



Lyon Park Citizen

November 2020

Lyon Park's listserv, located on NextDoor, is a secure, private social network and an easy way for neighbors to connect and share information. It's free.

Lyon Park neighbors use this app and/or website to:

- Find a plasterer
- Comment on raking vs. blowing
- Locate a lost pet
- Chat about local restaurants that have made you happy!

Join here:

www.nextdoor.com/join

Code: SBCFNC

November Meeting

November 11, 2020

<https://zoom.us/join>
Meeting ID: 820 9375 5726
Passcode: volunteer

Log in at 7 PM to make sure your system works, and engage in some small talk. The meeting agenda items start promptly at 7:30 PM.

President's Message

As Thanksgiving nears, people begin reflecting on the things for which they are grateful. Ever since moving to Lyon Park four years ago, living here has been near the top on my list, and it is again this year. While the coronavirus pandemic forced organizers to pull the plug on a number of annual events that make our community so enjoyable and vibrant, it has also underscored what truly makes Lyon Park a special place to live—its caring, compassionate residents.

Many Lyon Park residents have been providing assistance and support to those in need in these trying times, not just in our community, but also across the county and beyond. (Please note, the portico at the Lyon Park Community House is still a drop-off point for the Arlington Food Assistance Center food drive.) Others have worked hard to help us maintain our sense of normalcy by organizing sidewalk chalk drawing contests, pie eating contests, and other activities.

Perhaps the clearest demonstration of deep caring and strong sense of community is the fact that the overwhelming majority of residents I encounter daily adhere strictly to health experts' recommendations for stemming the pandemic. They wear masks and maintain proper social distancing, whether they are just walking the streets, chatting with neighbors, or out supporting local businesses. Of course, there are still some outliers, but far fewer than there were months ago.

I am confident Lyon Park residents will continue to heed the advice of experts even though this Thanksgiving it will mean avoiding large family gatherings and limiting travel. We need to do so if we want to stay healthy, safe, and strong.

Peter Zirnite, LPCA President

P.S. The next Lyon Park Citizens Association meeting (virtual of course) is Wednesday, November 11.

Please pay your
LPCA dues!
The form is on page 14.

Classified Ads

GET SOMEONE'S ATTENTION! The *Citizen* is hand delivered to 1,900 households every issue.

TEEN SERVICES

Interested in including your free teen ad? Visit www.lyonpark.org/library to share your information!

- **Abby Kant**, 15, babysitter, dog walker/sitter, odd jobs, plant sitter. **Text:** (703) 626-4531
- **Max Kiriakou**, 15, yard work, shoveling, lawn mowing, trimming, yard work. I have my own equipment! **Phone/Text:** (571) 244-8982
- **Kate Kiriakou**, 14, Babysitter, mother's helper, odd jobs, plant sitter. Red Cross certified. **Phone/Text:** (703) 587-9277
- **Delaney Loughney**, 13, Babysitter, odd jobs, plant sitter, dog walker, pet sitting.. **Text:** (571) 458-0512
- **Finn Loughney**, 16, Odd jobs, dog walker, plant sitter, shoveling. **Text:** (571) 289-4823
Email: finnloughney@gmail.com
- **Mae Seward**, 13, babysitter, mother's helper. Red Cross certified. Available Fridays after 3 PM and Saturdays and Sundays after 12 PM. Phone/text (703) 473-3378.
- **Sylvia Goldener**, 13, babysitter, mother's helper, plant sitter, odd jobs. Text/Email: (703) 401-7234 sylviagoldener@icloud.com, Red Cross certified
- **Ella Bomberger**, 15, babysitter, mother's helper, dog walker, plant sitter. Text: (571) 775-9205. Red Cross babysitting certification
- **Morgan Thomas**, 12, experienced dog walker, plant sitter. Text: (240) 810-4834.

Thank you, Joe!

Recently, the door fell off Lyon Park's Children's Little Library located next to the playground. We called our repair man and left the detached door leaning under the library. Sadly, by the time he arrived the door had disappeared. After looking everywhere and asking twice on the listserv if anyone knew its whereabouts, the door remained missing.



