



THE LYON PARK CITIZEN

NEWSLETTER OF THE LYON PARK CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

April 2025

President's Message

By Michael P. Kunkler

What does the "neighborhood character" of a community mean to you and how do we preserve it here in Lyon Park? In July of 2019, the Arlington County Board voted unanimously to accept the first update to Lyon Park's Neighborhood Conservation plan since 1973. The update, spearheaded by the Lyon Park Citizens Association (including ExCom's own Bess Zelle), sought to address increased non-resident traffic and other challenges through 19 recommendations for improvements. One such deemed "essential component" to the plan was "preserving the neighborhood character."

My unscientific and non-empirically based opinion is that Lyon Park, as a "bedroom community," largely composed of single-family homes, but including duplexes and apartments on its outskirts, sees itself as "residential" first and commercial a distant second. Adding to that position is that in a 2016 Lyon Park Citizens Association neighborhood survey, 60 percent of respondents identified walkability as the number one reason they like living in Lyon Park. It is therefore no surprise that respondents' biggest concern was speeding and cut-through traffic (not getting better with RTO mandates).

The 2019 conservation plan also sought the County's support for protecting and developing a more substantial tree canopy; walkable schools that keep neighborhood children together and more. It similarly voiced residents' concerns about infill development (primarily full demo or substantial renovation homes) that is/was replacing older, smaller homes with much larger homes, and the loss of mature trees (oh wait, is there a loss? Arl County doesn't believe so... :-/). The question I pose to the community is, do these concerns still ring true six years later, do they align with how you would define "neighborhood character?" I'd love to hear from the community on this.

Contact me at lyonparkpresident@gmail.com.



The 2025 O'Chili Cook-Off Winners! More pictures inside!

Upcoming Events

(all at Lyon Park or the Lyon Park Community Center, unless noted)

- | | |
|------|---|
| 4/6 | Bingo Night for Path Forward
4:30–6:00 p.m. |
| 4/9 | LPCA Monthly Meeting
<i>Topic: Recycling and Clean Water</i>
7:00 p.m. Meeting Start;
8:30 p.m. Socializing |
| 4/12 | Annual Lyon Park Mulch Spreading
9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. |
| 4/17 | Lyon Park Woman's Club Potluck Lunch
12:00 p.m. |
| 4/19 | Lyon Park Egg Roll |
| 4/19 | Lyon Park Plant Sale
11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. |
| 4/26 | Arlington Bunny Hop 5K
at Clarendon United Methodist Church
8:00 a.m. |
| 5/14 | LPCA Monthly Meeting
7:00 p.m. Meeting Start;
8:30 p.m. Socializing |
| 5/15 | Lyon Park Woman's Club Potluck Lunch
12:00 p.m. |
| 5/17 | Lyon Park Spring Fair
11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. |

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OTHER IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Board of Governors (BoG): lpccgovernors@gmail.com

LPCA Representatives to the BoG:

John Ausink, Natalie Roy, Paul Showalter, Elizabeth Sheehy, Ann Reimers (Vice Chairman)

Woman's Club Representatives to the BoG

Bill Anhut, David Newman (Chairman), Jeannette Wick, Shelya White, Elizabeth Wray

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Join Us to Celebrate 100 Years of
Community Gatherings & the Laying of the Cornerstone
of the Lyon Park Community Center at the

Lyon Park Centennial Picnic Extravaganza



Saturday, July 26, 2025
Starting at 4:00 p.m.
at Lyon Park

games • music • fun for all ages
community connections • and more!

We'll need help to make the picnic extravaganza spectacular—please consider volunteering for churning the homemade ice cream, helping to run the games (for all ages!), and more! A sign up sheet will be posted on the website in April.

TEEN SERVICES

Fill out the form on the Teen Services page to get listed here and on the website: [www.lyonpark.org/explore/resources/teen-services]!

