

The Arlington Forester



Volume 57, Number 2

Arlington, VA

October 2015

Fresher Food on your Table

Would you be interested in having a Farmers Market with fresh vegetables, breads, cheeses, and other locally-produced items within walking distance of your home? If so, you will want to attend the AFCA meeting this Wednesday, October 21 at 7 PM in the Barrett Elementary School library.

Our guest speaker will be Rob Swennes from Field to Table, a nonprofit organization based in Arlington that focuses on establishing and operating community-based farmers markets in Northern Virginia. Based on his experience starting farmers markets in Westover and Fairlington, Mr. Swennes will talk with us about the possibility of a farmers market in Arlington Forest. Please see the article on page 3 and the

referenced online resources for background information.

Also at this month's AFCA meeting, Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation co-chair Esther Bowring will give an update on developments related to the amphitheater.

Looking ahead, please plan to attend AFCA's November 18 meeting which will feature Acting County Manager Mark Schwartz and Department of Parks and Recreation Director Jane Rudolph who will talk about the future of the Lubber Run Community Center. And do not forget that Election Day is Tuesday, November 3 when Arlington voters will select two new County Board members and one new School Board member.

Call for Dues

AFCA's annual dues drive began last month. If you have not yet sent in your \$10 dues, please clip out the coupon to the right and return it with a check made out to AFCA to your neighborhood vice president.

Your dues support AFCA's many activities which enhance the quality of life in our neighborhood. Annual examples include the holiday party, spring cleanup, community yard sale, tree grant program, this newsletter, and modest grants to the PTAs of our neighborhood schools. Recent special activities include the sidewalk repair project, 75th anniversary history book, and last month's County Board Candidates Forum.

Last year, 351 out of the 851 households (41%) in Arlington Forest paid dues. That was up from 317 (37%) the previous year, but below the record high membership of 655 (77%) in 1972.

So please send in your annual dues today if you have not already done so. Add an optional additional donation if you want. If you include your e-mail address, you will be added to AFCA's listserv which sends one or two messages per month with news of neighborhood interest.

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: Stacey Zee, 8 S. Columbus St. 22204

Dues: _____ Donation: _____ Total: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

AFCA Meeting 7 p.m. October 21 at Barrett School Library

THE ARLINGTON FORESTER

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

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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.



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Hosting a Farmers Market in Arlington Forest?

Is there sufficient interest in Arlington Forest to establish a weekend farmers market? At the AFCA meeting this month, we will hear from Robert Swennes of Field to Table, Inc. Field to Table is a Virginia nonprofit organization based in Arlington focused on the establishment and operation of community-based farmers markets in Northern Virginia.

Thus far, with local community support Field to Table has created two farmers markets within the County. The first is the Westover Farmers Market, which opened four years ago. That Sunday morning market is located on N. McKinley Road just off of Washington Boulevard. Last April, the organization also launched a farmers market at the Fairlington Community Center in south Arlington, only a block from the Arlington/Alexandria boundary on Quaker Lane. The Fairlington Farmers Market is also a Sunday morning market.

Both of these markets are based in single-family residential areas. Earlier farmers markets in Arlington have been located in the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor, in Crystal City and on Columbia Pike on commercially zoned property. Field to Table broke this model by locating its Westover market on Arlington Public School property (Reed School) just adjacent to the small Westover commercial district. Its

Fairlington market is based at one of the County's community centers - also a first. The other big unknown when these markets were launched was whether more suburban residents in Arlington would be attracted to them. The answer thus far is clearly "yes."

A host of questions need to be answered in connection with any new farmers market in this area. Has Arlington already reached its limit on the number of farmers markets it can handle? Are there sufficient potential vendors in the region that would be interested in participating in another market? What site might be reasonably available for such a market? What day of the week would the market operate? Would enough local residents in and around Arlington Forest shop at such a market? Are local residents willing to work to turn this idea into a reality? These and other questions will be discussed at the October AFCA meeting.

Field to Table's web site is <http://www.field2table.org>. The Westover Farmers Market web site is <http://westoverfarmersmarket.org>. The Fairlington Farmers Market web site is <http://www.fairlingtonfarmersmarket.org/home.html>.

