

# The Arlington Forester



Volume 59, Number 3

Arlington, VA

November 2017

## Lubber Run Community Center Update

Topping the agenda of AFCA's monthly meeting is an update on plans to replace the Lubber Run Community Center. We meet this Wednesday, November 15, at 7 pm in the Barrett School library. County representatives Peter Lusk and Jane Rudolph will present an update and then answer questions.

Also on the agenda is Chris Marshall from the Wesley Housing Development Corporation who will discuss plans to replace the old American Red Cross building along Arlington Blvd near N. George Mason with a mixed-income community

comprising of 19 market rate townhomes and an apartment building of up to 118 units serving low- and moderate-income (up to \$66,200 for a family of four).

Finally, Captain Dave Giroux, First District Commander for the Arlington Police Department, will speak briefly, and we will vote on the renewable energy resolution that was discussed at the previous two meetings.

Finally, this is the month AFCA issues the last call for annual dues. If you have not yet done so, please pay your \$10 dues by mailing or delivering the coupon on this page or by paying online at [www.arlingtonforestva.org/AFCADues.html](http://www.arlingtonforestva.org/AFCADues.html).

## 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 8, at the annual Arlington Forest Holiday Party in the Lubber Run Community Center.

The jolly old elf arrives at 7 PM aboard 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 siren-blaring arrival. Then it's inside for live music, caroling, holiday goodies, kids' crafts and Santa lap chats.

Please bring a plate of goodies to share. AFCA will provide holiday punch and a few snacks to get things started. Volunteers are needed to help set up and tear down, lead singing and manage activities for the kids. If you can help or if you have a group that might assist -- table crafts for kids, elf assistance for Santa, caroling -- please contact Chris Scheer at 703-276-9725 or [scheerjchris@gmail.com](mailto:scheerjchris@gmail.com). This will be the last holiday party in the current building (where it has been held for nearly 50 years) which is scheduled to be replaced starting in 2018.

### AFCA MEMBERSHIP DUES ANNUAL DUES \$10 PER HOUSEHOLD

Deliver this form and your check payable to "AFCA" to your respective AFCA section representative.

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

*Northside:* Joel Yudken, 104 N. Columbus St. 22203

*Southside:* Sean Lyons, 34 S. Park Dr. 22204

Dues: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

*AFCA Meeting 7 p.m. November 15 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: John Naland  
703-888-0125, newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org

### 2017 - 2018 AFCA Officers

President: Allison Kennett  
571-277-4441, allison.kennett@gmail.com

Vice President, Northside: Joel Yudken  
703-528-8218, joel.yudken@verizon.net

Vice President, Southside: Sean Lyons  
sean.mcnulty.lyons@gmail.com

Vice President, Greenbrier: Tom Smialowicz  
703-528-3889, tsmialowicz@gmail.com

Recording Secretary: Char Mahoney  
571-241-9866, char.mahoney@verizon.net

Co-Secretary: Esther Bowring  
erbowring@gmail.com

Treasurer: Lauren Mikoy  
703-906-8218, LaurenDYork@gmail.com

Neighborhood Conservation Plan:  
Karen Burst, 571-242-9942, burstfamily@yahoo.com  
Liz Kauffman, 571-327-6497, lizkauffman@yahoo.com

Arlington Civic Federation Rep: Salvatore D'Itri

Historian: John Naland

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Website: <http://www.arlingtonforestva.org>  
Join AFCA listserv by e-mailing address to:  
arlingtonforestva@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. We publish eight times per year (Sept to Nov and Jan to May). Deadline for submissions is the first of the month. E-mail submissions of up to 400 words to newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org. Space often fills up before the deadline.

## Children's Halloween Parade

As pictured, dozens of little princesses, action heroes and other costumed wee ones participated in the annual neighborhood Halloween parade on Saturday, October 28. Starting at the Arlington Forest Shopping Center, the parade headed to the Lubber Run Amphitheater to strut their stuff on the stage and then on to the Fire Ring for s'mores. Many thanks to Brooke Johnson for organizing the event this year!





