

# The Arlington Forester



Volume 57, Number 1

Arlington, VA

September 2015

## Future of LRCC on AFCA Agenda

The Arlington Forest Citizens Association starts its 2015-2016 service year with a discussion about the future of the Lubber Run Community Center this Wednesday, September 16 at 7 PM in the Barrett Elementary School library.

Please join your neighbors to discuss recent developments (see page 3 for an update) in preparation for AFCA's October meeting at which Acting County Manager Mark Schwartz will speak along with Department of Parks and Recreation Director Jane Rudolph and Department of Environmental Services Deputy Director George May.

At the September meeting, participants will also vote to fill the vacant Southside Vice President position. We have one volunteer to run, but other Southside residents are also

welcome to put their names into nomination. Ask any AFCA Board member if you have questions about the duties of that position (see page 2 for contact info).

September marks the start of AFCA's annual dues drive. Please clip out the coupon to the right and return it today with a \$10 check in the pre-addressed envelope included inside this newsletter.

Your dues support AFCA's many activities which enhance the quality of life in our neighborhood. Annual examples include the holiday party, the spring cleanup, the community yard sale, the tree grant program, and modest grants to the PTAs of our neighborhood schools.

## Meet the County Board Candidates

AFCA invites you to attend a County Board Candidates Forum on Monday, September 28, from 7 to 8:30 PM at the Lubber Run Community Center.

All four County Board candidates are scheduled to appear: Audrey R. Clement (I), Kate A. "Katie" Cristol (D), Christian E. Dorsey (D), and Michael T. McMenamin (I).

On Tuesday, November 3rd, Arlington voters will elect two new County Board members. Their decisions will affect public infrastructure, city services, development, housing, schools, parks, taxes, and our neighborhood! So come to the September 28 candidates forum to find out how they stand on the issues that are most important to you.

Please submit your questions in advance to [AFCA2015CandidateForum@gmail.com](mailto:AFCA2015CandidateForum@gmail.com).

For more information, please contact: Joel Yudken at [joel.yudken@verizon.net](mailto:joel.yudken@verizon.net), Michael Thomas at [thomasmd64@gmail.com](mailto:thomasmd64@gmail.com), or Samara Weinstein at [samarajw@yahoo.com](mailto:samarajw@yahoo.com).

If you recently moved to Virginia, the deadline to register to be eligible to vote in the Nov. 3 election is Tuesday, Oct. 13. See the County website to register online or download the Virginia Voter Registration Application.

### AFCA MEMBERSHIP DUES

#### ANNUAL DUES \$10 PER HOUSEHOLD

Deliver this form and your check for \$10 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:* Lauren Mikoy, 43 S. Park Dr. 22204

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

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

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

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

*AFCA Meeting 7 p.m. September 16 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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Vacant

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Arlington Civic Federation Rep: Salvatore D'Itri

Historian: John Naland

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

*Forester* is printed by *Minuteman Press*

## 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](mailto:newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org). Space often fills up before the deadline.



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# Planning for the New and Better Lubber Run Community Center

By Michael Thomas

Following the April 29 community visioning session, County staff continued to collect ideas for the new LRCC. An on-line Open Arlington survey garnered 263 responses. The Department of Parks and Recreation gave a presentation to the Latino Round Table and led a focus group with the Buckingham Youth Brigade. Like the ideas from other fora, Youth Brigade members want the new community center to take maximum advantage of its location adjacent to Lubber Run Park's natural spaces. They emphasized the need for inter-generational recreation and were interested in art and maker/workshop spaces and a robust computer facility.

County staff consolidated community input into the following points:

- The new LRCC can impact the community by preserving and maximizing green space and through improved site access and safety.
- Type of spaces/uses for the building should include multi-purpose athletic court space, multi-purpose flexible spaces, and exercise rooms and fitness center.
- Types of spaces/uses for the site should maximize green space, integrate building into the park, and include multi-purpose athletic courts.

The County contracted architects cox, graae, +spack to develop conceptual plans/massing studies (i.e., block dia-

grams) for the building, parking and outdoor recreational areas based on the community's vision for the new center. The studies will help answer questions such as what will be the building's main uses; the building's size, shape, position, and orientation; the building's relationship with outside components, the park, and Barrett Elementary; and how to best provide parking and pedestrian access. In July, the County staff decided that this conceptual planning also should explore the potential for locating some APS pre-Kindergarden classrooms in the new community center.

