

The Arlington Forester



Volume 55, Number 1

Arlington, VA

September 2013

75th Anniversary Planning Has Begun

by John Naland

Arlington Forest turns 75 years young in 2014 and planning is already underway to commemorate this major milestone. The Arlington Forest Citizens Association is organizing a series of activities to both celebrate the anniversary and to carryout projects to improve our public spaces.

Celebrations will include a gala dinner, a neighborhood home and garden tour, and an Arlington Forest Shopping Center appreciation day. Community improvement projects will include the annual neighborhood-wide cleanup, a comprehensive survey of sidewalk/curb repair needs, and a tree canopy replacement initiative.

Hundreds of Arlington Forest residents joined in commemorations marking the 50th and 60th anniversaries. We hope

for similar wide-scale participation this time.

As a first step, please return your 2013-2014 AFCA dues using the envelope and form enclosed in this newsletter. Not only are funds needed to cover anniversary-related expenses, but membership is also a sign of strong community engagement. So, please send in your annual dues today.

An initial discussion of anniversary planning will take place at AFCA's monthly meeting this coming Wednesday, September 18, at 7 PM in the Barrett School library. Also on the agenda are a presentation on the new Mathnasium learning center (see page 3 in this newsletter), an update on public school capacity issues, and the approval of AFCA's annual budget.

A Successful Lubber Run Amphitheater Season ...With a Few Surprises

By Chris Scheer



Most agree that the weather was kind this summer, particularly to those who attended weekend performances at the Lubber Run Amphitheater. There was an enthusiastic turnout for every show, even those threatened by rain, and a number of performances

boasted standing-room-only crowds. Only two of the 24 scheduled performances were canceled due to weather.

Award-winning singer/song writer Mary Ann Redmond kicked off the amphitheater's summer season of free live entertainment on June 17. The season ended Sunday August 25 with a big audience of kids and parents on hand for the

magic, mystery and fun of Cantor the Miraculous. That Sunday afternoon performance and the appearance of The Great Zucchini the Sunday before were additions to the Friday/Saturday schedule arranged by Arlington Forester Allison Kennett and coordinated with the County.

"Our Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation funded those two shows for children and families with donated funds," explained Marsha Lederman, *...continued on page 2*

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AFCA Meeting 7 p.m. September 18 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 non-commercial events or issues specific to our neighborhood. The next deadline is October 3 for the issue to be distributed October 12-13. E-mail submissions of up to 400 words to newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org. Space sometimes fills up prior to the deadline.

Amphitheater ...from page 1

co-chair of the foundation along with Esther Bowring. "This has been our goal since the County rehabilitated the amphitheater a few years ago and we hope to continue to increase the scope and number of programs next summer."

The Foundation is chartered as a 501c3 organization to receive tax-deductible donations. In addition, an agreement this year with the County allowed the Foundation to directly accept donations made by audience members to the amphitheater Wishing Well at each performance. Arlington Forester Ken Hans rebuilt the Wishing Well this season, after its demise during last year's Derecho. Donations may be made throughout the year addressed to: The Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation, c/o 107 N. Columbus Street, Arlington, VA 22203.

"The County has been generous in supporting programming at the amphitheater," said Lederman, "but we now are able to utilize this unique public facility more fully and meet community interests and needs with donated dollars."

With that in mind, the Foundation is eager to hear from anyone who has ideas for specific acts or general types of entertainment to book at the amphitheater next summer, though the County has the final say on what is accepted. There will be a foundation meeting this fall that amphitheater enthusiasts are encouraged to attend. Send your feedback to Lubberrunamphither@gmail.com. Please keep up with the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation on Facebook.

Be at the AFCA meeting on September 18 for Foundation Co-chair Esther Bowring's full report on the Lubber Run Amphitheater's current state and plans for the future.



Shop Local: Mathnasium of Arlington

By John Naland

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

Mathnasium is a global franchise with more than 400 locations worldwide that focuses exclusively on mathematics instruction. Since opening in the Arlington Forest Shopping Center on August 5, our local Mathnasium learning center has already enrolled several dozen students – many motivated by their own or a friend’s prior good experiences at other Mathnasium centers. One neighbor tells me that he is very pleased with the instruction that his daughter has received.

Center Director Neha Desai explains that the Mathnasium Method focuses on developing Number Sense by build-

ing a deep conceptual understanding of math instead of relying on memorization and repetition. Each new student undergoes a comprehensive assessment of their existing math skills. The results are used to construct a customized learning plan. The student then receives personalized instruction using proprietary curriculum and materials. A variety of instructional techniques are used depending on the child’s optimum learning style. Instruction is individualized but takes place in a group setting.