This library has been popular with kids, and as you can see, it's well stocked.

With the recent and continuing rain, something had to be done! It needed a door.

Enter good neighbor Joe Englehardt, who crafted a new, sturdy door.

Thank you JOE!

The Lyon Park Citizens Association
P.O. Box 100191, Arlington, VA 22201

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Nothing to See Here...

(But we hope you don't move along)

Longtime newsletter fans may be accustomed to opening the newsletter to page 3 every month to see what's happening at the Lyon Park Community Center (LPCC) in the near future. In an ordinary year, this page would announce the Annual not-just-a-Craft Fair on the weekend before Thanksgiving and the Children's Holiday Party in December.

Not happening.

Community events serve two purposes. The first—and most important—is to build community and have fun. Current safety measures have curtailed our ability to hold events safely, so we've canceled them.

The second is to support and maintain the LPCC. A cadre of dedicated volunteers run community events that generate a significant amount of income for the LPCC. Consider this: canceling the Chili Dinner, a cupcake sale, the Spring Fair, a Food Truck event, the Bonfire, and the not-just-a-craft Fair reduced our income since March by \$8,000 estimating conservatively.

In addition, our rentals are understandably down. LPCC's cash balance dipped to \$15,000 at yearend on June 30, 2020, due to COVID related rental cancellations.

Finally, we have seen more wear and tear in the park as neighbors seek an outside oasis to play, visit, and exercise. Sadly, we have also seen an increase in vandalism.

Much like homeowners have expenses even if they lose their employment, LPCC still incurs operating expense, although they are somewhat reduced.

Many of you are supporting a number of worthy and important causes. We commend you for your willingness to help those in need. Please continue!

If you have used or enjoyed the park and Community House, and you are able to help support our community treasure, please consider a tax deductible donation.

Donating is easy. You can set up a recurring payment or donate a lump sum online at <http://lyonpark.info/donate/> by Paypal or credit card. Prefer to send a check? Mail your donation to Lyon Park Community Center, P.O. Box 100191, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

Thank you!

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More Tips for Reducing Your Carbon Footprint

Elaine Simmons

Below are ideas that help the environment for the sake of our kids, grandkids, and everyone else. Some of these ideas also save money in the long run.

Drive less and bike more, including for errands. Your bike, outfitted with a rear rack and two panniers (a pair of packs or baskets hung over the rear wheel), can carry A LOT of groceries. Shopping this way burns calories and avoids competing for a parking space. Get panniers that will hold a large paper grocery bag so you can place the bag right in them.

Trade in that gas guzzling car for a high MPG vehicle. Virtually all major car manufacturers make hybrids, plug-in hybrids, and/or electric vehicles (EVs) that get well over 40 miles per gallon or don't burn gasoline at all. Choices include luxury and economy sedans and SUVs. The selection of plug-ins and EVs should expand with the new 2021 vehicles.

Lower your thermostat this winter. Instead of heating your house so you can walk around in shorts and a T-shirt all winter, turn your thermostat down and dress warmly. Fleece tops and pants and down vests are super comfy. At night, we turn our thermostat down to 60 degrees. *Yes, 60 degrees!* We stay toasty warm with high quality flannel sheets and down comforters. I prefer the German or Portuguese-made flannel sheets at Garnet Hill; The Company Store and LL Bean also carry flannel bedding. If you don't wish to wake up to a cold room, install a programmable thermostat in your bedroom. Even in our drafty, 100-year-old house, our radiant heat utility heating bills are low and it's nice to have that money for something else!

Use your dryer less. Do like the Europeans and hang clothes on a rack to dry—indoors or out. Sheets, exercise-wear, T-shirts, and underwear dry very well on a rack. Rack drying saves energy and wear and tear from dryer use. I love my SONGMICS stainless steel clothes drying rack because it is sturdy but lightweight and holds a lot.

Turns your lights off in rooms not in use. Do you really need to have your entire house lit up like a Christmas tree every night? Turn the lights off when you leave a room and teach your kids to do so as well. Use energy saving features on computers, etc. where possible.

