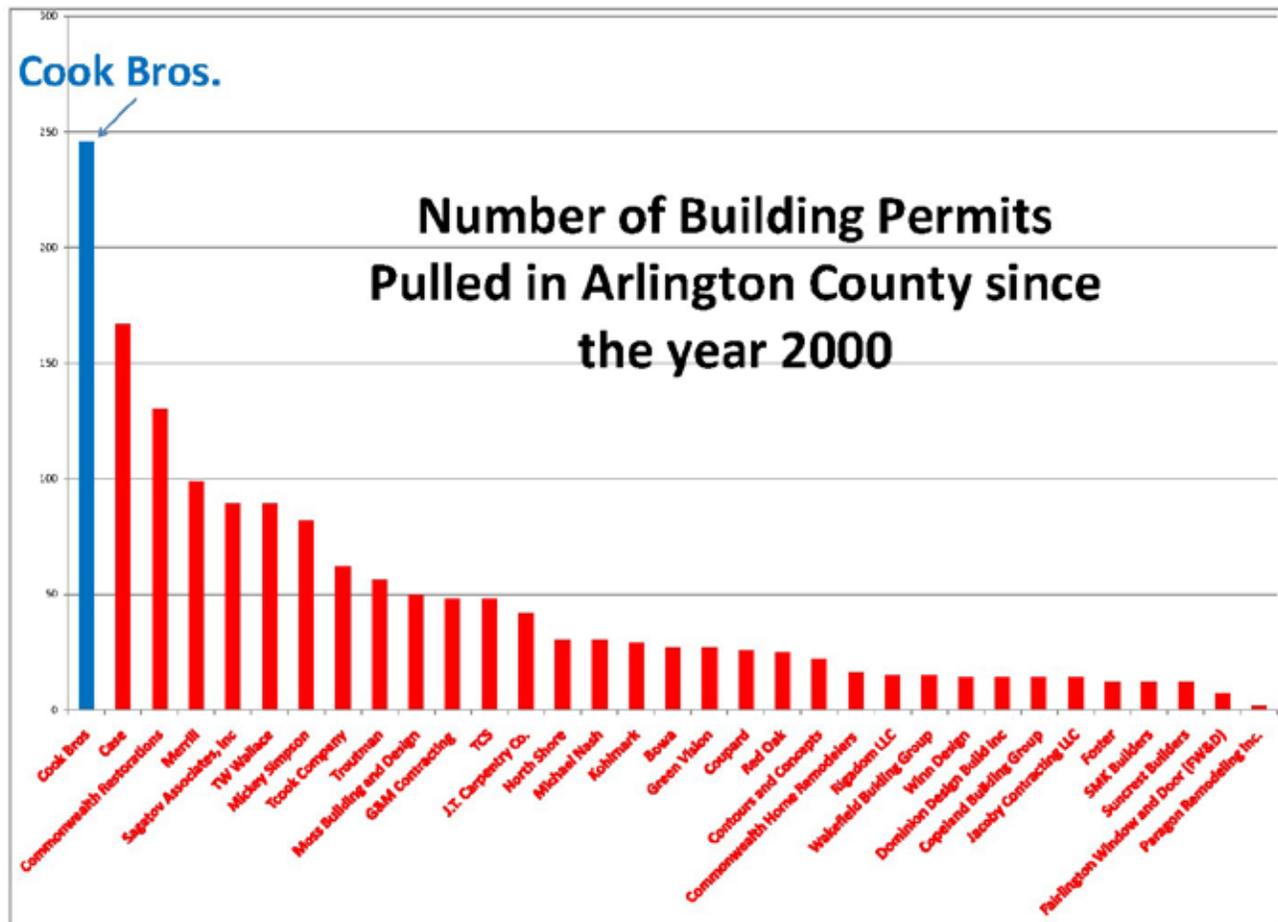
- Always maintain at least a five day supply of non-perishable food, water, pet supplies, and medications.
- Prepare an emergency kit of essential items: first aid supplies, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, flashlights, extra batteries, and cash (in case ATMs are inoperable).
- Fill your car gas tank if a storm is approaching.
- Recharge mobile phones and other portable devices.
- If a power outage is likely, turn off and unplug any non-essential electrical equipment to protect them from possible power spikes.
- During a power outage, refrigerator food is safe as long as power is out no more than 4 hours. Keep the door closed as much as possible.
- A freezer section that is half full will hold food safely for 24 hours without power. A full freezer will hold food safely for 48 hours. Do not open the freezer door.
- Discard any perishable food (such as meat, poultry, fish, eggs, and leftovers) from either the refrigerator or freezer that has been above 40 °F for over 2 hours.
- Decide on a meeting place outside of your neighborhood if your family is separated and cannot return home because of closed roads.
- Designate an out-of-town friend or relative as a telephone point of contact should your family members lose contact with each other.
- Before, during and after a storm, listen to local media for instructions from emergency officials.
- Avoid non-essential travel when weather or road conditions are poor.
- Stay clear of downed power lines.
- Show all family members how to turn off the water, gas and electricity at the main switches in the event of structural damage to your home.
- Talk with neighbors about cooperating after a storm. For example, a neighbor with an emergency generator could offer to recharge cell phones. A neighbor with a chainsaw could lend it to clear downed branches. Younger residents could clear older neighbor's sidewalks of snow and ice.

