

Get Neighborhood Scoop!

Lyon Park has a new listserv on groups.io! Lyon Park and Ashton Heights residents, age 18 or older, are eligible to join. Commercial businesses and nonprofits located in Lyon Park may also join. To subscribe, please send an e-mail to lyonpark+subscribe@groups.io. We will then write to you to confirm your full name and street address. The listserv moderators may verify the eligibility of those posting to it as required.

All the best,
Julia Young & Natalie Roy
(moderators)

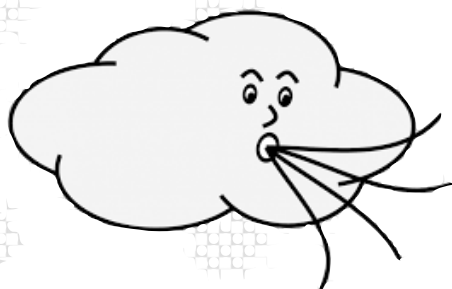
**Sign up for Lyon Park's
new listserv today.**

March Meeting

*March 9 (virtual)
7:30 PM
Sign in at 7 to socialize*

Login info at lyonpark.org

*Please pay your
annual dues!
See Page 12*



Presidents' Message

Thanks to everyone who was able to join us for the February LPCA meeting. It was an excellent meeting and we had a great turnout of neighbors interested in the topic of trees and Lyon Park's tree canopy. See Kathleen McSweeney's recap in this newsletter on page 5, and then volunteer to be on our Tree Committee!

And speaking of trees—who has been watching the two baby chestnut trees growing up in their new home in Lyon Park? These two trees were part of Lyon Park's 100-year celebration after park neighbor Gray Handley, advocated for planting this species. (We planted a third the following year.) In the fall of 2019, they were planted as very small saplings, and one of them is now more than four feet tall! Find more about the chestnuts on page 14. This was just one of the many ways we celebrated this important community milestone. Other activities for the commemoration of Lyon Park's 100th "birthday" included a golf tournament, a home and garden tour, a panel discussion with special speakers, and a gala "Speakeasy Night to Remember." Lyon Park also formed a History Committee whose members brainstormed many great ideas for the Centennial including bike trails with historic stops, exhibits in the Community Center on Lyon Park's history, and special plaques for 100-year-old houses.

And speaking of plaques—trees and historic homes have a connection! Some of the neighbors speaking during our February meeting expressed grief over the loss of some of the magnificent older specimens of oaks, elms, and other trees that builders remove from lots for construction. Many times, the construction also involves complete removal of the older smaller home. Along with our concern for the loss of the tree canopy, should we also be upset about the loss of so many historic homes?

Currently Lyon Park is designated as a historic district in Arlington County, due in part to "...its substantial concentration of domestic architecture of the early twentieth century..." (Elizabeth Sheehy gives us more details—see her article on page 10). Our guest speakers for the March 9 meeting will help us better understand the significance of preserving the historic fabric of neighborhoods in a variety of ways, and what decisions Lyon Park Citizens might have to make about our status as a designated historic district. Come join us and learn more about your neighborhood and its historical importance in the development of Arlington as one of the earlier commuter suburbs of Washington, DC.

Put March 9 on your calendar - visit lyonpark.org for the link to the Zoom meeting!

Thora Colot and Kathleen McSweeney, LPCA Co-Presidents

267 Lyon Parkers are on Our Listserv Won't You Join Us?

One of our neighbors' most frequent complaints in the last few years was the listserv. Taking note of the Ashton Heights listserv's success, Lyon Park has switched over to a new listserv. Won't you join us?

The new listserv offers a lovely, compact digest option. If you prefer to receive posts in real time, it also lets you "mute this topic" at the bottom of each e-mail. Simply click and you won't receive any further responses to the chain.

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!

- **Max Kiriakou**, 17, yard work, shoveling, lawn mowing, trimming. I have my own equipment! **Phone/Text:** (571) 244-8982
- **Kate Kiriakou**, 15, Babysitter, mother's helper, odd jobs, plant sitter. Red Cross certified. **Phone/Text:** (703) 587-9277
- **Delaney Loughney**, 15, Babysitter, odd jobs, plant sitter, dog walker, pet sitting. **Text:** (571) 458-0512
- **Finn Loughney**, 18, Odd jobs, dog walker, plant sitter, shoveling. **Text:** (571) 289-4823 **Email:** finnloughney@gmail.com
- **Mae Seward**, 15, 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**, 15, babysitter, mother's helper, plant sitter, odd jobs. Text/Email: (703) 401-7234 sylviagoldener@icloud.com, Red Cross certified
- **Ella Bomberger**, 16, babysitter, mother's helper, dog walker, plant sitter. Fully vaccinated. **Text:** (571) 775-9205. Red Cross babysitting certification
- **Morgan Thomas**, 13, experienced dog walker, cat visits, plant sitter. **Text:** (240) 810-4834.
- **Josie Whitaker**, 14, babysitter, plant sitter. Red Cross certified. **Text:** (703) 717-1993
- **Lauren Thomas**, 16, babysitter, mother's helper, plant sitter, dog walker. Red Cross babysitting certification. **Text:** (571) 352-0605
- **Layla Eisenberg**, 14, babysitter, dog walker, mother's helper, pet/plant sitter. Red Cross certified. **Text:** (703) 300-5535
- **Cameron Hershey**, 14, yard work, shoveling, odd jobs, dog walker, cat visits, glass recycling, mother's helper, plant sitter, babysitter. **Phone, Text:** (703) 505-9729 **Email:** mhershey28@gmail.com
- **Natalie Urais**, babysitter, dog walker, pet sitting, yard work, odd jobs, plant sitter. Phone, Text: (703) 213-7874
- **Olivia Pike**, 15, babysitter, dog walker, mother's helper, odd jobs, plant sitter. **Phone, Text:** (703) 687-8222, oliviaapikee@gmail.com
- **Sloane Escobar**, 14, babysitter, dog walker. Red Cross certified. Free most days after 3pm. **Phone, Text:** (703) 870-1847, sloane_escobar@icloud.com