Civil Rights Icon from Arlington

Elaine Simmons

It took a visit to the Civil Rights Museum in Greensboro, NC to learn about a hometown hero. Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, a civil rights activist and a Freedom Rider, attended Nottingham Elementary and spent much of her adult life in the Barcraft neighborhood.

Joan Trumpauer's mother was a segregationist from Georgia who sent Joan to Duke University, which, in 1960, was segregated and seeped in southern culture. But early on Joan rebelled against white supremacy. She joined the lunch counter sit-ins in 1961 (first started in 1960 in the Greensboro Woolworth by four Black men from North Carolina A&T University) and then dropped out of Duke after being pressured to stop her activism. She was the first white woman to enroll at Tougaloo College, a historically black college in Mississippi, graduating in 1964.

Joan returned to this area and worked with activists like Stokely Carmichael on the Freedom Rides, in which Black and white activists traveled together to challenge the segregated buses and bus stations of the South. She also participated in the 1965 Selma to Montgomery march.

To end segregation in Arlington, Joan joined Howard University students in trying to integrate the lunch counter of the Drug Fair drugstore in Cherrydale, at Peoples Drug at the corner of Lee Highway and Old Dominion Drive, and at a Woolworth's in Shirlington.

Joan and her fellow protestors faced violent white mobs and incarceration for their peaceful efforts to end systemic racism. An iconic photograph shows enraged whites reacting to Joan and other protestors (including one of Joan's professors from Tougaloo) while the protestors sat calmly at a lunch counter. According to one account, the protestors were "doused in food, cut with broken glass, hit with brass knuckles, and burned with cigarettes. The police stood by while men were kicked and punched, and women were yanked from the counter by their hair."

In connection with the Freedom Riders, Joan and others were arrested and incarcerated for two months in cells previously occupied by Death Row inmates at the notorious Parchman Farm at the Mississippi State Penitentiary. In Arlington, she and fellow protestors were shot at by angry mobs and were counter-picketed by local Nazis wearing swastikas. She and her fellow protestors were hunted by the Klu Klux Klan and at one point, Joan was deemed mentally ill for trying to eliminate white supremacy.

Joan eventually worked and raised five sons on Taylor Street in the Barcraft area. She has been the subject of many documentaries and articles, but perhaps this local hero deserves more recognition from the governments of Arlington County and the Commonwealth.

Advertise in The Lyon Park Citizen

The Lyon Park Citizen is hand delivered to 1,900 homes around the 10th of the month from September through June (10 issues), with artwork and copy due the 20th of the previous month. These are our advertising rates:

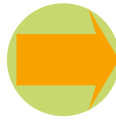
Ad size	Measures (in inches)...	Cost
Business card	3.5 by 2.3	\$85/month color \$59/month B&W
Quarter page	3.5 by 4.5	\$130/month color \$89/month B&W
Half page	7.5 by 4.5	\$210/month color \$149/month B&W
Full page	7.5 by 9.5	\$350/month color \$249/month B&W
Full page free-standing insert	8.5 by 11	\$450/month color \$400/month B&W

We offer a 5% discount for residents who have paid their LPCA dues, and an additional 10% discount for advertisers who commit to three or more months in a row. A designer will draft artwork for an extra 10% charge. Contact lyonparkeditor@gmail.com to reserve space.

Help Make Everyone's Visit to Our Park a Success

Lyon Park's lush green lawn is an oasis for friends and neighbors during warm weather. Please remember:

- If you plan to have a large party at the park, you must contact the rental agent and rent the area.
- We have limited trash receptacles. Please take large quantities of trash home with you, or bring it to the trash corral on Fillmore Street.
- Please advise your caregivers to bring dirty diapers home to your own trash receptacles, and follow this rule yourself. Trash cans heating in the sun + dirty diapers = horrible odor.
- Consider emptying overflowing trash cans and taking the bags to the trash corral. We leave extra bags at the bottom of the cans.



Wreaths Across America Day

DECEMBER 19TH

Columbia Gardens Cemetery is proud to participate in our 2nd Wreaths Across America Day! Last year, more than 100 volunteers from scouting troops, DAR, military members, veterans, neighbors and community members participated in our wreath-laying ceremony to honor veterans.