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# Arlington Forest Park Natural Resource Conservation Area

by Alonso Abugattas  
Natural Resources Manager, Arlington County

Arlington Forest Park (located in front of Arlington Forest Shopping Center) is the smallest of Arlington County's seven Natural Resource Conservation Areas (NRCA) at about one acre. It was designated as a NRCA because it is the largest example of a "Dry Gravel Cap – Xeric Oak / Poverty Oatsgrass Glade" we have left in Arlington.

Despite being in an urbanized area, Arlington Forest Park's native soils have not really been disturbed. It is dominated by a naturally short native grass that can tolerate dry and impoverished soils, Poverty Oatsgrass (*Danthonia spicata*). Now that the County has cut back on mowing, the other elements of this ecosystem are returning, including a series of fairly uncommon understory of dry-loving herbs and shrubs with a sparse canopy of specialized oaks. This park is the only place left in Arlington you can find things like Globe Flatsedge (*Cyperus echinatus*) and Corallberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*), and is one of only a few places you can find plants such as St. Andrews Cross (*Hypericum hypericoides*), Fork-tip Three-awn grass (*Aristida dichotoma*), and the unusual natural hybrid Saul's Oak

(*Quercus x saulii*). In fact, the Saul's Oak "County Champion Tree" lives there.

The unusual soils almost feel unearthly, they give in so easily to walking and are covered with mixed lichens. Because they drain so well and have sparse areas, many species of ground nesting solitary bees are found nesting there. These very docile pollinators find great and now rather rare real estate to set up their homes, since this is a very special and unique ecosystem.

Arlington's challenge is to preserve these precious areas while still making it easily accessible for people as well. You can see why we ask the public to help us be good caretakers and stewards of this special place. It may not look as well manicured as some others, but that's because we're allowing for natural regrowth of some uncommon species, but it's beautiful in its own way.

Hopefully most know you can't dump anything there (including yard waste that can introduce invasives or alter the soil conditions). But we also see examples of guerrilla gardening unfortunately, .....continued on page 4

## Adam (RT) Tnaib

202-725-0055  
adamt@kw.com

Your neighbor and realtor in Arlington Forest

If you are thinking about selling this spring, now is the perfect time to start getting your home ready.

Please contact me for a free/no obligation consultation to learn about simple things you can do to improve the value of your home.

I look forward to working with you.



kw  
KELLERWILLIAMS

## AF Park...continued

where people have encroached on public land to plant nonnative plants as though that was part of their own landscape. This is of course illegal, and the introduced species, even if not invasive, compete with the unusual native plants we're trying to conserve in this little park for future generations.

So please help us be good stewards of this little, unique park. It may not look as well manicured as some others, but that's because we're allowing for natural regrowth of some uncommon species, but it's beautiful in its own way.



Saul's Oak pictured left and Poverty Oatgrass pictured right

Tired of looking for the home of your dreams and coming up empty-handed?

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**WHEN IS THE RIGHT TIME TO BUY A HOME?** Market factors are influencing consumer-purchasing choices; some buyers say they might delay buying a home due to increasing rates and high prices, while others say their desire to lock in the lowest rates has sped up their interest in buying. The current local housing market is more balanced and 30 year fixed rates are at 4%. In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, buyers usually have less competition compared to mid-January when increased buyer activity starts.

Single-family detached and townhouses have each appreciated in price nearly 30%, at 2.8% annually, since their low in 2009, while the condo sector grew 18%, at 1.8%. Condo values have stalled significantly in the past four years. Since June 2013, condo values have decreased about 3% or 0.8% annually on average.

Local home prices have certainly risen faster than income and wage growth. Eventually prices may reach a point where many won't buy, followed by a slowdown in price growth. Homebuyers may choose to live in regions offering job opportunities but a cheaper cost of living.

Domestic outmigration: Each year since 2011, more domestic residents are leaving the NVAR region than moving in from elsewhere in the US; resulting in a net decrease of about 25,000 people domestically. While a slowdown in price growth benefits the affordability of the real estate market, residents avoiding the region is not ideal for the overall local economy.

If you are in the market to buy or sell a home, get an expert on your side who can walk you through the entire process from start to finish—we can help!



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**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 either make your house show like a model or sell it "as-is".