**Next AFCA Meeting:
Oct 21st, 7 p.m. at Barrett School**

MARKET UPDATE - All of the numbers in 2015 year-to-date have been better than 2014 in Northern Virginia. Sales contracts have been up 8% this year compared to 2014, although this year so far is only ranked at the 4th best out of the past 7 years. Northern Virginia's market slowed at the end of the summer and is picking up a little so far this fall. Prices are almost back to what they were at the peak (2005), and in some areas prices have surpassed their peak this year. NOVA's inventory has risen 11.1 % so far in 2015 compared with the same period in 2014 and as of the end of August there was a 3.7 months supply of homes. A balanced market has approximately a six-month supply of homes, so inventory is still tight. More inventory is coming on the market but we're also seeing more demand. In Nova, the largest number of single family homes is sold was in \$600K to \$800K price range.

Sales are more active in the \$300 - \$500 K range. The market has definitely cooled in the upper brackets, particularly above \$1.5 million. As of 10/10/15 per MRIS data, there have been 24 homes closed at an average price of \$700,511 in Arlington Forest, compared to 20 homes during the same period in 2014 at an average price of \$681,315.

As of 10/10/15, 30 year fixed rate quotes are between 3.625% - 3.875% for Conforming and Jumbo loans.

Also in effect is the new consumer financing disclosure law, with new loan estimates and a new closing disclosure.

Contact me for advice on finding the best mortgage lenders and title companies to work with. Both are extremely important components for all purchase contracts now with these new rules in effect.



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Around the Forest

Children's Halloween Parade: Bring your little princesses, wizards or other costumed wee ones to the annual Arlington Forest Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 31 at 2 PM starting in the Arlington Forest Shopping Center parking lot by the Mathnasium. Parents and family pets are welcome to wear costumes also. The parade will head off and travel down Columbus to the Lubber Run Amphitheater where the kids can play on the stage. After burning off some energy there, families that are interested in continuing the fun may proceed to the nearby Fire Ring to enjoy a bonfire. If you would like to make s'mores, please bring some fixings and help the kids find good sticks for roasting marshmallows. This year, the event will end by 4 PM so that everyone can get ready for evening Trick-or-Treating. This is a great neighborhood event that is always well attended -- we hope you can join the fun.

Trailhead Cleanup: As they have done since 2008, last month neighbors from N. Granada St. and N. Galveston St. beautified the trail area leading from the foot of N. Greenbrier St. to the WO&D trail (see accompanying photo). Volunteers filled 20 garbage bags with trash and invasive plants and collected various discarded oversize items including metal poles and wire. These neighbors also do a spring cleanup each year, typically removing just as much trash each time from Four Mile Run and adjacent parkland. If you use that trailhead on your walks, jogs, or bike rides, please consider joining their cleanup effort next time.



Newsletter Delivery Crew: This newsletter is delivered to your doorstep eight times a year by one of our 12 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 and Spencer Brown, Ely Constantine, Emily Engelken, Jack Holt, Emilio Luz-Ricca, Colin Mashkuri, Declan Roberts, Katherine Taylor, and Sean Werfel.

New AFCA Southside VP: Congratulations to Stacey Zee of South Columbus Street who was elected as the new AFCA Southside Vice President at the September 16 AFCA meeting.

Neighborhood Signs: At AFCA's request, last month Arlington County repainted the neighborhood sign located at four entrances to Arlington Forest. The signs, which were designed by Northside resident Larry Bowring and installed in 1992-93 funded by the Neighborhood Conservation Program, had paint that was fading and peeling. Now they will hopefully be good for another 20+ years. Thank you to AFCA Greenbrier Section Vice President Tom Smialowicz who contacted County officials to request the maintenance.



Arlington Forest History Book: So far we have sold 212 copies of the 75th anniversary edition of AFCA's history of Arlington Forest. Two copies have been donated to the Arlington Central Library's Local History Collection. Additional copies are available for pickup at AFCA meetings for \$15 each or for mail delivery by sending a check for \$20 made out to "AFCA" to John Naland, 100 N. Granada St., Arlington 22203. Copies are also for sale at the Arlington Historical Society museum at 1805 S. Arlington Ridge Road, open Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4 pm and on the first Wednesday of each month from 12:30 to 3:30 pm. Get your copy soon or wait perhaps 25 years for the next edition.