Mathnasium tutors grades 2 through 12, including SAT and ACT math prep. Students enroll for 3, 6, or 12 month periods and typically come to the learning center twice a week. During the school year, instruction is available Monday through Thursday from 3:30 PM to 7:30 PM and on Saturday from 10 AM to 2 PM.

Elementary and middle school students have hour-long sessions featuring 45 minutes of tutoring and 15 minutes

of help with their regular school homework. High school have 1 ½ hour-long sessions with 30 minutes devoted to homework help. All tutoring is completed at the learning center and students are not sent home with worksheets that add to their regular school workload.

Most Mathnasium students attend to strengthen skill gaps at their current grade level. But mathematically-strong students who do not feel challenged by their regular school work may attend for enrichment in higher math levels.

When this newsletter went to press, our local Mathnasium still had openings in its Grand Opening special offer of a complementary assessment and free month of tutoring for their first 50 students. Mathnasium can be reached at 703-351-MATH (6284) and at arlingtonva@mathnasium.com. Visit www.mathnasium.com/arlingtonva to learn more.

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Walk to Fight Hunger

By Mike Vess, Pastor

Arlington Forest United Methodist Church

This year's Arlington CROP Walk for Hunger is set for Saturday, October 19, starting at 8:30 a.m., rain or shine. The starting point is 4701 Arlington Blvd., on the corner of Henderson Road (Arlington Forest United Methodist Church). The walk addresses local and international hunger. It's open to all individuals and groups and is 10k long with a 5k option. It goes through Arlington Forest and Barcroft.

CROP is sponsored by Church World Service (CWS) which was founded in 1946 and is a cooperative ministry of 37 Christian denominations and communions in the United States, providing self-help, development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance around the world. The CWS mission is to eradicate hunger and poverty and to promote peace and justice at the national and international level.

The largest fund-raising events for CWS are CROP Hunger Walks (Christian Rural Overseas Program). The first CROP Hunger Walk was in the 1960s. Now more than 2,000 communities across the U.S. join in the walks each year. A unique aspect of CROP Hunger Walks is that CWS doesn't receive all of the money raised; 25% is given to local hunger fighting agencies which include food banks and community gardens. The local walk donates its 25% to Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC).

Arlington is a rich county but there are citizens who need help with nutrition because of the high cost of housing and low income. The AFAC center on S. Nelson distributes supplemental food each day, usually to around 150 families. AFAC also brings food to Culpepper Garden (the retirement center in Arlington Forest) so that residents may benefit from fresh vegetables and food supplements. Almost one million dollars has been raised over the Arlington CROP walk's history. Those sponsoring a walker can specify whether CWS or an alternative global hunger-fighting agency will receive the remaining 75% of the donation.

CROP is not just a Christian ministry but is a Community effort. Every person should be concerned about their neighbors in need and help by walking or donating or both! You may find more info at <http://hunger.cwsglobal.org/> under the "CROP Hunger Walk" tab. You may register to walk or make a contribution on that site as well. If you have questions, please contact Mike Vess, Education chair, Arlington CROP Walk, at 703-525-0961.



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Lubber Run Invasive Plant Management Project

By Sarah Archer, Invasive Plant Coordinator
Arlington County Parks and Natural Resources

In 2005, the Lubber Run Invasive Plant Management Project was initiated by the Arlington Forest Citizens Association and was funded through the County's Neighborhood Conservation Program. The goal was to contribute to the ecological health of the park by eliminating, to the extent possible, invasive plants that harm the local ecology, and to lay the groundwork for maintaining the park in an invasive-free state to preserve it for future generations. The project has served as a model for Arlington County and the region, setting an example for how government and residents can work together to address the invasive species problem.

Work on the project peaked between 2006 and 2010, but follow-up treatments have continued since then. Starting this past spring, Invasive Plant Control, Inc. (IPC) began the final treatments of lesser celandine, Japanese stiltgrass and Japanese knotweed. IPC adds a blue marker dye to the mixture so both the technician and citizens can see where the herbicide has been selectively applied. The two herbicides used at Lubber Run are Rodeo and Garlon3A. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has given its approval for the use of these herbicides when applied by a licensed

professional. Used in the prescribed manner, Rodeo and Garlon3A are nontoxic to humans, pets, and wildlife.