## Holiday Party

FRIDAY DEC 6 AT 7 PM  
LUBBER RUN REC CENTER



# You Don't Have to Interview the #1 Remodeler in Arlington... But... Why Wouldn't You?



For a larger Graph image and more information about the Graph, visit our website at [www.CookBros.org/ArlForest](http://www.CookBros.org/ArlForest)



# Around the Forest

**Newsletter Delivery Crew:** This newsletter is delivered to your doorstep eight times a year by one of our 13 dedicated carriers. The next time that you see these young neighbors making the rounds on a cold day, please say "Thank You": Alex Brown, Nikki Brown, Sarah Brown, Spencer Brown, Ely Constantine, Emily Engelken, Colin Mashkur, Chris Muttu, Ryan Szczerbinski, Justin Szczerbinski, Abigail Taylor, Catherine Taylor, and Jonathan Tiernan. Thanks also goes to Tracy Tuck who picks up the 900 copies from the printer, sorts them into sets for each delivery teenager, and then drops the copies off at their houses.

**Kids Halloween Parade:** As pictured, dozens of little princesses, wizards and other costumed wee ones participated in the annual neighborhood Halloween parade on Saturday, October 26. Starting at the Arlington Forest Shopping Center, the parade headed to the playground at Lubber Run Community Center and then to the fire ring in Lubber Run Park. Attendance was good despite cooler than average temperatures. Many thanks to Jen Beer for organizing this event again this year.



**W-L Holiday Bazaar:** Washington-Lee High School's Annual Holiday Bazaar is Saturday, December 7 from 10 AM to 4 PM. More than 60 local artisans will be showing quality gift items for sale, including handcrafted jewelry, ceramics, glassware, pet items and clothing. W-L clubs and sports teams will be selling holiday greenery, poinsettias, citrus, nuts and other items. Enjoy home-made multi-ethnic food and baked goods while you shop. There will be musical performances by the Madrigals and other school musical groups. This event is sure to get you into the holiday spirit, so come get a jump on your holiday shopping. It is also a great opportunity to get a first look at the inside of W-L if you have younger children who may go there someday. Free parking is available in the I-66 parking garage off Stafford St. The event is sponsored by W-L Class of 2014.

**Crash on Arlington Blvd at Park Street:** A fairly spectacular one-car crash occurred on October 30 when a car that was westbound on Arlington Blvd ran the red light at Park Street and then rolled over after swerving to avoid hitting a car exiting Park on a green light. As always, residents are urged to be cautious when entering Arlington Blvd from a neighborhood street since cars on that highway frequently speed and run red lights.

