

# The Arlington Forester



Volume 54, Number 2

Arlington, VA

October 2012

## October AFCA Meeting Agenda

by John Naland

Two interesting topics are on the agenda of this month's Arlington Forest Citizens Association meeting on Wednesday, October 17, at 7 PM in the Barrett School library.

Dana G. Wilson, Code Enforcement Supervisor from the Arlington County Department of Community Planning, Housing, and Development will discuss his office's work in enforcing the County's rules for neighborhood living. For example: How high may someone allow their grass to grow? May piles of junk be stored in a driveway? How long may a storage POD sit in the street? Mr. Wilson will be available to answer those and related questions. (Spoiler alert: see "Neighborhood Do's and Don'ts" on page 5 of this newsletter for a summary of relevant provisions of the County Code.)

Our second speaker, Andrea Walker, will talk about the "Arlington Villages Project" which helps people over age 65 remain in their own homes as long as possible by coordinating social services such as daily check-in and rides to medical

appointments. An article about the project appeared in last month's newsletter (on page 5, online at [www.arlingtonforestva.org](http://www.arlingtonforestva.org) under the "Newsletters" tab). The project's website is [arlingtonvillages.org](http://arlingtonvillages.org). The first meeting for anyone interested in helping to organize a pilot neighborhood village in the Arlington Forest-Boulevard Manor-Glencarlyn area will be on Thursday, November 1 at 7:30 PM at a location to be determined. For details, contact Pete Olivere at [peter.olivere@arlingtonvillages.org](mailto:peter.olivere@arlingtonvillages.org) or at 703-626-2520.

Finally, if you have not yet returned your \$10 annual AFCA dues for the new fiscal year that began last month, please do so today. A loose-leaf form and envelope were provided in the September newsletter. If you no longer have those, you can cut out the form that is printed on page 9 of this month's newsletter. Your annual dues support AFCA's activities which enhance the quality of life in our neighborhood.

## AFCA Tree Grant Program

by Colleen Green

Long before moving to Arlington Forest, I appreciated the beautiful trees of our neighborhood: the protective shade in the summer, the stunning colors in the fall, and the dramatic transformation of winter into spring. AFCA, with the support of Arlington County, is committed to retaining the unique character (and namesake) of our neighborhood with the Arlington Forest Tree Grant Program. The program encourages you and your neighbors to plant trees that will contribute to the shade canopy of Arlington Forest by subsidizing a portion of the purchase price of certain types of trees.

Under the Arlington Forest Tree Grant Program, a matching grant is available to residents of Arlington Forest interested in planting a SHADE TREE on their property. The grant amount of up to \$125 covers up to one-half of the cost of

buying and planting a tree (including delivery). There is a limit of two tree grants (of up to \$125 per grant) per property. For example, a Forester who planted one tree costing \$300 and a second that cost \$200 would receive a grant of \$125 for the first tree and a grant of \$100 for the second.

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*AFCA Meeting 7 p.m. Oct 17 at Barrett School Library*

## THE ARLINGTON FORESTER

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## Editor's Note

The *Arlington Forester* welcomes articles, news notes, letters and photos focusing on events or issues specific to our neighborhood. The next deadline is November 1 for the issue to be distributed November 10-11. E-mail submissions of up to 400 words to newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org. Space fills up, so check in advance if you wish to submit a long article.

## Tree Grants ..continued from page 1

The types of trees eligible for the program are White Oak, Northern Red Oak, Willow Oak, Chestnut Oak, Southern Red Oak, Scarlet Oak, Pin Oak, Red Maple, Sycamore, Tulip Tree/Yellow Poplar, Black Gum, Lacey Elm, American Elm, Dutch Elm resistant cultivars (e.g., Princeton, Liberty cultivars), American Beech, Kentucky Coffee Tree, Hickory, and Linden/Basswood.