Sometime in the next month, County staff will present conceptual plans to the County Board. There will be an opportunity for the community to review the studies and provide input as the County Board considers the scope of work for the project and amount of capital funding. The County Board's preliminary decisions on these issues will be followed by community engagement for building and parking design. This will feed into the Capital Improvement Plan and bond referenda that the new County Board will approve in July 2016. Construction is estimated to take two years beginning Fall 2017.

The website at <http://parks.arlingtonva.us/2015/04/lubber-run-center-visioning-session> features the project timeline, results from the online survey, notes from community input, and documents regarding pre-K classrooms.

**Big changes coming for Real Estate Transactions.** Beginning October 3, 2015, lenders will be required to use new documents for any loan applications received. The New Loan Estimate Document Replaces the Good Faith Estimate (GFE) and initial Truth-in-Lending (initial TIL) disclosure.

The new forms are designed to provide clearer information for consumers to understand the loan terms and estimates of loan and closing costs. The Loan Estimate must be provided to consumers within 3 business days after loan application.

New Closing Disclosure Document Created, Replaces and combines the HUD-1 and final Truth-in-Lending disclosures (final TIL and, together with the initial TIL, the Truth-in-Lending forms). The new form will offer more details about loan charges so that consumers can better understand transaction costs. Any significant

changes made to the document after the Closing Disclosure is provided will require that a new form be provided to the borrower and an additional 3-day waiting period. Examples of these changes are: APR variance exceeds 0.125% or a change in the loan product.

As Realtors we want to educate clients and set proper expectations so they understand the new timing requirements, such as evidencing an intent to proceed with the loan estimate, are critical. Once a lender is selected it is extremely important to choose a settlement agent in order that they work together early in the transaction to ensure all figures are accurate on the Closing Disclosure. It is projected that the new CFPB rule changes will add 15 days to the transaction timeline.

*Contact me for advice on finding the best mortgage lenders, which is important now with these new rules.*



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# Lubber Run Amphitheater: Another Great Season

By Chris Scheer

Good weather, enthusiastic crowds and quality entertainment added up to a great Lubber Run Amphitheater season.

This was the amphitheater's longest season of free open-air entertainment since it re-opened five years ago, with five additional programs funded by the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation.

"The Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation added five shows -- Rico Amero and four kids' shows -- to the county schedule with donated funds," explained Esther Bowring, co-chair of the Foundation along with Marsha Lederman. "Last year we were able to fund four shows and we hope community support will enable us to add more next year."

Hal Crawford and his county staff attracted a broad and popular range of talent to the amphitheater. Among the most well attended programs were the Acapella Festival featuring the Tone Rangers, the Arlington Philharmonic (one for the dogs), The Army Blues, Mary Ann Redmond and Rico Amero. All 35 programs were well received, especially amphitheater newcomers The Levine School Jazz and Rock Ensembles.

The Arlington Forest Amphitheater Foundation is chartered as a 501c3 organization to receive tax-deductible donations. In addition, audience donations to the amphitheater "Wishing Well" at each performance help fund Foundation programs. Donations may be made throughout

the year and 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 Bowring, "and now we are able to use the amphitheater more fully and meet community interests and needs with donated dollars."

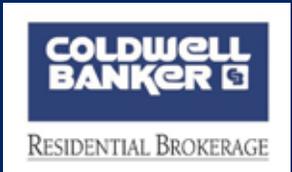
Arlington Foresters not only supported the amphitheater with their attendance and donations. She noted that two Arlington Forest sixth graders, Thornton Thomas and Thomas Kirsch, set up a lemonade stand at one concert and donated the proceeds to the Foundation. Many Foresters served as concert hosts greeting crowds and providing information. Bowring thanks them and hopes to have more Foresters volunteer next year.

With that in mind, she said 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. Send your feedback to [Lubberrunamphither@gmail.com](mailto:Lubberrunamphither@gmail.com). Keep up with the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation on Facebook.

If you liked the season, let the County know by emailing Arlington County Cultural Affairs at [www.arlingtonva.us/feedback-form/?to=arts@arlingtonva.us](http://www.arlingtonva.us/feedback-form/?to=arts@arlingtonva.us).

We hope to see you next summer at the amphitheater for another season of performances under the stars.

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### Lauren York Mikoy

Your Arlington Forest Neighbor and local realtor!