**Christmas Tree Collection:** The County's Christmas Tree collection program runs January 7 to 18 on your regular trash pickup day. Trees are ground into wood mulch, so please remove the tree stand and decorations and 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: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

[www.arlingtonforestva.org](http://www.arlingtonforestva.org)

# Community Calendar

**Next AFCA Meeting:** Wednesday, November 20. See page 1 for details.

**AFCA Holiday Party:** December 6 at Lubber Run Community Center.

**Neighborhood Spring Cleanup:** April date TBD.

**Home and Garden Tour:** May 3.

**Annual Community Yard Sale:** May date TBD.

**Lubber Run Amphitheater 2014 Season:** Live entertainment under the stars resumes in June.

### Future AFCA Meetings and planned speakers:

- January 15: County parks director
- February 19: Dominion VA Power
- March 19: County code enforcement officer
- April 17: Gardening and tree experts
- May 14: Annual picnic at Lubber Run Park shelter

**75TH ANNIVERSARY**  
ARLINGTON FOREST  
1939 - 2014

# Forest Exchange

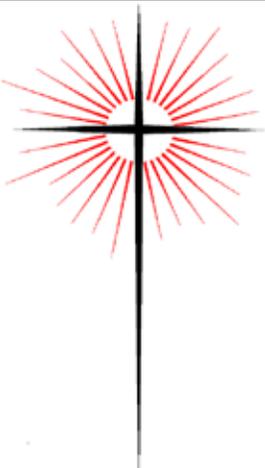
**Crafts Fair at Congregation Etz Hayim:** Arlington Forester advertiser Congregation Etz Hayim is holding its annual Art Expo/Crafts Fair on Sunday, November 17 from 11:30 am to 4 pm. It will feature over 30 local artists offering a variety of crafts and a great opportunity for holiday shopping. Located at 2920 Arlington Blvd (between Fenwick and Garfield St.); park in the lot on Garfield or on side streets. Bring cash or checkbook since not all artists accept credit cards. See [www.etzhayim.net/Artist\\_Expo.html](http://www.etzhayim.net/Artist_Expo.html) for more information.

**Wanted:** Your AFCA Dues: If you have not yet returned your annual \$10 AFCA dues, please do so today using the coupon on page 9.

**Kids for Hire:** Need reasonably-priced help with babysitting, yard work, pet sitting, or other tasks? Check out Kids for Hire on page 14.

**AFCA Listserv:** Follow late-breaking neighborhood news by joining the AFCA listserv by e-mailing your address to [ArlingtonLife@gmail.com](mailto:ArlingtonLife@gmail.com).

**Put Your Free Notice Here:** Send it by January 2 to [newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org](mailto:newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org)



## Celebrate the Birth of Christ With Us!

St. John's Episcopal Church is a vibrant congregation with a big heart. We are an inclusive and welcoming community of faith where families are supported in their spiritual growth and questions and discussion are always welcome.

*-The Reverend Ann Barker, Rector*

**Sunday Worship Services**  
8 am and 10 am

**Sunday Christian Education**  
Adults 9 am — Youth 9:30 am

**Book Club:**

- December 3 7:30 pm** *Still Life* by Louise Penny
- January 7 7:30 pm** *Funny In Farsi* by Firoozeh Dumas

**All are welcome to all services and activities!**

- December 15** 10 am Children's Christmas Pageant at the 10 am service  
4 pm Join in Christmas carol singing in the Church
- December 24** 5 pm Christmas Eve Service - special music and a children's message  
11 pm Christmas Eve Service with carols
- December 25** 10 am Christmas Day Service with carols
- December 29** 10 am Hear the Christmas story in Bible lessons and carols



*St. John's Episcopal Church*



415 S. Lexington Street Arlington, VA 22204

703-671-6834

[www.stjohnsarlingtonva.org](http://www.stjohnsarlingtonva.org)

# Nature News

**Tree Grant Program:** In the past two months, AFCA issued four matching grants to neighbors who are helping to keep the "forest" in Arlington Forest by planting tree from an approved list of shade trees. The grants of up to \$125 cover one-half the cost of buying and planting a tree. With the program's budget exhausted for this fiscal year, other residents will need to wait until next fall to submit new applications. Details on the program are on the AFCA website at [www.arlingtonforestva.org](http://www.arlingtonforestva.org) under the AFCA tab.

