

# The Arlington Forester

Vol. 67, Number 1

Arlington, Virginia

September 2025

## Virtual AFCA Meeting—Real Estate Issues and Vision for the Upcoming Year

AFCA invites you to join our monthly Zoom meeting at 7 p.m. on September 17. We have invited neighborhood realtors to discuss housing market conditions in Arlington Forest and across our area. President Sal D'Itri will give an overview of the coming year, presenting ideas for neighborhood activities, such as a Winter Festival in January. He will also discuss the option of joining future AFCA meetings not only through Zoom but also in person at the Lubber Run Community Center. He will present the need for changing the monthly meeting date to the first Wednesday of each month to facilitate reporting by AFCA representatives to the Arlington County Civic Federation, and we will vote on

the proposed change. In addition, Treasurer Jeff Horwitz will present our proposed AFCA budget for 2025-26 and offer it up to meeting participants for a vote.

To join the meeting through Zoom, enter the following URL into your browser between 6:45 and 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 17: <https://tinyurl.com/4k6ycvjm>. Alternatively, you can dial in to the meeting at 301-715-8592, where you will be prompted to enter meeting number 816 5354 1733 and passcode 469609. You might also be prompted to hit the # sign one or more times. This call-in number will be active starting at 6:45 p.m.

## How Do AFCA Dues Benefit You?

Your annual AFCA dues help get this newsletter delivered to your door as a service to you and the entire neighborhood, with information on trees and parks, trails and bridges, the Lubber Run Amphitheater and Farmers Market, traffic and pedestrian safety, and more. Dues pay for our annual picnic and Santa party and for donations to our neighborhood schools. Dues support the AFCA website (at [www.arlingtonforestva.org](http://www.arlingtonforestva.org)), which contains a detailed neighborhood map, a history of Arlington Forest, back issues of this newsletter, and more. Please pay your dues promptly this year.

## AFCA MEMBERSHIP DUES ANNUAL DUES \$20 PER HOUSEHOLD

Pay online on the AFCA website through PayPal or deliver this form and your check payable to AFCA to your respective AFCA section representative:

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

*Northside:* Liz Grossman, 128 N. Columbus St. 22203

*Southside:* Julie Kirchhoff, 4828 Arlington Blvd. 22204

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

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AFCA Virtual Meeting 7 p.m. **September 17** Through Zoom

## The Team

**Editor/Advertising:** Hutch Brown  
703-855-1732, [newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org](mailto:newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org)  
Check your ad and contact Hutch for any corrections.

**Layout & Design:** Leo Horwitz  
[newsletter@leohorwitz.com](mailto:newsletter@leohorwitz.com)

**Distribution:** Allison Kennett  
[allison.kennett@gmail.com](mailto:allison.kennett@gmail.com)

Contact Allison if you do not receive a newsletter.

*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 and photos focusing on issues specific to our neighborhood. We publish monthly from September to November and January to May. The deadline for submissions is the first of the month. Email your submission of up to 400 words—preferably with a photo—to [newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org](mailto:newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org). Articles on controversial issues are welcome but do not necessarily reflect the views of AFCA and will be marked as opinion.

## 2025–2026 AFCA Officers

**President:**  
Sal D'Itri  
[afcaprez@gmail.com](mailto:afcaprez@gmail.com)

**Vice President, Southside:**  
Julie Kirchhoff  
[ssvpAFCA@gmail.com](mailto:ssvpAFCA@gmail.com)

**Vice President, Greenbrier:**  
Tom Smialowicz  
703-528-3889  
[tsmialowicz@gmail.com](mailto:tsmialowicz@gmail.com)

**Vice President, Northside:**  
Liz Grossman  
703-841-0578  
[grossman.elizabeth@icloud.com](mailto:grossman.elizabeth@icloud.com)

**Recording Secretary:**  
Char Mahoney  
571-241-9866  
[char.mahoney@verizon.net](mailto:char.mahoney@verizon.net)

**Corresponding Secretary:**  
Janet Irwin  
703-516-4574  
[jeirwin@verizon.net](mailto:jeirwin@verizon.net)

**Treasurer:**  
Jeffrey Horwitz  
703-243-2395  
[afca@ironstate.me](mailto:afca@ironstate.me)

**Arlington Neighborhoods Program:**  
Liz Kauffman  
571-327-6497  
[lizkauffman@yahoo.com](mailto:lizkauffman@yahoo.com)