Grant funding is available for the first 10 applicants during the 2012-2013 season. Applicants must be dues-paying AFCA members. If you are interested in applying, please follow these instructions:

1. Complete the Tree Grant Application which is available on the AFCA website (at [www.arlingtonforestva.org](http://www.arlingtonforestva.org) by clicking on the AFCA tab and then scrolling to the bottom of that page) or email [greencolleen@gmail.com](mailto:greencolleen@gmail.com) to request an application.
2. Return the application to Colleen Green, AFCA Tree Grant Coordinator. NOTE: To be eligible, the Tree Grant Application must be submitted and approved BEFORE you purchase the tree(s).
3. Once you have been notified that your application has been approved, you must purchase the tree within 90 days.
4. Submit your receipt to Colleen Green, including your name, address, phone number, and where the tree was planted (e.g. front yard, back yard, etc.) within 30 days of purchasing the tree. (Electronic submissions are preferred and your refund will be expedited!)
5. Colleen will inspect your property to ensure the tree is planted and then submit your receipt to the AFCA Treasurer for reimbursement.



As the AFCA Tree Grant Coordinator, I'm thrilled to have an opportunity to meet fellow Foresters and see a whole new generation of trees planted in our neighborhood. Please contact me at [greencolleen@gmail.com](mailto:greencolleen@gmail.com) with any questions.

*Tree Grant application is available on the AFCA website under the "AFCA" tab*

# Shop Local: Subway

By John Naland

*[This continues our occasional articles profiling businesses in the Arlington Forest Shopping Center. Please support our local economy by thinking first of your neighborhood merchants when you need a meal, goods, or services.]*



Our neighborhood shopping center got a welcomed addition with the opening of the Subway restaurant on August 31. Owner Mr. Suresh Amin and manager Ms. Sweetie Shrestha welcome Arlington Foresters to visit their full-service Subway store which features the chain's latest "Metro" décor with attractive inside seating for 14.

Subway is well-known for its sandwich offerings which include seven "healthy choice" selections that have 6 grams of fat or less each. Beverages include Seattle's Best Coffee, juice, milk, freshly brewed ice tea, and a variety of fountain and bottled sodas. Available sides include yogurt, apple slices, chips, and cookies.

And Subway is not just for lunch and dinner as it also serves breakfast daily. Its morning menu features seven

breakfast sandwiches (several on toasted flatbread) offering various combinations of meat, eggs, and cheese.

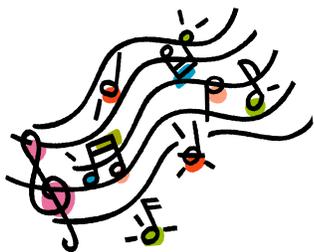
The store is open 7 AM to 10 PM weekdays, 8 AM to 10 PM on Saturday, and 9 AM to 8 PM on Sunday. Breakfast is served until 11 AM. Discount coupons can be found on page 12 of this newsletter.

So please give our new neighborhood restaurant a try if you have not already done so. Maintaining a vibrant local shopping center benefits all of Arlington Forest.

.....



Neighbors enjoy the stream during the Sept 15th Fall clean-up.



## Arlington Forest Harmony Youth Choir

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# Leaf Collection - Ready, Rake, Recycle

The Arlington County 2012 leaf collection and recycling begins Oct. 29 for bag collection and Nov. 12 for vacuum truck collection. The County collects about 50,000 cubic yards of leaves each year. During November and December, the County will not collect leaves left curbside in plastic bags or placed in trash bins. Instead, please utilize one of three easy ways to reduce landfill waste by recycling leaves into useful mulch:

- Place leaves in biodegradable paper bags. Bags are collected on the day after your regular trash day beginning the week of Oct. 29. Free leaf bags are available at Lubber Run Community Center, Long Branch Nature Center, and six other locations. They also may be purchased at most hardware stores. Do not include grass clippings.
- Rake leaves to the curb for vacuum truck collection that begins the week of Nov. 12. Crews will make two passes through Arlington Forest -- one in November and one in December. Look for signs posted in the neighborhood 3-7 days before each pass. Remove stones, branches, and litter from the leaf pile.
- Residents may also compost their leaves into a valuable organic soil supplement.