Something in the Air Tonight: The Arlington Forest Families listserv lit up Sunday evening, October 4, with over a dozen neighbors from all three sections of Arlington Forest asking "where is that noise coming from?" The noise was heavy bass sounds of rock music. Walking around our neighborhood, the noise varied from barely audible to almost window-rattling. But it was impossible to identify where the sounds were coming from. However, several residents telephoned the Arlington Police Department's non-emergency line whose operators said that the sounds were emanating from a concert on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Apparently, Arlington Foresters were hearing Aerosmith's Steven Tyler, Sheryl Crow, The Eagles' Joe Walsh, and/or others performing some five miles away on the grounds of the Washington Memorial. Presumably, the thick, low cloud cover that evening reflected the sound waves down on Arlington Forest.

Personal Emergency Preparedness

By John Naland

While it has been several years since Arlington Forest experienced extended power outages following storms, it is inevitable that such events will reoccur from time to time. Thus, even in our urban environment, we must be prepared to 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 (merchants cannot process credit cards if telephone lines are down).
- 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.
- Agree on a meeting place outside your neighborhood in case 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 all downed lines. Do not attempt to guess which ones are deadly power lines and which are potentially non-threatening telephone 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 your neighbors about cooperating after a storm: A neighbor with an emergency generator could recharge cell phones. A neighbor with a chainsaw could clear downed branches. Younger residents could clear older neighbor's sidewalks of snow and ice.
- When the power goes out or when you see a street blocked by trees or downed lines, report it to the power company or County by cell phone if you can. Emergency response can be delayed if everyone assumes that someone else has already called it in.



*Kids Halloween
Parade
October 31st*

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Godly Play & Sunday School 9:00 a.m., Worship 10:00



Community Christmas Dinner 12/13, 6pm
Children’s Christmas Eve Service 12/24 4 pm
Candle-light Christmas Eve Service 7pm

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Leaf Collection - Ready, Rake, Recycle



Arlington County's annual leaf collection and recycling begins November 2 for bag collection and November 9 for vacuum truck collection. Roughly 50,000 cubic yards of leaves are collected each

year through Arlington's collection program. During November and December, the County will not collect leaves left curbside in plastic bags or placed in trash bins. Instead, utilize one of four ways to reduce landfill waste by recycling leaves into useful mulch:

-- Place leaves in biodegradable paper bags. Do not include grass clippings, stones, or litter in the bags. Bags are collected on the day after your regular trash day beginning the week of November 2 through January 8. Free paper bags are available while they last at Lubber Run Community Center, Long Branch Nature Center, Thomas Jefferson Community Center and other locations starting October 20. They also may be purchased at most hardware stores.

-- Rake leaves to the curb for vacuum truck collection that begins the week of November 9 through December 1. Remove stones, branches, and litter from the leaf pile. Pile your leaves away from storm drains. Crews will make two passes -- one in November and one in December. Look

for signs posted in the neighborhood three to seven days before each pass. If you miss the last pass, please rake and bag any remaining leaves. Never park your car over dry leaf piles -- it's a fire hazard.

-- Compost leaves into a valuable organic soil supplement. Numerous websites explain how to get started.

-- Use a mulching mower to chop up leaves to serve as a fertilizer for the lawn. Decaying leaves are a source of nitrogen and phosphorus.

Note: It is illegal to dump branches, leaves or anything else on public parkland. For more information on yard recycling, search "leaf collection" on the County website.

If you would like reasonably-priced assistance with leaf raking or other fall yard work, check out the Kids for Hire listing on page 14. You can even plan ahead by making contingency reservations now for snow shoveling help this coming winter.

As a byproduct of the yard waste recycling program, leaf mulch and wood mulch are available free for pickup at two locations or can be delivered to your house for a \$40 to \$50 charge. For details, search "mulch" on the County website. Keep in mind that even a \$40 half-load of 2.5 cubic yards is a lot of mulch.



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AFCA County Board Candidates Forum

AFCA's County Board Candidates Forum at Lubber Run Community Center on September 28 gave Arlington Foresters the opportunity to hear directly from the four County Board candidates who will face voters on November 3: Audrey R. Clement (I), Kate A. "Katie" Cristol (D), Christian E. Dorsey (D), and Michael T. McMenamain (I).

There was a fairly good audience turnout -- including the Washington Post's Patricia Sullivan who later wrote a story about the forum. The candidates made opening and closing statements, but spent most of the two-hour long session answering questions. First was a series of questions aggregated by the organizers from those submitted in advance by residents. Then, residents attending the session had the opportunity to ask their own questions.

In their remarks and responses, the County Board candidates discussed key issues including the future of the Lubber Run Community Center, the school capacity crisis, affordable housing, parks, traffic issues, streets, smart growth, and property taxes.