- **Ella Bomberger**, 18, Babysitter, Dog Walker, Mother's Helper, Plant Sitter. Red Cross Cert. Text: (571) 775-9205.
- **Zoe Bomberger**, 15, Babysitter, Dog Walker, Mother's Helper, Plant Sitter. Red Cross Cert. Text: (703) 298-3233.
- **Sloane Escobar**, 16, Babysitter, Dog Walker. Free most days after 3 p.m. Red Cross Cert. Text: (703) 870-1847, Email: sloane_escobar@icloud.com.
- **Harper Fern**, 14, Babysitting, Dog walker, Plant Sitter, Pet Sitter, Odd Jobs. Text (703) 623-9082.
- **Lily Fine-Albert**, 15, Pet Sitting, Babysitter, Dog Walker, Odd Jobs, Plant Sitter. CPR & Red Cross Cert. Text: (703) 856-5108, Email: lalbertfine@icloud.com.
- **Cameron Hershey**, 16, Babysitter, Dog Walker, Mother's Helper, Odd Jobs, Plant Sitter, Pet Sitter, Shoveling, Yard Work, Glass recycling. Text: (703) 505-9729, Email: mhershey28@gmail.com.
- **Kate Kiriakou**, 17, Babysitter, Odd Jobs, Pet Sitter, House Sitter. Red Cross Cert. Text: (703) 587-9277, Email: kiriakoufamily23@gmail.com.
- **Max Kiriakou**, 17, Shoveling, Yard Work, Lawn Mowing and Trimming and I have my own equipment! Text: (571) 244-8982.
- **James London**, 18, Babysitter, Plant Sitter, Odd Jobs, Yard Work, Lawn Mowing, Sports Coach (Soccer, Football, Track). Eagle Scout. Text: (703) 713-2113, Email: jplondon718@gmail.com.
- **Delaney Loughney**, 17, Babysitter, Dog Walker, Odd Jobs, Plant Sitter, Pet Sitter. Text: (571) 458-0512.
- **Mira Malovany**, 13, Mother's Helper, Pet Sitter. Text: (703) 483-1550.
- **Al Metwaly**, 13, Plant Sitting, Dog Walker, Pet Sitting, Mother's Helper. Call/Text: (703) 926- 8555. Email: alaa2020met@gmail.com.
- **Emmy Milam**, 13, Babysitter, Dog Walker, Mother's Helper. Two years of experience. Red Cross Cert. Text: (646) 407-6459.
- **Jaquelin Nieser**, 16, Babysitter, Dog Walker, Pet Sitter. Have experience with exotic pets (lizard and hedgehog), Red Cross Cert. Call/Text: (571) 239-7408.
- **Kailee O'Meara**, 15, Babysitter, Pet Sitter, Mother's Helper. Text: (571) 536-8664.
- **Leo Pegoraro**, 14, Babysitter, Mother's Helper, Plant Sitter, Pet Sitter. Scout Certified. Text: (571) 220-6548.
- **Aidan Parks**, 14. Fitness Coach with Expertise in Football, Basketball, and Track. First Session is Free. (703) 582-8670.
- **Olivia Pike**, 16, Babysitter, Mother's Helper, Plant Sitter. Text: (703) 687-8222, Email: oliviaapikee@gmail.com.
- **Kai Rasmussen**, 16, Odd Jobs, Plant Sitter, Shoveling, Yard Work. Text: (571) 699-5579.
- **Rosalie Reilly**, 14, Dog Walker, Plant Sitter, Cat Sitter. Text: (703) 966-3598.
- **Ellsie Seward**, 16, Viola and Violin Help/Tutoring/Lessons. Text: (703) 473-5051.
- **Mae Seward**, 18, Babysitter, Mother's Helper. Red Cross Cert. Text: (703) 473-3378.
- **Bella Sullivan**, 13, Babysitter, Mother's Helper. Text: (202) 486-5520, Email: irenasullivan11@gmail.com.
- **Lauren Thomas**, 18, Babysitter, Dog Walker, Mother's Helper, Plant Sitter. Red Cross Cert. Text: (571) 352-0605.
- **Morgan Thomas**, 15, Dog Walker, Plant Sitter, Pet Sitter. Text: (240) 810-4834.
- **Charlotte Walsh**, 16, Tutor up to 7th grade. Will help with Math, Science and English. (First Session Free.) Text: (571) 351-9452.
- **Josie Whitaker**, 16, Babysitter, Plant Sitter. Red Cross Cert. Text: (703) 717-1993.