If you would like reasonably-priced assistance with leaf raking or other fall yard work, check out Kids for Hire on page 14. Listed there are 11 neighborhood youths who are eager to help out.

For more information on the County's program, search "leaf collection" on the County website. Leaf and wood mulch is available free for pickup at two locations and can be delivered to your house for a modest charge. For details, search "mulch" on the County website.



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## Neighborhood Do's and Don'ts

Below are excerpts of the Arlington County Code of rules for residential areas. Some violations can result in a summons to General District Court and fines up to \$2,500.

- Sidewalks and roadways should be kept free of low branches, shrubs and other foliage from the ground and upward 10 feet.
- Grass/weeds may be no taller than 12 inches in the front, sides and rear of the property.
- Residents must remove snow and ice from public sidewalks adjacent to their property within 24 hours after snow stops falling (within 36 hours when 6 or more inches accumulate).
- Inoperative vehicles may only be stored inside of a fully-enclosed building.
- Commercial vehicles may not park on residential streets except when making service calls. Motor homes and camping trailers may not park on residential streets for longer than five days.
- Placing a Portable Storage Device (POD) on a street requires a County permit which is limited to one month (non-renewable). Construction dumpsters may be placed on streets for any length of time with the proper permit.
- Refuse and carts should be placed out no sooner than 5 PM the day prior to collection. Return containers to their normal storage location within 24 hours after emptying. The normal storage location may not be in front of a

dwelling or behind the front building line that faces any County street, unless fencing or landscaping shields the containers from view from the street.

- Old furniture, appliances, tires or building materials may only be stored inside an enclosed building.
- Dumping of trash, grass cuttings, tree trimmings or other debris on public land is prohibited. Refuse may not be burned.
- The running of dogs and other pets at large is forbidden, except in designated off-leash areas. Owners must clean-up after their pets.
- Construction activities are allowed any time; however, there are noise limits by time of day. The normal noise decibel limit may be exceeded from 7 AM to 9 PM Monday to Friday and 10 AM to 9 PM on weekends and holidays.
- Emergency power generators must comply with noise ordinances which restrict noise levels to 55 decibels at night and 65 decibels during the day.



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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.

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# Saving the Holly Tree

By John Naland

Arlington Forest's iconic holly tree in the traffic circle just north of the intersection of Park Drive and Arlington Boulevard is in bad shape. Well over 70 years old, it was moved to its current location in 1941 by Monroe Warren, president of Meadowbrook, Inc. which built most of the homes in Arlington Forest. This past September 15, a small group of volunteers (see photos) led by Joe Cockrell worked for hours removing invasive vines which had climbed the trunk into the branches above. After clearing the vines and trimming lower branches, it was clear that the trunk was severely rotted on one side.

Chris Scheer subsequently contacted the County arborist who later inspected the tree which is on the County's list of "Notable" trees. His analysis: "The holly in the circle is definitely in poor shape. Also, the base of the tree is rotting, to some extent, and this may prove to be fatal. [Your] clearing away the ivy from the base will help the tree recover, if this does happen. I still have faith in the chance the tree will compartmentalize the basal damage, and perhaps regrow the lost growth, but there is a chance it may not come back. I will keep an eye on this tree and will work with the County landscape team to see what we can do as far as overwintering and protecting the tree."

With any luck, the tree's health will bounce back. If not, the County and AFCA will need to plan for its replacement -- perhaps in 2014 to coincide with the 75 anniversary of the establishment of Arlington Forest. Either way, kudos go Joe Cockrell who has often single-handedly worked to trim, water, and care for the holly tree for the past three decades.





