

# The Arlington Forester

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November 2020



## Virtual AFCA Meeting: Racial Equity in Arlington

AFCA invites you to join our monthly Zoom meeting on Wednesday, November 18, at 7 p.m. Northside Vice President Joel Yudken will report on progress made by a committee of neighbors formed to analyze Arlington County's Missing Middle Housing Study in terms of its potential impacts on neighborhoods like Arlington Forest. The study supports racial equity, tying it to the creation of housing affordable to families from racial and ethnic groups with relatively low median incomes. The article on page 7 summarizes the issue, including the challenge of creating housing affordable to low- and middle-income households in a highly desirable location like the Ballston area.

In addition, Liz Kauffman and Hutch Brown will present information about the draft revised Arlington Forest Neighborhood Conservation Plan and the steps ahead as we complete the plan and submit it to the county next year.

To join the meeting, enter the following URL into your browser between 6:50 and 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 18: <https://tinyurl.com/y4ut8dso>. If you have never used Zoom, you can view a short tutorial at <https://zoom.us/resources> by clicking on Joining & Configuring Audio/Video. Alternatively, you can dial in to the meeting at 301-715-8592, where you will be prompted to enter meeting number 867 0497 8714 and passcode 037315. You might also be prompted to hit the # sign one or more times. This call-in number will be active starting at 6:50 p.m.

## Call for Dues



The AFCA's annual dues drive continues in November. You can pay online through the AFCA website or clip out the coupon on this page and deliver it with a \$10 check to your section representative.

Your dues help to get this newsletter delivered to your door. Dues also pay for tree grants to residents and modest donations to our neighborhood schools. In addition, dues support the AFCA website ([www.arlington-forestva.org](http://www.arlington-forestva.org)), which contains a detailed neighborhood map, a 150-page history of Arlington Forest, back issues of this newsletter, and more.

So please drop off your dues today. Add an optional donation if you missed paying dues last year. If you include your email address, you will be added to the AFCA listserv, which sends a few messages per month with news of neighborhood interest.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**AFCA Virtual Meeting 7 p.m. November 18 Through Zoom**

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*The Arlington Forester* is the official publication of the Arlington Forest Citizens Association, Arlington, VA. A nonpartisan, nonsectarian publication serving the residents of Arlington Forest, the *Forester* welcomes articles, newsbits, letters, and photos focusing on noncommercial events or issues specific to our neighborhood. We publish eight times per year (Sep to Nov and Jan to May). The deadline for submissions is the first of the month. Email your submission of up to 400 words—less, if you include a photo—to newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org.

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## AFCA October Meeting— “Missing Middle” Update

On October 21, AFCA President Esther Bowring hosted a remote AFCA meeting with more than 50 participants by phone and video. The meeting started with Lyndell Core and Alonso Abugattas (respectively, Parks Area Manager and Natural Resources Manager for Arlington County), who spoke about county plans for Arlington Forest Park (next to the shopping center). The proposal for this natural resource conservation area includes cutting the dead oaks at about 12 feet above ground, leaving the snags for wildlife use, and placing the upper portions to rot on the ground. Some pines and junipers will be removed from this oak savanna and replanted elsewhere. Staff are preparing interpretive signs to place in the park. Staff will continue to remove litter from the park, and residents should notify Alonso at [Aabugattas@arlingtonva.us](mailto:Aabugattas@arlingtonva.us) of any litter removal issues, including in Lubber Run Park. Most meeting participants voted in support of county plans for Arlington Forest Park and thanked the county for conserving a rare plant community there.

Liz Kauffman reported that work will soon begin at the North Edison Street and North Wakefield Street intersections with North Carlin Springs Road as part of the county's pedestrian and road safety improvements. Liz also summarized a proposal by neighbors in Bluemont for further safety improvements on North Carlin Springs Road. The proposal is outlined on page 5.

Most meeting participants voted in favor of the draft neighborhood goals for the revised Arlington Forest Neighborhood Conservation Plan. The goals are based on feedback from neighbors in the spring 2020 neighborhood survey. The draft revised neighborhood conservation plan is posted for review and comment on the AFCA website. The writing team plans to post a Googledocs version accessible in the same place. In the plan, the neighborhood recommendations to the county will be key, and the writing team invites comments and suggestions. The neighborhood will vote on the recommendations early next year.

The main topic for the meeting was the Missing Middle Housing Study (MMHS). Arlington County Board Chair Libby Garvey fielded questions from Foresters for more than an hour. Ms. Garvey presented the three-phase study as an exploration of how new housing types could help fill shortfalls and gaps in Arlington housing. “Missing middle housing” (such as duplexes) lies between high-rise apartment buildings and single-family detached homes. She said that there will be a vote on a specific proposal in the third phase of the study in 18 to 24 months, possibly affecting the entire county, including Arlington Forest. Questions raised by meeting participants included how to keep what is best about the

...continued on page 4

# Faces of the Forest: Susan Graham's Native Plant Garden

By Chris Scheer

For most Arlington Foresters, fall brings leaf raking, lawn reseeding, and garden clearing. Not at Susan Graham's house on North Galveston Street. Ten years ago, Susan turned her conventional Arlington Forest lawn into a native plant garden that pretty much takes care of itself—and the birds and bees too.