AFCA thanks the forum organizers Michael Thomas, Samara Weinstein, Joel Yudken, and Esther Bowring. AFCA President Allison Kennett made remarks to open and close the session. John Naland moderated the question and answer portion. AFCA thanks Marco Dillon and Kevin Miranda of the Lubber Run Community Center staff for setting up the room and the AV system. Thanks also to the Great Harvest Bread Company at 6013 Wilson Blvd (across from the Powhatan Springs skateboard park) for providing refreshments for the event.

Around the Forest

Programs at Lubber Run Community Center: Want to learn more about our neighborhood community center's pre-school, after-school, and teen programs? Search "Lubber Run Community Center" on the County website

Trash/Recycling Cart Repair: Is the lid broken off of your County trash or recycling cart? Is a wheel broken? Is there a big hole in the side of the cart? If so, use the County's online "Report a Problem" application to get it fixed. Just search "report a problem" on the County website or go to www.publicstuff.com and click on "Report a Problem". A repair truck will come to your house on your next trash day to repair or replace the cart.

Kids for Hire: Could you sometimes use reasonably-priced help with babysitting, yard work, pet sitting, or other tasks? Thirty neighborhood youths offer their services in the Kids for Hire listing on page 14. If you will take a little time now to interview one or more of the youths and/or check their references, you can be ready for that short-notice help you may need someday with child care, pet care, or other tasks. You can even plan ahead for winter sidewalk snow removal by making arrangements now.

Better to Light One Candle...: With longer nights coming, please look up and down your block to see if any street lights are out. It takes only a few minutes to report an outage to the County online or by telephone. Please do not assume that someone else will report it. See the County website for details. While some street lights are serviced Dominion Virginia Power, reporting them to the County is supposed to initiate corrective action.



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Nature News

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 and click on the AFCA tab.

Free Tree from the County: Would you like a two to four foot tall redbud, sweet bay magnolia, oak, alder, or other native tree to plant on your lawn? There is a good chance of getting it for free if you go to the Arlington Tree Distribution on Saturday, October 24 at 2:45 PM. While all available trees have been reserved by other residents, each year there are at least 100 reserved trees that are not picked up. So, show up at 2:45 PM and chances are a good that one will be available. At the County nursery behind the baseball complex, 4240 S Four Mile Run, Arlington 22206. For more info, see: www.eventbrite.com/e/tree-distribution-program-2015-tickets-18395588701

E-CARE: Do you have half-empty paint cans gathering dust in your basement? What about unneeded car fluids, household cleaners or garden chemicals? Or maybe an obsolete computer monitor or television? Arlington's semi-annual E-CARE event allows residents to safely get rid of hazardous household materials and electronics which cannot be discarded in regular trash. The next E-CARE takes place at Thomas Jefferson Middle School in the West Parking Lot (one block east of Glebe Rd.) between 8:30 AM and 3 PM on Saturday, Oct 31 (rescheduled from Oct 3 due to bad weather). Just load up your car with the unwanted items and then drive through the various stations -- dropping off paint cans at one station, TVs at another station, and so on. This time onely, the County will be waiving the \$20 recycling fee for televisions and \$15 recycling fee for computer monitors. The non-profit group Bikes for the World will collect serviceable bikes to be sent to countries where they are needed for basic transportation. For more info, search "E-CARE" on the County website.

Homeowner Rain Garden Workshop: Saturday, November 7, 10 AM to Noon. Learn how to properly locate, design, construct and maintain a small-scale rain garden -- a landscaped area that is designed to capture rain water and allow it to soak into the ground. Rain gardens allow polluted runoff from roads and buildings to infiltrate into the ground, slowing its flow and preventing pollutants from reaching local streams and the Potomac River, a drinking water supply for the region. Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax 22031. To register, email awinquist@arlingtonva.us

Sustainable Landscaping: The Master Gardeners present "Designing the Sustainable Landscape" on Saturday, November 14, 9 AM to Noon, at Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St., Arlington 22206. Learn the best management practices of sustainable landscapes using native plants, making the most of available water, building soil health and reducing maintenance. Master Gardeners of Arlington and Alexandria will cover the basics of sustainable landscapes and answer questions about individual garden management challenges. Free and open to the public. Register at mgnv.org. Questions? Call 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