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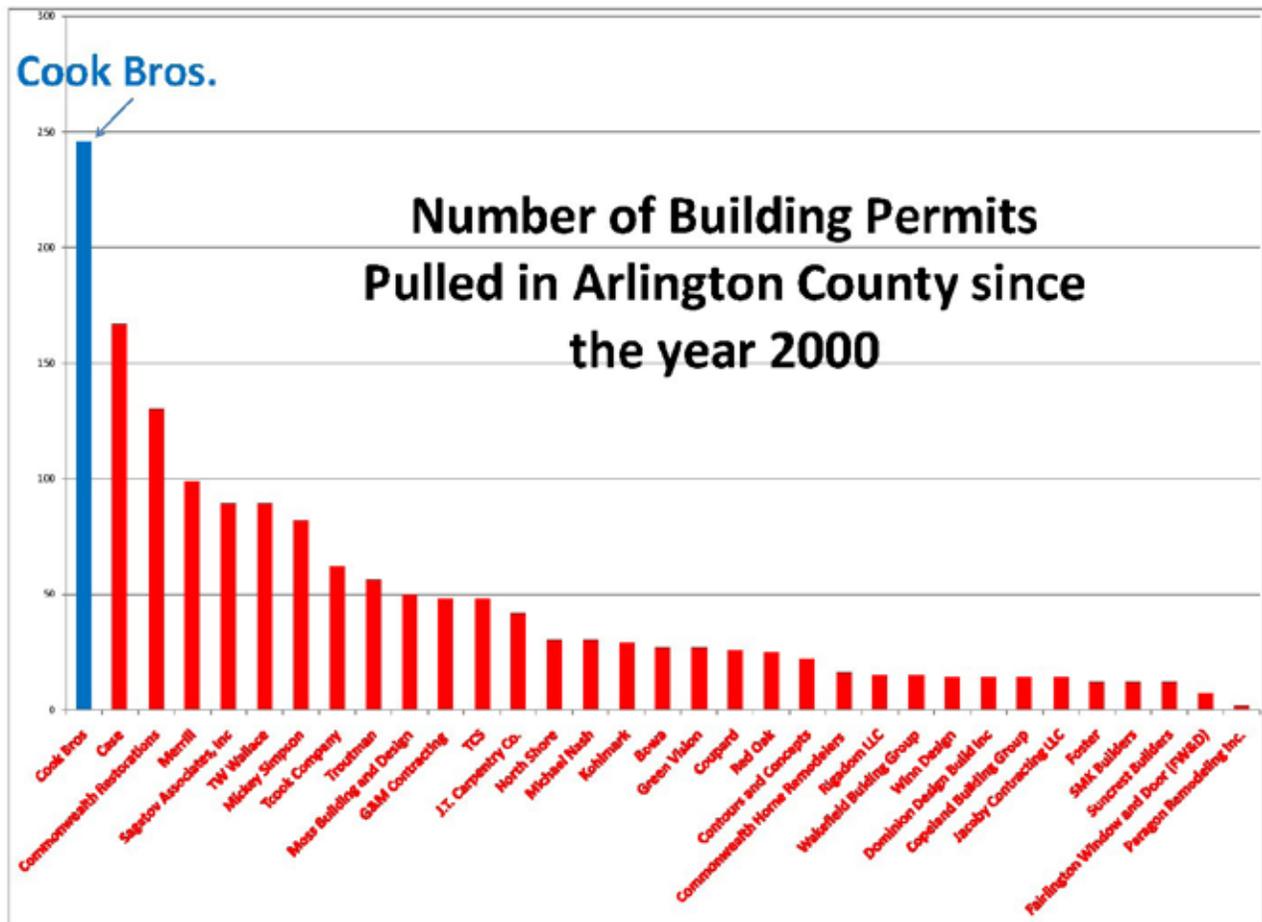


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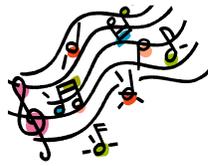
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# Around the Forest

**Fire Pit of Horror:** The Artisphere's resident theatre company, WSC Avant Bard, presents The Fire Pit of Horror: Staged Readings of Poe & Lovecraft on Oct. 27, 6-8 PM at the Fire Ring in Lubber Run Park. The event is free and attendees are requested to RSVP at <http://wsc-avant-bard-fire-pit.eventbrite.com/>. Attendees are welcome to come in costume and a costume party will be held afterwards at a nearby location. More details can be found at: <http://wscavantbard.org/for-the-love-of/for-the-love-of-lovecraft-poe/>. In lieu of donations, attendees are requested to purchase tickets to see WSC's Six Characters in Search of an Author presented at the Artisphere in November and December.