Lyon Park Community Center: Among the Top 10 Wedding Venues in Arlington (2022)



WeddingRule has selected the Lyon Park Community Center as one of Arlington's Top 10 wedding venues. This is quite an honor, and it places our facility among some exceptional hotels, restaurants, and historic facilities.

Find the complete list here:

<https://www.weddingrule.com/wedding-venues/virginia/arlington-va/>

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

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Two Years into This, The Community Center Needs Your Help

Since the COVID pandemic started, this newsletter has tried to provide a sense of normalcy. We've avoided using pandemic-related words or giving pandemic-related advice anywhere in the newsletter except the front page, instead focusing on the positive.

Many people and businesses have been adversely affected by the pandemic. Our community center is no exception. Fortunately, our community paid off the renovation loan aggressively and early. We entered the pandemic without a mortgage and with a cash cushion. However (and there's always a however in this kind of article, isn't there?), many people canceled their events at the community center or did not rent (which was responsible), the park itself has seen unprecedented wear and tear, and we had tree work that needed to be done. We also canceled almost all fundraisers.

Our cash balance is dangerously low. Can you, in this month that celebrates love, show a little love to the community center and make a donation? Any amount will help, and **our target is \$15,000 by March 31** (it costs about \$5000 a month to simply keep the empty building and park running). Or, consider booking your next event at the Community Center. We've got plenty of openings right now. The Lyon Park Community Center is a 501(c)(3) organization under the U.S. Tax Code. Your donations are tax-deductible. Electronic donations can be made online at lyonpark.org (look for the button).



Alternatively, you can mail a check to LPCC, P.O. Box 100191, Arlington, VA 22210

If you would like to donate using securities, bequests, or retirement plan assets, please contact Bill Anhut at billanhut@yahoo.com.

As spring approaches, we hope we can restart some community events. Be ready to be asked to volunteer in next month's newsletter.



Mulch Party 2022

Lyon Park's Annual Mulch Spreading Party will take place on Saturday morning, April 9, 2022, from 9:00 AM to Noon. Our Community Center's park has more than 60 trees, including Arlington County's two largest White Ash trees. Because the park is community owned, (not by Arlington County), we the citizens of Lyon Park (and Ashton Heights) are charged with the responsibility of privately maintaining our park's trees. The Community Center relies on volunteers to maintain the park. Won't you please join us and volunteer to use pitch forks to load wheelbarrows and deliver mulch to each of our trees? This is a great event for teenagers to accumulate volunteer hours in a fun way. It is also a great way to teach youngsters about the value of our trees and how to care for them.

Please mark your calendar now for
Saturday morning
April 9, 9:00 AM to noon!





Lyon Park (not just for) Woman's Club

The Lyon Park Woman's Club has traditionally met the third Thursday of every month at the Lyon Park Community Center. It is not just for women, and open to residents of Lyon Park and Ashton Heights. After a period of cancellation to err on the side of caution, this group plans to

meet Thursday, March 17, at 12 noon. Bring a dish to share or brown bag you own lunch!

What do we do? We have a good time eating and talking, and enjoying each other's company. The Woman's Club contributes five members to the Board of Governors, the body that oversees the Community House and Park. The other members come from the Lyon Park Citizens Association. Woman's Club members volunteer for many Community Center activities, such as the chili dinner, spring fair, pancake breakfast, and Halloween bonfire. The woman's club holds bake and cupcake sales. Other activities could be brought up do do.

We hope to see many new faces this year. For more information contact Elizabeth Wray at ejswray@yahoo.com.

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Feed Me!!

Bill Anhut, Lyon Park's Tree Steward

Springtime is here and now is the best time to order a delivery of hardwood or leaf mulch for your trees and gardens from Arlington County (\$75 for 5 yards, a full dump truck or \$50 for 2.5 yards, a half dump truck). If you wait until the peak demand time in April and May, you will have to wait weeks for a delivery. Visit the County's website and type "Order Mulch" in the search window or you can call (703) 228-5000 to order a delivery of mulch. You might consider sharing a full load with your neighbors and dress-up your entire block!

