



LYON PARK BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER OF THE LYON PARK CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

March/April 2023

Upcoming Events

3/8

LPCA Monthly Meeting at the Community Center
7:00 p.m. Socializing; 7:30 p.m. Meeting Start

3/16

Lyon Park Woman's Club Potluck Lunch
at the Community Center, 12:00 p.m.

3/19

Lyon Park Chili Cookoff at the Community Center
5:30–7:30 p.m.

4/8

Spring Egg Hunt and Cupcake Sale
9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. (Egg hunt begins at 11:00 a.m.)

4/12

LPCA Monthly Meeting at the Community Center
7:00 p.m. Socializing; 7:30 p.m. Meeting Start

4/20

Lyon Park Woman's Club Potluck Lunch
at the Community Center, 12:00 p.m.

4/22

Lyon Park Mulch Spreading Event
at Lyon Park, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

4/22

Food Truck Fest
at Lyon Park, 4:00–8:00 p.m.



What's Inside?

- Frank Lyon and Restrictive Covenants in Lyon Park
- New Tree Grove on Route 50
- Zitkála-Šá to be Featured on a Quarter
- Learn about the 2023 Arlington Bunny Hop

...and more!



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Members of the Arlington County Board have promoted—and will soon vote on—a change to zoning rules called Missing Middle (MM) that would allow single family homes to be replaced by new dwellings that range from duplexes to 8-plexes.

Let your voice (for or against) be heard by the LPCA and Arlington County.

Take a Lyon Park survey on Missing Middle at:



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LCB57SW>

This is not an LPCA survey. It is a privately sponsored survey paid for by Michael Kunkler on 4th Street N.

President's Message

by Kathleen McSweeney, LPCA President

By the time you receive this newsletter, a few weeks will have passed since we mourned the death of 14-year-old Wakefield HS student, Sergio Flores, who died from an apparent drug overdose. We have read reports of the increased availability and use of opioids (and other drugs laced with fentanyl) among our youth. We have attended meetings with school and community leaders pushing for increased availability of mental health services and rigorous drug education to prevent more tragic loss like this.

These issues are not new in our community, but isolation during the Covid years has led to increased and untreated mental health struggles and self-medication; and drug use by our youth has grown more dangerous. Do not believe these issues are isolated to certain schools or neighborhoods—a decade ago the overdoses, drug use, and drug arrests at the other two Arlington High Schools were topics of town hall meetings with county health officials, police, Arlington Public School leaders and school communities. The health and well-being of our youth are not just the responsibilities of APS parents and school officials. They are issues that impact our entire community and deserve our attention, support, and collective action.

To that end, the LPCA is planning an education forum to discuss the topic of mental health, drug use, and short- and long-term actions we can take as a community. Please plan to attend upcoming sessions on fentanyl testing and training on the use of NARCAN; we encourage youth participation as well. Information about these workshops will be available on the Lyon Park website and on our neighborhood groups.io platform. In the meantime, you can obtain information from Arlington Public Schools¹, the Center for Disease Control (CDC)², the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)³, and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)⁴.

1 [Opioids and Substance Abuse - Arlington Public Schools \(apsva.us\)](https://www.apsva.us)

2 [Drug-Free Communities \(DFC\) | Drug Overdose | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov)

3 [Rise in Prescription Drug Misuse and Abuse Impacting Teens | SAMHSA](https://www.samhsa.gov)

4 [Prescription Medicines | National Institute on Drug Abuse \(NIDA\) \(nih.gov\)](https://www.nida.nih.gov)

Lyon Park Weighs In on Missing Middle

by Kathleen McSweeney, LPCA President

At the LPCA meeting on Wednesday, February 8th, we held a vote on questions related to the Expanded Housing Options (aka Missing Middle proposal). In response to the question, "Do you support the current proposal to amend the Arlington County Zoning Ordinance...to allow up to six dwelling units to be built on a lot?" 43 neighbors voted "no" and 6 voted "yes." Scan the QR code to read more detail of the series of issues voted on.



Join LPCA

Lyon Park residents and residence owners are eligible for membership in the LPCA. Memberships run from October 1st to September 30th of each year. Only members can vote at LPCA meetings.

If you have any questions, please email lyonparkpresident@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

1 YEAR: \$10

2 YEARS: \$20

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP: \$250

Fill out the form on our website to join! www.lyon-park.org/connect/join-lpca-volunteer

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Please note: Paid advertisements in the Lyon Park Bulletin do not reflect any official position of the LPCA.