## The Dogwood Singers

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**Kenmore News:** Kenmore Middle School opened its doors for a new school year on September 4 and welcomed 770 6th, 7th and 8th graders. Kenmore continues as one of 16 schools participating in the Kennedy Center Changing Education through the Arts program (CETA) where teachers receive professional development on integrating the arts into classroom instruction. As part of this program, several teaching artists will be at the school working with teachers to integrate the arts through art coaching, workshops and demonstration teaching. The community is invited to enjoy the arts at Kenmore. The theater, orchestra, and dance departments are partnering to present the Nutcracker on December 6 and 7 at 7 PM. Admission is by donation. The Kenmore winter concert series begins December 12 with the winter choral concert at 7 PM. The orchestras perform on December 13 at 7 PM and the bands perform on December 14 at 7 PM. These concerts are free and open to the public.

**APS Boundary Changes:** Arlington Public Schools invite the community to participate in a survey regarding school crowding. Feedback will help APS to better understand community concerns. The survey is available online at [www.research.net/s/moreseats](http://www.research.net/s/moreseats).

**Lubber Run Indoor Playground:** Join us at Lubber Run Community Center for an indoor playground each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 to 11:30 AM from now to May 31 (except during scheduled events). Fee \$3.00 per adult. Parent or caregiver supervision required. For info, call 703-228-4712.

**Children's Halloween Parade:** Bring your little princesses, wizards or other costumed wee ones to that annual neighborhood Halloween parade on Sunday, October 28, at 3 PM starting at the Arlington Forest Shopping Center. The parade will head to the playground at Lubber Run Community Center and then down to the fire ring in Lubber Run Park for an old-fashioned camp fire. Bring your own s'mores fixins and other snacks if desired. Thanks for Jen Beer for organizing this event again this year.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Community Calendar

**Next AFCA Meeting:** Wednesday, Oct 17, 7 PM, at Barrett School library.

**Street Sweeping:** Monday, Oct 15. Move your car for the County's street sweepers.

**Future AFCA Meetings:** Nov 14, Jan 16, Feb 20, Mar 20, Apr 17 and May 15 picnic.

**Kids Halloween Parade:** Sunday, Oct 28, starting at 3 PM in the Arlington Forest Shopping Center. A neighborhood tradition.

**Election Day:** Nov 6. Vote for President, Congress, County Board, School Board and bond issues. A new Virginia law requires voters to present valid ID.

**AFCA Holiday Party:** Friday, Dec 7 at Lubber Run Center. A neighborhood tradition with Santa and tables lined with treats.

**Neighborhood Spring Cleanup:** April date TBD. Our third annual volunteer clean-up of public spaces around Arlington Forest.

**Annual Community Yard Sale:** May date TBD. Turn unwanted stuff into cash.

**Lubber Run Amphitheater 2013 Season:** Live entertainment under the stars resumes in June.

## Trailhead Project Completed by John Naland

The trailhead beautification project at the foot of N. Greenbrier was completed last month with the installation of an information kiosk. The kiosk, which has "Arlington Forest" etched into its roof, displays notices of community interest along with a newly-commissioned map that details nearby trails. Next to the kiosk is a seating bolder and a new trash can (see photo).

Other project elements included spraying of invasive plants covering two acres on either side of the trail leading down to Four Mile Run. County contractors will return this winter and again in 2014 to re-treat any surviving invasives. The County also removed several rusting street signs and installed a new "No Dumping" sign. Earlier, a separate project replaced the stormwater tubing on either side of the trailhead.

The beautification work was funded by a \$15,000 Park Enhancement Grant that the County awarded this past January to a group of neighbors from N. Granada and N. Galveston who have been conducting semi-annual clean-ups at the site since April 2008.