These treatments will continue to be funded through the Neighborhood Conservation funds through the spring of 2015. Over the next two years, a long-term management plan will be prepared which will include proposed funding for future maintenance.

This fall, a replanting project in the floodplain at the southern section of the park, near N. Edison St., will be funded with part of the remaining Neighborhood Conservation funds. This replanting effort will discourage new invasive plants from seeding into the area. The plant material will be sourced from Earth Sangha, which propagates with all locally-native stock.

You can help this effort by identifying and removing invasive exotic plants on your own property. For more information, go to www.arlingtonva.us/invasiveplants and then click on "Additional Resources" on the right side of the screen. There you can download two booklets, "Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas," and "Mistaken Identity?: Invasive Plants and their Native Look-Alikes." You can also contact the Invasive Plant Program at 703-228-1862 for more information.



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Jim

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Arlington Forest homes are selling fast!

If you are thinking of making a real estate move between now and Christmas, it's currently an excellent time to get started. The fall market is showing promise that it's going to be strong, and as always, there are buyers that are consistently looking for homes in our Arlington Forest neighborhood. Even the older homes that need to be freshened up are selling for good prices, often times with the new owners remodeling and adding their own personal touches. The average time it's taking for an Arlington Forest home to sell is just 17 days! When you're ready to see what your options are, give the York Group a call at 703-906-8218 or 703-409-3377 and we will set up a time to discuss how you can sell your home for the most money possible in today's active market. We look forward to speaking with you soon.



Lauren York Mikoy
Coldwell Banker
 Realtor and Arlington Forest Resident

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RECENT ARLINGTON FOREST NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVITY

Status	Address	List Price	Sold Price	Close Date	BR	BA	LVL	DOM	Acres	Tax Living Area
For Sale	109 Park Drive S	\$625,900			4	2	3		.14	1438
For Sale	125 Columbus St S	\$630,000			3	2	3		.17	1144
U/C	4844 Arlington Blvd	\$499,900			3	1	3		.14	1144
Sold	34 Park Drive S	\$555,000	\$555,000	6/3/13	4	3	3	3	.13	1872
Sold	214 Edison St N	\$559,900	\$559,000	5/24/13	3	2	3	9	.13	1350
Sold	20 Aberdeen St S	\$569,000	\$562,175	3/6/13	3	2	3	72	.14	1144
Sold	122 Abingdon St N	\$549,000	\$569,000	8/1/13	3	2	3	21	.14	1144
Sold	121 Columbus St N	\$589,000	\$600,000	5/31/13	3	1.5	3	3	.12	1240
Sold	112 Galveston St N	\$640,000	\$636,000	8/2/13	3	3	3	17	.22	1612
Sold	235 Granada St N	\$650,000	\$651,000	5/9/13	4	2	3	6	.14	1218
Sold	332 Edison St N	\$649,999	\$665,000	5/31/13	3	2	3	7	.14	1350
Sold	59 Aberdeen St S	\$739,000	\$715,000	7/10/13	3	2.5	3	36	.24	1974
Sold	4825 1st St S	\$850,000	\$815,000	3/29/13	5	5	3	18	.14	1430
Sold	117 Aberdeen St S	\$849,900	\$850,000	6/28/13	4	3	3	8	.27	1928
Sold	116 Columbus St N	\$874,900	\$895,000	7/26/13	4	2	3	7	.20	1976

Updated as of 9/6/13

County Projects Update

By John Naland

Carlin Springs Bridge Project: County staff continues working on engineering plans for replacing the Carlin Springs Road Bridge over N. George Mason Drive. Construction is expected to start by late 2014 and last into 2015. The County will sequence the construction of the new bridge and demolition of the old bridge to maintain traffic safety and access while minimizing impacts on the community. The new bridge will feature wider sidewalks on the bridge, add bicycle lanes along Carlin Springs Road, and enhance lighting on and under the bridge. A sketch can be seen on the County website (search "Carlin Springs Bridge"). That design incorporates some suggestions made by the community, including regarding the arch, decorative railing, street lights, and inclusion of the street name.

Arlington Blvd and Park Drive Project: Work is finished on installing upgraded signals and pedestrian call buttons at the intersection at Arlington Blvd and Park Drive (as well as Arlington Blvd and N. Edison Street). Due to the need to secure approval from the Virginia Department of Transportation on other project elements, work on the rest of the project is not expected to begin until June 2014. Improvements will include new sidewalks, crosswalks, curbs, gutters, accessible ramps, and new trees. The changes should reduce speeding and collisions and create better access and safety for pedestrians, cyclists and those travelling on the parallel shared-use paths. For more info, search "Arlington Boulevard" on the County website.