Read the newsletter online

The Lyon Park Citizen is available online on the first of the month.

<https://lyonpark.org/explore/resources/lyon-park-newsletters/>

The Lyon Park Plant Sale is April 19th

By Susan Bell

One of Spring's not-to-be missed events is the annual **Lyon Park Plant Sale** which supports maintenance of the Lyon Park Community Center. Mark your calendars for **SATURDAY, APRIL 19, from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in Lyon Park**. Once again we'll have lots of mostly native plants grown in neighborhood gardens, including perennials, annuals, houseplants, veggies and herbs. We'll be under the big tent in the park, rain or shine! Most plants will sell for \$5.00.

Please consider potting up and labeling some of your favorites to donate to the Plant Sale. (Please don't donate plants on Arlington's invasive plant list. Check this link if you're not sure: <https://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2013/10/Invasive-Plant-List-2-19-15.pdf>. We can only sell what our neighbors donate, so please be as generous as you have in the past. Donations should be brought to the Park by 10:00 a.m. on the 19th.

Dig-Your-Own, hosted by Deborah Barber, the creator and steward of the wonderful gardens around the Lyon Park Community Center, is back this year. The beautiful native plants will be in full bloom, and you can dig some for your garden during the Plant Sale. Deborah and volunteers will guide diggers to the areas that are available for digging. Plants are \$5.00 per shovelful, \$1.00 per seedling. Please bring pots or newspaper for your choices.

Interested in volunteering for the sale or Dig-Your-Own? We'll begin set up around 9:00 a.m. and can always use extra hands to put up the tent, set up tables, arrange plants, and take it down at 2:00 p.m.

QUESTIONS? Contact Susan Bell at sibell703@outlook.com.



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Pirouette is a neighborhood place--owned and run by your neighbors in VA Square-- that features an innovative menu and reasonably priced wines. Come by for lunch, happy hour or dinner, sip from our daily free tastings, listen to our live jazz on Wednesdays, or sign up for our fun events. Join a community that enjoys elevated food, delicious wines and an elegant experience!

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"I like to do upscale things in a format that's approachable and unpretentious" -- Chef Adam Hoffa, Best Chef, Arlington Magazine "Best of 2025"

If you could choose new playground equipment for Lyon Park...



The Lyon Park Community Center, the adjacent park and playground, are owned, operated, and maintained by the Lyon Park community—not by Arlington County! We are considering a significant playground renovation, and we need your input! What kind of equipment would you and your kids want in the new playground? To share your views, learn more, or to get involved, please scan the QR code or contact lpccgovernors@gmail.com with the subject line "Lyon Park Playground"



Have you seen the new addition to the kitchen hallway at the LPCC? Be sure to look in the May edition of the Lyon Park Citizen to find out what's going on!

Spread The Word, Mulch is Coming to Lyon Park!

By Bill Anhut

Lyon Park celebrates Earth Day with its **Annual Mulch Spreading Event** on Saturday, April 12, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Arlington County will dump loads of leaf mulch around the perimeter of the park and volunteers are needed to load and transport the mulch in wheel barrows to be spread around the base of the park's 68 trees. The mulch fertilizes our trees and gives the park a tidy appearance.

Lyon Park is privately owned by the community and receives no support from Arlington County for the maintenance of its grounds and trees. Volunteers save the community over \$2,000 by spreading mulch rather than hiring a landscape firm. The event is a great family activity, perfect for demonstrating the value of community service and care of our local environment.



Please show-up at the Lyon Park Community Center at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, April 12, 2025. It would be helpful to bring a bottle of water, work gloves, a wheel barrow, a pitchfork or hard rake. Questions? Contact Bill Anhut, billanhut@yahoo.com or 301-908-8204 or Steve Geiger, miscsteve@comcast.net, 703-915-2922.