At their most recent cleanup on September 15 (see photo), the volunteers removed trash from along Four Mile Run and worked with County invasive plant control coordinator Sarah Archer to clear invasives that had survived the

## Forest Exchange

**Wanted:** Your AFCA annual dues. Mail in the membership registration coupon on page 9 along with \$10 in annual household dues today to your AFCA section VP. Thanks!

**Charity Fundraiser:** Support local charities (Arlington Food Assistance Center, Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless, and Doorways for Women & Families) by participating in the 7th annual Arlington Turkey Trot, hosted by Christ Church of Arlington, corner of Highland and Pershing, on Thanksgiving morning. Advance registration is required. See [www.ccapca.org/turkeytrot.htm](http://www.ccapca.org/turkeytrot.htm).

**Kids for Hire:** Need reasonably-priced help with babysitting, yard work, pet sitting, or other tasks? Check out Kids for Hire on page 14. If you have a tween or teenager with a service to offer, encourage them to sign up.

**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 Notice Here:** Send your notice by Nov 1 to [newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org](mailto:newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org).



contractor's initial spraying. The next volunteer clean-up day will be in April. Anyone who uses that trailhead to access the WO&D hike/bike/jog trail is welcome to help out. Look in this newsletter for details next spring.

# Personal Emergency Preparedness

by John Naland

Extended power outages in the wake of last summer's derecho (see photo) and after recent winters' storms were good reminders that, even in our urban environment, we still must be ready to essentially fend for ourselves for a few days. County, state, and federal websites all offer advice on how to take charge of our own personal emergency preparedness. Below are excerpts with suggestions for preparing for natural or other emergencies:

- Always maintain on hand at least a five day supply of non-perishable food, pet supplies, and medications.
- Prepare an emergency kit that includes essential items to last at least five days: water, can opener, first aid kit, battery-powered radio with extra batteries, flashlights with extra batteries, and cash.
- Select a family rendezvous location in the event that your home is inaccessible.
- Designate an out-of-town friend or relative as a telephone point of contact should your family members lose contact with each other.
- Fill your car gas tank if a storm is approaching.
- Teach all family members how to turn off the water, gas and electricity at the main switches.
- Change smoke detectors once a year (for example, on an easy to remember date such as July 4 or January 1).



- Before winter, locate your snow shovel and buy snow melt pellets or sand for sidewalks.

You can also talk with your 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.

## Thanks for your business!

*As a resident of Arlington Forest, I am proud to offer my exceptional service to my neighbors. If you, or someone you know, could use my help, please give me a call.*

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# Barcroft School News

Autumn is a special time at Barcroft Elementary. By September 27, the first quarter was complete, and students could choose between two weeks of **Fall Intercession** classes or vacation. There are several **upcoming events in October** that we invite our wonderful neighbors to attend. On Thursday, October 18, Barcroft will celebrate our annual **Hispanic Heritage Night**, between 6-8 PM. The evening will include wonderful educational exhibits, special entertainment, and outstanding food.

On Friday, October 26, the PTA will host its annual **Halloween Costume Party and Dance** between 6:30-8:30 PM. Join us for an evening of family fun! Come dressed in your favorite costume and enjoy refreshments, crafts, Halloween movies, and your favorite dance tunes playing on our recently-purchased sound system! The Barcroft PTA will also participate in the local charitable candy drive, **Treats 4 Our Troops**. Between October 26 and November 16, neighbors can drop off **bagged candy, surplus Halloween candy, cards, and letters** into the orange bin at the Front Office. Treats 4 Our Troops will send our donations to U.S. military personnel and to our Wounded Warriors. Cash donations are also accepted, and are used for shipping expenses. Many Barcroft students will run again in the **Marine Corp Marathon Healthy Kids Fun Run**, to be held

at the Pentagon on Saturday, October 27. Good luck!