**Leaf Season:** Remember, between now and mid-January, do not put leaves in plastic garbage bags or trash charts. Vacuum leaf collection in Arlington Forest is tentatively scheduled for November 20-25. Look for notices on telephone poles for updated scheduling. Please pile up only leaves (no sticks, stones, or trash). Biodegradable bag collection has begun and will continue to January 10 on the day after your regular trash pickup. Again, include only leaves. See the County website for details.

**Become a Tree Steward:** The TreeStewards of Arlington and Alexandria are volunteers dedicated to improving the health of our urban trees through educational programs, tree planting and care, demonstrations and tree maintenance

throughout the community. New volunteer training will be held on Tuesday evenings, Feb 11 through April 2014, with some Saturday mornings. Fun and interactive training is provided by recognized experts in tree care and citizen advocates. Join and learn how to care for trees on the streets, in parks, at schools, and your neighborhood. For more info and to complete an application, visit [www.TreeStewards.org](http://www.TreeStewards.org) or email [info@TreeStewards.org](mailto:info@TreeStewards.org).

**Making Your Yard Sustainable:** Create a sustainability plan for your yard with coaching from local experts! Get practical, eco-savvy advice to improve your soil, conserve water and energy, and select the right plants and materials to create a beautiful garden at home! In this six-part series led by Master Gardeners and local experts, participants will develop a plan to improve the sustainability of their own yards. Topics include Sustainable Landscape Design in Practice; Solving Soil Problems and Improving Soil Productivity; Conserving Water, Reducing Stormwater Runoff, and Preventing Erosion and Pollution; Successful Selection of Plants; and Improving Home Energy Efficiency. Six Saturdays, 10AM to 12:30PM. January 25 to March 1, 2014 at Fairlington Community Center. 3308 S. Stafford St., Arlington. \$75 for six in-depth workshops. Register now at the website: [www.mgnv.org](http://www.mgnv.org). Space is limited.



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# Barcroft School News

Barcroft Elementary wishes our neighbors a happy, healthy holiday season. Here are some updates about events and programs of interest to you.

Construction on the new school playground is complete as of early November and neighbors are invited to come take a look. On Thursday, November 21 the school will host a special assembly to dedicate the completed outdoor Leonardo Library. The assembly will honor special guest Mrs. Miriam Hughey-Guy, Barcroft Principal for 20 years. Mrs. Hughey-Guy will have an opportunity to see for the first time the beautiful tile artwork created by Barcroft students on her behalf.

On Monday, December 2, please join us for Silver Diner Night at the Clarendon Silver Diner, from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Eat at the Silver Diner that evening and up to 20% of the proceeds are donated to the Barcroft PTA. Use your Eat Well Do Well card and earn even more for Barcroft. School families, neighbors, and alumni are invited!

On Thursday, December 5, the PTA will host a Book Fair and Holiday Shop. The Book Fair will be an all-day event featuring Usborne Books, <http://www.usborne.com/>. The Holiday Shop will be held from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. that evening. Our Holiday Shop is a great event for parents and kids and includes a secret craft area for kids, a silent auction for

parents, Stella & Dot jewelry, and the Usborne book fair. You will not want to miss this evening!

On Thursday, December 12 the school will host a Winter Concert at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to join us that evening for wonderful student musical performances. Barcroft's Winter Break begins on December 20, and school will resume on January 6.

To learn more about What's Happening at Barcroft, go to: <http://www.apsva.us/Page/13363>  
Like us: <https://www.facebook.com/BarcroftElementary>

## Wreath Workshop at Long Branch Nature Center

The Arlington County parks department is offering a wreath workshop at our nearby Long Branch Nature Center on Sunday, December 8, 1 to 4 PM. Adults and children 12 and over may create seasonal decorations to spruce up their home or to give as gifts. Music, refreshments, basic instruction and enough all-natural materials are provided for each participant to make at least two crafts. \$30 For more info and to register, call 703-228-6535.