Native plants evolved naturally in our area, becoming interdependent with other plants and animals, including insects and even the microbes and minerals in the soil. "Native plants help other organisms thrive," Susan explained on her back porch while overlooking flowers wafting in a cool October breeze. "The plants give back."

Susan's interest in native plants started after attending a county extension service program on gardening. "I really liked the talk on native plants," she recalled. "That sounded like a positive way to garden and preserve what we are losing."

She began in the fall with a small plot in her backyard lawn, covering it with newspaper topped with thick mulch. In the spring, the grass was gone; Susan and her husband Jim simply dug through the mulch and started planting. Each year, the garden grew. Three years later, they converted their entire frontyard to native plants. Now, the only remaining grass covers a narrow footpath through 6-foot purple asters, hardy Joe Pye weed, purple-blooming obedient plant, and much more. "There's barely any grass to mow and our leaves stay right here," Susan said.

Susan doesn't clear her garden in the fall. Stalks and stems remain all winter, providing cover for dormant insects and food for birds. She says any garden takes work, but her native plants require much less than a manicured lawn and give much more.

Susan credits longtime Arlington Forester Paul Kovenock as her inspiration. Paul is recognized across northern Virginia as a pioneer native plant gardener, also leading efforts to clear invasive plants from Lubber Run Park. "I visited Paul's wonderful hillside garden bordering the park and saw what one person can do to return land to its true nature while maintaining order and beauty," Susan told me.

Through Paul, she found her way to the Virginia Native Plant Society (<https://vnps.org/>). "I encourage anyone interested in native plants to join the society," she said. "It's a wonderful source of information, support, and plants. That's where the cultivars are separated from the true natives." Cultivars are selectively bred for qualities such as bloom size and color. Susan started with cultivars before discovering that they weren't truly native.



Native plant gardens work with nature, not against it. Instead of a monoculture of fertilized grass routinely cut and carted away, native plants provide habitats for native animals. "Ninety-five percent of native birds in North America need insects to feed their young," Susan explained. "Those insects need our native plants. Kill the insects and what happens to the birds? A cardinal can't feed its chicks bread crumbs."

Arlington Forest was once covered by trees, and oaks—particularly white oaks—support more insects than most plants. Other natives especially kind to insects include asters and goldenrods, both plentiful in Susan's garden. "Bees are in trouble across the nation," she noted, "but I see more around our small Arlington Forest property each year; and hummingbirds too."

Even poison ivy, though not welcome in most gardens, plays a role. "You can see it along Lubber Run with vines climbing up trees," Susan observed, "with berries in fall and winter. Those native berries contain less sugar and more fat than nonnatives, which is just what birds need to get through winter."

Susan stresses that native plants and animals evolved together, creating "beauty and diversity in a truly natural setting." That natural setting is slipping away as roads, cities, and industry put nature on the defensive. Susan believes the answer is to grow native. "If I can do it, other Arlington Foresters can do it," she said. "A million backyard native plant gardens would have a powerful impact. We can start right here in Arlington Forest."

Susan will help you try out native plants in your yard. You can reach her at [sujigraham@gmail.com](mailto:sujigraham@gmail.com). She is happy to guide you through her garden, provide information, and even share plants to get you started.

# Arlington County Civic Federation Update

As you know, AFCA is our neighborhood's civic voice. But with scores of advocacy groups in Arlington, our voice can get drowned out unless we all sing from the same sheet of music. That's what the Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) is for. Uniting more than 90 civic and other groups, ACCF is a powerful voice in interactions with Arlington County. ACCF meets monthly from September through June.

At the October 2020 meeting, Dr. Reuben K. Varghese, Health Director and Public Health Division Chief for Arlington County, gave an update on the status of COVID and related policies for Arlington County. The ACCF Legislative Committee reported on detainment, detention, and arrests made by the Arlington police. You can find more information on the ACCF website or by contacting the federation directly.

The ACCF warmly welcomed its newest member, the Arlington chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The federation also voted overwhelmingly in support of bond issues on the November 3 ballot (for stormwater and flood mitigation infrastructure, for local parks and recreation, and for Arlington Public Schools). In addition, the federation voted to expand its board by two members and to set up a committee on Arlington governance.

*Thanks to Sal D'Itri and Joel Yudken for the update.*

# AFCA October Meeting— "Missing Middle" Update ...from page 2

county and manage growth, how the county can better communicate with residents as the MMHS process unfolds, and how to incorporate an equity focus into the process.

President Esther Bowring noted that the county is working on changes to its residential parking program but that time is too tight to take a position on it as a civic association. The vice presidents reported no notable developments or concerns in the three subneighborhoods. Treasurer Jeffrey Horwitz noted that AFCA has reestablished its status as a tax-exempt nonprofit incorporated association. A neighborhood representative on the Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) said that ACCF has produced a 40-page report on civil rights issues, including complaints about police activities, juvenile facilities, and more. Residents should let our ACCF representatives know if they would like to be involved on task forces related to countywide governance issues.

Participants discussed whether AFCA could host a holiday party, given the pandemic, and decided that an outdoor or Zoom event might be appropriate. A team will coordinate with the Scheers to discuss possible plans.