The 2023 Bunny Hop Race is on Saturday, April 15!

Interview with Denny Edelbrock, Race Organizer



What is the Bunny Hop race and who does it benefit?

The Bunny Hop is a 5K fun run/walk through Lyon Park and Ashton Heights. Our beneficiary is Bridges to Independence, which operates a family shelter in Lyon Park.

How many people typically sign up and how much money does the race generate for charity?

Typically, 600 runners sign up; last year, including sponsorship, we gave \$21,000 to Bridges. Including this year, the 6th running of the race, we should hit \$100,000 for our combined gifts since inception.

What are the hardest things about putting on such a race?

Getting sponsorships, getting 100+ volunteers, and getting police support (which is understaffed) for the race.

What do you need volunteers to do?

The race is hosted by Clarendon Methodist Church, but we need a lot of volunteers from the community to do things like distribute flyers weeks before the race, serve as course marshals at intersections on race day, and help with the block party afterwards.

Tell us more about the block party

The post-race block party is free and open to all. It will feature two live bands, a bag piper to kick off the race, bounce houses, face painting, and snacks.

How do people sign up to run the race and/or to volunteer?

Register/volunteer at our website: ArlingtonBunnyHop.org. The race will start at 8:00 a.m. at N. 6th and Irving Streets on April 15th.



Arlington Bunny Hop Fun 5k & Block Party

When: Saturday, April 15th
at 8:00 a.m.

Where: Clarendon United
Methodist Church
606 N. Irving Street
Arlington, VA 22201

Who: Everyone! All types of
runners, joggers, &
walkers/strollers.

Why: We're running to help
others! All proceeds go to
Bridges to Independence.

Children's Activities:
Finisher medals will be
given to all children who
finish, and there will
be a bounce house at
the block party after.

Costumes are welcome &
encouraged—prizes
will be awarded!

**www.ArlingtonBunnyHop.org
for more info & to register**

Get In Touch

Mailing Address:

LPCA, P.O. Box 100191, Arlington, VA 22210

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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A Grove of New Native Trees Planted Along Route 50

By Heidi Ananthakrishnan

In November, I coordinated with Arlington County to plant 130 native Virginian trees along the medians lining Route 50 (Arlington Boulevard) at N. Fillmore Street. The county is keen on restoring our tree canopy, which has been declining at an alarming rate due to new construction. Because trees not only offer cooling shade but help lessen the effects of flooding, our stormwater taxes funded these trees.

The effect of the new trees on the landscape is astonishing. They give texture and depth to the bare road and grass. For those who live along Route 50, they will screen homes from traffic and lessen pollution and noise. The trees were planted in groves with a mixture of both large and small sizes. This was intended to create a natural forest look rather than a colonnade. The variety of trees, which include oak, bald cypress, American holly, Eastern redcedar, Eastern redbud, American beech, and the showy white fringe tree, present a welcome sight to passersby.

We know from long-time residents that Route 50 has been treeless since at least the 1930s, when it was still a dirt road. It's exciting that trees grace this strip of land again for the first time in possibly a hundred years or more. Given the county's eagerness to increase the tree canopy, the county welcomes suggestions from Arlington residents for the planting of trees in areas that can accommodate them.

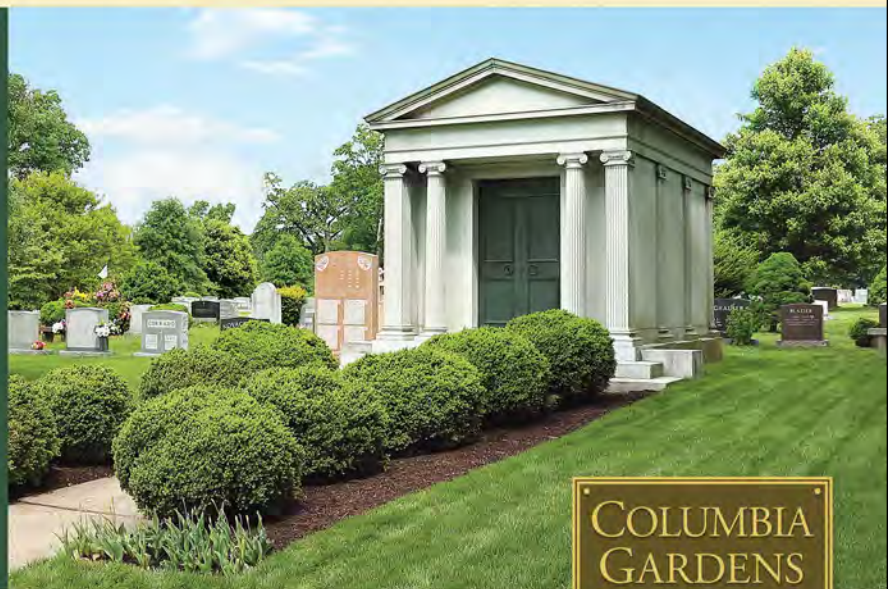


You too can get more trees planted! Here is the link on the county website to put in a request: [Tree Planting Program](#)