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[www.arlingtonforestumc.com](http://www.arlingtonforestumc.com) and on Facebook

8:30 Casual Worship, Godly Play & Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Traditional Worship 11:00

**Thanksgiving Eve Service, 11/27, 7 pm**

**Breakfast with St. Nicholas, 12/7, 10 am**

**Christmas Caroling 12/22, 2 pm**

**Children's Christmas eve service 4 pm, Candle-light 7pm**

Montessori Primary and Toddler Programs, Now Enrolling



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# Barrett School News

October was a busy month. The Barrett PTA Book Sale was a great success with over \$10,000 worth of books sold. Way to go Barrett readers! In addition, Barrett's Heritage Week activities encouraged cross-cultural understanding across the school community. The Heritage Parade and performances at the UN Assembly were beautiful and touching.

The Barrett PTA Wellness Committee has worked hard to promote a healthy environment for Barrett students and families. In particular, the National Walk to School Day events as well as the Ice Skating Event at Kettler for Barrett families were enjoyable and well-attended.

Barrett Gives is a PTA initiative focused on helping families who need extra support during the holiday season. The Barrett Gives holiday gift drive begins on November 11. Please contact Amanda Bisnauth-Thomas if you would like to find out more about the drive at [mandy.bisnauth@gmail.com](mailto:mandy.bisnauth@gmail.com).

Join us for Barrett's ever-popular Family Bingo Night on Friday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m. Bingo Night is an exciting evening where families can come together for pizza, prizes and refreshments.

Barrett has been awarded the \$1,000 Wells Fargo Community Partner Grant. This grant will be used to support one of Barrett's key programs, Project Interaction--Family Involvement. This program encourages all members of a

school community - parents, teachers and students - to engage in activities that support the school's instructional and community building goals as well as activities that support and enhance the learning environment. Many thanks to parent Brenda Escobar for nominating the project!

Thank you to everyone who has been using Amazon for their everyday shopping (\$405 in proceeds so far)! If you haven't tried it, holiday shopping is a great way to get started. Barrett receives 4-6% proceeds on all purchases. In order for it to benefit our school, you must enter Amazon via the PTA website (<http://barrett.my-pta.org/>) then click on the Everyday Counts! tab to get to the Amazon link. Email [kwbarrettpta@gmail.com](mailto:kwbarrettpta@gmail.com) if you have questions.

## Upcoming Events:

- Pre-K Day, Mon, Nov 18, AM: 8:20-9:30 am, PM: 6:15-7:30 pm
- Blueberries Tournament, Tuesday, Nov 26
- Participa Workshop 7/Graduation, Nov 20, 6:15 pm
- Thanksgiving Holiday, NO SCHOOL, Nov 27 - 29
- Make-up Photos, Tuesday, Dec 3
- PTA Meeting: Library Services, Tuesday, Dec 3
- Family Bingo Night, Friday, Dec 13
- Roving Readers: Holiday Traditions, Dec 19
- Winter Break, NO SCHOOL, Dec 23 - Jan 1

Link your Harris Teeter VIC card to Barrett Elementary  
Go to [www.harristeeter.com](http://www.harristeeter.com) and enter in code 3906

## Dream Homes Need Strong Offers

Here's a quick note to let you know how I can help you—or anyone you feel comfortable introducing me to. Conventional wisdom advises home buyers not to get emotional about a property when making an offer. Here's the catch. A buyer will naturally be emotional about the right property, the home they are about to sink so much of their lives and money into. At the same time, in a hot real estate market like this one, buyers have to be prepared for the real possibility that one or more of their offers will not be accepted. The people you care about need to have a real estate advisor you trust to help them cultivate a sense of detachment from the outcome of their offers while helping them craft the best, cleanest offers they can. If an offer isn't accepted, buyers have to get right back on the home buying horse and keep looking!