Now that summer is winding down and the fall market is getting underway, it's a perfect time to prepare your home to go on the market if you are planning to make a move. The York Group has been providing their proven professional service for over 38 years and they are ready to do the same for you. They will answer all your questions, guide you on which updates will provide the highest return on your investment and promise a seamless real estate transaction. They are seasoned negotiators and have sold thousands of houses over the years, which means they will make sure you receive the highest equity out of your house and guarantee you won't be surprised with the unexpected.



# Going - Going - Gone

The first tear-down of an iconic Arlington Forest red brick Colonial Revival Style house occurred this past summer. The house at 234 North Galveston Street -- built in 1948 by M.T. Broyhill & Sons -- was dismantled between late June and early July (see accompanying photos). The fact that the Arlington Forest community is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places does not constrain property owners from making any changes that are allowed by the County building code.

Neighbors on that block will certainly be interested to see what size and style of house is now to be built on the site by its new owners.



## Arlington Forest United Methodist Church

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

Worship 10:00 a.m.



**Pumpkin Patch, Buy your pumpkins here!**  
**Pumpkins arrive Sept. 27, 2015**



**Animal Blessing Service 10/3, 3pm, Culpepper Garden**

## The Nighthawks, Legends of Blues and Roots Rock

& Vintage #18 Opening Show

**Sheffield Hall, Arlington Forest UMC**  
**Wed., October 14<sup>th</sup>, Doors open at 6:30 p.m.**



“Your neighborhood church only a walk away”

# Update on County Projects

By John Naland

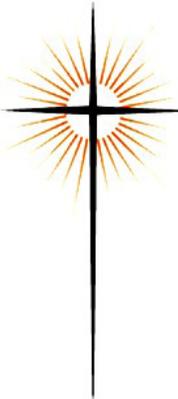
**Sidewalk Repairs:** Last fall, crews and contractors from Arlington's Department of Environmental Services (DES) repaired nearly 100 sections of sidewalk in all three sections of Arlington Forest in response to the AFCA survey documenting the most-damaged sidewalk sections done in spring 2014 by volunteers Larry Bowring, Todd Lee, Brett Mikoy, and John Naland. During this past spring and summer, DES crews and contractors returned and repaired several hundred less-damaged sections in the Northside and Greenbrier Sections (see photo). This work was done during those areas' regular sidewalk maintenance cycle (DES inspects and repairs sidewalks countywide on a 15 year cycle). Southside is scheduled for its comprehensive sidewalk maintenance in 2018 or 2019 (depending on funding allocated by the County Board for sidewalk repair). That said, residents who see significant tripping hazards can report them at any time using the County's online app at [www.publicstuff.com](http://www.publicstuff.com). County crews will investigate and address the problem area as appropriate.

**Arlington Blvd. at Park Drive:** This safety improvement project will create better access and crossings for pedestrians, transit users, bikers and those traveling on the shared-use paths parallel to Arlington Blvd. The project will include new sidewalks, crosswalks, curbs, gutters, and other improvements. After various delays over the past two years, construction documents were completed in August. County staff expects to spend about five months developing bid documents, receiving VDOT permits and approval of bid documents, advertising the project and receiving County Board approval of the construction contract. Given that the project will be ready for construction in winter when temperatures and weather conditions are not suitable for roadwork, construction will be delayed until April 2016. For more info, search "Arlington Boulevard" on the County website.

**Carlin Springs Bridge:** The County has completed plans for replacement of the Carlin Springs Bridge over North George Mason Drive. However, the project has been delayed due to the need to upgrade an existing sanitary sewer in the bridge vicinity. Rather than undertake two separate projects (one for the bridge and a second for the sewer line replacement), Arlington's Department of Environmental Services will undertake the two projects simultaneously. This approach should provide the most cost-efficient implementation while also reducing the total length of time that Carlin Springs Road and George Mason Drive will be impacted by construction. Construction of the combined bridge and sewer project is scheduled to begin in May or June 2016 with completion anticipated by the end of 2017. The new bridge will feature wider sidewalks on the bridge, add bicycle lanes along Carlin Springs Road, and enhance lighting.

**WO&D Trail-Carlin Springs Road Connector Path:** The County Board voted 4-1 last June to cancel this project which would have installed a 275 foot long, 8 foot wide asphalt connector path linking the WO&D trail with east side of Carlin Springs Road (this is in the western corner of Arlington Forest below the historic Mary Carlin House). County Board members said the project would unnecessarily reduce green space.