**Historian:**  
Todd Burns, [trbeyond@gmail.com](mailto:trbeyond@gmail.com)

**Arlington Civic Federation Reps:**  
Eric Lotke [ericlotke2044@gmail.com](mailto:ericlotke2044@gmail.com)  
Rick Epstein [rickepstein1@verizon.net](mailto:rickepstein1@verizon.net)  
Jan Hull [jkh999@verizon.net](mailto:jkh999@verizon.net)

Michael Thomas [ThomasMD64@gmail.com](mailto:ThomasMD64@gmail.com)

Website: [www.arlingtonforestva.org](http://www.arlingtonforestva.org)  
Join the AFCA listserve by emailing your address to:  
[arlingtonforestva@gmail.com](mailto:arlingtonforestva@gmail.com)

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## AFCA May Meeting

You might remember that last spring was unusually stormy in our area. Predicted downpours on the evening of May 21 kept us from holding our annual spring picnic this year. Instead, AFCA had a brief business meeting by Zoom because our bylaws require us to hold club officer elections in May of each year.

Art Schwartz, who headed up the nominating committee, presided over the election. Reelected by acclamation were Sal D'Itri, President; Liz Grossman, Vice President for Northside; Julie Kirchhoff, Vice President for Southside; Tom Smialowicz, Vice President for Greenbrier; Char Mahoney, Recording Secretary; Janet Irwin, Corresponding Secretary; and Jeffrey Horwitz, Treasurer. In addition, Rick Epstein, Jan Hull, and Michael Thomas will join Eric Lotke as AFCA representatives to the Arlington County Citizens Federation (CivFed). Welcome to all our AFCA officers and representatives, and thanks for volunteering your time and service!

Following the election, Treasurer Jeff Horowitz reported that AFCA ended the year in a positive cash position. CivFed representatives Eric Lotke and Rick Epstein reported on a number of county board activities, including an update to the Arlington County General Land Use Plan and Arlington's announced study on the structure of the county board.



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# Lubber Run Amphitheater:

## Another Amazing Summer Music Season!

By Art Schwartz, President, Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation



If you were one of the lucky Foresters who made your way down to the Lubber Run Amphitheater this summer, you will agree that we were rewarded with another summer of wonderful musical entertainment. From early June through the beginning of August, the weekend amphitheater seats were filled, and the stage was jampacked with a variety of superb performers and performances.

The season kicked off with two consecutive weekends of the humorous and heart-warming musical “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown,” performed by the talented Arlington Players. Thereafter, on almost every Friday and Saturday evening and Sunday morning, the amphitheater hosted a range of musical groups, including rock, rhythm and blues, jazz, classical, patriotic, indie, family, world, and bluegrass—something for every musical taste! (For me, the highlights were the Beatles and Rolling Stones tribute concerts.) At every performance, the vocals and musicianship were topnotch. Despite the inevitable cancellations due to weather, most shows went off without a hitch. It was great to see so many friends, neighbors, and new faces enjoying themselves in the stands, families dancing in the “mosh pit,” and folks just lingering in back while out walking the dog (dogs are welcome!).

I would like to acknowledge the members of the Lubber Run Amphitheater Board—Ken Schellenberg, Judy Lewis, Esther Bowring, Allison Kennett, Karen Scheer, Carey Johnston, David Van Wagner, and Marsha Lederman—for all their hard work and support in making Summer 2025 another tremendous season. A word of thanks also to Arlington Cultural Affairs Deputy Director Josh Stoltzfus, a key player in delivering great programming for the amphitheater. And I especially

want to thank our guests and everyone who contributed this year to the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation, either at the Wishing Well, through a planned giving program, or by making an online gift to the Foundation at [lraf.betterworld.org](http://lraf.betterworld.org). Gifts are tax-deductible as charitable contributions and are the sole source of the Foundation’s revenue. Your financial support is greatly appreciated and vital to the future of the amphitheater.

The Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation, a 501(c) (3) organization, ensures that the amphitheater remains the premier outdoor music venue in Arlington. The foundation recently achieved Gold-level transparency status through Candid, a nonprofit organization that ensures donors that nonprofits like the foundation maintain proper safeguards and are fully aligned with their priorities. Accordingly, the foundation used your generous contributions this past season to support music and arts at the amphitheater, including “You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown,” the opening-night ice cream treat kickoff, and the printing and distribution of the ever-popular guitar fans we gave all guests at each performance. At every evening performance, foundation volunteers welcome guests, answer questions, and assist Arlington County staff. Volunteers also support the foundation through artwork, carpentry, legal, marketing, and promotion services. All foundation operations are solely performed by volunteers; the foundation has no paid staff. If you are interested in contributing to the Lubber Run Amphitheater, the QR code on this page will take you to the foundation’s fundraising site.

The world is better with music! I look forward to seeing each of you at the 2026 Lubber Run Amphitheater Summer Season!

# Growing, Growing, Growing, Flown ...

By Liz Vance

There is this lovely moment where we are in between two important events: the last day of summer and the first day of school. For some, it's the first day of a NEW school! Kindergarten, middle school, high school. And for the kids who graduated from high school in the spring, the possibilities are endless! College, a new career, maybe a gap year! But whatever it is, it's a big deal for everyone. It's a moment to celebrate—to cherish. Or at the very least, to take a picture. So we do!

On Sunday, August 24, we welcomed the Class of 2038 as they started kindergarten, and the Classes of 2032 and 2029 as they headed off to 6th and 9th grade. The class of 2025 had other places to be, like they do every year, so we did their picture early (last spring!).

Mark your calendars for the 2026 dates! Class of 2026 Seniors (rising grade 13!)-Sunday, May 3, 2026, 6 p.m. Rising K, 6, 9—Sunday, August 30, 2026, 6 p.m.



Class of 2025



Class of 2029



Class of 2032



Class of 2038



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# Options for Replacing Trees in Your Yard

By Hutch Brown

Trees make our yards and neighborhood more livable and enjoyable, in part by supporting habitat for native birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. Trees also save energy through cooling, and they take up rain, reducing stormwater runoff; planting a tree can offset some of your annual stormwater utility bill. Arlington County's goal is 40% tree canopy cover, and we're getting there: the county's latest tree canopy study showed improvement from 31.7% in 2014 to 35.2% in 2023, with Arlington Forest's trees up by 1-3% (see Arlington County Tree Canopy online). But urban environments stress trees, and some of the mature trees in our neighborhood have been dying due to oak decline and invasive species like emerald ash borer. If you want to replace a tree or plant a new one, you can buy one at a nursery, paying hundreds of dollars to have it delivered and planted—or you might get one for free.

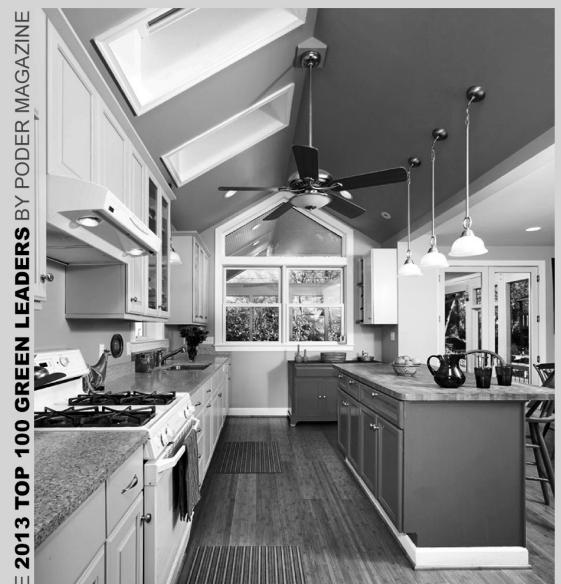
One option is the Arlington Tree Distribution Program: Arlington County is giving away 500 young native trees again this fall. The trees, 2-6 ft tall, come in 2-gal containers. Online registration for a free tree began on September 2 at <https://tinyurl.com/3z6jzhhr>, with the lucky recipients picking up their trees in mid-October. Note: The best times for tree planting are spring and especially fall, allowing your tree to settle in before enduring the stress of summer heat and drought.