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## 20,000 Miles!

As an avid runner, and biker, I know the neighborhoods, streets, and trails of Arlington exceptionally well. My rough calculations\* tell me I have gone through the nooks and crannies of every Arlington neighborhood to the tune of well over 20,000 miles. When you see a neighborhood at around 5 mph, you get a better sense of its character than by just driving through.

Add to that touring literally thousands of homes, and you have an Arlington specialist whose knowledge of the local ins and outs is unmatched. There's a reason I was voted Arlington's Best Residential Realtor...in fact, over 20,000 of them!

\*Roughly 20 miles/week x 50 weeks/year x 20 years of running/biking = 20,000 miles



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# Carlin Springs Road Proposal

## By Liz Kauffman

Ever tried to walk to the Arlington Forest Club? The stretch of North Carlin Springs Road adjacent to Greenbrier has dangerous road crossings; accidents and injuries have occurred. The Bluemont Neighborhood Association has proposed a solution and asked for our support in Arlington Forest. What do you think?

The sketch below indicates proposed changes to the stretch of North Carlin Springs Road between the renovated bridge over North George Mason Drive and North Kensington Street. The road currently has four lanes separated by a median. The proposal would:

- reduce the lanes to two, with the southbound lanes narrowing to a single lane from the George Mason bridge and the northbound lanes narrowing to a single lane from the Arlington Boulevard bridge;
- replace the current median strip with a two-way turning lane;
- add crosswalks with bollard-protected pedestrian midcrossing refuges at North Greenbrier Street and 2nd Street North (folding in the existing improvements to the crosswalks at North Harrison and North Edison Streets);
- add parking on the west side of North Carlin Springs Road, as space allows; and
- add bike lanes in both directions adjacent to the traffic lanes, as space allows.

The proposed plan would slow traffic. Possible trade-offs include cut-through traffic on North Edison or

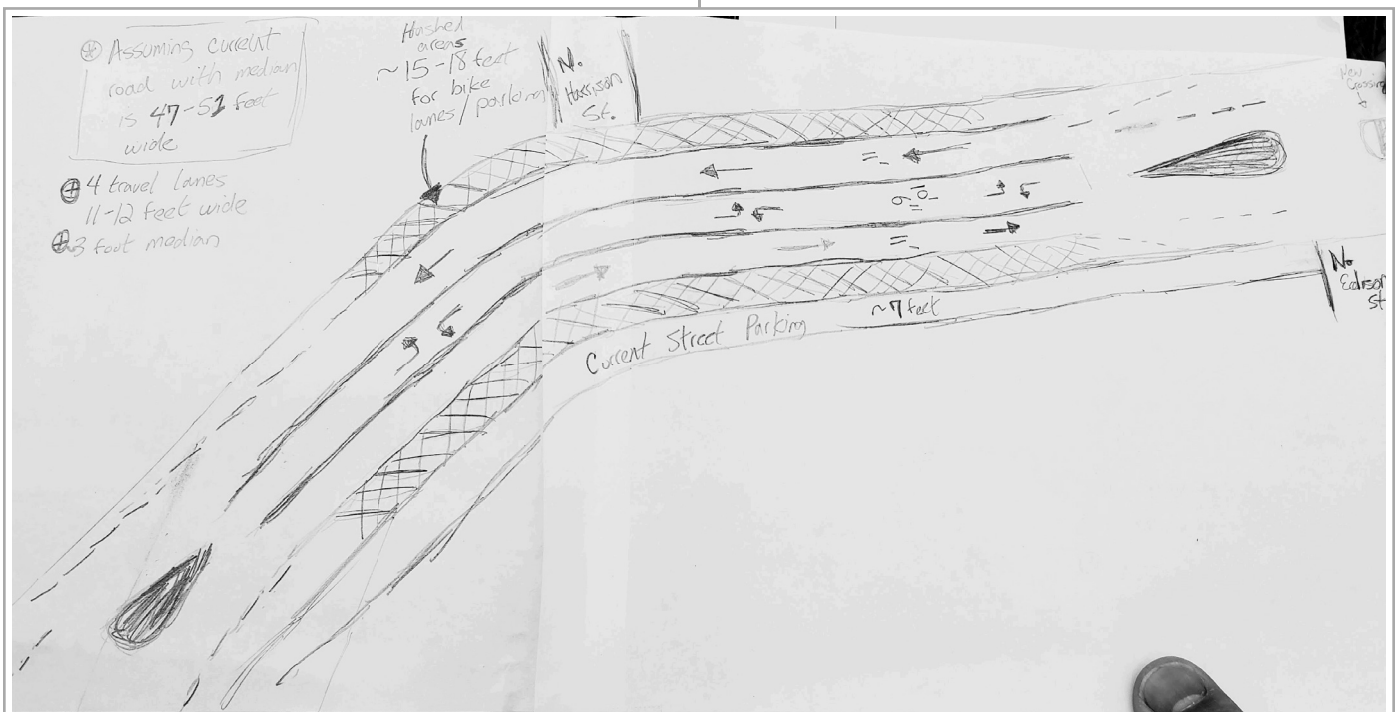
North Granada Street to avoid backups on North Carlin Springs Road during rush hour. The proposed bike lanes might also increase the risk to cyclists unless the lanes were physically segregated from car traffic and parked cars.