Pre-Planning Gives You and Your Family Peace of Mind



Planning ahead for funeral and burial arrangements relieves your family of the burden of having to make decisions at a stressful time. Pre-planning is a true gift of love for your family—both emotionally and financially. Columbia Gardens Cemetery is approved by the State of Virginia to accept pre-payment for funeral and burial services. If you have not yet decided what arrangements you would like, we are here to guide and support you. We will explain burial, cremation, memorialization, options for funeral services and more.



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Zitkála-Šá to Be Featured on a Quarter

By Toby McIntosh

Zitkála-Šá's face will be on a quarter, the U.S. Mint recently announced, one of the five 2024 honorees for the American Women Quarters Program. It's just a part of the continuing attention being given to the Native-American writer, musician and activist who lived in Lyon Park.

Gertrude Simmons Bonnin, a Yankton Sioux, lived on Barton Street in Lyon Park from 1926 until her death in 1938. She used the Lakota name Zitkála-Šá (pronounced: Zit-kah-la-sha). In 2020, Arlington County renamed the park at the corner of 7th and N. Highland streets in her honor.

In Minnesota, an opera about her was produced in 2022, an appropriate tribute, since she co-composed an opera in 1913 considered to be the first Native-American opera. "We are showing that Zitkála-Šá's story is not a frozen moment in time—that she has continued to shape and inspire and evolve current society, specifically [that of] Indigenous peoples in North America, to this day," said one composer. Recently, her music was the inspiration for a collection of 13 pieces by Pulitzer Prize winning composer Raven Chacon.

Native News Online included her on a list created for Native American Heritage Month, Five More Native Americans Who Shaped Culture, calling her "one of the most influential prominent Native activists of the 20th century."

If you'd like to learn more about Zitkála-Šá, there's a PBS show on her from 2020. The Arlington Public Library has several of her books, and a number about her, including one for younger children ("Red Bird Sings").

You can find a longer version of this article on the Lyon Park website under "Features."



Photo: Zitkála-Šá in 1898
by Gertrude Kasebier



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Frank Lyon and Racist Covenants in Lyon Park (Part II)

By John Ausink

Frank Lyon, our namesake, considered by some to be a suburban visionary, encouraged residents to become engaged in neighborhood affairs by donating land for our private park and contributing to the construction of the community center. But “Lyon’s Legacy,” a 2021 advocacy piece for Missing Middle initiatives published by *Arlington Now* says:

*Frank Lyon, by pen and by brick, would succeed where [Robert E] Lee by sword had failed.
The developers and planners of Lyon’s day embedded white supremacy so deeply in
the foundation of our county that it has not yet today been driven out.*

Part of this claim is based on the existence of racially restrictive covenants for the sale of homes, but this and other sources reference the same 1976 article that cited one county deed with Frank Lyon’s name on it as the seller in a tract called Moore’s Addition. As a long-time resident of Lyon Park with an interest in local history, I decided to see if there were more such deeds from other parts of Lyon Park.

First some background: Lyon’s ancestors came to Virginia in the 1730s. His grandfather was a general contractor in Petersburg who enslaved Black workers. Lyon’s father was a “distinguished and scholarly lawyer” who raised a company at Petersburg for the Confederate army. Lyon had three children who survived to adulthood; his son John was killed in WWI. While working as a stenographer Lyon attended Georgetown Law School’s night sessions, receiving a Master of Laws degree in 1890. In about 1902 he started practicing law in Alexandria (now Arlington) County, and became a partner with R. W. Moore, who was making real estate investments near Clarendon.

We’ll focus now on Lyon’s covenants in land deeds. The map opposite marks the current boundaries of Lyon Park with a black dotted line to orient you to the numbered areas discussed below.