Highlights for November and December 2012 include the **November 6 Election Day Bake Sale**. This election year the stakes are high -- and the food will be fabulous! The PTA will sell coffee, breakfast items, individually-packaged baked goods such as brownies and cupcakes, and whole items like breads, pies, and cakes. New this year, we will also sell entrée items such as hot dogs. Be sure to stop by and support your neighborhood school! During the week of November 12-16, Barcroft will also host a **Book Fair and Holiday Shop**. Choose from a selection of books and other goodies for everyone on your list. Finally, celebrate a wonderful 2012 with the PTA at the Clarendon Silver Diner. On Monday, December 3, the PTA will host a **Silver Diner "Moms, Dads and Grads" Night**. We hope that our neighbors and esteemed alumni join us for delicious food and fabulous company!

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

Like us at <https://www.facebook.com/BarcroftElementary>.

*Next AFCA Meeting:  
Oct 17th, 7 PM at Barrett School*

## Grand Opening!

**Arlington Forest Shopping Center**  
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# Barrett School News

We've had a fun-filled first few weeks of school! Barrett Elementary was highlighted in the October 2012 edition of Parents Magazine for its commitment to science education. Visit <http://www.parents.com/kids/education/elementary-school/great-schools/> to view the article.

More than 300 people attended a Friday night **Ice Cream Social** to meet new friends and have fun! The **Fresh Fruit Friday Kick-Off** was a great way to encourage healthy eating. Volunteers (including one brave parent in a banana costume) handed out 650 apples purchased by the PTA as the students arrived at school. Barrett's **Health and Wellness Committee** is supporting a coordinated school-wide approach to health and fitness by engaging families, teachers and children in being active and eating healthy foods. Many Barrett families supported **National Walk to School Day** on October 3 by forming "walking school buses" to promote safety, reducing car traffic, and walking for health. The outdoor classroom and garden have a fresh new look after **Fall Garden Work Day**. Barrett's **Fall Book Fair** and two great nights of **Camp Read-A-Lot** were a huge success! **THANK YOU** to the wonderful PTA volunteers!

**Family Library Night** on October 16 will have a special program to celebrate Hispanic Heritage. During Heritage Week (Oct 22-26), Barrett's unique **Heritage Museum** will

contain exhibits for each of the countries represented in the school and a special mural promoting peace with a quote by Sadako Sasaki, a young Japanese girl who died of radiation exposure. Barrett students will be invited to reflect on what peace means to them. There will also be a parade of traditional costumes from around the world at the **UN Day Heritage Assembly** on October 24.

Support your neighborhood school at **Dogfish Head Alehouse Restaurant Night** on Tuesday, October 30 from 11:30 AM-11 PM 15% of gross sales will be donated to the Barrett PTA. We will also have a raffle with great prizes!

## Barrett's Upcoming Events:

- **Family Library Night**, Tues, Oct 16
- **PTA Reflections Contest**, entries due Oct 17
- **Teacher Luncheon**, Thurs, Oct 18
- **Parent/Teacher Conferences** (no school), Oct 18-19
- **Individual Photo Day**, Mon, Oct 22
- **Roving Readers**, Oct 23
- **Heritage Week Celebration**, Oct 22-26
- **Early Release**, Wed, Oct 24
- **Barrett United Nations Assembly**, Wed, Oct 24
- **Fall Open House at the APS Outdoor Lab**, Oct 28
- **Dogfish Head Restaurant Night**, Tues, Oct 30
- **Halloween Parade to Culpepper Gardens**, Oct 31
- **Kettler Ice Skating Event**, Tues, Nov 11

Mortgage interest rates on home loans are at their lowest point since anyone has been keeping records. This has kept the housing market active, and refinance applications are also up.

30 year fixed rate conforming loan interest rates in early October are between 3.25% and 3.5%, and 3.875% for Jumbo loans over \$625,500.

Some lenders are now offering 80/10/10 and 80/15/5 mortgage programs for buyers who want to purchase homes with just 5% to 10% down payment and avoid PMI (private mortgage insurance).