What do *you* think about reducing the number of traffic lanes? About adding bike lanes? I am taking an informal survey in connection with our draft revised neighborhood conservation plan. If you have an opinion, let me know at [lizkauffman@yahoo.com](mailto:lizkauffman@yahoo.com). If you'd like to discuss, email me or text/call me at 571-327-6497; we might even arrange for an online group discussion.

## Missing Middle Housing Study

Arlington County has launched a multiyear initiative to gain public support for building “missing middle housing”—duplexes and townhouses—in neighborhoods currently zoned for single-family detached homes.

1. Phase 1 (fall 2020–spring 2021): “Developing a common understanding of Arlington’s housing challenges and community priorities.”
2. Phase 2 (summer 2021–fall 2021): “Focused study of housing types that address the County’s housing shortage and limited range of housing options.”
3. Phase 3 (winter 2021–spring 2022): “Consideration of how to implement the conclusions of the previous phases, possibly leading to recommendations to amend the Zoning Ordinance, the Comprehensive Plan, and other policies and work programs.”



# Safety Concerns: North Carlin Springs Road

*The following excerpt from the draft revised Arlington Forest Neighborhood Conservation Plan is based on the requirement in the guidelines to discuss transportation issues. The full draft plan is posted on the AFCA website. Send edits or comments to plan coordinator Liz Kauffman at [lizkauffman@yahoo.com](mailto:lizkauffman@yahoo.com) or editor Hutch Brown at [hutchbrown41@gmail.com](mailto:hutchbrown41@gmail.com).*

North Carlin Springs Road serves the rapidly growing Ballston area. Development in the Metro corridor has increased traffic, making the frequently used pedestrian crossings over North Carlin Springs Road more dangerous. Multiple pedestrians and a cyclist have been injured by cars in recent years, and many have experienced near misses.

Some crossings are especially dangerous. Young people on their way to Kenmore Middle School use the intersection with North Harrison Street, which also serves pedestrians and cyclists of all ages headed to the Arlington Forest Club, Bluemont Park, and other destinations. Hills and curves on North Carlin Springs Road limit line-of-sight visibility; drivers coming from the north curve to their right before seeing the intersection, whereas drivers coming from the south see the intersection only after cresting a steep hill. The posted speed limit is 30 miles per hour, but a radar speed display on

the east side of the road at the intersection with 2nd Street North regularly displays speeds of 35-40 miles per hour, and cars pick up still more speed as they crest the hill past the radar sign.

Most respondents to our neighborhood survey who voiced an opinion (52 percent) were in favor of a traffic light at the intersection. (Some of those opposed feared that a traffic light could push additional cut-through traffic onto residential streets.) Short of a traffic signal, the county might:

- install a pedestrian-activated stoplight in place of the amber rectangular rapid flashing beacon, which has proven effective only some of the time;
- better enforce speed limits;
- on both sides of the intersection, post warnings of fines for speeding and for failing to stop for pedestrians; and
- publicize the traffic data that the county uses in making decisions about the intersection.

## **Recommendations?**

Described above are opportunities. Which ones, if any, should the neighborhood adopt as formal recommendations?

The Northern Virginia September real estate sales pace eclipsed activity during the same time period in 2019. A total of 2,166 homes sold in September 2020, a 38% increase above September 2019 home sales of 1,578. September activity was a continuation of the strengthening market Northern Virginia has witnessed since June.

Active listings decreased in September compared with 2019. Listings were down 5.62% below last year, with 2,469 active listings in September, compared with 2,616 homes available in September 2019. The average days on market for homes in September 2020 fell by 38.71% to 19 days – compared to 31 days on market for homes in September 2019. Decreased inventory levels of homes for sale,

coupled with increased buyer demand and low interest rates, has created a true seller's market where prices are increasing and the number of days a home stays on the market is dropping. There are a few exceptions when homes are overpriced. They take longer to sell and ultimately go for less.

The average home price for Northern VA was \$690,981, up 15.09% from 2019. Arlington's average was \$826,675, up 17.09% (includes Condos, TH & Detached)

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# Will “Missing Middle Housing” Bring More Racial Equity?

By Hutch Brown

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments reports that more housing is needed for the region’s growing population. Arlington County’s Missing Middle Housing Study notes that townhouses and duplexes—“missing middle housing”—make up only 6 percent of Arlington’s housing and that the need for more three-bedroom units is especially acute. Legacy zoning has restricted more than 70 percent of Arlington’s residential housing area to single-family detached units, so space for new housing types is limited.

Legacy zoning was tied to racial segregation. In the 1930s–50s, as bedroom communities like Arlington Forest replaced farms in Arlington County, they restricted homeownership to “the Caucasian Race.” Blacks, well represented in Arlington’s post-Civil War farming communities, declined from 26 percent of the population in 1910 to 5 percent in 1950. The Missing Middle Housing Study proposes a solution: rezoning neighborhoods like ours to allow for townhouses and duplexes. In theory, doing so will increase housing affordable to low- and middle-income households, including nonwhite families. In turn, that will increase racial equity in Arlington’s neighborhoods.