# Around the Forest

**Carlin Springs Bridge Project:** On October 17 at Barrett Elementary, County officials briefed interested residents on plans to remove and replace the N. Carlin Springs Road bridge over N. George Mason Drive. Worksite preparation will begin soon. Demolition will start December 1. Crews will first remove and replace the southern span (north-bound lanes) and then remove and replace the northern span. Traffic will be reduced to one lane each direction during this work. Normal work hours during the two-year long project will be Monday to Friday, 8 am to 5 pm, except on four weekends when heavy work will be done. During four weekends of heavy work, both Carlin Springs Rd. and George Mason Dr. will be closed at the bridge. The County will post message boards blocks away from the site to inform drivers of street closures. For more information, search "Carlin Springs Road Bridge" on the County website.

**Final Dues Notice:** This is the last call for annual \$10 AFCA dues. If you have not paid your dues, please do so today using the form on page 1.

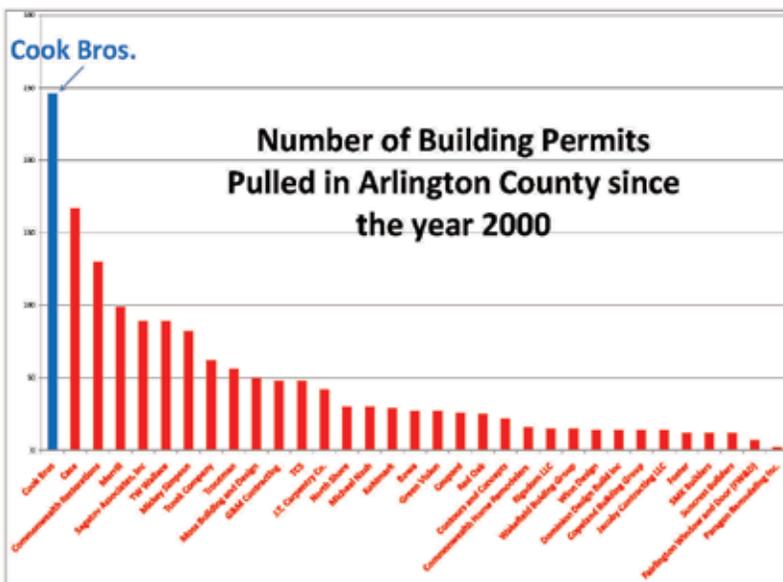
**Organic Recycling:** Despite what it said in last month's newsletter, residents can now place grass clippings in their green organic waste cart along with leaves and other plant material.

**Washington-Lee H.S. Holiday Bazaar:** Saturday, December 2, 10 am to 4 pm, free admission. Over 75 local artisans will be displaying for sale quality handcrafted and other gift items -- jewelry, ceramics, glassware, pet items, clothing, accessories, and more. Enjoy multi-ethnic food while you shop. Take home baked goods, a holiday wreath, or a poinsettia plant. Live musical performances by The Madrigals and other school musical groups. Proceeds help to buy caps and gowns for the graduating Class of 2018. Washington-Lee High School, 1301 North Stafford St, Arlington 22201. Free parking and easy access from the I-66 parking garage off Stafford St.

**Arlington Forest History Book:** Looking for a holiday gift for a long-time Arlington Forest resident? The 150-page history of Arlington Forest (published in 2015 on the 75th anniversary of our neighborhood) contains essays, photos, and excerpts from the Arlington Forester. We have sold over 250 copies to date. You can order one by sending your address and a check for \$20 made out to "AFCA" to John Naland, 100 N. Granada St., Arlington 22203. A PDF version of the book is on the AFCA website ([www.arlingtonforestva.org](http://www.arlingtonforestva.org)) under the Neighborhood tab.

## 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)



# Scouts in the Park

By Adriana Ercolano

If you've had the opportunity to enjoy a walk in Lubber Run Park lately, you may have noticed some new trail improvements. These upgrades were completed as Eagle projects by members of Boy Scout Troop 648 (Arlington Forest United Methodist Church). Eagle is the highest rank in scouting and requires that scouts plan, organize, and direct a project that benefits the community.