Glencarlyn Playground Project: This \$485,000 project to expand the playground in Glencarlyn Park near the end of S. Park Drive has been on hold pending environmental reviews. They are now finished and the project is expected to be put out for bid in October. Construction is expected to be completed by late 2014. Project elements include a "sand stream" with climbing and story rocks, a climbing dome, larger swings, a picnic area, and a wider bridge over Four Mile Run. Many features will be geared towards older children.

Lubber Run Community Center: The County's FY2013-22 capital improvement plan dated July 21, 2012 includes \$27 million to rebuild the Lubber Run Community Center with an increase of 18,500 square feet. Unless the County Board changes that plan, the project will come up for funding in bond referenda in 2016 and 2018. If funded, construction would be completed in 2022.

9/11/01 in Arlington Forest

By John Naland

Everyone in the D.C. metro area on 9/11/01 remembers the beautiful weather that day. As I left our Arlington Forest home early that Tuesday morning, I routinely placed our U.S. Flag in its holder outside our front door. I saw that the U.S. Navy veteran down the block was also flying the U.S. Flag as usual. I went to work and, like everyone else that fateful day, remember where I was when the attacks took place (in the Senate Dirksen Office Building which we evacuated only to see smoke rising in the distance from the Pentagon).

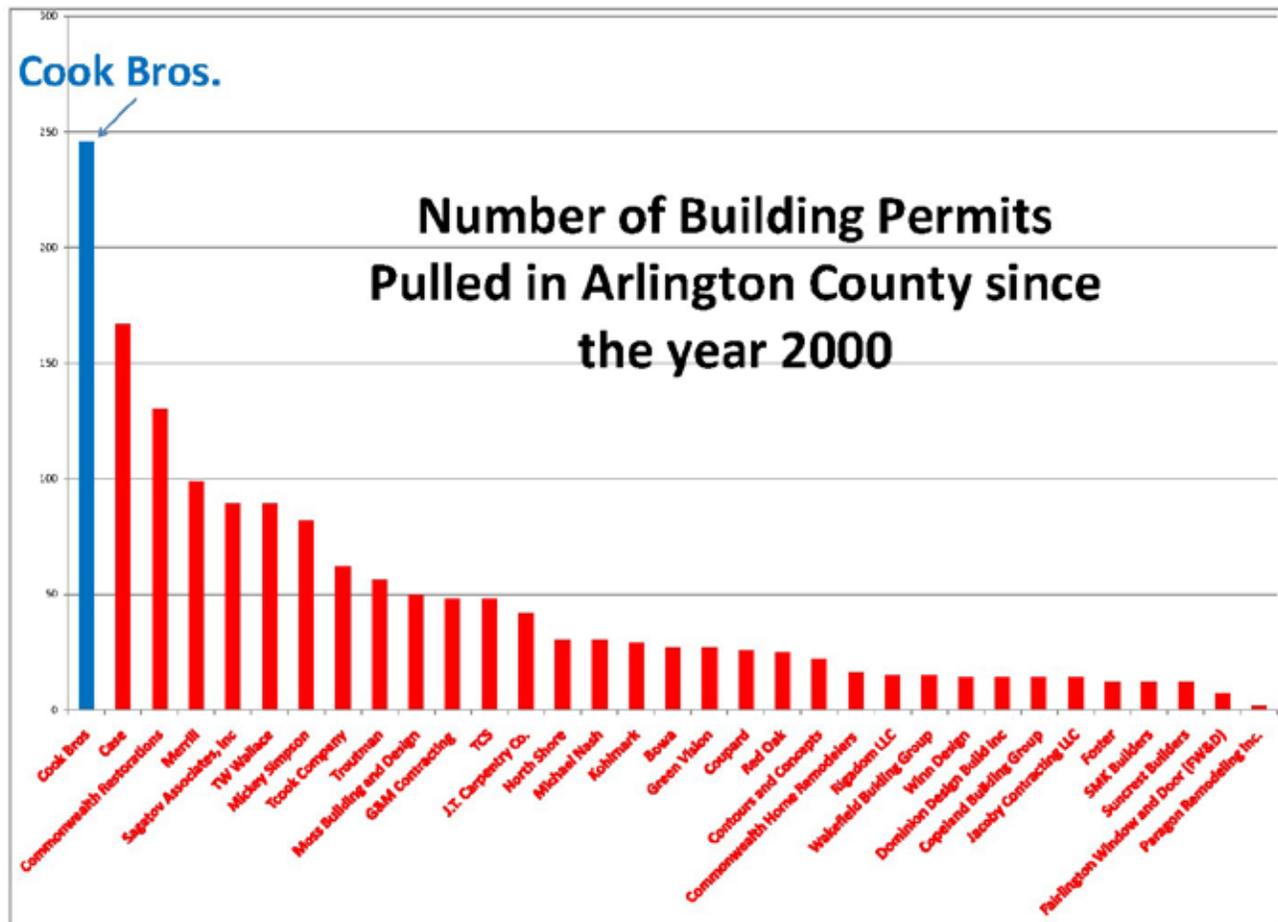
By the time I made it home late that afternoon, several of my neighbors had found their U.S. Flags and put them out. Within a few days, enough new flags had been purchased and mounting brackets installed so that literally all of the houses on our long block displayed the flag.