In addition to improving your yard's appearance and adding the natural mulch fragrance to your neighborhood, a two inch layer of mulch covering each tree's roots promotes tree health and springtime growth as it

- Improves rainwater absorption and reduces the evaporation of soil moisture
- Improves soil structure. Decaying mulch transforms into topsoil and adds nutrients
- Promotes the growth of feeder roots
- Protects against damage by lawn equipment
- Smothers weeds and grasses competing for nutrients
- Helps alleviate soil compaction around roots—a tree killer
- Keeps soil cooler in summer and warmer in winter
- Produces an attractive color and texture to complement the tree.

"What type of mulch is best for my trees?" Both hardwood and leaf mulch decompose to enrich topsoil. Leaf mulch breaks down faster, thus accelerating nutrient delivery to the soil. Hardwood mulch is very attractive and decomposes slower but can also harbor termites. For that reason, hardwood mulch should never come in contact with buildings.

A word of caution when spreading mulch around your trees. Do not let the mulch touch a tree trunk or cover the flair at the base of the tree. The tree's bark needs to "breathe" oxygen, which a layer of mulch would smother. Ideally, it is best to spread mulch over the entire circumference of a tree's drip line. For larger trees, it may be impractical to spread such a large mulch area but any amount of mulch is better than none!!!

Heed your trees' request for feeding and order mulch now while deliver times are still available. See if you notice improvement in your trees' health this season.

www.lyonpark.org • March 2022

Join the LPCA Group Acting to Increase our Neighborhood's Tree Canopy

The LPCA's February 2022 meeting was dedicated to discussing trees. At the end of the meeting, we formed a committee that will recommend at least two actions our community can take this year to increase Lyon Park's tree canopy.

The following outlines the general discussion. Thank you to our three terrific panelists—Vincent Verweij, Bill Anhut, and Mary Glass—who spoke with us about current efforts to increase Arlington's tree canopy.

- Arlington County's head urban forester, Vincent Verweij, provided useful information about the tree canopy overall and the current requirements for replacing trees when developing a site—property owners must replace 20% of the existing canopy. Neighbors asked whether submitting trees for the County's Notable or Champion status would serve to protect them from being torn down and were told that these statuses offer no legal protection. Only trees designated as "specimen trees" have limited protections. The fine for removal of a specimen tree is \$2500, which neighbors expressed is not enough of a deterrent. Vincent informed us that the County is currently updating its Urban Forestry Master Plan, and neighbors are encouraged to provide comments or suggestions to strengthen the plan.
- We heard from our local tree steward and LPCA Treasurer Bill Anhut, who discussed the program to remove and replace diseased and dying trees in Lyon Park. Our neighborhood's tree canopy loss is due mostly to removal of trees when homes are torn down and rebuilt. Bill reiterated that he is available to consult with homeowners who would like to plant trees and aren't sure where to start. Bill advertises the County's annual tree giveaway program each year, and the Lyon Park Civic Association provides homeowners a \$50 grant to purchase and plant trees on their property.
- Mary Glass discussed trees' positive impact on our environmental and personal well-being. Mary, a volunteer, belongs to the Arlington Tree Action Group (ATAG) and led the Civic Federation's November 2021 report identifying concerns and strategies for preserving the urban tree canopy. The result of nine months of discussions including a wide range of stakeholders, the report provides findings and recommends potential options for action. Given the accelerating private development in Arlington over the past five years, Mary has asked the County conduct a tree canopy report to replace the one done in 2016-17. Her presentation included useful information for helping neighbors determine where trees may be planted (itreetools.org/tools).

Are you interested in making recommendations to increase our neighborhood's tree canopy? A few volunteers will meet at the end of March. If interested, contact LPCA co-President Kathleen McSweeney (mcsweeneykathleen@gmail.com) by March 15, 2022.

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.



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Spring FLING

Saturday, May 7 | Noon to 3:00 pm
Columbia Gardens Cemetery Grounds

Let us know if you will come. Call 703.527.1235 or email info@columbiagardenscemetery.org. 3411 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201

A fun-filled celebration for children and adults:

- Paint a rock to make a special Mother's Day gift
- Go exploring with the Agents of Discovery App
- Learn about bluebirds
- See how honey is made from our beekeeper
- Enjoy delicious refreshments and more!

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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–10 PM, 4 hour minimum)

<75 guests, \$50/hour resident; \$125/hour non-resident
 ≥75 guests, \$75/hour resident; \$125/hour non-resident

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Holidays

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

\$400 resident; \$1050 non-resident

WHOLE DAY (8 AM–10 PM):

\$750 resident; \$1,900 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; \$500 non-resident

Grounds preservation fees:

- \$30/inflatable (can only be rented from Arlington TEAM)
- \$30/pole tent (floored tents are not allowed)
- \$100 grounds fee for ponies, petting zoos, large events

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>

SAMSON

PROPERTIES



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paigekellogg@realtor.com

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Arlington Bunny Hop



5K Charity Fun Run/Walk

April 23, 2022,

8:00 A.M.