Long Branch Nature Center Programs: Below are just a few of the upcoming programs at our nearby nature center. Pre-registration is required. See the County website for details or call 703-228-6535:

-- Candle Making: Tuesday, Nov. 3, 3-4:30 PM. Kids ages 6 and up. You'll light up with this craft, by making your own candles. We'll try our hands at some new and old ways to make these luminaries. \$5 fee at registration. Program #612925-D

-- Bird Walk: Wednesday, Nov. 4, 9-11 AM. Adults. Join members of the Northern Virginia Bird Club for an informal walk through parkland in search of resident birds. Beginning and experienced birders welcome. Bring binoculars and field guides. Free. Program #612945-C

-- Pups in the Park: The Wild in Your Dog, Saturday, Nov. 7, 10-11 AM. She might be your cuddly lapdog, but her genes connect her to wild ancestors and relatives. Discover the wild past in your dog and learn about the wild canines that inhabit Arlington. Well-socialized dogs on a 6 foot leash may attend. Free. Program #612945-G

-- Fall Colors Walk: Saturday, Nov. 7, 2-3:30 PM. Families ages 6 and up. Explore the colors of fall during an easy walk on the trails around Long Branch. Along the way, we'll make leaf rubbings and learn where those colors come from. Free. Program #612955-V

-- Campfire: Saturday, Nov. 7, 5-6 PM. Families. Stories, songs, animal guests, and S-mores. Free. Program #612955-Q

-- Notable Nature: Sunday, Nov. 8, 3-4 PM. Families ages 5 and up. Join us for a lesson in nature journaling. We'll begin by constructing our own nature journal, then head out to observe the ever changing, colorful fall world to sketch in our journals. Free. Program #612955-L

How to Be a Good Neighbor

By John Naland

Whether you recently moved to Arlington Forest or are a long-time resident, it might be useful to review the following Arlington County Code rules for residential areas:

-- *Sidewalks*: Residents must trim their bushes, branches, ground cover, and other foliage so they do not obstruct sidewalks or roadways.

-- *Snow and ice*: Residents must remove snow and ice from their sidewalks within 24 hours after snow stops falling (within 36 hours after a 6 or more inch snowfall).

-- *Grass*: Grass/weeds on front, side, and back lawns may be no taller than 12 inches.

-- *Noise*: Loud noises such as are made by lawnmowers and leaf blowers are prohibited before 7 AM on weekdays, before 10 AM on weekends and holidays, and after 9 PM daily.

-- *Trash Cans*: Refuse and recycle carts should be returned to their storage location within 24 hours of collection. The storage location should be behind the house's front line unless fencing or landscaping shields the container from view from the street.

-- *Dogs*: Dogs may not run off leash in public except at designated dog parks. Owners must clean-up after their pets.

-- *Junk*: Old furniture, appliances, tires, building materials, and inoperative vehicles may only be stored inside an enclosed building.

-- *Parking*: Commercial vehicles may not park overnight on residential streets. Motor homes and camping trailers may not park for longer than five days.

-- *Recycling*: Residents are required to recycle aluminum cans, cardboard, glass, metal cans, paper (cardboard, magazines, newspapers, etc.), and plastics.

-- *Dumping*: It is illegal to dump trash, grass cuttings, branches, Christmas Trees, soil, bricks, or anything else on public land. Refuse may not be burned.

-- *Leaves*: Residents must place leaves in biodegradable paper bags or place loose leaves at curbside for collection during the designated leaf collection season.

-- *Trash*: Residents must schedule a special pickup for certain oversize or hazardous items such as electronics

(TVs, computers), brush/branches, and bulk metal. See the County website for details.

In addition, here are a few suggestions:

-- *Wildlife*: Animal control services are provided by the Animal Welfare League of Arlington which will respond to calls about injured animals (taking them for rehabilitation or euthanasia). They do not capture healthy wildlife such as fox, opossums, deer, rabbits, or snakes.

-- *Cats*: While the County Code does not prohibit allowing cats to roam free, domestic cats in the U.S. kill over one billion birds each year. Attaching a bell to an outdoor cat's collar will decrease that body count.

-- *AFCA*: Support the work of your neighborhood association by paying dues each year and attending AFCA meetings on issues of interest to you.