Consider ordering mulch to be delivered to your street curb by Arlington County. A full truck load of mulch (5 yards) costs \$93 and a half load (2.5 yards) costs \$78. The charge will be added onto your quarterly utility bill. [Order mulch at the Recycling, Trash, and Related Services page of Arlington County's website.](#)



Spring FLING

Saturday, May 10 | 12:00 – 3:00 pm
Columbia Gardens Cemetery Grounds

Fun activities for children and adults:

- Paint a rock for a Mother's Day gift
- Meet our rosarian for rose growing tips
- See how honey is made and put on a beekeeper suit
- Get planting advice from the Tree Stewards of Arlington
- Play a game of cornhole
- Refreshments served

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Lyon Park (and Ashton Heights) Tree Canopy Update

By Anne Bodine, VP of Development

The County's Urban Forester Vincent Verweij reported in our March meeting that Lyon Park's tree canopy had grown—per the County's newest survey of comparing tree canopy countywide from 2014 to 2023—from 29% to 33%. LPCA members expressed some skepticism about the data and the county's overall stewardship; many felt Arlington wasn't doing enough to save mature trees. Brooke Alexander, tree canopy coordinator for Ashton Heights, presented maps showing trends for mature trees (those 40' or taller, compared to the County's survey which measures canopy at the 12' level).



Lyon Park's tall trees (40' or taller) grew only 1% and Ashton Heights' grew only 4%, these numbers would be much higher but for the impact of development (disease/invasives/age/owner convenience) also causing tree loss). One block of N. Edgewood (just north of LPCA) illustrates the problem. Google Earth shows the teardowns in real time; the survey shows loss (orange), new growth (lime green) and dark green (no change).

Alexander pressed Verweij to help us set goals—and I pressed for county support to achieve them—so Lyon Park and Ashton Heights could help us make the overall county goal of 40% canopy (NOTE: Rosslyn is only 19%). He followed up after our meeting to suggest a standard for low-density residential areas set by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) of 55%. LPCA and AHCA will continue to work with the Forestry office—please pitch in to water, care for, and plant trees (especially oaks as a keystone species) so we get from 33% to 55%!

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The 2025 O'Chili Cook-Off

Lyon Park came together March 16 to celebrate Chili and St. Patrick's Day at the O'Chili Cook-off. Community members enjoyed each other's company after a long, cold winter. Neighbors ate and judged the chili entries while catching up on local gossip. It was a wonderful night of sharing and community building, and Lyon Park raised over \$1,000 to boot!

Thank you to all the volunteers—especially Natalie Roy and Tagrid Wahba (the money team), Jackson Sheehy and Ann Reimer Pitts (the rice team), Matt Hall (Mr. Check-in), Kim and John Franklin (the logistics team), and Sebastian Johnson (King of Spaghetti). Many thanks also to the hardworking and creative students who decorated, served and helped clean up (Paul's Team). I'm sure I've forgotten someone, so I apologize up front!

Thank you also to the many community members who donated food, and especially to those listed below who made delicious chili for the event:

- Gunnel Porelius
- Shirley Larson (Chili Boss Emeritus)
- Elizabeth Sheehy
- Trish Montgomery
- Ann Pitts (2 Ways!)
- Kate Weaver
- Kim and John Franklin
- Greg Helms
- Marlene Mandel
- Matt and Eliza Hall
- Angie Gentile
- Sebastian John
- Natalie Roy
- Sara Newman
- Gary Putnam
- Katie Pegoraro

Congratulations to our Lyon Park 2025 Chili Contest winners:

- Best Overall: Trish Montgomery's "Sweet with Heat"
- Hottest: Katie Pegararo's "Smokey Bacon"
- Best Vegetarian: Kim & John Franklin's "Pot of Gold Veggie"

The Chili Cook-off doesn't happen without volunteer leadership. Are you interested in helping out next year. It's not too early to sign up now! Contact lpccgovernors@gmail.com. It may seem crazy in the moment, but it's a very manageable event and a wonderful way to give back to Lyon Park. See everyone next year!