	<h2><i>St. John's Episcopal Church</i></h2>			
	<b>Sunday Worship Services</b> 8 am and 10 am	<b>Sunday Christian Education</b> Adults 9 am — Youth 10 am		
	<b>Sunday, October 4 - Blessing of the Animals 5 pm</b> Bring your pets (or a picture) to the side yard (indoors if raining)			
	<b>Children's Education</b> - Programs of education with activities for children ages three through high school every Sunday at 10 am beginning September 13.			
415 S. Lexington Street Arlington, VA 22204		703-671-6834	<a href="http://stjohnsarlingtonva.org">stjohnsarlingtonva.org</a>	

# Arlington Forest History Book

By John Naland



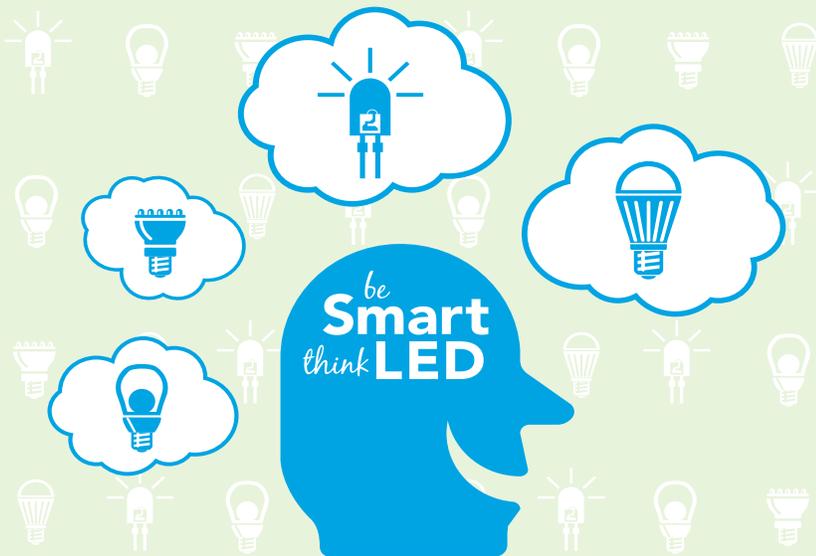
We got a great response to the 75th anniversary 4th edition of AFCA's history of Arlington Forest. To date, 207 copies of the 150-page book have been sold: 168 to current Foresters and 39 to former Foresters. We mailed copies to former Foresters in 11 states, from California and Wyoming to New Hampshire and Florida.

Additional copies are still available. Local residents can pick them up from me for \$15 a copy at an AFCA meeting this fall (please bring cash in exact change or a check made out to "AFCA"). Former Foresters can mail their address and a check made out to "AFCA" for \$20 per copy (includes

mailing expenses) to John Naland, 100 N. Granada St., Arlington, VA 22203.

We are now working on producing an eBook version. Look in this newsletter later this fall for details.

Copies of the book are also on sale for \$15 each in the gift shop of the Arlington Historical Society museum at 1805 S. Arlington Ridge Road. If you have never visited Arlington's only historical museum, it is worth a trip (it has off-street parking and is walkable from the Pentagon City and Crystal City Metrorail stations). The two-story brick structure was built in 1891 as the Hume School and is the oldest school building in Arlington. An authentic turn-of-the-century school-room is upstairs with a school bell that children enjoy ringing. The museum charts Arlington's history from Indian settlements and James Smith's 1608 visit to the 9/11 terrorist attack. It is open Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4 pm and on the first Wednesday of each month from 12:30 to 3:30 pm. Admission is free (donations are accepted). For more info, see [www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org) or call 703-942-9247.



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- Westover Farmers Market, Sunday, Sept. 6, 8 a.m. - noon
- Arlington Farmers Market, Saturday, Sept. 19, 8 a.m. - noon
- Central Library, each Saturday in Oct., 10 a.m. - noon
- E-CARE at TJ Middle School, Saturday, Oct. 3, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**Be Smart, Think LED!**



[www.ArlingtonEnergy.us](http://www.ArlingtonEnergy.us)  
[www.facebook.com/ArlingtonAIRE](http://www.facebook.com/ArlingtonAIRE)

# Nature News

**Fall is a Good Time to Plant a Tree:** Trees are Friends with Benefits -- beauty, shade, carbon sequestration, energy conservation, wildlife habitat, and more. Fall is a good time to plant a tree, just make sure you've selected the right one for your yard. TreeSteward volunteers are happy to walk your site, share their thoughts, and provide educational materials so you make the best choice. Email [info@TreeStewards.org](mailto:info@TreeStewards.org) with your name, address, and contact information and a nearby TreeSteward volunteer will contact you.