Please support Wreaths Across America Day. To sponsor the purchase of Remembrance wreaths, please order by November 30. We invite you to join us in placing wreaths at the gravesites of more than 750 veterans at Columbia Gardens Cemetery on December 19.



For details, call us at 703.527.1235 or visit columbiagardenscemetery.org
Columbia Gardens Cemetery | 3411 Arlington Blvd. | Arlington, VA 22201



ESTABLISHED 1917



Community House Rental Rates

Lyon Park and Ashton Heights residents are eligible for resident rates, but cannot sponsor non-resident events.

Monday – Thursday (8 AM–5 PM, 4 hour minimum)

<75 guests, \$50/hour resident; \$100/hour non-resident

≥75 guests, \$75/hour resident; \$100/hour non-resident

Monday – Thursday evening (6–10 PM)

<75 guests, \$200 resident; \$400 non-resident

≥75 guests, \$300 resident; \$400 non-resident

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Holidays

HALF DAY (8 AM–2:30 PM or 3:30–10 PM):

\$400 resident; \$900 non-resident

WHOLE DAY (8 AM–10 PM):

\$750 resident; \$1,600 non-resident

Children's Birthday Rates for children 10 and under, maximum 40 attendees, booked <2 months in advance:

Four consecutive hours ending before 2 PM, small kitchen use only– *Includes the time you will need to set up and clean up.*

\$200 resident; \$400 non-resident

Grounds preservation fees:

- \$30/inflatable (can only be rented from Arlington TEAM)
- \$100/floored tent, \$30/pole tent
- \$100 grounds fee for ponies and petting zoos

Use of inflatables and/or tents must be approved in advance and specified in rental contract.

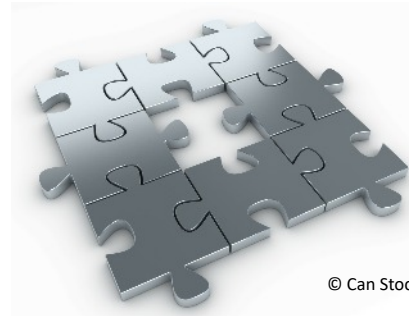
A security deposit is required for all rentals.

MAKE A RESERVATION TODAY!

Check online calendar for availability and complete the online reservation form at www.lyonpark.info



Find news and more pictures on Facebook at
<https://www.facebook.com/lyonparkcommunitycenter>



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More on “The Missing Middle”

Arlington County recently launched a Missing Middle Housing Study in an effort to expand housing options that fit between single-family detached houses and mid-to-high-rise apartment buildings. The study, which is expected to last 12 to 18 months depending on the scope that is developed, began from a blank slate with no proposed policy or zoning changes.

Drawing on extensive public engagement and in-depth data collection and analysis, a county-led team will devise recommendations for the County Board to consider. Establishing a shared definition of the term “missing middle” will be the first order of business. Commonly used examples of missing middle housing are duplexes, triplexes and townhouses. The study will, among other things, determine whether these types of housing could help address Arlington’s current housing supply shortage and where they would be compatible with existing neighborhoods.

Missing middle housing forms already exist in some Arlington neighborhoods. However, they are restricted from being built in most areas of the County by current land-use and zoning policies. In launching the study, Arlington officials pointed out that 75% of the land zoned residential in Arlington is exclusively for single-family, detached houses.

County officials stressed that expanding housing options is critical for maintaining a diverse and inclusive community, as it will appeal to a broader range of residents. These include young adults just starting their careers, empty-nesters looking to downsize, older adults who would like to age in their same community, and public servants such as teachers, police officers, and firefighters.

Recognizing the robust public participation is critical to the success of the study, the Lyon Park Citizens Association has joined as a community partner committed to raising public awareness and channeling residents’ feedback to the study team.

More information about the study can be found at:

<https://housing.arlingtonva.us/missingmiddle/>.

The link can also be used to sign up as a community partner and to receive updates as the study progresses.