Over the next weeks, many Arlington Foresters stayed close to home concerned that follow-on attacks might be coming. My family, with daughters then aged 4 and 2, spent a lot of time at the N. Edison Street playground. While our daughters played, I remember looking skyward and seeing unusual clouds. With all commercial air traffic grounded for days, the only movement aloft was U.S. fighter jets flying a Combat Air Patrol. Cold air converted their engine exhaust into persistent contrails. With the jets flying in a circle orbiting the nation's capital, the contrails would have formed a single giant ring except that the prevailing wind blew them as they formed, thus stretching them into to elongated loops that floated into the distance.

As time passed, fewer U.S. Flags flew on our block. Within about six months, it was back to just the Navy veteran and my family. But invisible changes were coming that would have more consequential impacts on numerous Arlington Foresters. The 9/11 attacks set in motion international events that led to four federal employees on our block being sent to Afghanistan, Iraq, or Pakistan (I spent 2009-2010 in Iraq with the U.S. Department of State.) Other federal employees living elsewhere in Arlington Forest also got swept up in America's reaction to the attacks (for example, resident Ronald Neumann served as U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan from 2005-2007). Many neighbors working in the private sector also found their jobs impacted by post-9/11 security concerns.

*Upcoming AFCA Meetings:
September 18, October 16,
& November 20*

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



Around the Forest

Thank you, Chris and Karen: After coordinating distribution of this newsletter for 24 years (that adds up to 192 issues), Chris and Karen Scheer of the Greenbrier Section turned over their duties to Southside's Tracy Tuck this month. This newsletter would not have gotten into your hands each month without the Scheer's efforts, so we owe them a hearty "thank you" for a job well done. We likewise thank Tracy Tuck for stepping forward to take over this vital volunteer role.

Tree Grant Program: AFCA will pay you to plant a tree on your property. To help keep the "forest" in Arlington Forest, AFCA is offering 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. There is a limit to two grants per property and the application must be approved before the purchase. For details and the application form, go to the AFCA website at www.arlingtonforestva.org and click on the AFCA tab.



Free Trees: Arlington County's Natural Resources Division is providing 500 native tree species for residents. The annual tree distribution event takes place Saturday, October 26 at the Arlington County nursery facility (located in South Arlington on South Four Mile Run, behind Barcroft Field #6), 8 am-3 pm. The species offered are Black gum, White oak, Sweet birch, Pagoda dogwood, Black haw and Sweetbay magnolia. The trees range between two and four feet tall and are in two-gallon containers – you can carry them and they will fit in your car. For more info and to reserve your tree, go to treestewards.org.

Native Plant Sale: Our nearby Long Branch Nature Center is holding its fall plant sale on Saturday, Sept 21, from 1 to 3 PM. The native plants are grown at the Nature Center and the prices cannot be beat. On sale will be sun-loving and butterfly-attracting plants, along with a selection of wildflowers, shade lovers, ferns, and even a few shrubs. Rain date is Sunday, Sept 22, at the same time. Fee per plant as marked. Payment by cash or check. Call 703-228-6535.