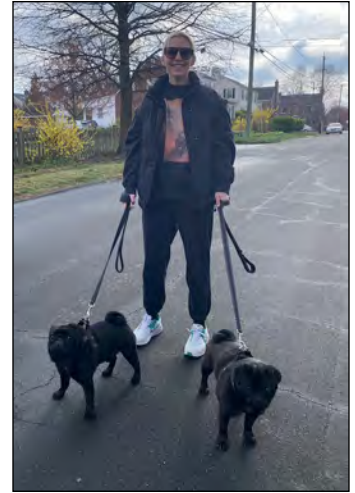
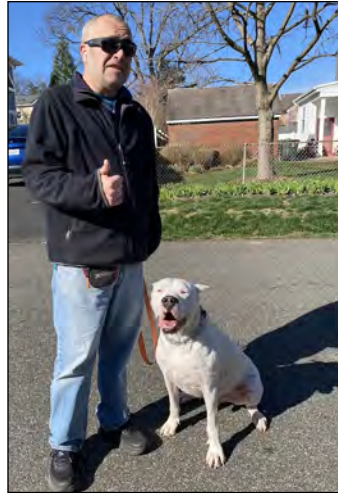






The Pets of Lyon Park

Our intrepid pet reporter is unavailable this month, but she will be back in May. In the meantime, enjoy these random shots of dogs in Lyon Park.



Lyon Park Woman's Club Next meeting: April 17th at noon

The Woman's Club is for everyone, women and men. We meet the third Thursday of the month at noon at the community center for a delicious potluck lunch. We have a great time socializing but we also contribute to the community, such as volunteering for the Chili Dinner, the Spring Fair, the Pancake Breakfast, and the Halloween Bonfire. For more info, contact Elizabeth Wray at ejswray@yahoo.com



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Saturday, May 17, 2025

Lyon Park Spring Fair (11am - 3pm)

Join us at the **Fair** for fun, games, activities and food.

Volunteers are needed for all events.

Email LyonParkEvents@gmail.com if you can volunteer.

Order a Historical Lyon Park House Plaque



Example of a plaque for a house built in 1929.

>> [Fill Out the Application on the LPCA Website](#)

- **Cost:**
\$275–\$286 for each 7"x5" Bronze Plaque, which includes shipping
 - » \$286 by PayPal: @payLPCC (covers the transaction fee)
 - » \$275 by check: make payable to Lyon Park Community Center
 - » Send application to:
Lyon Park Community Center
PO Box 100191
Arlington, VA 22210
 - » *Any amount given above the \$275–\$286 cost will be considered a tax-deductible donation and will be placed in the Lyon Park History Fund*
- **Production:**
May take 12–18 weeks
- **Questions:**
Contact lyonparkhistory@gmail.com

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



Arlington Bunny Hop Fun 5k & Block Party

When: Saturday, April 26th
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! Our 8th year!

Costumes are welcome &
encouraged—prizes
will be awarded!

Registration is open!
www.ArlingtonBunnyHop.org
for more info & to register

Join us at the Lyon Park Community Center
on Saturday, April 19 at 11am, for our annual
SPRING EGG HUNT

Lyon Park will be filled with more than 3,500
candy-filled plastic eggs for children to collect.

Three age groups will participate: 1-2, 3-6, and 7-10.

Each age group will collect eggs individually.

Children ages 1-2 will collect empty eggs which are
exchanged for parent approved prizes!

Remember to bring a basket or bag to collect your eggs.

Arrive by 10:45am so you don't miss all of the festivities.

Bring your camera and get a photo with our giant Peep!



The GOOD NEWS:

- The **2025 Lyon Park Plant Sale** will be held in Lyon Park on **Saturday, April 19 from 10am until 2pm.**
- The Sale includes potted plants from local gardens as well as a "Dig-it-Yourself" session led by Deborah Barber, Lyon Park's Native Plant Guru. (Dig-it-yourselfers must bring their own pots or bags).
- The Plant Sale is held **RAIN** or **SHINE!**



The NITTY-GRITTY:

- Set up begins at 9am and will include setting up a large tent, setting up tables and arranging plants.
- Strong volunteers are needed to help set up the tent and tables and take them down at the end of the sale.
- And, most importantly, we are hoping for lots of plant donors to bring healthy, potted donations (clearly labeled, please) to the Park **no later than 9:30am** the morning of the Sale.



GREEN THUMBS UP FOR APRIL 19!



Restaurant Vibes: Texas Jacks

By Philippa Kirby and Philip Conklin

If you have family and friends coming to town, with ages spanning across three generations, and if they have a lot of dietary restrictions—vegetarian, pescatarian, gluten intolerant...how on earth do you feed them all? And be pretty sure they'll all be happy? Well, there's a restaurant in the Lyon Park neighborhood that can do a great job of satisfying everyone: Texas Jack's on Washington Boulevard.