Many of us can remember the garden apartments in the Buckingham community adjoining Arlington Forest, where most residents were lower income and nonwhite. Eviction, teardown, and replacement with townhouses and multiplexes did not create more affordable housing or greater racial equity. In September 2020, for example, one three-bedroom townhouse in Buckingham Commons townhouse was listed at \$890,000, with a monthly payment of about \$3,200. Experts say that a household can afford to spend up to 30 percent of its annual income on housing. By that measure, the listed Buckingham townhouse is unaffordable to households with incomes under \$130,000—which, according to the Missing Middle Housing Study, includes the median income levels for black (\$58,878), Hispanic (\$77,743), and Asian (\$93,660) households.

Real estate markets are driven by location, and the prime location of our neighborhood on major transportation corridors in close proximity to Washington, DC, will inevitably attract high-income buyers, even for higher density housing like duplexes and townhouses. Other cities face similar constraints: a study of



“missing middle housing” for Portland, OR, found that seniors were “surprised to see that a newly constructed rowhouse or duplex is no less expensive than the larger, single-family home they are hoping to leave.” Only subsidized housing can attract low- to middle-income buyers and renters to the Ballston area; knowing this, the county required the Buckingham developers to include some.

A recent article on legacy zoning in Berkeley, CA, put it well: “It is important to clarify that new Missing Middle housing will not yield housing accessible to these groups [low- and middle-income households] *unless specifically reserved at below-market rates.*” Arlington might have good reasons for rezoning to better plan for urban growth in walkable communities like ours, but increasing racial equity by lowering market rates for housing is not among them.



# Invasive Species

*The following excerpt from the draft revised Arlington Forest Neighborhood Conservation Plan is based on the requirement in the guidelines to discuss urban forestry, including parks. The full draft plan is posted on the AFCA website. Send edits or comments to plan coordinator Liz Kauffman at [lizkauffman@yahoo.com](mailto:lizkauffman@yahoo.com) or editor Hutch Brown at [hutchbrown41@gmail.com](mailto:hutchbrown41@gmail.com).*

The residents of Arlington Forest want their nature parks to model ecological integrity by sustaining diverse communities of native plants, with plentiful habitat for native fish and wildlife. Global trade and travel have introduced nonnative species into our parks, often by way of our own backyards. When species destroy or supplant native species, they become invasive.

Some of the most serious threats to our local parks now come from invasive plants such as English ivy, lesser celandine, and kudzu. Deer, birds, and other animals will either not eat the leaves and fruits or derive little food value from them. Worse, invasive plants outcompete native plants, depriving them of sunlight, nutrients, and the space they need to grow. The greenway corridor bordering the W&OD Trail along Bluemont and Glencarlyn Parks is overrun by invasive plants such as kudzu, porcelainberry, and Japanese knotweed. English



ivy, escaped from backyards, once covered large parts of the Lubber Run Park, and lesser celandine was also a major threat.

In 2001, neighbors led by Greenbrier's Paul Kovenock organized an invasive plant removal project in Lubber Run Park. They started by cutting English ivy vines and pulling the ivy away from the bases of trees. In 2005, AFCA obtained a grant from Arlington's Neighborhood Conservation Program for a 5-year project to work with homeowners and volunteers to control

English ivy, lesser celandine, garlic mustard, and other invasive plants in Lubber Run Park. As a result, native wildflowers like bloodroot have reappeared in the park. In 2012, field botanists hired by the county identified 181 different species of native plants in our restored Lubber Run woodland.

## Recommendations

- Neighbors should work with the county, in alignment with programs such as Tree Stewards and Arlington Regional Master Naturalists, to sustain invasive plant control in Lubber Run Park and extend it to Glencarlyn Park.
- The county should work with Dominion Energy and NOVA Parks to remove invasive species and reestablish native vegetation along the W&OD Trail.



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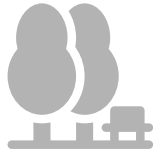
## Parks Update

### Dead Tree Removal

Arlington County has made a list of dead trees in Arlington Forest Park and on nearby county lands. The county will cut the trees up to 10 feet from the ground, leaving the trunks standing for wildlife and scattering the branches to slowly rot. The state is responsible for any dead trees on the Arlington Boulevard buffer strips, which are state rather than county land.

### Protecting Public Spaces

Arlington County will be updating its Urban Forest Master Plan and Natural Resources Management Plan and merging them to guide its future work in improving our natural environment. You can read the current plans online at Public Spaces Master Plan (of which they are component parts) and get involved in updating them.



### Overwintering Butterflies

Most butterflies and moths overwinter as eggs, larvae, or pupae, starting off in the treetops and riding the leaves down in the fall. Once they land in our yards, what happens next is up to us. To support butterflies, planting the native plants that are their food source is only half the job. The other half is to create the conditions that allow insects to complete their life cycles. You can find out more online at Plant NOVA Natives.

### Guardian of the Ford

One of three pedestrian crossings over Lubber Run is the concrete ford near the amphitheater. This well-used ford often floods during storms and can remain unusable for days or even weeks. Since spring, John Harpold of Northside has been monitoring the ford and notifying the county whenever it fails. Thank you, John!