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Nature News

By Bobbi Farley
Park Naturalist,
Long Branch Nature Center

THE TRIUMPHANT TURKEY: Turkeys are an animal woven into the history of the United States. From Native American culture to Thanksgiving and a hunting season staple, the turkey has always been prevalent. Their range covers the eastern U.S., and parts of California and Mexico. Turkeys can occasionally be sighted in Arlington, especially in the fall when they form flocks. Their habitats are forests with plenty of ground cover and mature trees, also meadows and marshes for foraging.

However, the turkey was at the brink of extinction in the early 1900's. From colonial times, turkeys have suffered massive habitat loss and excessive hunting, with one of their last strongholds being the Appalachians. By the mid 1910's public concern led to passage of the Robin Bill in Virginia which prohibited the sale of wild turkeys in open markets. However, restrictions weren't enforced until legislation created the Virginia Game Commission which enforced hunting restrictions on turkeys and other wild birds. Later, from 1929 to 1955 restocking programs of farm raised and relocated wild turkeys helped to revive populations throughout the state.

In the 1960's, following the turkey's successful revival, several experimental management programs examined the effects of various lengths of hunting seasons. From these programs, appropriate-length spring and fall hunting seasons, which vary by county, were implemented to help sustain robust turkey populations. These regulations also help ensure sufficient turkey numbers to sustain their predators, such as coyotes and raccoons. Poaching, however, remains a major problem for managing turkey populations.

Today, turkey populations remain relatively high due to their natural hardiness and reproductive strategies. Turkeys are active year round and omnivorous, meaning they eat both plants and small animals such as rodents, lizards and snakes. Their primary diet is acorns, hazel, and hickory nuts, and populations expand after mast years when trees drop excessive amounts of seeds. Their omnivorous diet permits large numbers of turkeys to survive in small areas since they don't exhaust any one food source.

Another factor contributing to their success is their young. In the spring, female turkeys lay clutches of 10-14 eggs in ground nests which hatch a month later. The babies, called poults, are precocial, meaning that at hatching they are fully feathered in a soft down, able to walk, their eyes and ears are open, and they are able to eat independently. They are able to leave the nest after only one day. However, only 1-2 poults per clutch survive to adulthood.

Turkeys have stood the test of time, can withstand both human and natural predation, and have shown great adaptability in an increasingly urbanized environment. The next time you and your family happen upon a flock of turkeys, take a moment to observe this hardy bird that was once nominated by Benjamin Franklin to be the national symbol of the United States.



PIANO ON THE RUN

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Forest Exchange

New Arlington Radio Station: WERA (96.7 LPFM) is Arlington's newest community media outlet. If you or someone in your family are interested in having your own radio show reliving your college DJ glory, hosting public affairs discussions about matters of interest to communities in Arlington, producing documentaries or dramas, or if you have ideas for other interesting broadcast content, consider joining WERA-FM as a producer or on-air host. WERA-FM is a new low-power FM radio station affiliated with Arlington Independent Media. Its 25 watt signal will reach virtually all of Arlington County and a limited area beyond. The station will go live on air in early December and is now recruiting people to provide content or to get involved in other ways. If interested, contact the WERA coordinator, Adam Barnett, at adam@arlingtonmedia.org 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 1.

AFCA Listserv: Our listserv is a great way to stay informed on news impacting our neighborhood. If you are not signed up, e-mail your address to arlingtonforestva@gmail.com asking to be added.

Community Calendar

Next AFCA Meeting: Wednesday, October 21, 7 pm at Barrett Elementary.

Kids Halloween Parade: Saturday, October 31 at 2 PM starting at Arlington Forest Shopping Center.

Election Day: November 3. Includes County Board and School Board seats.

AFCA Holiday Party: Friday, December 4.

Neighborhood Spring Cleanup: Saturday, April 23.

Annual Yard Sale: Saturday May 21. Turn unwanted stuff into cash.

Future AFCA Meetings:

November 18: County Officials on the future of LRCC

January 20: Arlington Economic Development

February 17: County Board Member

March 16: School Capacity & Master Gardener

April 20: Traffic Issues & Ballston Mall Update

May 18: Picnic & Membership Meeting



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Barcroft School News

School is flying by for Barcroft Elementary students this school year. With school starting in early August, the final day of the first quarter was October 2. Students enjoyed many interesting events in September. Students came to school dressed to impress on September 10 for School Picture Day. Grade 3 students visited Arlington's Outdoor Lab in September to learn about simple machines. Grade 4 students took swimming lessons at Wakefield High School for a week during P.E. classes. Grade 5 students enjoyed an overnight field trip to the Outdoor Lab, a long-standing tradition.