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

**Free Tree from the County:** Arlington is providing a variety of native tree species to Arlington residents (one tree per household). Tree height varies with species but they generally range from two to four feet and are in two-gallon containers. Pick up trees on Saturday, Oct. 24, at the nursery located on South Four Mile Run, behind Tucker Field. Select your tree ASAP online before all are reserved: [www.eventbrite.com/e/tree-distribution-program-2015-tickets-18395588701](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/tree-distribution-program-2015-tickets-18395588701)

**Get a Free LED Bulb:** The Arlington Initiative to Rethink Energy (AIRE) program is hosting a series of light bulb "swap" events in which residents can switch out one old, inefficient light bulb for a new, energy-efficient LED bulb. Simply bring an old incandescent bulb and AIRE will provide an LED bulb (a \$7 value) for free. See page 7 of this newsletter for details.

**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 3. Just load up your car with the unwanted items and then drive through the various stations -- dropping off paint cans at one station, TVs (\$20 recycling fee) at another station, and so on. 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.

**Fall Native Plant Sale:** Help wildlife by growing native and support Long Branch Nature Center at the same time! Saturday, Sept. 19 from 10 am to 1 pm at LBNC, you will find sun-loving and butterfly-attracting plants as well as a nice selection of wildflowers, shade lovers, ferns and a few shrubs. Call 703-228-6535 for more info.

**Arlington Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Candidates Forum:** Wednesday, Oct. 7 from 7 to 9 PM. All are welcome to question the four candidates for Arlington County Board. Co-sponsored by the non-partisan Arlington Parks Coalition, Arlington Tree Stewards, Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE), and Northern Virginia Master Naturalists. Location: Conference Room of the Arlington Trades Center, 2700 S. Taylor St. For more info, go to [arlingtonparkscoalition.org](http://arlingtonparkscoalition.org).

**Recycling Tips:** Arlington County reminds us that some materials simply cannot be recycled. The County offers these tips: Place recyclables loose in the blue cart; if they are enclosed in black or white plastic bags they will be collected as trash. Place non-recyclable packing materials (Styrofoam/polystyrene, packing peanuts, other non-paper packaging) in the trash; if they are left in cardboard boxes that cardboard cannot be recycled. To be recyclable, labeled containers must include the chasing-arrow symbol. Place extra recyclables in a cardboard box, paper bag, clear plastic bag, or a reusable labeled container next to your cart. Before you recycle, rinse off food residue and flatten cardboard boxes. For large pieces of cardboard that cannot fit in the cart, remove all packaging material and lean it against the cart or lay it on the ground.

**English Ivy is Destructive:** While many people find English Ivy's 3-pointed, dark green glossy leaves to make pretty groundcover, if allowed to climb this invasive plant can kill trees. But you can easily remove ivy by cutting all vines at the ground level. Cut them again several feet up the trunk and then carefully peel away the cut section of ivy. The remaining ivy will eventually dry out and die. Pull ground ivy back a few feet from the base of the tree to slow regrowth up the tree trunk.

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**Scarecrow Making:** Bring your pre-teen child to the Arlington Forest Shopping Center on Sunday, Oct 18, between 1 and 4 PM to make a front-yard Halloween strawman. Bring a pair of blue jeans, a long-sleeve button-up shirt, and a pair of panty hose. AFCA will provide the straw to stuff inside and safety pins/twine to connect the pants and shirt. Advance registration is required by e-mailing [nalandfamily@yahoo.com](mailto:nalandfamily@yahoo.com). Cost \$5.

# Around the Forest

**Serial Attacker in Area:** A female with her 3-year-old daughter was attacked in Lubber Run Park around 8 PM on Friday, August 21. A Hispanic man in his 20s, approximately 5'7" tall with a medium build, grabbed and groped her. She screamed and he ran away. This was the sixth such attack in Arlington since July 25 by an assailant of that description. Another occurred in late July in Glencarlyn Park near the W&OD trail just north of the Arlington Blvd overpass. As of press time, no suspect has been arrested.