Another option is the county's Tree Planting Program, administered by EcoAction Arlington, which will plant a native tree on your property at no cost to you. Established in 2007, the program has successfully planted more than 3,800 trees in Arlington. The application deadline for fall planting has passed, but you can apply for spring planting sometime this winter, so keep checking the program online at <https://tinyurl.com/4xfxehbz>.

A third option is the Small Trees Make Big Canopies program, launched in 2020 by the Extension Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia. Each year, the program gives away hundreds of small native trees to help expand the region's tree canopy. To get a free tree, fill out a Tree Request Form on the program's website at <https://tinyurl.com/yemp4688>, where you can also find tips on tree siting and planting, tree care, and the expected size of your tree when fully grown. Saplings in the program are donated by neighbors from "volunteer" tree seedlings sprouting in their yards. If you have saplings (anywhere from 6 inches to 3 ft tall) you want to donate, you can fill out the online I Have Saplings! Form at <https://tinyurl.com/yemp4688> and the program will work with you to harvest your trees. Check out the program online!



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# Forester Chronicles: The “Ball” in Ballston—Who Was Frank Livingston Ball?

## By Todd Burns, AFCA Historian

Born in 1885, Frank L. Ball was a native Virginian whose life spanned a time of immense transformation for Arlington. Originally a skilled carpenter, Ball transitioned into real estate and public service in the early 20th century, just as northern Virginia was beginning its suburban expansion. His foresight and influence played a central role in the development of residential neighborhoods, including Arlington Forest.

Ball recognized the need for thoughtfully planned, livable communities for the growing number of Washington metropolitan area workers settling in northern Virginia. He became an early advocate for balanced development that included green space, accessible roads, and high-quality housing—principles that remain core to Arlington Forest’s character today.

Although Ball himself was not the developer of Arlington Forest (that credit largely goes to Meadowbrook Construction starting in the 1930s), our neighborhood might not exist in its current form if not for his groundwork in state and county infrastructure. As a Virginia state senator from 1935 to 1955, Ball championed investments in roads, utilities, and education—improvements that made communities like Arlington Forest viable and desirable places to live. Ball



also played a key role in the Arlington County Civic Federation, an organization that still fosters neighborhood advocacy and community input. His belief in civic engagement laid the foundation for the tight-knit and active spirit that Foresters have to this day.

Ball’s legacy lives on in more than just public policy. The former Frank L. Ball School, once located just a few miles from Arlington Forest, served area families for decades. Although the original building no longer stands, the Ball name is still visible in Ballston, the nearby neighborhood that continues to thrive thanks to infrastructure and planning foundations that Ball helped establish. In many ways, Arlington Forest is a product of the environment that Frank Ball helped cultivate: a thoughtfully designed neighborhood with access to parks, schools, and public transportation. His influence is not always visible, but it is deeply embedded in the quality of life we enjoy here.

As we take a walk through Lubber Run Park, attend a community meeting, or greet neighbors on a shady front porch, we are benefiting from the groundwork laid by civic leaders like Frank Livingston Ball. His commitment to public service and smart growth helped create the conditions that made Arlington Forest—and Arlington as a whole—a place so many are proud to call home.

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# Remembering the Babysitting Co-op

By John Naland

**Editor's note:** Some neighbors have expressed interest in forming a babysitting co-op. Our neighborhood had one for more than half a century, as described by this article from the April 2020 newsletter.

The Arlington Forest Babysitting Co-operative was an institution in our neighborhood for over a half-century, from the 1960s to the 2010s. Before all memory of it fades, I wanted to write this brief remembrance. Hopefully, when AFCA's 75th-anniversary history book is written, the editor will include this.

The Babysitting Co-op was founded in 1961 by six families. That was an era when most families consisted of a working dad and a stay-at-home mom. Parents generally had more free time than disposable income. With the baby boom underway, many families had young kids. So the idea arose to coordinate families to provide free childcare. As a 2007 description of the coop explained, "The babysitting co-op is a safe, comfortable and convenient way to arrange childcare, both during the day and at night. The parents in the co-op earn hours by babysitting and then trade those hours to receive babysitting. Careful records are kept, no money changes hands, and members are confident that their children are cared for by experienced parents right in the neighborhood."

From 2000 to 2010, when my family was in the coop, membership varied from 16 to 23 families. The co-op

was well organized, with a constitution, president, and vice president. Members were asked to attend an annual meeting, which allowed parents from across Arlington Forest to get to know each other so they could be comfortable entrusting their kids to people who were not their immediate neighbors. New members had to be sponsored by a current member who knew them.