Running to help others!

Where: Clarendon United Methodist Church

606 N. Irving St., Arlington, VA 22201

Who: Competitive Runners; Fitness/Frequent Runners; Recreational Runners; and Walkers/Strollers.

Children's Activities: 5K finisher medals will be given to all children crossing the finish line. A family style block party will be featured after the race with characters, free food, bounce houses and live music.

Costumes: Costumes are welcome and encouraged. Medals awarded to 3 finishers with the best costumes.

Course Info & Registration: Course and registration information: www.ArlingtonBunnyHop.org

The course will be closed to vehicles from 7:30 until approximately 9:30. Persons needing to use their vehicles during the race are requested to move their vehicles off the course the evening before.

Questions: ArlingtonBunnyHop@gmail.com.



Lyon Park Historic District: Did you know....

Elizabeth Sheehy

Lyon Park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, #03000437? In 2003, a group of dedicated neighbors put together a successful nomination to create the Lyon Park Historic District through the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Our community met National Register criterion A (an event, series of events or activities, or patterns of an area's development) and Criterion C (A building form, architectural style, engineering technique, or artistic value, based on a stage of physical development, or the use of a material or method of construction that shaped the historic identity of an area). Criterion B, for those who are curious, requires association with an important person, so please let us know if any previous presidents have slept in your home!

Lyon Park is an example of the enormous growth that occurred in and around Washington DC, following the first World War. Architectural styles in the neighborhood reflect community planning and development, with a proliferation of Craftsman Bungalows, American Four Squares, Colonial Revivals, and especially pre-fabricated kit homes (Sears Bungalows) which were perfect for Lyon Park's modest lots. Even the garden apartments were important contributors, meeting the needs of young professionals flooding to the nation's capital.

At the time of the review of Lyon Park's nomination, there were 1165 structures that positively contributed to our Historic District approval and 329 non-contributing structures. The Lyon Park Community House, built by and for the community in the mid 1920s, was a critical contributing structure. During the 2015 renovation, great care was taken to meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. That is why, for example, the framing of the added kitchen and restrooms spaces are smaller than the original building, making it visually clear which part of the building is dominant (original). That is also why the roof material of the sunroom is different from the original part of the building, to better show that it is a later addition to the main hall.

If you'd like to learn more, you can find the Lyon Park nomination form in the Lyon Park document library (lyonpark.org/library/) under Lyon Park Historic District Description. You can also read the official report at the following link: [DHR – Virginia Department of Historic Resources » 000-7820 Lyon Park Historic District](#). As you walk through the neighborhood, see if you can spot some of the contributing structures in Lyon Park, representing American architectural styles 1891-1953!

Monthly Civic Federation Update: Schools and Stormwater


Jamie Seward

The latest CivFed meeting was held on February 8 and covered two main topics of interest to all of us in Lyon Park – the state of schools and, unrelatedly, stormwater management in the County.

The Arlington Public Schools (APS) Superintendent outlined high-level planning for the APS system, notably including the FY23 budget highlights. In FY23, APS is focusing on teacher recruitment and retention, including increasing compensation and benefits to stay competitive in the region and provide continuous teacher learning opportunities. APS is also focusing on educational equity issues, including considering the school boundaries starting with a review of elementary schools by Fall 2022. Finally, a priority of FY23 is to fund the new Arlington Career Center building.

On the stormwater management issue, the CivFed passed a resolution (which we voted "Yes" for LCPA) to advocate that the County take action on several recommended areas to mitigate stormwater damage and runoff. The County presented its plans, much of which is responsive to the CivFed resolution, and it includes \$20 million in new projects in FY22. Fortunately, Lyon Park is not flood-prone as many areas across Arlington. However, one thing to note is that utility rates for stormwater costs are likely to go up by about \$30 annually. It would still keep Arlington's costs well below other neighboring jurisdictions. Also, an important aspect of the thinking around fees is that the County is considering moving to a stormwater utility whereby fees are levied on the impervious surface area of a house lot, given such surfaces facilitate runoff. Other local governments levy the fees this way, and a public hearing is slated on this in summer.

For all of this and much more, go to the CivFed website, <https://www.civfed.org/>, and please get in touch with me if you want to know more or volunteer to join the LCPA at the CivFed!



**Ummm...
The Water Smells Funny?**

Washington Aqueduct—the water source that supplies Arlington—uses chloramine, a compound of chlorine and ammonia, to chemically treat water. It's an alternative to chlorine that improves our water's taste. However, every year for six weeks in spring, it replaces the chloramine with chlorine. You may notice an odor similar to that of a swimming pool in your tap water. The switch kills germs that have built up in the system's biofilm.

Washington Aqueduct has scheduled the 2022 switch period for March 26 through April 7.



Make Hearts Smile

Lyon Park – Business Spotlight

Bess Zelle, LP Business Liaison

Throughout the year, our newsletter will feature Lyon Park businesses to broaden awareness of nearby services. If you visit a highlighted establishment, please let them know you saw their profile!