**Traffic Circle Holly Tree:** At AFCA's request last month, Arlington County Forester Vincent Verweij inspected the historic Arlington Forest holly tree in the shopping center's traffic circle. He found the 80+ year-old tree to be doing okay with the wound in its trunk closing up and some new growth in the tips of the tree. At his suggestion, several Arlington Foresters spent a couple of hours removing the English ivy and clematis that were attacking the tree. The volunteers will return in the next month or so to do more cleaning and spread mulch.

**Arlington Neighborhood Villages October Social Gathering:** The members and volunteers of Arlington Neighborhood Villages (ANV) who live in Arlington Forest, Glencarlyn, and Boulevard Manor are planning a social gathering at one of our homes in early October. They will be serving some hors d'oeuvres and desserts with a variety of beverages, including peach bellinis. Come join in the fun and find out more about ANV from your neighbors who are members and volunteers. If you are interested in attending, call your neighborhood contact, Linda Reck, at 703-892-5178 or email her at [lindajreck@comcast.net](mailto:lindajreck@comcast.net). ANV is a non-profit organization of neighbors helping neighbors to live in their homes longer and stay engaged in their communities. There is an annual membership fee, but financial assistance is available. To find out more, go to [www.arlnvil.org](http://www.arlnvil.org), call 703-509-8057, or email [info@arlnvil.org](mailto:info@arlnvil.org).

**St. John's Animal Blessing on Oct 4th:** St. John's Episcopal Church in Glencarlyn will hold its annual Blessing of the Animals service on Sunday, October 4 at 5 pm. Please bring your pet(s) to St. John's side yard, where we will have a brief service and individually bless each pet. If your pet does not play well with others, you may use a carrier or bring a picture of your pet. The event will occur rain or shine. Animal blessings are usually conducted near St. Francis Day because he was thought to be friendly and accessible to all living creatures. See page 6 of this newsletter for more information.

**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](mailto:arlingtonforestva@gmail.com) requesting to be added.



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# Nature News

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

**MY FAVORITE SNAKES:** Garter, Rough Green, Water, Corn, Black Racers, Eastern Rats, even Copperheads; those are a few of my favorite snakes. While many people have an instinctive fear of them, the fact is 80% of snakes are small (3ft. long or less) and harmless. If they're grabbed or poked with a stick they'll react defensively out of fear because snakes are prey animals. Plus, a paper cut is worse than a bite from a small nonvenomous snake.

In the wild snakes are closer to the bottom of the food chain than the top, and are often eaten by hawks, crows, raccoons, opossum, skunks, coyotes, foxes, etc. It's their instinct to defend themselves by hissing, snapping, and biting. Nine times out of ten they just slither away as fast as they can. Snakes are instinctive about protecting their heads, so lunging forward toward something they think is out to kill them is a last resort. Essentially, they don't want to bite unless they think they have to in order to save their lives. Their instinct is to remain still when they sense a predator, because movement can reveal their presence. Also, their natural colors

and patterns help to effectively camouflage them. So, when you're taking a hike and get surprised by the snake slithering under your feet, please remember that you surprised it too and it thinks it's scrambling for its life.

Now for venomous snakes. The Copperhead is the only venomous snake in Arlington and is found only in northern Arlington, mostly near the Potomac River. Like most snakes, they spend up to 90% of their time hiding someplace dark and safe, like under logs, bark, rocks, and any crevice that suits them. In a glance it's hard to tell the difference between venomous and non-venomous snakes, but most venomous snakes have heart-shaped heads, narrow pupils, and very wide bodies for their length. Still, it's best to leave any snake alone for your safety and its. Local nature centers will be happy to assist you with identifying snakes you have seen and suggest resources for learning more about these fascinating animals.

Mid-spring and early fall are the best times to observe snakes in our area. That is when they're either waking from or going into brumation (reptile hibernation) and are moving into or out of their winter dens. You can take a walk through a forest to see garter snakes and rat snakes, or along wetlands to see basking northern water snakes. Look around wood piles for milk snakes and in meadows for beautiful lime-colored rough green snakes. Watching a snake gracefully slither through the grass, across rocks or in the water is a peaceful and memorable moment.