Find more information about Arlington’s Missing Middle Project in the September 2020 issue of The Lyon Park Citizen on page 5 here:

<https://lyonparkcitizens.files.wordpress.com/2020/08/lpca-september-2020-for-web.pdf>

County Launches Reexamination of Plans for Clarendon

Toby McIntosh

The height and uses for new development in Clarendon are being reconsidered as part of a just-begun review of the Clarendon Sector Plan. The County website contains descriptive materials, including a short video, and a schedule for public consultations.

One major subject on the agenda is the ratio of office and commercial space to residential. Other topics include plans for a new park and the planned relocation of Fire Station 4.

"Existing and projected service demands indicate that a new station, built to modern standards, would need to be located within a few blocks of the current site to maintain adequate response times in all directions," according to the County description of the sector plan review.

The decisions will influence the development of a diminishing number of building sites, particularly in the area that includes the fire station, The Silver Diner, Joyce Motors and the Verizon building. Some of the development proposals for that area include elements that do not meet the policy guidance of the 2006 Clarendon Sector Plan.

Concerned about the pace of decision-making during unsettled times, the Clarendon-Courthouse Civic Association decided at an October 15 meeting to ask the County for more information.

The County has laid out a schedule, including a virtual meeting by the Long Range Planning Committee scheduled for November 19.

Find more information on the County website, by searching for "Clarendon Sector Plan Update" or go to <https://bit.ly/3oE3gBS>.

Lazy Slow Cooker Pork Chops and Sauerkraut

For each serving, you'll need:

- One pork chop
- ¼ cup sauerkraut
- ½ tablespoon brown sugar
- Dried fruit (raisins, apricots, prunes, cranberries, etc)
- ¼ cup marmalade or fruit preserves
- Spice blend to taste Harissa, fajita, chili, whatever...)

Alternate the meat topped with spice blend, the brown sugar, dried fruit, preserves, and sauerkraut (sauerkraut can be rinsed under running water for a mild flavor or used as is for more tang).

Cook on low for 3 to 4 hours. Check progress to avoid overcooking!

Serve with potatoes, pasta, rice, quinoa, etc.



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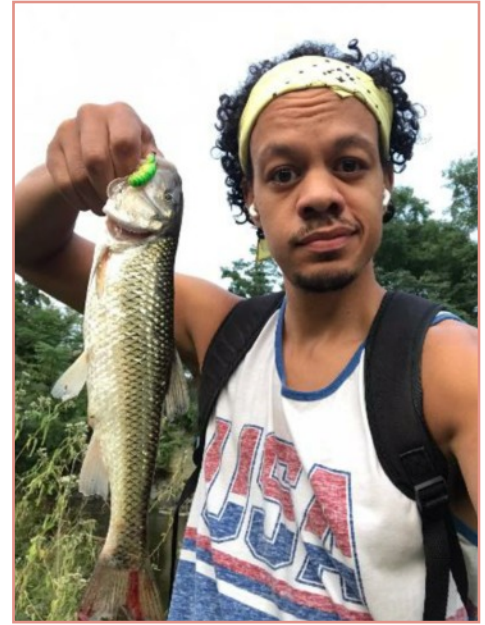
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Fishing for a Good Time?

In the continuing search for activities that can be done safely in times like these, fishing has increased markedly in the DC metro region. As the hot summer days have given way to cooler fall weather, fish have become more active creating additional potential for an exciting day of regular bites. Plenty of nearby—and fantastic—sites are great spots to try your luck at freshwater fishing. Local streams, such as Four Mile Run or Cameron Run, are plentiful in species such as sunfish, largemouth bass and fallfish. In the deeper waters of the Potomac River or Tidal Basin, one can find larger species such as striped bass, blue catfish, carp, alligator gar, and the invasive snakehead. Finally, if you feel like taking a bit of a drive, the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia Beach have some great opportunities for all kinds of fish like flounder, perch, croaker, and even shark.