### Stream Monitoring



Maybe you've noticed small groups of neighbors wading in Lubber Run or Four Mile Run with pole nets or seated in a pavilion with tubs of streamwater on the picnic tables. They are volunteer stream monitors, citizen scientists who collect and identify insects and other aquatic life in our neighborhood streams. The results are used to assess the biotic health of Arlington's streams. You can find out more online—and become a volunteer—at Stream Monitoring Arlington.

## County News

### Arlington COVID Dashboard

Get the latest information about new cases of COVID-19 in Arlington, including cases by zip code, at [data-dashboards.arlingtonva.us/covid](https://data-dashboards.arlingtonva.us/covid).

### COVID Information

If you're feeling sick or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, the sooner you act, the better. A government website called [COVIDCHECK.org](https://COVIDCHECK.org) gives you valuable initial information, including a symptoms check and test site locations.

### Barrett School Playground

Principal Ragan Sohr has notified AFCA that Barrett is now open for a limited number of students from Tuesday to Friday, 8-2 p.m. During school hours, the community is not allowed to use the playground and blacktop.

### County Budget Shortfall Grows

In April, the Arlington County Board adopted a budget for fiscal year 2021 anticipating a \$56 million gap in revenue. Since then, revenues have further declined and costs stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic have risen, leaving the county with an additional \$28 to \$39 million budget gap to fill.

### Dialogues on Race and Equity

The Arlington County Board accepted a \$100,000 donation from Amazon to support the county's Dialogues on Race and Equity, community conversations that are part of Arlington's broader commitment to racial equity. You can find out more online at [Arlington Race and Equity](https://ArlingtonRaceandEquity.org).

### Arlington Arts Center Reopened

Exhibitions on view include SOLOS 2020, featuring solo-style exhibits; Foon Sham: Arlington Projects, 1988–2019; and By Proxy, a selection of new and recently created work. Open Wednesday–Saturday, 12–5 p.m., at 3550 Wilson Blvd.

### Arlington Joins Eviction Prevention Task Force

Arlington has joined a Northern Virginia Eviction Prevention and Community Stability Task Force, a coalition of stakeholders from the housing sector to identify "best practices to prevent evictions and stabilize households." For more information, contact Nora Daly at [noradaly@nvaha.org](mailto:noradaly@nvaha.org).

# Around the Forest

## Edison Park Playground

The new playground on North Edison Street in Greenbrier is taking shape. It will include a “DNA Tower,” a winding metal scaffold 31 feet high with a web of netting for kids to climb through.

## Sad News

Longtime Arlington Forest resident Claire Cockrell, 89, passed away peacefully on October 18. Claire is survived by husband Joe Cockrell, former AFCA President.

## Noise Levels

Itching to blow those leaves or give that overgrown lawn one final mowing for the year? Great, but remember that Arlington does not permit neighborhood noise from lawnmowers and leafblowers during nighttime hours (weekdays from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. and weekends and legal holidays from 9 p.m. to 10 a.m.). And if you see your neighbors dodging vegetation or ducking under branches in front of your house, it’s time to get out the trimmers. Arlington statutes require that too.

## COVID Impact on Community Activities

This time of year, we normally prepare for our usual fall activities, including our annual holiday party. With the coronavirus still spreading, safety dictates calling off any events that might put people at risk. Can you think of things we might do instead that are themed for the season? Send your ideas to Esther Bowring at [afcaprez@gmail.com](mailto:afcaprez@gmail.com). And thanks!

## Neighborhood Conservation Plan

Sponsored by the county, the plan is a once-in-generation opportunity for our neighborhood to take positions on issues ranging from schools, to parks, to neighborhood housing and more. You can review the draft plan on the AFCA website by clicking on Neighborhood, then going to the link. You will find email addresses for members of the writing team, who are happy to take comments and make revisions.

## “Extra Special” Halloween

COVID didn’t keep Halloween away from Arlington Forest, but it did arrive in new and imaginative ways—“so much creativity and generosity,” as one neighbor put it. People welcomed trick-or-treaters with candy chutes, tables, drop buckets, second-story slings, and more. Many neighbors sat outside around firepits to wish the costumed kids a happy Halloween. According to one 7-year-old, it was the “best Halloween ever!”

## Scarecrow Making



Ten families made Halloween strawmen on October 17 at the Arlington Forest Shopping Center (see photo). Greenbrier resident John Naland led the event for a fifth year. Thanks, John!

## Lubber Run Farmers’ Market

The Saturday market is coming to a close for the year. Despite the pandemic, the market had another successful year, running through mid-November at the Barrett Elementary School parking lot. The market managers are planning on reopening next year, so stay tuned!

## Plant a Tree in Your Yard

Help keep the “forest” in Arlington Forest! If you have lost a tree or want to add a new one, you can get financial assistance.

**AFCA Tree Grant Program:** AFCA provides up to \$125 to help cover the cost of buying and planting a canopy tree (including delivery). You can qualify for grants on up to two trees, with various native trees to choose from. To qualify, all you need is to be paid up on your 2020–21 AFCA dues. For the application form, go to [arlingtonforestva.org](http://arlingtonforestva.org) and click on the AFCA tab. Act now—grants are limited.