Lyon was involved in real estate as early as 1904. In a “deed of dedication” from that year, in which Lyon proposes to subdivide an area he called Lyon’s Addition to Clarendon (the triangle labeled number 1 in the map), the parties agree that:

- Liquor shall never be sold or dispensed from any building built on the property
- The property won’t be used for any business that constitutes a nuisance to others (I was amused that he mentions a soap factory as an example)

There is nothing in this deed that mentions race. However, things get ugly after that.

Lyon, Moore and others purchased a large tract of land that became known as Moore’s Addition to Clarendon. Section 2 of Moore’s addition, labeled 2 and bounded by red in the map, was subdivided in 1910. The subdivision deed makes no mention of race; however, when Lyon sold a lot in Moore’s Addition in 1919, the deed includes the liquor and soap factory restrictions above, but also adds:

- ...neither said property nor any part thereof nor any interest therein shall be sold or leased to any one not of the Caucasian race
- Nor shall any house costing less than \$2,000, other than an outbuilding, be erected thereon.

This is the deed cited by so many, but I wanted to see if there are more. I started with a home on N. Edgewood St. in Lyon Park Section 7 (labeled 7 in the map). The 1922 deed includes the racist covenant. It also states that no dwelling of value less than \$4,000 can be built—but this restriction expires in 1930. I don’t know if the financial constraint was added to exclude lower-income Whites or was an additional barrier to Blacks.

[continued on next page]

Next, I looked across Washington Blvd in the area labeled 5 on the map (section 5 of Moore's Addition), where a 1922 deed for a plot on N. Cleveland St. disallows liquor, requires \$4,000 buildings, includes the racist restriction, but adds that no two-family houses or apartments shall be erected prior to 1930.

Finally, I checked our own home on 2nd St N. in Lyon Park Section 6. A 1926 deed for the property includes the racist restriction but for some reason limits it, "for a period of 99 years from September 1, 1923." This deed also forbids two-family houses or apartments but does not include the alcohol exclusion—for which we are grateful.

At this point I wondered if Ashton C. Jones, who created Ashton Heights in 1921, also barred Black residents. The 1921 deed of dedication for the sub-division does not include any restrictions, but a 1923 deed for land for a house on N. Kenmore St. includes the racist covenant *without* the 99-year expiration and makes it explicit that violation of this restriction will immediately result in a reversion of the property to Ashton's company.

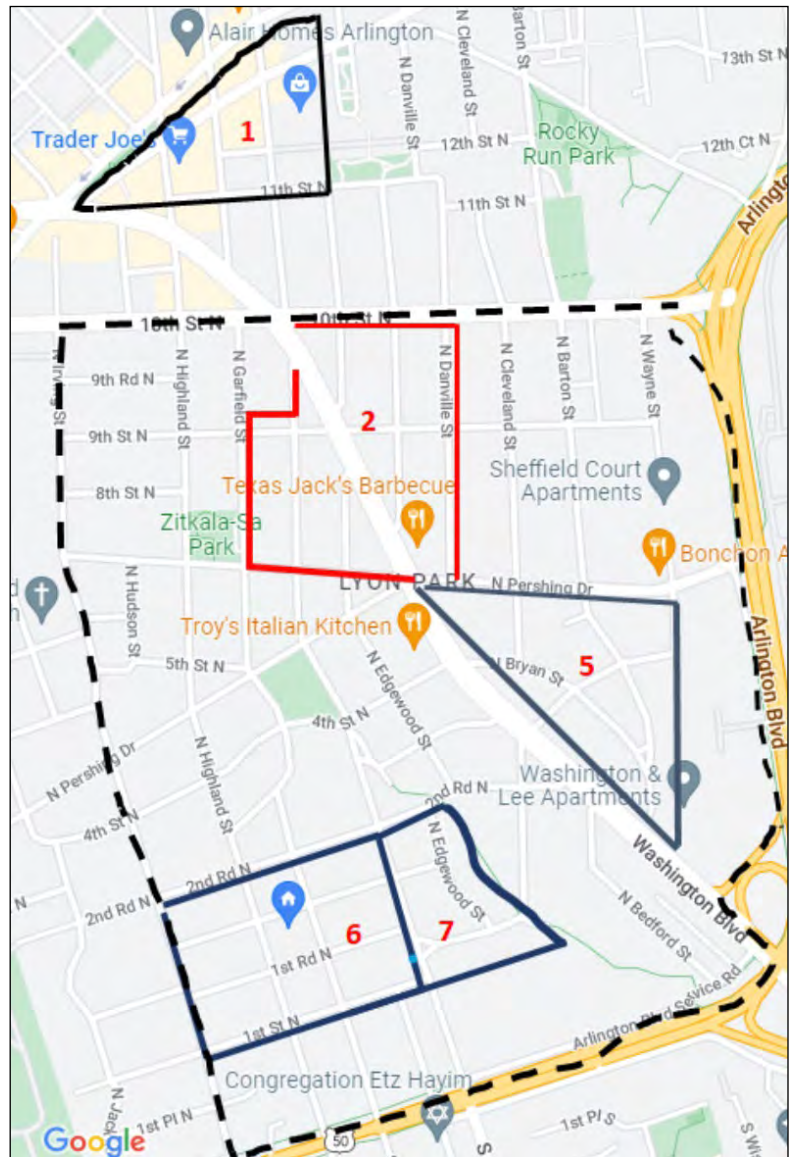
When it comes to racist covenants, then, Frank Lyon was not alone in Arlington. I found it puzzling, though, that the Lyon's Addition deed of 1904 did not include the racial covenant, so I did more research. I learned that there were many racist attempts to block Black residents, not just via housing deeds.