Fishing is one of those activities that some people take extremely seriously. That might make it feel intimidating to someone who is new to it or hasn't done it in a long time. However, don't get discouraged if it's something you've wanted to try! It can be an easy hobby to pick up quickly while also giving you an opportunity to explore your local waterways and become acquainted with the ecosystem. Below are three guidelines that I hope will convince you to give it a shot:

1. **Go cheap to start:** Often, people believe they need to spend serious money on the best fishing gear. However, it can be done quite successfully on a shoestring budget. You can get a sufficient rod-and-reel combo and a starter kit of hooks and lures for less than \$30. Once you have that, the only other essential expense would be a license, which can be obtained online from the Department of Wildlife Resources (dwr.virginia.gov). That site also provides the state's rules and regulations.
2. **Learn the basics:** If you have even the most basic fishing experience, then the actual mechanics of operating your rod and reel should be straightforward. However, if you are a true novice, don't worry. Many simple tutorials are available online demonstrating how to assemble your rod and how to cast. You can likewise find instructions on the common knots you'll need when tying lures and hooks to your fishing line.
3. **Patience:** Once you figure out the mechanics, it's time to get out there and give it a try. You'll quickly learn the nuances of casting. Then, the next hurdle is simply learning everything you can about your local body of water. Stand on the bank and try a few casts into the stream or river before walking along and trying others. Look for deeper pools of calm water; that's where you're likely to find fish waiting for a meal. Spots under structures like bridges or near fallen logs often house larger fish that will put up a fun fight.

Remember: They call it *fishing*, not *catching*. Some days you'll pull in a dozen fish and on others, you'll leave with zero bites. It's a learning process but, if you're willing to learn through trial-and-error, you can swiftly become a competent angler and maybe even catch a rewarding and tasty meal.



HALLOWEEN 2020



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Photos: * = Cindy Stroup
! = Paul Showalter



BOO!

Halloween is always scary in Lyon Park, and this year was no exception. A range of characters descended on the park for tricks and treats on Saturday, October 31. These are just a few of the dozens of kids who popped in for the festivities.

Lyon Park thanks Paul and Sharon Showalter who are responsible for organizing the event and all the pictures on this page except the one with the kids in it (top center). That's Paul and Sharon!





Workers assembling a twisty slide at Henry Clay Park

It's Unanimous (so far)!

The Parks Commission and the Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board have both unanimously endorsed the Lyon Park Civic Association's request to rename Henry Clay park for Zitkala-Ša, a Lyon Park resident who was a musician, writer and activist for American Indians.

The County Board is expected to consider this in December.



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UPDATE YARD SALE

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Ann Felker

Have you sought insight for our current situation by looking for stories about life during the 1918 Pandemic? Not much to read, right? Let the recent CDC-compliant Ashton Heights-Lyon Park Yard Sale event be one that is chronicled for future generations when they research “what did they do during the Pandemic of 2020?”

A timid committee of three Ashton Heights residents, overshadowed with an inscrutable enemy, Covid 19, volunteered to make long range plans for a semi-communal yard sale event in October. Admittedly, driven by the need to divest of useful possessions clogging their shelves, closets, and basement floors, they presumed that others were in the same predicament. There was an unspoken longing for some sort of gathering that sanctioned human interaction even if it required hand sanitizer for an appetizer.

A total of four ZOOM meetings supported by intermittent organizational activity (Would Lyon Park want to join in the effort? What would the optimal date be? What health and safety rules should we require? Who would promote the event and on what platforms? Who will make a comprehensive map of sale location and inventory?) ultimately stimulated 38 Yard Sales within our combined boundaries, an astounding entrepreneurial density in such precarious times.

Long-time neighbors from the next street, youthful residents from condo clusters, down-sizing couples, parents whose children had outgrown their stuff, commuters following our perimeter signs or Facebook notices—all complied with mask-social distance-hand sanitizing expectations as they shopped well-spaced tables and shared the tense exuberance of relaxed conversation not seen since March.

The committee did not develop a \$ucce\$\$ survey, so there is no data about profit. We have a neighborhood stash of street signs. Virtual advertisement brought eclectic and cooperative crowds. Initial goals were accomplished. Donations to Goodwill were minimal. While starting sales at 8:00 AM made setting up in pre-dawn light a bit of a challenge, we can happily report that “A good (pandemically-safe) time was had by all.”