On a recent Sunday evening, a group of 15 diners, which included a few gluten intolerant, a number of carnivores, some pescatarians, and a couple of vegetarians all ate very happily together at Texas Jack's. The menu, the food quality, and the service were all excellent.

Menu: For our crowd, there was not just something for everyone, but there was a solid array of choices (most limited for the vegan options). Obviously, the carnivores were delighted. But, so too were the vegetarians. As written, the menu offers a decent selection of veggie options among the appetizers and sides that can be combined to make for a satisfying meal. When we told our server we had vegetarians in the group, she pointed out additional appetizers (nachos!) and entrees (tacos and burritos!) that could also be served vegetarian style. This expanded the range of veggie options to above average in restaurants where meat is the star of the show. Our pescatarians enjoyed grilled salmon on a salad or as an entree with sides, and also enjoyed the full range of the vegetarian options. And the gluten free diners had extensive choices across the menu (no gluten free desserts, however). Also, for palates still maturing, there were chicken fingers and fries—truly, there was something for everyone.

Food Quality: It is rare to go out and have everyone in the party find their meal tasty and satisfying, but for our party of 15, this was the case. The nachos delighted a 13-year and a 62-year-old. The meat platters all received two thumbs up. And the salmon and salad crowd noted "it is always good here." There were a few quibbles over whether or not pulled pork should be offered in a burrito (our other 13-year-old says "no" unequivocally). And a twenty something noted the brussels sprouts had great flavor but veered up to and over the line of "over-dressed" with oil and aioli.

Service: Our server, Reina, was kind, efficient and attentive. Taking and delivering orders for 15 diners is a challenge. And Reina (and the kitchen and a team of food servers) flawlessly delivered everyone's hot meal at the same time and with 100% accuracy—no small feat! This, while the dining room was full and included a tour bus of middle school students who arrived at the same time we did. Texas Jack's handled the rush with aplomb. Such solid service really allowed us to enjoy each other's company in a relaxed, festive environment.

The restaurant has two sections: the Whiskey Bar and the main restaurant. The Whiskey Bar offers the full Texas Jack's menu and TVs for sports and special events. The main dining room is a spacious, airy room adjoining the open kitchen. There is an outdoor dining patio. And there is a separate dining room with a bar for private parties.

Texas Jacks (2761 Washington Blvd.): Hours of operation are 11:00 a.m. – 9:30 p.m., Sunday and Monday; 11:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m., Tuesday–Thursday; 11:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday. Phone number is 703-875-0477. Visit the website: <https://www.txjacks.com> for their menu as well as their happy hour specials and brunch.



Saturday, April 12 -- 10 AM
Christ Church of Arlington

**NATIVE PLANT
GARDENING:
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*Speaker: Libby Lyons, Lyon Park resident &
life-long gardener, trained biologist, president of
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Rent the Lyon Park Community Center for your Next Event!

Check availability and submit a reservation form at <https://lyonpark.info> or contact Lori Cruz at LPCCRental@gmail.com for additional information.

	Non-Resident Rates	Lyon Park/Ashton Heights Resident Rates
Monday-Thursday (4-hour minimum)	\$125/hour	≤ 75 persons: \$50/hour >75 persons: \$75/hour
Half Day: Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays (8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. or 3:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.)	\$1,050	\$400
Full Day: Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays (8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.)	\$1,900	\$750
Birthday Party (ages 10 and under)	\$500	\$200

Required Cleaning Costs for All Rentals

Monday-Thursday events ≤ 20 guests	\$145	Monday-Thursday events > 20 guests	\$165
Friday/Saturday/Sunday/Holiday events ≤ 20 guests	\$150	Friday/Saturday/Sunday/Holiday events > 20 guests	\$275
Birthday Party (ages 10 and under)			\$165
Friday/Saturday/Sunday/Holiday (> 20 guests, no kitchen use except small kitchen refrigerator)			\$200

Inquire about optional "addon" services, such as furniture set-up and breakdown, at LPCCRental@gmail.com



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Thank you Arlington Magazine readers for voting Team Leader Natalie Roy one of your top real estate agents in 2023!



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