**Tree Canopy Fund:** Through a county program administered by EcoAction Arlington, you can get a native tree planted on your property at no cost to you. You can choose from various trees, both large and small. More information, along with the application form for the spring 2021 planting season, is at [ecoactionarlington.org/community-programs/trees/](http://ecoactionarlington.org/community-programs/trees/).

## Trash Cans Replaced

When John Naland of Northside told AFCA President Esther Bowring about missing trash cans for our neighborhood parks, she wrote to Arlington County. In response, the county replaced the trash cans in Arlington Forest Park and at the Arlington Boulevard entrance to Lubber Run Park.

## AFCA Meetings

**November 18:** Racial equity issues

**January 20:** Carlin Springs traffic issues

**February 17:** School boundaries and other schools-related issues

**March 17:** Lubber Run Park issues

**April 21:** to be determined

**May 19:** Picnic and annual meeting (tentative—if conditions allow)

## Community Calendar



The coronavirus pandemic has forced AFCA to limit the number of community events, with some down as tentative—to be held if conditions allow.

**Next AFCA meeting:** Wednesday, November 18, 7 p.m.

**Neighborhood Spring Cleanup:** Saturday, April 24

**Home and Garden Tour:** Saturday, May 1 (tentative)

**Annual AFCA Picnic:** Wednesday, May 19 (tentative)

**Annual Yard Sale:** Saturday, May 22 (tentative)

### Young Foresters Corner: Open Forum for Youth

Many if not most Arlington Foresters are under eighteen, and they have unique ideas and stories to tell about our neighborhood. Had an interesting experience? Know of a particular problem or program that you might want to share? Tell your story in 400 words or less and send it with a photo (if you have one) to Hutch Brown at [newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org](mailto:newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org). Questions? Send an email or text/call 703-855-1732.

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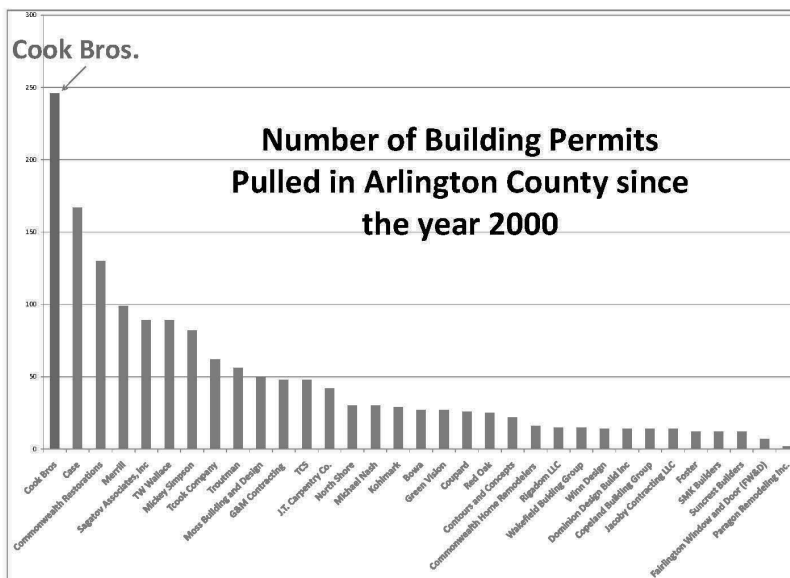
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# Barcroft School News

By Samantha Bell

As Barcroft staff and students continue with distance learning, the staff and PTA have been busy finding other ways to stay connected with the students. Halloween party packs were distributed to students in late October in preparation for class Halloween celebrations on October 30 during their scheduled virtual class meetings. Students were also encouraged to visit the school on October 30 in costume during lunch distribution and see the principals and staff in costume themselves (see the photo of the principal and assistant principal in costume).

The PTA has also been busy supporting community efforts. The Barcroft Weekend Bags program remains on Fridays, along with a new monthly mobile market that helped to serve over 250 families in need in October. The PTA is planning a winter coat drive over the next few weeks, collecting coats for distribution to Barcroft students. New or gently used kids' coats can be donated at Barcroft Elementary School from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. See the flyer for details.

Due to the pandemic, the PTA was unfortunately unable to have its Election Day bake sale this year, so it arranged for several food trucks to be at the school on Election Day. You can also support the school through Harris Teeter's VIC reward card program. By linking your card to the school (Barcroft's code is 4238), a percentage of your purchase amount will be donated to the school.

Arlington Public Schools (APS) is proposing to align the school calendar with the traditional APS elementary school year calendar beginning in fall 2021. The school board is scheduled to discuss the proposal at its November 17 meeting and to take action at its December 3 meeting.

To stay up to date on Barcroft happenings, you can follow us on Twitter and Instagram @BarcroftEagles and on Facebook at Barcroft Elementary School PTA.



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# Barrett School News

## By Will Le

The Barrett school year continues to move along, with much uncertainty on whether and when in-person hybrid learning will begin for most families. On October 5, Arlington Public Schools (APS) confirmed that they will move forward with school boundary changes affecting seven elementary schools—but not Barrett, for now. In case of future changes, the Barrett PTA will continue to engage with APS to protect the interests and diversity of our Barrett school community.