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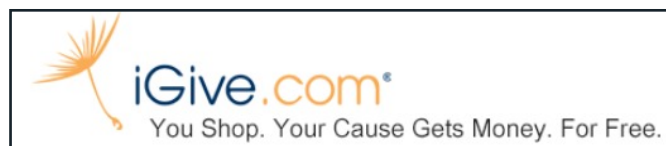


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Community Engagement Opportunities, Arlington Public Schools

At this time, all APS schools are closed until further notice. APS is working closely with the Arlington County Public Health Division to monitor coronavirus (COVID-19) developments and following the CDC's guidance to protect our school community.

Thursday, November 10 6:30 PM	School Board Work Session on Budget Status Update / Capital Improvement Plan Framework Watch School Board Work Sessions live online or on Comcast Channel 70 or Verizon Channel 41.
Thursday, November 17 7 PM	School Board Meeting: Superintendent presents School Year 2020-2021 Update, Information on 2021-22 School Calendar Watch School Board Work Sessions live online or on Comcast Channel 70 or Verizon Channel 41
Tuesday, December 1 6 PM	School Board Work Session on Special Education Update Watch School Board Work Sessions live online or on Comcast Channel 70 or Verizon Channel 41
Tuesday, December 1 8 PM	Public Hearing on Elementary School Boundaries Watch School Board Work Sessions live online or on Comcast Channel 70 or Verizon Channel 41
Thursday, December 3 7 PM	School Board Meeting: Superintendent presents School Year 2020-2021 Update. Action on Elementary School Boundaries. Action on SY 2021-22 Calendar Watch School Board Work Sessions live online or on Comcast Channel 70 or Verizon Channel 41
Tuesday, December 8 6 PM	Joint School Board/County Board Work Session Watch streaming live in HD on Arlington TV's Youtube channel or broadcast on TV on Comcast Xfinity 25 or 1085 (HD) and Verizon FiOS 39 & 40.

*View Board meetings live online or on Comcast Channel 70 or Verizon Channel 41.

** Watch Work Sessions live online at <https://www.apsva.us/school-board-meetings/school-board-work-sessions-meetings/>.
Work sessions are opened to the public but no public comments are accepted.
Visit www.apsva.us/Engage to stay up-to-date on engagement opportunities.

Please Pay Your LPCA Dues!

\$10/year, \$20/two years, \$250 for life

Please complete this form (Hint: use a return address label!) and mail it with your check to: LPCA Membership, P.O. Box 100191, Arlington, VA 22201

Name _____
Address _____
Preferred phone _____
E-mail _____
May we add you to the community listserv? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Community Volunteer Interests (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Neighborhood Conservation
- ☐ Community Center and Park
- ☐ Development issues
- ☐ Social Events (Holiday Party, Halloween)
- ☐ Homes and Gardens Tour
- ☐ Spring Fair
- ☐ Traffic issues
- ☐ Newsletter
- ☐ Trees/Conservation
- ☐ All-purpose volunteer

Song of Solomon (Toni Morrison)

Margaret Dean



Whether I liked the story or not, I was immediately captured by author Toni Morrison's comments in the Foreword about the loss of her father. "Even more than I mourned him, I suffered the loss of the person he thought I was." While I may not understand Black and I may read and review from a standpoint of white privilege I can understand loss.

From birth Mason Dead III (aka Milkman) has lost his name and some part of his identity. Morrison devotes a lot of time to explaining names, what each nickname was, and how it was chosen. Strangely enough the names do not convey pros or cons of the original owner: Pilate is a woman and does not appear to judge anyone. Hagar might be considered lost in a desert of emotions, but that feels like a bit of a stretch. Guitar is clear but does not indicate the impact he will unleash.

As long as Mason works for his father, the richest Black man in town, he is unable to find himself. Given that Mason's father earned his wealth by trading in land and properties, perhaps it is ironic that Mason's great great-grandparents were chased out of the South for the land federal authorities gave them after the Civil War. The disposed still have a sense of possession.