E-CARE: Dispose of household hazardous materials at the County's biannual collection event. Acceptable materials include paint, garden chemicals, petroleum products, acids, pesticides, auto fluids, batteries, household cleaners, propane tanks, fluorescent tubes, CFL lamps, fire extinguishers and small metal items up to 11.5 x 46 inches. Unacceptable items include asbestos, Freon, compressed gas cylinders, prescription drugs and medical waste. There is a charge only for computer monitors (\$15) and CRT TVs (\$20). Eyeglasses and medical equipment are recycled. Bikes for the World collects used bicycles to recycle overseas. Art for Humanity recycles gently used clothing and household items. Saturday, Oct 12, 8:30 AM to 3 PM at Thomas Jefferson Middle School. For details, search "E-

Fall Cleanup: The semi-annual volunteer cleanup of the area around the trail from the foot of N. Greenbrier to Four Mile Run will take place Saturday, Sept 21, from 9 to 11 AM (rain or shine). Residents who appreciate Four Mile Run and the walking/biking trails parallel to it are invited to participate. All ages are welcome. We will pick up trash and cut invasive plants. Meet at the information kiosk at the foot of N. Greenbrier. Wear old clothes and sturdy shoes and bring drinking water and gardening gloves. For more info, contact John Naland at nalandfamily@yahoo.com.

*Save the Date:
Sept 21st*

Crime Watch: A stabbing that likely began as an attempted rape took place at 11 AM on Saturday, June 1 on the Four Mile Run trail near marker #46 (between Arlington Blvd and Carlin Springs Rd). A female jogger was stabbed in the neck three times after screaming for help when a Hispanic male attempted to get her off the bike trail. The suspect fled on foot and the victim was hospitalized with non-life threatening injuries. No arrest was made. This incident comes 11 months after the July 3, 2012 rape of a female jogger by a knife-wielding Hispanic male near Four Mile Run trail marker #44 just south of Arlington Blvd. That attack took place around 7:30 PM (still daylight) on a Tuesday. No arrest was made in that case either.

Crime Watch II: Honda owners take note - a rash of county-wide thefts of tires off of Honda Civics and Fits recently hit the 300 block of N. Edison. Thieves apparently want the 15-inch wheels for use on low-riding vehicles used for illegal street racing. Owners may wish to place locking lug nuts on their wheels and/or avoid parking in dark areas. Arlington police also report a rash of bicycle thefts around the county. Please report any theft to the police even if the crooks are long gone.

*75TH ANNIVERSARY
ARLINGTON FOREST
1939 - 2014*

Community Calendar

Next AFCA Meeting: Wednesday, September 18. See page 1 for details.

Street Sweeping: Monday, October 7. Move your car for the County's street sweepers.

Kids Halloween Parade: Late-Oct date TBD.

AFCA Holiday Party: December date TBD at Lubber Run Community Center.

Neighborhood Spring Cleanup: April date TBD.

Annual Community Yard Sale: May date TBD.

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

Future AFCA Meetings and planned speakers:

October 16: Park ranger

November 20: Police and fire departments

January 15: County parks director

February 19: Dominion VA Power

March 19: County code enforcement officer

April 17: Gardening and tree experts

May 14: Annual picnic at Lubber Run Park shelter



Hello Ms. Fox: This photo was taken at 8 AM one morning by a motion-activated camera that a Greenbrier Section resident set up in his backyard. During hours of darkness, the camera also snapped infra-red photos of a raccoon and possum. Around the neighborhood this summer, there were frequent fox sightings -- perhaps related to the apparent explosion in the rabbit population. Up to five deer at a time were seen along Four Mile Run between dusk and mid-morning. And a flurry of e-mails on the AF Moms listserv about a snake in the neighborhood ended with reassurances that most local snakes are harmless to people but play a vital role in keeping rodent populations in check.

Arlington Forest United Methodist Church

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Nature News

How to Break Your Park

The vast majority of park visitors and neighbors appreciate their local parks and treat them with respect. Unfortunately, a few people do not treat them as the valuable resources they are and engage in behaviors that potentially harm parks. So, with the understanding that this is a list of what *not* to do, here are some ways to break your local park:

Litter: Litter is not only unsightly, it causes direct environmental harm: animals can become trapped in it, it attracts rats and other undesirable species, and, especially if it contains traces of food, can cause animals to ingest materials that can block their digestive tracts.

Let dogs off leash: At some level, even the gentlest dogs are still predators and those predatory instincts can kick in when they see wildlife in a park. Even if they don't catch their quarry, dogs can flush an animal into traffic, separate young from parents, or simply cause it to expend energy that it needs for survival. Moreover, not everyone is comfortable around free-roaming dogs and those park visitors have a right to an anxiety-free park visit.

Don't scoop up after your dog: Nothing can put a damper on a walk in the park like stepping in dog poop.