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## Community Calendar

**Next AFCA Meeting:** Wednesday, September 16, 7 pm at Barrett Elementary.

**Kids Halloween Parade:** Late October date TBD.

**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:** May 21. Turn unwanted stuff into cash.

### Future AFCA Meetings:

October 21: County official on Future of LRCC

November 18: Speaker from "Field to Table"

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



*Electronic versions of this  
newsletter are available:  
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# Barcroft School News

Barcroft Elementary is excited about the 2015-2016 school year, which began for students in Grades K-5 on August 4. Barcroft uses a Modified School Year (MSY) calendar. With MSY, the summer break is shorter so that students may take a multi-week break each quarter.

In August, students enjoyed Fun Friday after school events on the Barcroft playground. Families played beach games, jumped in a moon bounce, and ate popsicles with our Principal, Colette Bounet, and Assistant Principal, Nathan Reich. Back to School Night was held on August 26. Families toured classrooms and learned about classroom routines and learning strategies. A Schoolwide Morning Meeting for students and staff was held on the playground on August 31. Also in August, the Barcroft PTA held a delicious fundraiser at Menchie's on Columbia Pike.

We need your help to support student learning and to defray the cost of programs such as field trip expenses. A "free and easy" way to help is by linking your store cards to Barcroft Elementary. Contact Jody Manning at [Jody.manning@me.com](mailto:Jody.manning@me.com) for assistance:

-- **Harris Teeter:** Link your VIC card to the Together in Education program using Barcroft code 4238. Then purchase Harris Teeter brand products through May 2016. Link online at [www.harristeeter.com](http://www.harristeeter.com).

-- **Giant:** Beginning September 14, link your Bonus card to Barcroft using code # 02199. The Giant A+ Rewards program runs from October 2015 – March 20, 2016. Link on-line at <http://giantfood.com/savings-and-rewards/rewards-program/aplus/>.

-- **Target:** Target's Take Charge of Education program permits shoppers to support Barcroft year-round by linking their Target RED credit or debit card to Barcroft. Barcroft's ID # 103242. To link on-line, go to: <https://www-secure.target.com/redcard/tcoe/home>.

-- **Safeway:** Safeway discontinued its program this year.

The first PTA meeting was held September 8. The PTA voted on its budget, and Ms. Bounet gave a presentation on the latest Virginia Standards of Learning testing results. We invite our neighbors to attend our annual Chalk4Peace event on September 12, from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Create works of original art on the school's sidewalks and black-top. Chalk is provided. Bring your imagination and a box of cereal to donate to the Arlington Food Assistance Center.

Parent-Teacher conferences will be held on September 24-25. To learn more, contact our PTA President Tara McCabe at [tcs04@gmail.com](mailto:tcs04@gmail.com).



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

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

*Jim*

# Barrett School News

No! Summer isn't over! At least not until September 23. But it always seems like it is when school starts. Barrett is back in full swing and welcomed around 560 students on the first day of school! We also welcomed new teachers in 3rd and 4th grades, a new Family Engagement Coordinator, a High Intensity Language Training (HILT) teacher, music teacher, PE teacher and some additional staff. We also welcome our new **PTA President, Tracey McLaughlin**. Tracey was elected last spring to replace Jennifer Sauter-Price who will remain as Vice President for External Affairs.

By the time you read this, the PTA will already have hosted two events: the Welcome Back Breakfast for Barrett staff in August and the Ice Cream Social on September 11. No better way to start the school year than with ice cream!

Barrett was busy over the summer, hosting summer school sessions for Glebe, Long Branch, and Barrett, as well as an Arlington Parks and Recreation camp program. We also built a new classroom on the second floor at the corner of the 4th and 5th grade hallway. And dispelling the notion that teachers have the whole summer off, Barrett staff has been in training on a number of topics, especially those related to technology and differentiation of instruction to support all our students' learning abilities.

Over the summer Barrett teachers also initiated a successful summer reading program - **Book Blast!** - that

moved the books out of the building and into the community. The program was especially designed to serve at-risk children who often could not make it to Barrett for the traditional summer reading program in the school library. On a grassy field at the Gates of Ballston community, teachers read stories, led sing-a-longs, and helped students check out books. You can read a story by the Washington Post on the Post's website [keyword "Barrett Elementary"] or on Barrett's Facebook page.