Devers Design Group

What is the focus of your business?

Devers Design Group is a locally-owned company dedicated to corporate event decorating and residential flower service. During the pandemic, we expanded operations to include residential, which allowed us to meet more of our great neighbors.

What do you want the community to know about your establishment?

We always have the freshest flowers and are passionate about outstanding customer service!

What do you love about Lyon Park?

We've been in Lyon Park for over 23 years and love it here! The people and location are fabulous, we're always close to our residential and corporate customers!

Contact Information:

- Ed Eccard and Michael Corrado
- 2728 Washington Blvd
- Arlington, VA 22201
- (703) 522-9331
- deversdesigngp@aol.com

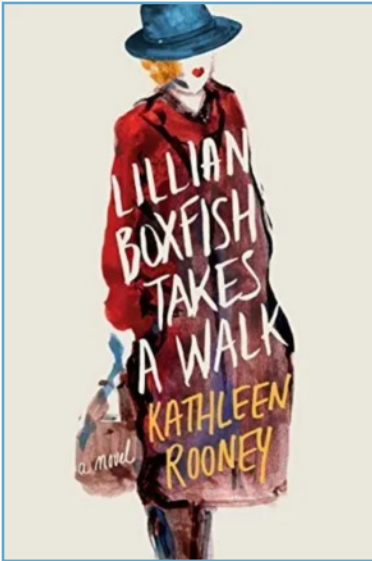


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FREE GIFT WRAP!

Lillian Fishbox takes a Walk

Margaret Dean



After wading through this thoroughly delightful novel, I was surprised to find the author had based the bones of her story on the real life events of one Margaret Fishback, poet, writer, proto-feminist, successful career woman, and less successful but loving mother. Although the story is essentially an internal dialogue with herself, Rooney emphasizes that the book is her own creation. Yet despite that disclaimer Rooney adds that “All of the poems and advertisements ...attributed to Lillian Boxfish... were written by Margaret Fishback and appear...with the permission of her estate.” So which is it? Writer or copier?

The inside jacket provides a tourist map of Ms Boxfish’s itinerary on New Year’s Eve as she decides to walk to a party in lower Manhattan and then past her former employer, Macy’s. Each site evokes memories of her past, from when she was not only Macy’s highest paid copy writer and poet, but the country’s highest paid advertising woman.

She recreates clearly falling in love with the years-younger Max and the destruction of her self-esteem and self-worth as she tries to be a good wife. Women in the 1930s, no matter how proficient in the job, were let go, fired, dismissed when they married. At 85, Lillian recalls her desperate need for rehabilitation as Max leaves her for a much younger, traditional model.

The charm of this novel lies in the frank honesty, the silly rhymes, the strength of character that Lillian brings to each stage of her life. Not many books have an 85 year old protagonist as star stage center but Lillian does a masterful job.

Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk by Kathleen Rooney. St. Martin's Press, NY, NY. 2017. ISBN 978-1-250-11332-0. 284pp. Library Book.

How to Build a Community Center – 20th Century and 21st Century style!

Elizabeth Sheehy

It’s been a strange few years in Lyon Park, and the Lyon Park Community House has felt the impact. In September 2019 we celebrated the neighborhood’s Centennial by paying off the renovation mortgage ahead of schedule, and then just five months later everything shut down! Two years later, we are ready to open the doors, celebrate life’s big events, and return to some of the favorite Lyon Park traditions. This is also a good time to remind old-timers, and share with newcomers, the history of the park and its community center, and why we all need to do our part to support both.



Lyon Park was developed about 100 years ago, and many of the early homes were built using Sears & Roebuck house kits. The developers, Lyon & Fitch, donated \$500 toward the construction of a community house, with the remaining costs to be incurred by the community itself. The Lyon Park Citizens Association oversaw the initial process, raising funds by selling “shares” to Lyon Park neighbors. Individuals who donated \$25 or more became lifetime members of the Lyon Park Community Center Committee.

Lyon Park citizens were by no means wealthy, but neighbors knew the importance of investing in their community. Pledges were often paid in \$5 increments each quarter, and many Lyon Park citizens participated. Construction began in 1924, but construction costs kept rising, so a summer fair was held (and the tradition continues here each Spring), raising the \$800 needed to complete the project.

Fast forward to the 21st Century: To support the renovation plans that commenced in 2015, many Lyon Park neighbors again gave generously to the building fund. Hundreds of families gave up to \$500 for the building fund. In addition, more than 100 families donated at the Bronze level (\$500-\$1799), more than 50 reached the Silver level (\$1800-\$5999) and there were 18 Gold Level donors (\$6000+) at last count. This outpouring of financial support was critical to retire the debt, and it was done just in time! Surviving the pandemic was a challenge, but having to make mortgage payments would have been devastating.