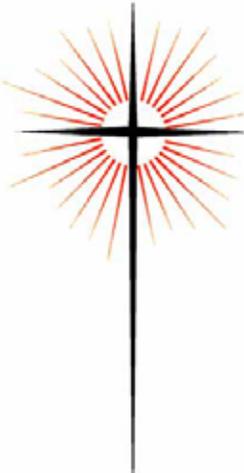
The most recent project this past October was coordinated by Joseph Justice and involved improving the trail beginning at N. Columbus and 3rd Street. Scouts installed posts and laid down 15 tons of gravel (see photo top). Joseph is the grandson of Al Justice, a 48-year Arlington Forester, and his dad, Joe, was also a scout who remembers working on park projects as well.

In September, Chase Hildebrand completed his Eagle project (see photo bottom). You may have spotted the scouts working at the park entrance on N. Edison near Route 50. Chase organized the project to build a retaining wall to prevent erosion along the trail.

In just the past few years, scouts in all have completed five retaining walls, two trail improvements, and upgrades to the fire ring.

Every spring you can also find ....continued on page 7





## 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*

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

**Sunday Christian Education**  
Adults 9 am — Youth 10 am

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**All Children 5 and up are invited to participate in our Christmas Pageant!**

Call or email [familyprograms@stjohnsarlingtonva.org](mailto:familyprograms@stjohnsarlingtonva.org)



<b>Sunday, December 17</b>	10 am	Children's Christmas Pageant at the 10 am service
<b>Saturday, December 24</b>	5 pm	Christmas Eve Service with carols and a children's message
	11 pm	Christmas Eve Service with carols
<b>Sunday, December 25</b>	10 am	Christmas Day Service with carols
<b>Sunday, January 1</b>	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)

the Cub Scouts of Pack 548 (Our Savior Lutheran Church) joining with other community members for the annual stream cleanup.

Lyndell Core, the County's Park Services Area Manager who has coordinated past scout projects said, "Eagle Scouts today, whose fathers, brothers and friends have been doing projects in Lubber Run Park for over twenty years, are today still helping to improve the park. Lubber Run has benefitted from the collective dedication and vision of these scouts and parents, who are the community."

Thanks to all our local scouts, leaders, and families for your hard work in our park!

**Snow Watch:** Now is the time to check your shoveling supplies and make plans to clear your sidewalks of snow and ice. The safety of your neighbors requires that all residents adhere to the County code which requires clearing snow and ice from sidewalks within 24 hours after snowfall ceases (within 36 hours if snowfall exceeds 36 inches). 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. Moreover, freshly fallen snow is much easier to remove than snow that has been compacted into ice by neighbors walking by. 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 10 of this newsletter for a list of energetic neighborhood students who stand ready to assist.

## Community Calendar

**Next AFCA Meeting:** Wednesday, November 15th, 7 PM, Barrett Elementary School. See page 1 for details.

**Election Day:** November 7th for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, County Board, and School Board.

**AFCA Holiday Party:** Friday, December 8th.

**Neighborhood Spring Cleanup:** Saturday, April 21st. Help beautify our neighborhood parks.

**Annual Yard Sale:** Saturday, May 19th. Turn unwanted stuff into cash.

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

**Arlington County Fair:** August 15 to 19. Rides, food, displays, and racing pigs.

### Future AFCA Meetings:

January 17: County Board member Katie Cristol

February 21: Edison Park update

March 21: School Board member TBD

April 18: Ballston development update

May 16: Picnic and Annual Membership Meeting



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I look forward to meeting with you.

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# Barcroft School News

This has been an exciting several weeks at Barcroft Elementary School! Many students enjoyed Intersession Classes during our two-week fall break in October. Students had the opportunity to engage in interactive and experiential learning on topics ranging from Lewis and Clark to ancient civilizations. There were also some intensive Lego Robotics competitions!

We had fun — and raised funds — through restaurant nights at District Taco and Silver Dinner (see photo below), as well as our annual Sleepfauxver and Family Movie Night. Students also enjoyed parading around the school neighborhood in their Halloween costumes. We look forward to



Barcroft Staff serving as guest servers at Silver Diner.

this becoming an annual tradition.

Get ready for the Barcroft Elementary Snowball Stride 5 K on December 2. Starting at Barcroft Elementary School and running on the W&OD trail and back, this race will have excitement, costumes, prizes and maybe a little snow! Registration

is now open at <https://www.dcroadrunners.org/sign-up/barcroft-5k>. Registration is \$25 for adults and \$15 for kids.