Requests for babysitting were distributed via postings on the co-op's Yahoo Group. The vice president tracked hours and distributed tallies showing which families had negative balances and thus needed to accept more babysitting requests. The co-op had several annual group events. Examples during my family's membership included a Valentines Tea Party at Carlin Hall and a picnic at the gazebo and playground near the Lubber Run Community Center.

This neighborhood institution disbanded in 2013 after membership dropped. My assumption is that busy modern lives left parents (who often both worked) with no time to babysit other families' kids. Instead, more disposable income allowed them to pay a nanny or neighborhood teenager. The Kids for Hire listing that I added to *The Arlington Forester* in 2011, when I was editor, might have facilitated the switch to teenage babysitters.



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# Turnaround Day 2025—Recap/Proposed New Dates

By Liz Vance

So ... it was a little warm. And it rained. Again. But we are scrappy, we Foresters. We're not about to let a little water get in the way of a good time! Turnaround Day 2025 was a hit!

My surprise treasure was a bunch ("bunch" doesn't even begin to describe the quantity) of CDs and DVDs. And an original Walkman! Whooohoo! I'm a retro kinda gal, I love this stuff. And I was tickled to see how many people stopped to look at a trophy with a horse on it. Not gonna lie—I wanted it too. I just had NO idea what I would do with it. So, like many others, I picked it up, pondered, and placed it back. My National Velvet dreams can wait.

Maybe it will be there next year!

When we started Turnaround Day, we did it midsummer. I moved it earlier, thinking that would help with the weather. BAHAHAHAHAA! So back to summer it goes. The reason we have it in summer is to help the kids who have to outfit an entire new home, usually



with hand-me-downs. They generally leave in August, so let's go back to the weekend after July 4. For 2026, that is Saturday, July 11.

Several people have brought up the idea of doing it twice a year. I LOVE THAT IDEA! Taking into consideration all the suggestions, I propose the first Saturday *after Halloween weekend* in November. It's before things start to get crazy with the fall/winter holiday events, and (I can't believe I'm tempting The Fates by saying this) the weather is usually lovely. I'm sorry. It's going to snow.

Let's start this year—if you're up for it! I know I still have things I wanted to put out but didn't quite get around

to it. And if you need a theme—this is an excellent time to divest yourself of all those gifts you received last year that you never opened. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle? REGIFT!

Mark your calendar!

2025 Turnaround Day: November 8

2026 Turnaround Days: July 11, November 7

The best piece of advice for sellers today? Remember this phrase: **If the asking price isn't compelling, it's not selling.** Unfortunately, the number of sellers who are having to reduce their price is on the rise. Many aren't factoring in current market conditions. In today's market, buyers have more options, and they're skipping overpriced homes without a second thought. So, let's work together. With my help, we can collaborate and set a price on your home to pull people in, not push them away.



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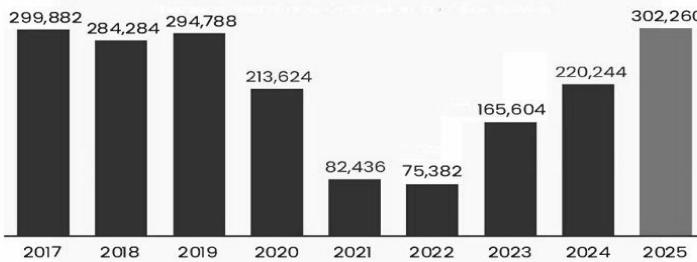
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## The Number of Price Cuts Is Back at More Normal Levels

Listings with Price Cuts, March of Each Year



# PTSA Update— Kenmore Middle School

By Samantha Bell

Kenmore held an open house on August 21 for students and families to visit the school and meet their teachers. The teachers and staff welcomed over 1,000 enrolled students to the first day of school on August 25. Upcoming events include a Restaurant Fundraiser at Lebanese Taverna (5900 Washington Blvd.) on Wednesday, September 24, from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Family Movie Night on Wednesday, October 1, at 7 p.m. The PTSA is planning several other Restuarant Fundraisers for the 2025-26 school year. See our flyer with dates, locations, and QR codes.