In 1912 the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation permitting all cities and towns to adopt residential segregation ordinances. However, in 1917 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled (based on a Kentucky case) that such residential segregation ordinances were unconstitutional. I haven't found documentation, but I assume Lyon's 1904 deed didn't have the racial exclusion clause because he could legally exclude Blacks via other means. After 1917, since local government could not designate a *neighborhood* as Whites-only, an exclusionary clause for an *individual* plot could serve the same purpose.

In 1924 Virginia passed the Racial Integrity Act, which prohibited interracial marriage, and in 1929, the city of Richmond used the Act to prohibit a person from living in a neighborhood where he or she was not permitted to marry any member of the majority population—thus excluding Blacks from White neighborhoods. In a short time, however, the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals found the ordinance unconstitutional.

It wasn't until 1948 that the U.S. Supreme court in *Shelley v. Kraemer* (a case from Missouri) ruled unanimously that restrictive covenants couldn't be legally enforced by state or federal courts because of the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. However, this ruling applied only to government *enforcement* of these covenants, and as private agreements such covenants could still be used. Thus, restrictive covenants would continue to be broadly used across the U.S. until they were outlawed with the passage of the 1968 Fair Housing Act. This is reflected in the 1944 and 1960 deeds for our house, which include the phrase, "This conveyance is made subject to the restrictive covenants included in the chain of title to this property."

As a land developer, Frank Lyon exploited the racist housing restrictions of his time, incorporating the exclusionary covenants allowed in Virginia and other states, which constrained where Black citizens could live, go to school, and build wealth. How should we react to this history?



Lyon Park Trees say Mulchas Gracias!

By Bill Anhut

Lyon Park's Annual Mulch Spreading Event is Saturday, April 22, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Volunteers are needed to load curbside piles of mulch into wheelbarrows and spread it around the base of the park's 60 trees. The mulch gives the park a tidy appearance and provides many essential benefits.

Since Lyon Park is privately owned by the community we rely on volunteers for maintenance of its grounds and trees. Volunteers save the community over \$2,000 by spreading the mulch instead of hiring a landscape firm. The event is also a great family activity, including for teens who need service hours. Please bring a bottle of water, work gloves, and, if you have them, a wheelbarrow, pitchfork, or hard rake.

Questions? Contact Bill Anhut, billanhut@yahoo.com or 301-908-8204.





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Do We or Don't We Recycle?

By Elaine Simmons

National Geographic, *The Atlantic*, and NPR recently ran stories that claimed only 5% of plastic is actually recycled in the US. How does this comport with Arlington's much-touted recycling program?

In my skeptic mode, I called the county's expert, Adam Riedel, and peppered him with questions. He was adamant that Arlington does collect plastic marked 1-7 (marked in a triangle) and sells it in bundles for processing in states like Alabama. He acknowledged that plastic marked 1, 2, and 5 may be the only types ultimately getting recycled (3/4/6/7 likely go to the landfill or are incinerated) but the 1/2/5 designations account for most of the plastic collected.