Parent-Teacher conferences were held on September 24-25. The PTA provided meals to teachers and staff during the conferences. After school enrichment classes, including Girls on the Run, LEGOS, art, basketball and soccer, began. A First Quarter Leonardo Learning Night event showcasing student learning was held on September 29. Families visited classrooms, heard multi-cultural stories in the Library, and participated in dance demonstrations in the gym.

October promises to be interesting as well. The Modified School Year (MSY) calendar that Barcroft Elementary follows permits a multi-week break from school. Fall Intersession began on October 5 and ran through October

16. Students had the option of taking time off from school during these two weeks or taking Intersession classes that provide additional learning opportunities. Students have October 19 off from school while teachers prepare 1Q grades. School resumes for all students on October 20.

From October 20-23, Barcroft Elementary will host a **Children's Coat Drive**. Neighbors are welcome to drop off new or clean gently-used child-sized coats, hats and gloves for donation to needy Arlington children. The PTA will hold a "Foodtober" PTA meeting on October 20 at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend to hear an APS Food Services presentation and food-related poems from students.

Many students have signed up to run in the Marine Corps Marathon One-Mile Fun Run to be held at the Pentagon on October 24. Students are looking forward to the PTA Pajama Party and Movie Night on October 30.

SAVE THE DATE! The **PTA Election Day Bake Sale** will be held all day on Tuesday, November 3. The Barcroft PTA reminds you to vote early and eat often! To learn more about What's Happening at Barcroft Elementary, contact our PTA President Tara McCabe at tcs04@gmail.com.



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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

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.

Southside:

- Daniel O'Mara, dog walking, pet sitting, leaf raking, t.omara@LTwell.com, 703-769-3767
- Ethan O'Mara, dog walking, pet sitting, leaf raking, t.omara@LTwell.com, 703-769-3767
- Sophia Polisar, babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, sophiapolisar@gmail.com, 571-429-2289
- Caroline Rogers, babysitting, pet sitting, dog walking, carolinearogers@verizon.net, 703-892-0226
- Julia Rogers, babysitting (RC certified), yard work, juliaerogers23@gmail.com, 703-892-0226
- Jon Tiernan, Babysitting (RC certified, references), pet sitting, wonton81@gmail.com
- Liz Tiernan, Babysitting (RC certified, references), pet sitting, lizzytiernan@gmail.com

Greenbrier Section:

- CeCe and Zephren Collinson: babysitting (references), pet sitting, dog walking, leaf raking, snow shoveling, tutoring, 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
- Allison Ferrell, babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, Allisonrocket@aol.com, 703-276-2840
- Ethan Hall, babysitting (RC certified), snow shoveling, leaf raking, pet sitting, dog walking, 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, 703-465-0580

- Bridget Holt, babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, pet sitting 703-465-0580
- Sarah Keyser, babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, dog walking, Stealers12@gmail.com, 703-243-8777
- Anthony Lawson, pet sitting, dog walking, 703-933-8880

Northside:

- Laura Brancati, babysitting, dog walking, pet sitting, laura@barms.org, 703-243-1916.
- Daniel Brancati, yard work, leaf raking, snow shoveling, car washing (in your driveway), daniel@barms.org, 703-243-1916
- Riittisha Choudhary, tutoring, babysitting age 4-12, yard work, riittishachoudhary@gmail.com
- Ely Constantine, pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, cpconstantine@comcast.net, 703-841-9229
- Sophia Constantine, pet sitting, dog walking, srconstantine@comcast.net, 703-841-9229
- Fiona Hickey, babysitting (RC certified), 703-351-7013
- Sophie Hickey, babysitting, 703-351-7013
- Olivia Kennett, babysitting (RC certified), 571-277-4441
- Tenley Kennett, plant watering, dog walking (25 lbs max), 571-277-4441
- Alyssa Luz-Ricca, babysitting (RC cert), dog walking, pet sitting, alyssa.luz.ricca@gmail.com, 703-740-6972
- Marika Mortimer-Lotke, babysitting (RC certified), house sitting/chores, 703-276-9046
- Allison Vernon, babysitting (references), pet sitting, catharinevernon@aol.com, 703-522-9147
- Gabby Young, babysitting, mother's helper, pet sitting, dog walking, merrywesing@yahoo.com, 703-622-4229

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