Looking for more news from Barcroft? You can follow Barcroft Elementary School PTA on Facebook.

**Tree Grant Program:** To help keep the "forest" in Arlington Forest, AFCA will pay you to plant a tree on your property. AFCA offers matching grants to neighbors who plant tree from an approved list of shade trees. Grants of up to \$125 will cover one-half of the cost of buying and planting a tree. The application must be approved before the purchase. For details and the application form, go to [www.arlingtonforestva.org](http://www.arlingtonforestva.org) and click on the AFCA tab.

**Oh Deer:** Deer and foxes are increasingly venturing into front yards and streets on blocks adjacent to parkland. At sunrise recently, six deer were grazing near the Arlington Forest Club parking lot. They typically come out during hours of darkness, but also occasionally during the daytime. So please exercise extra caution when driving down our neighborhood streets.



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## *Your Neighbor in Arlington Forest*

If you are considering putting your home on the market, I would suggest that you begin getting your home ready as soon as possible. By having your home ready and in great shape for the new owners, the price that you get will be higher than if you don't prepare the home for sale. I have a list of things that owners should do in preparation to market their home. If

you would like to meet with me to see your home and give you some ideas on how to prepare it, please call me for a free, no obligation consultation. With the inventory low, it is an ideal time to sell your home. I look forward to meeting with you.

*Jim*

# Barrett School News

October was a busy month at KW Barrett Elementary! Students participated in the Heritage Assembly, Humanities Assembly, and the Halloween parade, among other school-wide activities. The 4th grade had a visit from the ABC7 weather team to discuss meteorology, and the Student Council Association is raising funds for Puerto Rico relief efforts.

Barrett's after-school running club, Barrett Runners, has been taking advantage of the warm fall weather to keep students and teachers moving at a fast pace. From the book fair to restaurant night, Barrett families came together for fun and fundraising. Coming up this winter, Barrett will again launch its Barrett Gives campaign to help families in need.

Did you know that KW Barrett Elementary school was the first elementary school in Virginia to be selected for the NASA Explorer School program, which invests in STEM to inspire and engage future scientists, engineers, and technicians? Since 2005, Barrett students in grades K-5 have met astronauts, engineers, and other NASA personnel in person and via videoconferences and have done hands-on lessons to learn about space.

Join the PTA at <http://barrett.my-pta.org/>. For up-to-date information on Barrett events, follow the PTA on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/barrettpta](http://www.facebook.com/barrettpta) and Twitter @BPTAE in English and @BPTASP in Spanish. You can also find Principal Redding and numerous staff members on their own Twitter accounts.

*Save the dates for Barrett events:*

Barrett Gives Donation Begins, November 13th  
PTA Meeting, December 5th  
BINGO night, December 15th  
Winter Concert, December 19th

**Christmas Tree Collection:** The County's Christmas Tree collection program runs January 2 to 12 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. If your tree is over 8 feet tall, you must schedule it for a special brush collection (see the County website for details). Remember that it is illegal to dump Christmas Trees (or anything else) in parkland.



**Paul Cachion, MBA**

Cell: 571-216-6802

Email: [CachionHomes@gmail.com](mailto:CachionHomes@gmail.com)



## Our girls gave me some tips how to reach the younger generation...

Zoe and Mia (who are 15 and 13) have taken over the ad copy on this one:

If you want to live a lit lifestyle, buy a crib with L'il P Swizel. If you want to be hip and the mostest of the dopest, then hit up the high-key coolest realtor around. It's the move!

If you have any real estate needs or questions, as always feel free to get in touch. And if you have an idea what any of the above means, please give a call, and let me know!

-Paul (L'il P Swizel)



Member Long & Foster Executive Club.