When the greats fled North, reputedly taking a fortune in gold, those riches were not to be found. Two generations later Mason, Jr. begins a voyage of self-discovery and a search for his roots. He is not truly attached to anyone or in any loving relationship until the end. Still he convinces Pilate (his aunt) that she needs to bury her father, which they proceed to do. Confronting Guitar as he tries to kill Milkman, "Milkman wheeled toward Guitar and it did not matter which one of them would give up his ghost in the killing arms of his brother."

Although raw emotions that are the result of discrimination are on display, in some scenes they could be true in any society or ethnic group, like Mason, Jr. observing how his mother baits her husband into a tirade. Similarly the description of the old lady could have been an ancient person from any race, nationality, or creed. While Morrison captures a sense of universal humanity, she sometimes uses her platform to expand on the idea that whites are the strange breed, in that they do not experience life.

Song of Solomon by Toni Morrison. Vintage International. 1977. NY, NY. ISBN: 978-1-4000-3342-3. Paperback. 337 pp.

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ARLINGTONVATURKEYTROT.ORG



And 13 Years Later, Whadya Know!?!?!?

Roving reporters Ellen and Melanie Bartlett recently sent spectacular news to the newsletter editor. After many years of no apparent progress on a much needed crosswalk at the intersection of 9th and Washington Blvd., someone installed one complete with a button to summon a red light!

How many years, you ask? Thirteen years. The SIDEBAR to the right is an article from around the time when the community began asking for such accommodation. Discussion started with Eileen Smith's letter to the County which we published in March 2007.

As you cross in that crosswalk, do a happy dance!



SIDEBAR: 2008 Crosswalk Update

David Goodman (the WALKArlington coordinator) and Ritch Viola (Planning Section Supervisor, Arlington DES, Transportation Division) observed the Washington Boulevard-9th Street intersection in mid-December, noting traffic and physical conditions. They agreed that locating a marked crosswalk with a median refuge area there would be helpful, especially for people who use the ART and Metrobus stops.



They concluded it would be best to improve the crossing at 9th Street with a marked crossing and an extension of the raised median for improved mid-crossing refuge. In addition, some improvements to the curb ramps will be required to bring the crossing up to Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

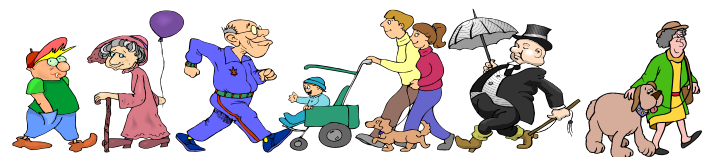


Ken Mathias chairs LPCA's Crosswalks subcommittee, and has been in touch with Mr. Goodman about crosswalks on Washington Boulevard (at 9th and at 10th Streets), and across 10th at the intersections between Washington Boulevard and Barton Street. Mr. Goodman indicates Washington Boulevard and 10th Street are multi-lane arterials that carry heavy traffic during peak hours. Pedestrian facilities along both roads do not meet Arlington's or VDOT's current preferred standards. Because both corridors need improvement, it would not necessarily be prudent to make "spot" improvements at one or two locations without analyzing all activities along both corridors and balancing all needs. The County must decide how to distribute resources, such as bus stops and crosswalks. A critical component to understanding what the pedestrian needs are is determining where pedestrians are coming from and going to at different times of the day. Though it would be more expedient to address each location as a stand alone improvement, County engineers identified too many interrelated issues to go ahead without looking at the corridors and Lyon Park's overall external pedestrian access needs. The process will take time.



The County will convene after the new year and will ask for neighborhood feedback; Ken Mathias is keeping an eye on the process. They are reviewing WALKArlington program accounts to determine if sufficient funds are available.

Many thanks to Eileen and Andy Smith. Eileen's open letter in the March issue of The Lyon Park Citizen inspired Lita Arnold, and Ann and Ken Mathias to join this crusade. Lyon Park's pedestrians appreciate their continuing efforts!



January 2008

The Lyon Park Citizen