As the Lyon Park community recovers from the pandemic, both emotionally and financially, now is a great time to donate, especially if you are new to the neighborhood, or were not in a position to do so before. We all own our fantastic park and beautiful building, so it important that we all contribute to community life through volunteering, participating in community events, and offering financial support.



Pick the Odd One Out

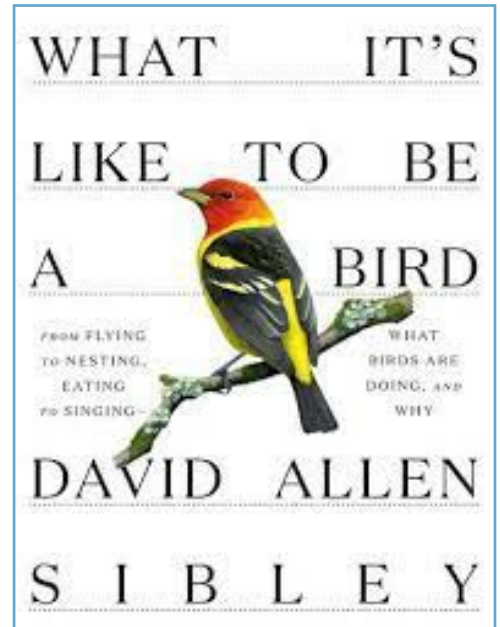
Heidi Ananthakrishnan

Pick the odd one out: Superman, Batman, Spider-man, Wonder Woman, birds. If you chose birds, you are correct! While all have superpowers, only birds are non-fictional.

Birds' senses are more refined than ours and they experience a rich perception of the world we will never know. David Sibley's new coffee table book *What It's Like to Be a Bird* entirely changed the way I think about birds. The top ten facts I found most fascinating:

- 1** Birds can sense barometric pressure, so they know when a storm is coming. They fill up on food before a storm so they can ride it out in a sheltered spot.
- 2** Birds process visual images more than twice as fast as humans. To them, a movie would appear as a slideshow.
- 3** Small birds lose about 10% of their body weight as they sleep and gain it back the next day. If humans were to eat like some birds, it would be like eating 27 large pizzas every day. And a single robin can eat 14 feet of earthworms in a day. Funny that we say, "Eat like a bird!"
- 4** Eagles can see five times better than we can and 80% of their photoreceptors are color-sensing, compared with only 5% in humans. We can mimic their sight by looking through 5x binoculars but have no way to simulate their color vision.
- 5** Birds can see ultraviolet light, the orientation of the earth's magnetic field, and may even detect polarized light. It is possible that they continuously see some sort of guiding compass in the sky that is invisible to us.
- 6** Birds have extremely efficient lungs that transfer much more oxygen to the blood than ours. It is thought that this system evolved in dinosaurs at a time when the earth had less oxygen. Birds are essentially never out of breath.
- 7** Many small songbirds migrate at night at an altitude of about 10,000 thousand feet and fly for up to three days straight.
- 8** A single chickadee (that weighs about 10 grams, the equivalent of two nickels) can store up to a thousand seeds in a day, tucking them in crevices and remembering where each one is stored.
- 9** Bird "knees" seem to bend the wrong way, but their "knees" are actually their ankles. Their knee joint is higher up in the body. They essentially walk on their toes.
- 10** Some birds appear to bob their heads while walking, but they are actually keeping their vision fixed on their surroundings. The head snaps forward and remains stationary while the body moves forward below it.

It's Superman! It's a plane! No, it's a bird!



AmazonSmile



AmazonSmile is an Amazon program that donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to charitable organizations. AmazonSmile is a simple, automatic way for you to support Lyon Park Community Center (LPCC) every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com. Go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. Select LPCC as your charity and then start shopping. It's that easy. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com.

iGive



iGive works similarly. It's free. iGive partners with more than 1,700 online stores. It donates an average of 3% what you spend to your selected charity. The stores pay for it all. You never pay more, and often you pay less with coupons and deals. A typical shopper raises more than \$100/year. Go to igive.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. Select LPCC as your charity and add the iGive button. This automatically tells participating stores that you want your shopping to support LPCC. You can also download the iPhone/iPad or Android apps.

Community Engagement Opportunities, Arlington Public Schools

Thursday, March 10 7 PM	School Board Meeting: Recognition of Arts in the Schools Month. Action on changes to the Dual Language Immersion Model and an English Learner UPDATE Watch School Board Work Sessions live online or on Comcast Channel 70 or Verizon Channel 41
Tuesday, March 15 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM	Budget Work Session #3 Watch School Board Meetings live online or on Comcast Channel 70 or Verizon Channel 41
Tuesday, March 22 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM	Budget Work Session #4 Watch School Board Meetings live online or on Comcast Channel 70 or Verizon Channel 41
Thursday, March 24 7 PM	School Board Meeting: Security Update & Special Education Update and Annual Plan. Watch School Board Work Sessions live online or on Comcast Channel 70 or Verizon Channel 41
Thursday, March 31 6:30 PM	School Board Meeting: Public Hearing on Superintendent's Proposed FY 2023 Budget Watch School Board Work Sessions live online or on Comcast Channel 70 or Verizon Channel 41
Tuesday, April 5 6:30 PM to 9 PM	Budget Work Session #5 Watch School Board Work Sessions live online or on Comcast Channel 70 or Verizon Channel 41
Thursday, April 7 7 PM	School Board Meeting: Action on School Board's Proposed FY 2023 Budget Watch School Board Meetings live online or on Comcast Channel 70 or Verizon Channel 41

Arlington County is offering free, walk-in COVID-19 vaccine clinics to individuals ages 12+. (Appointments are required for boosters.) Children 12-17 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

See <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Health/COVID-19/COVID-19-Vaccine/Vaccine-Registration>

*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.