Our Friday Volunteer group began holding virtual meetings every Friday afternoon. Parents have discussed the widespread lack of internet and other technology issues affecting many neighborhoods. Parents are thankful for help received from APS, the school, friends, and other families in navigating these technological issues.

The group will begin planning the first-ever virtual Bingo Night for the month of December.


At our virtual Barrett PTA meeting on October 20 (see the photo), Margy Dunn shared her experience with virtual learning as a Barrett family with children with disabilities. Barrett Elementary opened its doors for in-person hybrid learning for Level 1 students with disabilities, a small group of students who will be accessing their distance learning curriculum from the school with the help of an assistant from Tuesday to Friday for the synchronous teaching days.

We held a successful first-ever virtual Book Fair during the first week of November with Read Early And Daily (R.E.A.D), highlighted by a special Storytime reading by Barrett Librarian Greg D'Addario. Barrett students also submitted entries for the National PTA Reflections program, allowing them to explore the arts based on this year's theme of "I Matter Because ...". Special thanks to Barrett parent Janice O'Day for leading the Barrett Reflections program this year.


The Barrett PTA will continue helping families in need through a turkey-and-produce-bag giveaway the week before Thanksgiving. In this difficult and challenging year, we still have much to be thankful for—our school, our families, and our community. I am thankful for being a part of this incredibly generous and thoughtful Barrett school community.

Have a safe and joyous Thanksgiving!



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-  Yard work
-  Snow shoveling
-  Mother's helper
-  Mail collection

Southside

Greenbrier

Northside

Name	Email	Phone										Other
Dylan Heinrich	dylanheinrich@icloud.com		✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	Odd jobs
Ethan Heinrich	ethan.heinrich27@gmail.com	703-475-8430		✓		✓*	✓	✓		✓	✓	*RC certified; Tutoring, ages 6-13
Colin Mashkuri	cjmashkuri@gmail.com	571-480-2855	✓					✓				Math tutoring
Andrew Rogers	andrewmcyt@gmail.com	703-892-0226	✓	✓					✓			
Caroline Rogers	carolinearogers@verizon.net	703-892-0226	✓	✓		✓						
Donna Corina		703-248-8885	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓					*RC certified
Atalie Dempsey	atalie.dempsey@gmail.com	571-317-9216	✓	✓		✓		✓			✓	
Evan Dempsey	Evan.cw.dempsey@gmail.com	703-559-9690	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Anna D'Itri		703-346-3467	✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	
Gabriel D'Itri		703-346-3467			✓		✓					Lawn mowing
Charlotte Lawson	CharlotteLawsonnn@gmail.com	703-933-8880	✓	✓								
Ciara McLaughlin	ciarahmclaughlin@gmail.com	703-712-9215				✓*				✓	✓	*Safe Sitter certified, references
Reid Messman		703-469-1988	✓*	✓								*References
Shea Messman		703-469-1988				✓*						*Safe Sitter certified, references
Alexandra Orli		703-528-5618		✓		✓*		✓		✓*		*References
Matthew Petrucci	tony.petrucci@gmail.com	703-629-0425			✓		✓					
Carsten Schoer	carstenschoer@gmail.com	703-209-0905			✓		✓					
Ava Smialowicz	ava.smialowicz@hotmail.com	703-424-0895		✓		✓*						*RC certified
Ben Sparks	benchispas@gmail.com		✓	✓								
Emma Weaver		703-875-8185				✓*						*Safe Sitter certified, references
Niittisha Choudhary	Niittisha@gmail.com	703-981-1229	✓			✓		✓				Tutoring
Riittisha Choudhary	riittishachoudhary@gmail.com					✓*			✓			Tutoring; *ages 4-12
Ely Constantine	cpconstantine@comcast.net	703-841-9229		✓	✓		✓					Lawn mowing
Casey Dinan	chrisbettdinan@aol.com	703-525-5763	✓		✓	✓	✓					Lawn mowing
Tyler Dinan	chrisbettdinan@aol.com	703-525-5763	✓		✓	✓	✓					Lawn mowing
Evan Eng	dcharveydc@yahoo.com	703-861-1890	✓	✓	✓		✓					
Jeremy Fagen	jeremy.fagen@gmail.com	571-645-3475	✓	✓				✓				
Evie Price		703-402-5138	✓	✓		✓*		✓		✓	✓	*Pediatric training
Sophie Stewart	sophiestewart4@gmail.com	703-713-5902	✓	✓		✓		✓				
Name	Email	Phone										Other



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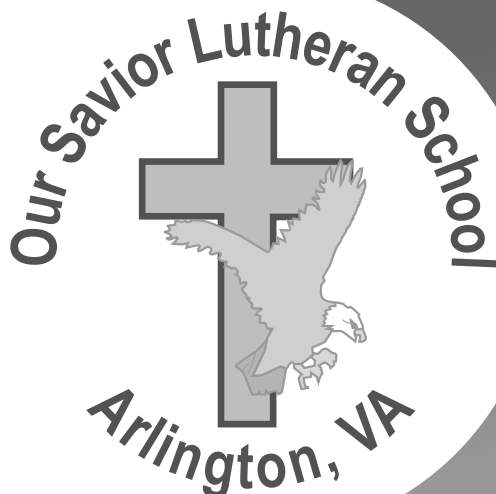
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