By Cliff Fairweather
Park Naturalist,
Long Branch
Nature Center

That poop can potentially spread disease to wildlife populations, and also run off into a nearby stream, adding to water pollution.

Create your own trails: Blazing your own path through a park can damage ecologically sensitive areas, kill plants, encourage erosion and disrupt wildlife. Unofficial trails also provide pathways for invasive exotic plants.

Dump yard wastes into a nearby park: Yard wastes often carry the seeds of invasive exotic plants and dumping those wastes into a park can smother native plants.

Extend your yard/garden/patio into a park: Encroachment on park property, in addition to stealing property that belongs to all of us, can introduce invasive exotic species, increase stormwater runoff, and set a bad example for others.

Abandon unwanted pets in a park: Every year, the goldfish population in Poplar Pond at Long Branch Nature Center gets bigger. Goldfish are not native and eat the eggs and young of amphibians that might otherwise be able to reproduce there. Dumping unwanted pets into parks also risks introducing disease into local wildlife populations.



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Barcroft School News

Barcroft Elementary is excited to welcome our new Principal, Ms. Colette Bounet. Ms. Bounet is fluent in English, Spanish and French, and in her spare time she enjoys traveling the world and running 10-milers. To read more about her teaching background and her plans for the school year, go to: <http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/2013/071713/Arlington.pdf>. Also, we extend a warm welcome to our new PTA President, Julie Rotherham. Contact Julie at jllrotherham@gmail.com.

The 2013-2014 school year began August 1, as Barcroft follows a Modified School Year (MSY) calendar. With MSY, the summer break is shorter, and students may take a multi-week break each quarter. New this year, Barcroft Elementary has adopted the Responsive Classroom approach, which emphasizes the teaching of both academic and socio-emotional skills (taking turns, listening respectfully, and working effectively in group settings). Another exciting development is a new school playground which is scheduled to be installed by mid-October.

We need your help to support our Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) program, and to help fund field trips. A "free and easy" way to help is by linking your grocery store cards to Barcroft. In-store linking rules have changed this year, so we really need your help. Contact Candice Kaup at: candicekaup@yahoo.com for assistance:

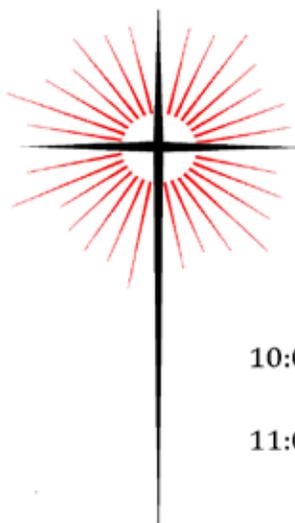
-- Safeway: Link to Barcroft Elementary on-line at www.escrrip.com. Barcroft's Group ID # is 6472509. From August 14-September 10, 2013, schools can earn 10% on selected items each week.

-- Harris Teeter: Link your VIC card to Barcroft Elementary as part of the Together in Education (TIE) program. Then purchase Harris Teeter brand products between August 2013 and May 2014. Barcroft's code is 4238. Link online at www.harristeeter.com or provide the last name of the VIC card holder along with the VIC card number or phone number to Candice Kaup. Or take the code with you next time you shop at Harris Teeter. You can support 5 schools!

-- Giant: Beginning September 1, link your Bonus card to Barcroft using code # 02199. The Giant A+ Rewards program runs from October 4, 2013-March 20, 2014. Provide your name and bonus card # to Candice Kaup or link on-line at www.giantfood.com/Aplus and click on "register your card."

Attend our annual Chalk4Peace event on Saturday, September 21, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. Create works of original art on the school's sidewalks and blacktop. Chalk is provided.

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



St. John's Episcopal Church

Join Our Friends and Family Celebration

St. John's invites you, your family, and friends to join in a celebration of worship, community, and fun for everyone.

Sunday, September 22, 2013

10:00 am **Worship** within a warm and welcoming community.
(Child care is available, but children of all ages are welcome at the service.)

11:00 am **Food:** Hot dogs, snow cones, and other light fare.

Activities: Moonbounce & "Bible Character Bingo" with fun prizes.

Socializing: Chat with neighbors and others in the community.

Information on St John's activities, education programs, and service to the community will be available.