To read Community Engagement Opportunities in other languages, visit <https://www.apsva.us/school-community-relations/community-engagement-opportunities/> and use the auto-translation feature (top of page) to select preferred language.

Visit www.apsva.us/Engage for community engagement opportunities, School Board calendar, Arlington County's Engage calendar.

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 22210

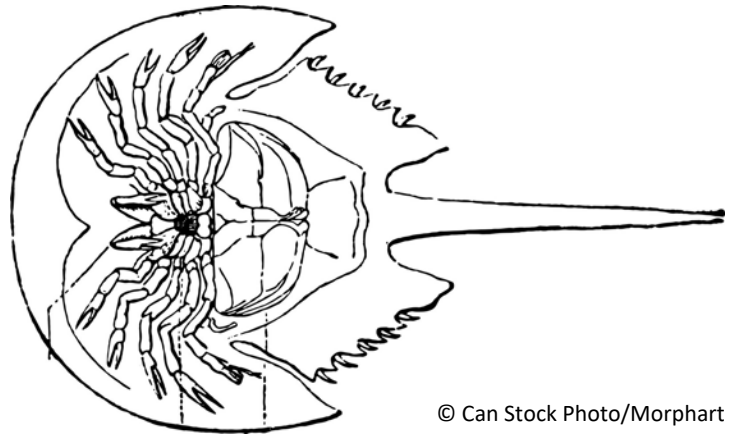
Name _____
Address _____
Preferred phone _____
E-mail _____
May we add you to the community listserv? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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



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Red Knot

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Underwater. Horseshoe crabs rarely swim, but when they do, they swim upside down



Delaware Beach

When the Moon Hits Your Eye Like a Big Pizza Pie, That's Amore! *Ian D. Rowe*

Every year, sometime in May or June, beaches on the East Coast of the United States are the site of a spectacular lovemaking party with millions of participants. The ancient star of this romantic revelry is none other than the horseshoe crab, which can be found in the fossil record more than 480 million years ago with basically no significant changes to what we see in the ocean today.

Contrary to its name, the horseshoe crab is neither a crab nor a piece of footwear, rather it is an arthropod. This means that horseshoe crabs don't have a backbone but are instead supported by an exoskeleton, like most insects. Their nearest relatives are spiders, although the horseshoe crab has ten legs instead of eight. The actual lineage of the horseshoe crab and whether they are arachnids or if they split from spiders eons ago and simply share an unknown ancestor is a hotly debated scientific topic to this day.

Horseshoe crabs spend most of their life more than 100 feet beneath the ocean's surface until they come onto beaches by the millions in the late spring to mate. The larger females climb up onto the sand and the males cling to their back to hitch a ride to the spot on the beach where she lays her eggs, which are then fertilized by the male.

Each female lays thousands of eggs annually, of which only a small fraction are successfully fertilized. These eggs are a crucial food source to all kinds of migratory birds like the Red Knot, a small shorebird that makes one of the longest migratory treks of the entire Animal Kingdom! This bird splits its time between the southern tip of South America and breeding grounds in the Arctic Circle, and the eggs of the horseshoe crab are a crucial fuel source to allow them to complete the journey.

This racy annual march of the horseshoe crab onto the beach occurs from Virginia all the way to Maine, with the epicenter located in the Delaware Bay (pictured left). It's said that the best time to catch this event is during the first full moon of June, which coincides with a high tide. If you time your next beach trip correctly, and you're lucky, you'll get to see what could be the longest-recurring party in the history of the Earth!

The American Chestnut: Once a Symbol of Strength and Fortitude



And often-quoted Chinese proverb says, "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now."

The fact that this quote is thousands of years old shows that man has understood the importance of planting trees for a long time. At Lyon Park, Bill Anhut routinely assesses our trees and works with various experts to determine when trees need to be removed—and of course, replaced. In her Presidents message, Thora Colot made reference to a tree planting in 2019. To the left, find a picture of the slim wisp of a tree to which she refers. To the right, is a picture of that very same tree last May, when it had reached a height of 4 feet.



Why plant chestnut trees? Prior to the 20th Century, the landscape in the eastern United States was dotted with American chestnuts. In its heyday, American Chestnut accounted for 25% of hardwood forests. Along the ridges of the Appalachian Mountains, almost all of the trees were chestnuts. These trees grow two to four feet annually, reaching magnificent heights of 80 to 100 feet. They also lived up to 600 years. Their giant size and longevity could make them an important tool to fight climate change.