You can also support the Kenmore PTSA by linking your Harris Teeter card at [www.harristeeter.com/together-in-education](http://www.harristeeter.com/together-in-education). The Harris Teeter Kenmore code is 3954. You need to relink every year.

Follow Kenmore Middle School on BlueSky (<https://bsky.app/profile/kenmore.apsva.us>) or on the PTSA page on the Kenmore website at <https://kenmore.apsva.us/pta/>. You can contact [kenmoreptapresident@gmail.com](mailto:kenmoreptapresident@gmail.com) if you would like to support the PTSA or have any questions. Volunteers are always needed. Donations to the PTSA are always appreciated at <https://kenmorepta.memberhub.com/store>.

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\*November/December/May excluded due to school breaks.

- Jeni's on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of June

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# Opinion: Arlington Skips Community Engagement in Public Land Sale in Our Backyard

By David Gerk

Arlington residents have been left in the dark as Arlington County blazes ahead with plans to sell or lease 5.8 acres of public land at 601 S. Carlin Springs Rd. near Glencarlyn (the arrow on the map shows where). On January 17, 2023, the county manager signed a letter of intent (LOI) to convey the land to Virginia Hospital Center (VHC)—land that was previously purposed for public use when it was acquired in a land swap. Virginia law (and good public policy) requires meaningful public hearings before localities sell or lease their property (see Code of Virginia, §15.2–1800). But no community-wide engagement has occurred regarding use or sale of this public land.

Under the terms of the LOI, VHC plans to construct an inpatient and outpatient mental/behavioral-health and substance abuse facility between Kenmore Middle School, Campbell Elementary School, and Carlin Springs Elementary School. The county will pay half the cost of building an underground parking garage with up to 500 spots. Underground parking in our region costs \$120,000+ per spot, so the deal could amount to a **\$30-million-dollar taxpayer windfall for VHC**, among other county concessions to VHC and its partners.

According to an August 13 *Washington Business Journal* article, VHC has now partnered with “for profit” provider Lifepoint Health Inc., with the project ballooning in size, scope, and height—and in costs from \$80 to a \$160 million—to build a one- to two-story, 146-bed, 134,250-ft<sup>2</sup> facility with multiple ingresses/egress and little green space on busy Carlin Springs Rd. The county is likely to pursue a 75-99 year lease rather than a sale, locking up scarce public land for up to a century or more.

Community members, including the Arlingtonians for Responsible Land Use (ARLU, online at [arlingtonlanduse@gmail.com](mailto:arlingtonlanduse@gmail.com)), have asked the county to pause its negotiations with VHC and instead consult the community on the best use of the site—a good-governance step that seems to have been skipped. The community has many other priorities and needs for scarce



public land, yet PTAs and school administrators in the area report that they have not been consulted. Few in the county are even aware that such a facility is being planned on this site, with negotiations already underway.

We all recognize the need for more behavioral-health resources in Arlington, but the community should have a voice in the use of its own public lands. Are there better uses for public land adjacent to the Long Branch Nature Center and several schools? Could a mental/behavioral-health and substance abuse center be placed in a better location, perhaps repurposing vacant commercial or other space while better using scarce public lands in Arlington?

Nevertheless, according to the Arlington County Board Chair, the county is not interested in a community-wide engagement on this issue: the board simply plans to proceed. As a resident and taxpayer, I believe that Arlington, with all its resources and talent, has the capacity for prudent public policy and governance. Anything less is unacceptable.



Proposed new health facility.

# Opinion: There is No “Away” When You Throw It Away

By an Arlington Forest resident

When you throw trash away, there is no “away”—it only goes someplace else. Ideally, that “away” is in a controlled place like a landfill or recycling center. Unfortunately for those of us who enjoy a quiet walk along Lubber Run, “away” often means in the streambed.

Last spring, I made my newest hobby going down to the creek to pick up litter that’s washed down into it. I’d spend an hour or so along a short stretch of stream picking up trash, finishing once my garbage bag was full—often after only a hundred yards or so. Plastic bags (so many!), food containers, water bottles, soda and beer cans, snack bags and candy wrappers, plastic cups and lids, doggy bags both empty and full (c’mom dog walkers, you can do better), discarded clothing, masks, gloves, yellow caution tape and construction debris, vapes and cell phones, toys, balls, and Nerf gun darts—and plastic, plastic, plastic!