If you or someone you know wants to buy a home, call me at 703-217-9090 or email me at [casey@caseyoneal.com](mailto:casey@caseyoneal.com). I'll send you a copy of my free report, ***How to Stop Spending Money on Rent and Own a Home Instead.*** Who do you know who's thinking about buying a home? Please let them know I can help them write strong offers!

When selling, it's important to work with a skilled real estate consultant like me who can advise you, and the people you care about, which repairs and updates will result in the fastest sale and greatest gain. ***Before you place your home on the market*** - I can help you be as ready as possible. Contact me for a *Room By Room Review* and I can share quick and easy tips to make your house show like a model home. I'll can advise you what to do (and more importantly what NOT to do) to obtain maximum price and a quicker sale to obtain the best return.



**Casey O'Neal**  
Associate Broker  
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[casey@caseyoneal.com](mailto:casey@caseyoneal.com)  
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# Kids for Hire

These Arlington Forest youths are available for baby-sitting, pet sitting, and other services. To be added or deleted, e-mail [newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org](mailto:newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org).

## Southside:

- Daniel O'Mara, dog walking, pet sitting, yard work, 703-769-3767
- Julia Rogers, babysitting (RC certified), yard work, [juliaerogers23@gmail.com](mailto:juliaerogers23@gmail.com), 703-892-0226
- Jon Tiernan, babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, pet sitting, [Wonton81@gmail.com](mailto:Wonton81@gmail.com), 703-967-7813
- Liz Tiernan, babysitting (RC certified - two for the price of one with my brother Jon Tiernan), dog walking, pet sitting, [lizzytiernan@gmail.com](mailto:lizzytiernan@gmail.com), 703-979-5046
- Caroline Rogers, pet sitting, dog walking, yard work, [carolinearogers@verizon.net](mailto:carolinearogers@verizon.net), 703-892-0226

## Greenbrier Section:

- Zephren Collinson, babysitting (references), pet sitting, dog walking, yard work, tutoring, 703-528-3595
- Alex Hendel, babysitting (RC certified), experienced Tot Camp counselor (high school student), [alexhendel@gmail.com](mailto:alexhendel@gmail.com), 703-622-2884
- Sarah Keyser, babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, dog walking, [Stealers12@gmail.com](mailto:Stealers12@gmail.com), 703-243-8777

## Northside:

- Riittisha Choudhary: tutoring, babysitting ages 4-12, yard work, [riittishachoudhary@gmail.com](mailto:riittishachoudhary@gmail.com)
- Sophia Constantine, pet sitting, dog walking, [srconstantine@comcast.net](mailto:srconstantine@comcast.net), 703-841-9229
- Fiona Hickey, babysitting (RC certified), 703-351-7013
- Sophie Hickey, babysitting, 703-351-7013
- Alyssa Luz-Ricca, babysitting (RC cert), dog walking, pet sitting, [alyssa.luz.ricca@gmail.com](mailto:alyssa.luz.ricca@gmail.com), 703-740-6972.
- Isaac Mortimer-Lotke, odd jobs, 703-276-9046
- Marika Mortimer-Lotke, babysitting (RC certified), housesitting/chores, 703-276-9046
- Allison Vernon, pet sitting, babysitting (references), [catharinevernon@aol.com](mailto:catharinevernon@aol.com), 703-522-9147
- Gabby Young, babysitting, mother's helper, pet sitting, dog walking, [merrywesing@yahoo.com](mailto:merrywesing@yahoo.com), 703-622-4229

## All Neighborhoods:

- Julia Franchi, babysitting (RC certified), mother's helper, pet sitting, dog walking, yard work, 703-220-4894
- Girl Scout Troop 5837 (a group of responsible Arlington Forest 7th graders), babysitting, mother's helper, pet sitting, dog walking, plant watering, leaf raking, [buggah66@gmail.com](mailto:buggah66@gmail.com), 703-528-3595

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