At the turn of the 20th century, the American chestnut was ranked as one of the most important wildlife trees in the east, providing highly nutritious nuts. The nuts, encased in prickly burs, were a main food source for bear, deer, squirrels, wild turkey, and small mammals. The nuts were also treasured treats for humans during the winter holidays; today's holiday chestnuts are imported and less flavorful. The American Chestnut was also an excellent source of hardwood, and was used to build homes and was a primary material for railroad ties.

Then, an exotic fungus infected the species with blight. First identified in 1904 in New York City, scientists determined that it was an Asian fungus to which American Chestnut had no resistance. The blight spread quickly, spreading throughout Chestnut territory. Over the next 50 years, approximately 4 billion chestnut trees died one after another. The American chestnut is now considered functionally extinct, as the trees that remain in the wild cannot reproduce on their own.

Thus, the effort to bring the American Chestnut back. Scientists are working on a number of projects to create blight-resistant seeds, and while they are close to success, they have not quite accomplished this task. Planting chestnut trees now, even though they are not blight-resistant, is an important way for us to learn about the best locations to plant these trees and how they grow. It's also a way to prepare for the day when blight resistant trees are available and we need to rally the troops to plant millions of chestnuts. Since experts make an effort to plant trees at least one mile away from any blight infested trees, it's unlikely that trees planted carefully will become infected. Blight can be treated if identified early, so close monitoring is important.

Chestnut Flour: Nutritious and Tasty

Traditionally, the chestnut tree was called "bread tree." This reflects the chestnut's nutritious value and its utility during famines when other foods were unavailable. Often, it was the only source of sustenance available to hungry families. In Italy, farmers dried chestnuts for 30 to 40 days and ground them into a flower, using it to make bread and pasta. Its color is different than other nut flours, and darker. Its taste is slightly sweeter. Today, chestnut flour is trendy, and primarily used to make softer pancakes or flavor various soups. Chestnut flour is also gluten-free and rich in potassium.

Many Italian regions (and especially the Tuscany region) make castagnaccio, a dish characterized by its thin, dense cake made with Chestnut flour and seasoned with rosemary needles, pine nuts, and raisins. It looks almost like a dessert pizza. In some areas, residents add orange peel and fennel seeds. This cake is sugar-free, relying on the chestnut flour to give it sweetness. Some people add cocoa powder or omit the rosemary if they prefer a sweeter, more desert like cake.



The Italians also use chestnut flour to make pasta, and chestnut soup is also popular. You can find recipes for all of these delicacies on the Internet.



Our Lyon Park Children's Playground Needs Your Help

For the past several years, our wonderful children's playground has seen a tremendous amount of use due to the two-year renovation of Zitkala-Ša park and the pandemic. This year, we are going to try to "refresh" the playground and we need your suggestions, **financial support**, and volunteer support.

It will take time, money, and effort to refresh our playground. We need the residents of Lyon Park and Ashton Heights to step up and contribute what they can for this effort.

We have already received some suggestions on how to possibly improve the playground areas. Ideas include installing AstroTurf for a cleaner play area, a "poured-in-place" rubber flooring or rubber playground mats for a safer play area, new rubber mats under the swings, and a separate "sand pit" play area. Parents, ask your kids what they would like to see—I am sure they will have some interesting ideas.

The pandemic drastically impacted the Lyon Park Community Center's finances and we do not have the funds to refresh the playground area without **your financial support**. Please go to the LPCC website and **donate today** – www.lyonpark.info/donate/ or mail a check to LPCC, P.O. Box 100191, Arlington, VA 22210. Mention the playground on the memo line.

This project will also require a lot of **volunteer support**! If you can get involved and/or need more information, please send an email to me at LyonParkEvents@gmail.com.

Be on the lookout for updated information on the Lyon Park **Groups.io** list-serv, the **Nextdoor** app and the **Lyon Park Community Association** meetings.

Thanks for stepping up and helping your community!
Paul Showalter
Proud to be a Lyon Park volunteer

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I won't:

- ♦ Give you a puppy when you sign a listing or buyer agreement;
- ♦ Buy your house if I can't sell it at the price you want;
- ♦ Sell your house for free if I can't sell it in 30 days;
- ♦ Mail you a picture of an adorable family begging to buy your home; and
- ♦ Send you a letter that a local builder wants to buy your house with no real estate fees.

I will:

- ♦ Work tirelessly to sell your home at the highest possible price in the shortest amount of time;
- ♦ Listen to you and design a house-selling strategy or home search tailored to your specific needs;
- ♦ Provide frank real estate advice throughout the process;
- ♦ Prepare a comprehensive house hunting search for you, whether by bike, foot, car, metro or boat, throughout Northern Virginia, Maryland and DC;
- ♦ Accompany you throughout the entire journey to ensure as smooth and stress-free a closing as possible.

That's right – No Gimmicks!

Natalie U. Roy

Thirty-year resident of Lyon Park

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