The most surprising thing I found was styrofoam. There is literally a ton of it on and along the streambed: considering the weight of foam, that’s saying a lot. Most of it is foam from food and product packaging



and construction. The fact that it’s so light means that it rides on top of whatever flow brings it downstream, and it ends up in the rocks. Cigarette butts were another overwhelmingly common item. There were simply too many to pick up! If you are a smoker and think tossing your butt out of the car window is okay because it’s small and no one will notice—please, please, think again! Butts are not biodegradable.

On occasion, kids saw me and wanted to help, either pointing out trash or picking it up. Many adults thanked me too. And I encountered lots of animals that hopefully appreciated what I was doing—fish, frogs and tadpoles, crayfish, birds, and snakes (both nonvenomous and venomous—I surprised a copperhead one morning!).

Of course, I did this to give back to this community and to Mother Earth. It felt like the least I could do in this fraught time. I’m not writing for an attaboy or a pat on the back. I’d just like everyone to think a little bit harder about how you handle and discard your trash. There is no throwing it “away.”

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## Stream Cleanup



Forester Tyler Sparks sent out an email last spring thanking folks for joining in a stream cleanup in Lubber Run and Glencarlyn Parks on Saturday, May 17. “We had a great turnout,” he wrote, “around 30 people, including lots of kids, and cleaned up a bunch of trash and other random items from the creek.” Another stream cleanup was planned for September.

## Lubber Run Solar Panel Installation

In mid-June, Arlington County began installing rooftop solar panels at the Lubber Run Community Center. The new rooftop solar photovoltaic system has a modeled capacity of 227 kWdc and is expected to generate about 279,000 kWh annually, covering about 65% of the center’s electricity needs. That’s the equivalent of electricity usage for 26 average homes. Over the 25-year life of the system, the county expects to save about \$200,000 on its electricity bill.

## Arlington County Cuts ICE Ties

On May 13, the Arlington County Board voted to prevent the Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) from reporting Arlington residents who are undocumented immigrants to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) unless directed to do so by federal law (such as under a federal warrant). The purpose was to keep the ACPD focused on fighting theft, assault, and other crimes and to sustain community trust in the police so that Arlingtonians keep reporting crimes. The county’s move followed an uptick of ACPD contacts with ICE, possibly due to an executive order by Governor Glenn Youngkin in February directing police departments to help ICE. The full story is online at Arlington County Cuts ICE Ties.

## High Marks for Parks— but Competition Is Growing

In 2025, for the first time since 2017, Arlington County’s parks failed to rank among the top 5 of the nation’s 100 largest urban areas in the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) ParkScore index. Arlington fell from #5 to #7, between San Francisco and Seattle. Washington, DC, again ranked #1. The rankings were based on five factors; Arlington again lost points for acreage and equity (distribution of parks by race and income) but got top marks for access, investment, and amenities (such as playgrounds). Arlington invests \$301 per resident on parks, compared to a nationwide city average of \$133 per resident. Arlington’s fall in the rankings had to do with rising investments in other cities, such as Cincinnati and San Francisco. Still, TPL’s vice president for the Southeast region lauded Arlington’s consistently high ratings: “Arlington’s park excellence continues to shine through.”

## Car Caught in Lubber Run Flood



On the evening of July 26, a thunderstorm brought flash flooding to Lubber Run Park. An SUV with five people inside was swept into the stream while trying to cross the flooded concrete ford below the Lubber Run Amphitheater. Arlington County emergency responders rescued everyone inside the car without injuries. They then sent out a notification reminding people not to try to cross flooded streams. Only authorized vehicles are allowed to drive in the park, and a neighbor contacted the Arlington County Board asking for better enforcement.

## Forester Performs at Community Center



Last summer, Ken Schellenberg of Greenbrier, a talented pianist known to many fellow Foresters, gave live performances at the Lubber Run Community Center. Ken entertained his audiences with a game called “Name That Tune”—playing memorable old melodies and challenging folks to name them.

### Community Calendar

**Next AFCA meeting:** Wednesday, September 17, 7 p.m.

**Lubber Run Farmers' Market:** Saturday mornings at the Barrett Elementary School parking lot.

**Turnaround Day:** November 8

**Election:** November 4 (you can register to vote, check your status, or apply to vote by mail at <https://bit.ly/VoteArlington>). On the ballot will be candidates for governor, lieutenant governor, state house, county board, and school board.