# Kids for Hire

These Arlington Forest youths are available for babysitting, 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, snow shoveling, leaf raking, [tomara@teamcfw.com](mailto:tomara@teamcfw.com), 703-769-3767
- Ethan O'Mara: dog walking, pet sitting, snow shoveling, leaf raking, [tomara@teamcfw.com](mailto:tomara@teamcfw.com), 703-769-3767
- Andrew Rogers: yard work, dog walking, pet sitting, [andrewmcyt@gmail.com](mailto:andrewmcyt@gmail.com), 703-892-0226
- Caroline Rogers: babysitting, pet sitting, dog walking, [carolinearogers@verizon.net](mailto:carolinearogers@verizon.net), 703-892-0226
- Julia Rogers (college breaks only): babysitting (RC certified), yard work, [juliaerogers23@gmail.com](mailto:juliaerogers23@gmail.com), 703-892-0226

## Greenbrier Section:

- CeCe Collinson: babysitting (references), pet sitting, dog walking, plant watering, mail collection, 703-528-3595
- Donna Corina: babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, tutoring, 703-248-8885
- Mary Corina: babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, tutoring, 703-248-8885
- Ethan Hall (college breaks only): snow shoveling, [k.hall.b@verizon.net](mailto:k.hall.b@verizon.net), 302-650-4428
- Jack Holt: babysitting (RC certified), yard work, snow shoveling, leaf raking, watering plants, tutoring, [jackloginname@gmail.com](mailto:jackloginname@gmail.com), call or text 703-470-8040
- Anthony Lawson: yard work, pet sitting, dog walking, 703-933-8880
- Charlotte Lawson: leaf raking, pet sitting, dog walking, 703-933-8880
- Reid Messman: pet sitting, dog walking (references), 703-469-1988
- Shea Messman: babysitting (Safe Sitter certified, references), 703-469-1988
- Alexandra Orli: babysitting (references), mother's helper, pet sitting, watering plants, call 703-528-5618
- Carsten Schoer: math tutoring, soccer lessons, snow shoveling, leaf raking, yard work, [carstenschoer@gmail.com](mailto:carstenschoer@gmail.com), call/text 703-209-0905
- Leah Shvedova: babysitting (references), tutoring through 8th grade (Social Science, English, Algebra), pet sitting, watering plants, 571-426-6818
- Emma Weaver: babysitting (Safe Sitter certified, references), 703-875-8185

## Northside:

- Daniel Brancati: yard work, leaf raking, snow shoveling, car washing (in your driveway), [daniel@barms.org](mailto:daniel@barms.org), 703-243-1916
- Laura Brancati: babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, pet sitting, [laura@barms.org](mailto:laura@barms.org), 703-243-1916
- Riittisha Choudhary: tutoring, babysitting (ages 4-12), yard work, [riittishachoudhary@gmail.com](mailto:riittishachoudhary@gmail.com)
- Ely Constantine: pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, lawn mowing, [cpconstantine@comcast.net](mailto:cpconstantine@comcast.net), 703-841-9229
- Tyler Dinan: babysitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, dog walking, [chrisbettandin@aol.com](mailto:chrisbettandin@aol.com), 703-525-5763
- Alex Eng: pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, [dcharveydc@yahoo.com](mailto:dcharveydc@yahoo.com), 703-861-1890
- Evan Eng: pet sitting, dog walking, leaf raking, snow shoveling, [dcharveydc@yahoo.com](mailto:dcharveydc@yahoo.com), 703-861-1890
- Jeremy Fagen: pet sitting (any animal), dog walking, plant watering, [jdoxen11001@gmail.com](mailto:jdoxen11001@gmail.com), 703-200-2396
- Leina Gabra: babysitting (ages 4-12), house sitting, [leinagabra@gmail.com](mailto:leinagabra@gmail.com), 703-973-8914
- Ethan Nissenson: lawn mowing, leaf raking, snow shoveling, [Enissenson@verizon.net](mailto:Enissenson@verizon.net), 703-201-0523

**Leaf Season:** Do not put leaves in plastic garbage bags or trash carts (putting them in a green organics cart is fine). Vacuum leaf collection in Arlington Forest is tentatively scheduled for November 22 to 28. Look for notices on telephone poles for possible schedule adjustments. The second and final vacuum collection will not occur until late-December, so now is a great time to get your fallen leaves out to the curb. If your street is on a steep slope, pile the leaves in the street one foot from the curb otherwise a heavy rain will wash them down the block. Pile up only leaves (no sticks, rocks, trash). An alternative is biodegradable bag collection which occurs year-round on your regular trash pickup day. Free paper bags are available at several locations including Lubber Run Community Center. See the County website for details.



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