New this year to Barrett is the **Multi-Intervention Program for Students with Autism (MIPA)**. This is a county-wide program with classes in a number of schools. Barrett will have two MIPA classes this year. Barrett will also continue its partnership with **ReSet** (resetonline.org) and **Engineers in the Classroom**, bringing science, technology, engineering, and math practitioners to the classrooms to connect class lessons to real-world experiences.

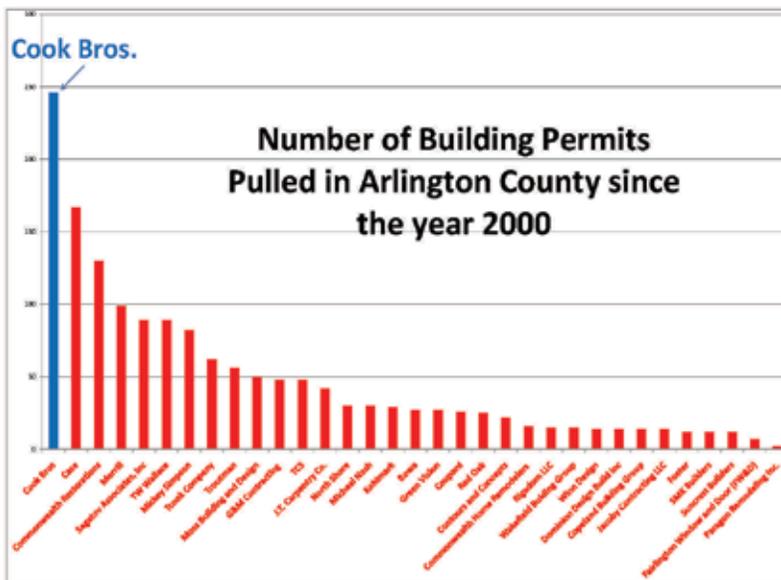
We look forward to a great year of learning!

## Upcoming Events:

- **PTA Meeting**, September 15, 7 p.m
- **Back to School Night**, September 17, 6:45 pm
- **Annual Book Fair**, Sept 28 - Oct 1
- **Book Fair Family Shopping Night**, Sept 29, 6:30 pm

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## Southside:

- Daniel O'Mara, dog walking, pet sitting, leaf raking, [t.omara@LTwell.com](mailto:t.omara@LTwell.com), 703-769-3767
- Ethan O'Mara, dog walking, pet sitting, leaf raking, [t.omara@LTwell.com](mailto:t.omara@LTwell.com), 703-769-3767
- Sophia Polisar, babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, [sophiapolisar@gmail.com](mailto:sophiapolisar@gmail.com), 571-429-2289
- Caroline Rogers, babysitting, pet sitting, dog walking, [carolinearogers@verizon.net](mailto:carolinearogers@verizon.net), 703-892-0226
- Julia Rogers, babysitting (RC certified), yard work, [juliaerogers23@gmail.com](mailto:juliaerogers23@gmail.com), 703-892-0226
- Jon Tiernan, Babysitting (RC certified, references), pet sitting, [wonton81@gmail.com](mailto:wonton81@gmail.com)
- Liz Tiernan, Babysitting (RC certified, references), pet sitting, [lizzytiernan@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:Allisonrocket@aol.com), 703-276-2840

- Ethan Hall, babysitting (RC certified), snow shoveling, leaf raking, pet sitting, dog walking, [k.hall.b@verizon.net](mailto:k.hall.b@verizon.net), 302-650-4428
- Sarah Keyser, babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, dog walking, [Stealers12@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:laura@barms.org), 703-243-1916.
- Daniel Brancati, yard work, leaf raking, snow shoveling, car washing (in your driveway), [daniel@barms.org](mailto:daniel@barms.org), 703-243-1916
- Riittisha Choudhary: tutoring, babysitting age 4-12, yard work, [riittishachoudhary@gmail.com](mailto:riittishachoudhary@gmail.com)
- Ely Constantine, pet sitting, leaf raking, snow shoveling, [cpconstantine@comcast.net](mailto:cpconstantine@comcast.net), 703-841-9229
- Sophia Constantine, pet sitting, dog walking, [srconstantine@comcast.net](mailto:srconstantine@comcast.net), 703-841-9229
- Fiona Hickey, babysitting (RC certified), 703-351-7013
- Sophie Hickey, babysitting, 703-351-7013
- 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](mailto: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](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



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