**Santa Party:** A Friday in December at the Lubber Run Community Center (tentative)

**Annual AFCA Picnic:** Wednesday, May 6, 2026

**Annual Yard Sale:** A Saturday in May 2026

**Turnaround Day:** July 11, 2026

### AFCA Meetings\*

**September 17, 2025:** Real estate trends in Arlington

**October 1, 2025:** Arlington Forest as a bikeable community

**November 5, 2025:** Aging in place in Arlington

**January 7, 2026:** *To be determined*

**February 4, 2026:** Spring gardening with native plants

**March 4, 2026:** Pest control issues (rats, wasps, mosquitoes, etc.)

**April 1, 2026:** Lubber Run Park issues

**May 6, 2026:** Neighborhood picnic

*\*Meeting dates beginning with October are on the first Wednesday of the month.*

### Managing Arlington Forest Park



In July, a neighbor wondered why three small trees (tupelos) were killed by girdling (cutting away a ring of bark) in the 1-acre park next to the shopping center. Alonso Abugattas, Arlington County's natural resources manager, explained that the county is managing the park to sustain an ecosystem called "dry gravel cap-xeric oak/poverty oatgrass glade" (a remnant prairie with scattered trees). Cutting trees in some places maintains the ecosystem by giving sun-loving plants enough light to grow. Girdling trees rather than cutting them leaves habitat for insects and their avian predators. Managers mow after poverty oatgrass has seeded to help control aggressive nonprairie plants. Historically, frequent low-severity wildland fires did all this, sustaining the ecosystem naturally.

### Latest Deer Survey



Last March, the Arlington Department of Parks and Recreation conducted its second deer population aerial drone survey. The 2025 survey showed that Arlington's deer population declined by 23% from 2021 but was still about three to six times the levels recommended by wildlife experts for forest health and regeneration. Most deer were in the Potomac River and Four Mile Run greenway corridors, including Lubber Run and Glencarlyn Parks. The decline from 2021 could be due to deer mortality/emigration or to better technology used in 2025. If deer overpopulation is confirmed by field surveys, then the Arlington Deer Management Program will use professional sharpshooters to reduce the number of deer beginning in winter 2026.

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Name	Email	Phone									Other
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William Cordon		301-509-7915	✓	✓				✓		✓	Yard help
Ady Lombardi		703-395-2063	✓	✓				✓	✓		
Elsie Lombardi	eflombardi13@gmail.com	703-732-9316		✓		✓*			✓		
Sol Mashkuri		571-643-5883	✓	✓							
Caleb Saunders	caleb_saunders@icloud.com	202-330-1987	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	Tutoring
Sabrina Saunders	sabrina_saunders@icloud.com	202-531-2247	✓	✓		✓*		✓	✓	✓	Tutoring
Brooks Everitt	Ang.everitt12@Gmail.com	571-244-7691	✓	✓				✓		✓	
Henry Hawks		202-744-5334	✓					✓		✓	
Alexis Kent	alexisvkent@gmail.com	703-899-5395					✓				
Gavin Kraft	kenneth.d.kraft@gmail.com	314-775-7008	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Nora Kraft	kenneth.d.kraft@gmail.com	314-775-7008	✓	✓					✓	✓	
Avery McGrann	snooz_ette@yahoo.com	571-225-2484	✓	✓		✓*			✓	✓	
Sierra McGrann	snooz_ette@yahoo.com	703-489-7170	✓	✓					✓		
Caulder Pickard	katiepickard@gmail.com	571-244-6870	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
James Smialowicz	james.smialowicz@gmail.com	703-244-6564	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
Georgia Souryal		703-868-4751	✓	✓							
Ben Tahu	Ben.apple.sub@gmail.com	571-289-6272		✓						✓	
Thomas Walsh	tvswalsh22@gmail.com	202-236-4953	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Niittisha Choudhary	Niittisha@gmail.com	703-981-1229	✓			✓		✓			Tutoring
Evie Price		703-402-5138	✓	✓		✓*		✓	✓	✓	
Leilani Wright		207-650-5741	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Tutoring
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