Sunday Worship Services

8 am and 10 am

Sunday Christian Education (resumes Sept. 8)

Adults 9 am - Youth 9:30 am

415 S. Lexington Street Arlington, VA 22204 703-671-6834 stjohnsarlingtonva.org

Barrett School News

Welcome back! We hope your summer was relaxing and that you are prepared for an exciting 2013-2014 school year. It is with great pleasure that we introduce our new principal, Dan Redding. We welcome his leadership and look forward to continuing Barrett's academic excellence. Below is a welcome message from Principal Redding to the Arlington Forest community:

I am excited to begin this school year as principal at Barrett Elementary School! Much is happening within the school as the year begins. There have been improvements inside and outside the school, including a completely repaved parking lot, repair of the cafeteria floor, new carpeting in several classrooms, the addition of the Perseverance Garden, and the coming addition of the Class of 2013 gift, a bench that wraps around a tree so that families who visit our playground have a spot to sit in the shade and watch their children play.

This year, we opened with 555 students registered for school. Many Barrett traditions will continue, including the Principal's reading challenge – our theme this year is "Connect with Books!" This will entail a variety of activities for students to share what they read with peers. We also have a "Roving Readers" tradition in the school. If you are available at times during the school day and would like to volunteer as a Roving Reader, we welcome you! Please contact the school for additional information regarding

dates and times. With our theme, we would love to see Roving Readers share beloved books from elementary school.

I want everyone to know that we maintain an open door policy at the school. Please do not hesitate to contact the school at 703-228-6288 with questions or concerns.

Dan Redding, Principal, Barrett Elementary School

Barrett teachers and volunteers have been busy preparing for the new school year. Thank you to everyone who worked on back to school packets, EduKit distribution, school year planning, and the wonderful Back to School Breakfast for teachers.

Upcoming Events:

- Back-to-School Night (Parents only), Sept 17, 6:45 pm
- Ice Cream Social, Friday, Sept 20, 6:30 pm
- Garden Work Day, Friday, Sept 27, 3:15 pm
- PTA Meeting, Tuesday, Oct 1, 7:00 pm
- National Walk to School Day, Wednesday, Oct 9
- Fall Teacher Luncheon, Thursday, Oct 10
- Parent-Teacher Conferences (no school), Oct 10 and 11

Raise money for Barrett!

Link your Harris Teeter VIC card to Barrett Elementary
Go to www.harristeeter.com and enter in code 3906

In the Washington DC area inventory is tight, in many scenarios home sellers are receiving multiple offers and buyers are competing with investors and their all-cash offers for prime properties, especially in the more affordable price points. Winning bids often come in thousands above list price, many without inspection contingencies and, in some cases, without even a mortgage or appraisal contingency.

One useful tool for buyers to gain consideration when competing for a property is an Escalation Clause. An escalation allows a buyer to show the very most they are willing to pay. To enable the escalation there needs to be at least two bona fide competing offers. The cap is the high limit of the offer, and the other component is how much higher than other competing offers a buyer is willing to go. A buyer willing to pay \$5,000 instead of \$1,000 over another contract can gain a more compelling advantage. Another key element of the escalation is whether a buyer wants to keep the appraisal contingency or waive it.

There is one clever move to navigate around the appraisal contingency that I share with a client in our first meeting.

We always encourage our buyer clients to have a home inspection and one popular compromise is to have an inspection for informational purposes, where a buyer has the ability to back out of the offer if a serious problem is found.

Another tactic for buyers is to offer a free rent back if the seller is occupying the home. A flexible buyer can accommodate an owner who needs a few weeks or even a few months to stay in the home after settlement. The free rent back has made a huge difference in winning the bid. When a seller is buying another property, the ability of a buyer to close quickly and offer a rent back is huge.

With the craziness in the market - this is where our expertise is critical to both the buyer and seller for maximizing their outcome. Contact me to learn the secrets of managing a successful sale!



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Southside:

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

Greenbrier Section:

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

-- Alice Naland, babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, nalandfamily@yahoo.com, 703-888-0125

Northside:

- Riittisha Choudhary: tutoring, babysitting ages 4-12, yard work, riittishachoudhary@gmail.com
- 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
- Alyssa Luz-Ricca, babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, pet sitting, alyssa.luz.ricca@gmail.com, 703-740-6972.
- Isaac Mortimer-Lotke, odd jobs, 703-276-9046
- Marika Mortimer-Lotke, babysitting (RC certified), housesitting/chores, 703-276-9046
- Allison Vernon, pet sitting, babysitting (references), catharinevernon@aol.com, 703-522-9147
- Gabby Young, babysitting, mother's helper, pet sitting, dog walking, 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

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