 <p>PETE POLYETHYLENE TEREPHTHALATE Cosmetic containers Plastic bottles Mouthwash bottles Prepared food trays</p>	 <p>HDPE HIGH DENSITY POLYETHYLENE Detergent bottles Grocery Bags Milk Bottles Shampoo bottles</p>	 <p>V POLYVINYL CHLORIDE Garden hose Window frames Blood bags Blister packs</p>	 <p>LDPE LOW DENSITY POLYETHYLENE 6 pack rings Cling film Bread bags Squeezable bottles</p>
 <p>PP POLYPROPYLENE Bottle caps Packaging tape Cereal liners Straws</p>	 <p>PS POLYSTYRENE Disposable coffee cups Styrofoam Plastic cutlery Foam packaging</p>	 <p>OTHER POLYCARBONATE Baby bottles Water cooler bottles Fiberglass Tupperware</p>	

Adam also mentioned things that people put in blue recycling bins that don't belong there:

- "Paper" coffee cups (they are plastic lined) and plastic tops from coffee shops: put in trash
- Plastic bags and Amazon bubble wrap envelopes: can be recycled at grocery stores that collect plastic bags (e.g., Giant near Virginia Square and Hyde Park Harris Teeter near Ballston Common)

While, it's good to hear what Arlington is doing with recycling, for many reasons, we should still cut down on plastic, especially single use plastic, such as water bottles, cutlery, take-out containers, and plastic bags. An easy way to reduce is to get reusable cups/bottles for coffee and water and reusable or paper bags for groceries.

Teen Services

List in the Lyon Park Bulletin/website by filling out the form at: www.lyonpark.org/explore/resources/teen-services

- **Ella Bomberger**, 16, babysitter, mother's helper, dog walker, plant sitter. Fully vaccinated. Text: (571) 775-9205. Red Cross babysitting certification
- **Zoe Bomberger**, 14, babysitter, dog walker, mother's helper, plant sitter. Red Cross babysitting certification, fully vaccinated. Text: (703) 298-3233
- **Conor Cohen**, 18, individual and small group soccer lessons with HS senior playing D1 soccer next year. Text: (571) 232-8699
- **Sloane Escobar**, 14, babysitter, dog walker. Red Cross certified. Free most days after 3 pm. Text: (703) 870-1847, sloane_escobar@icloud.com
- **Lily Fine-Albert**, 15, Babysitter, mother's helper, plant sitter (CPR Certified, Red Cross Certified). Text: (240) 796-6962, lakbertfine@icloud.com
- **Marlena Gutshall**, 17, dog walker, pet sitter (very experienced with both dogs and cats). Text: (571) 499-3107, marlenagutshall@gmail.com
- **Cameron Hershey**, 14, yard work, shoveling, odd jobs, dog walker, cat visits, glass recycling, mother's helper, plant sitter, babysitter. Text: (703) 505-9729 Email: mhershey28@gmail.com
- **Max Kiriakou**, 17, yard work, shoveling, lawn mowing, trimming. And I have my own equipment! Text: (571) 244-8982
- **Delaney Loughney**, 16, Babysitter, odd jobs, plant sitter, dog walker, pet sitting. Text: (571) 458-0512
- **Mira Malovany**, 12, Mother's helper, experienced cat sitter. Text: (703) 483-1550
- **Olivia Pike**, 15, babysitter, mother's helper, plant sitter. Phone, Text: (703) 687-8222, oliviaapikee@gmail.com
- **Kai Rasmussen**, 15, odd jobs, plant sitter, shoveling, yard work. Text: (571) 699-5579
- **Lauren Thomas**, 16, babysitter, mother's helper, plant sitter, dog walker. Red Cross babysitting certification. Text: (571) 352-0605
- **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

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Residents of Lyon Park and Ashton Heights are eligible for a special "resident rental rate" when booking the Community Center for their own event.



Rent the Lyon Park Community Center

Visit the website for more information, and to check availability on the online calendar:

www.LyonPark.info

Email: rent@lyonpark.info with any questions.

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Center

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Sunday March 19

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8 AM to 1 PM

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DEJA-VU CUPCAKE SALE

SPRING EGG HUNT



Gather at the park at 10:45 AM

Starts promptly at 11 AM

**For kids who toddle, walk, or run
(Age toddler to 10)**

A joint effort of the not-just-for-Woman's Club, the LPCA, the LPCC and the Arlington Jaycees



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Get started at igive.com, which will tell you how to set up an account for the **Lyon Park Community Center** as your charity.

Lyon Park Woman's Club Update

Our not-just-for-women club meets the third Thursday of the month at noon at the Community Center for a delicious potluck lunch. All residents, women and men, of Lyon Park and Ashton Heights are welcome to attend. Please join us! For more information, contact Elizabeth Wray at ejswray@yahoo.com or (703) 522-1263.



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