Sales activity in Northern Virginia for the month of August was robust with a total of 1,818 homes sold in August 2012, an increase of 8% above August 2011 home sales of 1,685. Active listings decreased by almost 29% with 3,352 active listings in August, compared with 4,695 homes available in August 2011. The average days on market (DOM) for homes in

August 2012 decreased by about 21% to 44 days, compared with 56 days in August 2011.

Sales prices continued to rise compared with those realized last year. The average sales price in August increased by almost 5.5% from August 2011, to \$525,480, compared with last August's average of \$498,128.

The median price of homes sold in Northern Virginia also rose in August to \$453,500, which is an increase of almost 7% with August 2011's median price of \$425,000. The number of new pending home sales in Northern Virginia in August increased by about 8% to 1,739 compared with 1,609 new contracts pending in August 2011.

Are you looking to buy or do you know of someone looking to purchase a home in the near future? Contact me for a FREE report on the "9 Negotiation Tips to Get the Best Deal".



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# Kids for Hire

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

## Southside:

- Caroline Rogers, pet sitting, dog walking, leaf raking, snow shoveling, [carolinearogers@verizon.net](mailto:carolinearogers@verizon.net), 703-892-0226
- Julia Rogers, babysitting (RC certified), leaf raking, snow shoveling, [juliaerogers23@gmail.com](mailto:juliaerogers23@gmail.com), 703-892-0226
- Jon Tiernan, babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, pet sitting, yard work, snow shoveling, [Wonton81@gmail.com](mailto:Wonton81@gmail.com), 703-979-5046
- Liz Tiernan, babysitting (RC certified-my brother and I will babysit together. Two for the price of one!), dog walking, pet sitting, snow shoveling, [lizzytiernan@gmail.com](mailto:lizzytiernan@gmail.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](mailto:k.cliffhero@gmail.com), 703-276-9874

- Alex Hendel, babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, tutoring, [alexhendel@gmail.com](mailto:alexhendel@gmail.com), 703-763-0070
- Sarah Keyser, babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, dog walking, [Stealers12@gmail.com](mailto:Stealers12@gmail.com), 703-243-8777
- Alice Naland, babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, dog walking, leaf raking, snow shoveling, [nalandfamily@yahoo.com](mailto:nalandfamily@yahoo.com), 703-888-0125
- Lucy Naland, babysitting (RC certified), [LucyMNaland@gmail.com](mailto:LucyMNaland@gmail.com), 703-888-0125

## Northside:

- Northside leaf raking trio Leo Horwitz, Zhibek Phillips, and Kara Shapiro, [leaves@leohorwitz.com](mailto:leaves@leohorwitz.com), 703-243-2395
- Sophia Constantine, pet sitting, dog walking, [cpconstantine@comcast.net](mailto:cpconstantine@comcast.net), 703-841-9229
- Sophie Frank, babysitting (RC certified), soccer training, tutoring, [sophie.e.frank@gmail.com](mailto:sophie.e.frank@gmail.com), 703-859-0722
- Fiona Hickey, babysitting (RC certified), 703-351-7013
- Sophie Hickey, babysitting, 703-351-7013
- Alyssa Luz-Ricca, babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, [alyssa.luz.ricca@gmail.com](mailto:alyssa.luz.ricca@gmail.com), 571-274-1453.
- Isaac Mortimer-Lotke, babysitting (RC certified), 703-276-9046
- Marika Mortimer-Lotke, babysitting (RC certified), 703-276-9046
- Sammy Patecell, yard work, 703-524-6891
- Bo Sampson, babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, tutoring, [bo.i.samps@gmail.com](mailto:bo.i.samps@gmail.com), 703-447-7678
- 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
- Zach Gasper, yard work (mowing/edging, drain installations, etc), [zachary.gasper@gmail.com](mailto:zachary.gasper@gmail.com), 703-304-1159

## Add an Important Item to Your Back-to-school List.

For parents, back-to-school season means it's time to stock up on school supplies. But it can also be a good time to think about how to save for your child's future education.

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