



# THE LYON PARK CITIZEN

## NEWSLETTER OF THE LYON PARK CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

May 2025



*Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped mulch the trees in Lyon park on Saturday, April 12. It was a wonderful morning of wheelbarrows, doughnuts, and camaraderie! It definitely takes a village to keep our trees healthy!*

### Upcoming Events

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

- |             |                                                                                                              |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>5/14</b> | <b>LPCA Monthly Meeting</b><br><i>Candidate's Night</i><br>7:00 p.m. Meeting Start;<br>8:30 p.m. Socializing |
| <b>5/15</b> | <b>Lyon Park Woman's Club Potluck Lunch</b><br>12:00 p.m.                                                    |
| <b>5/17</b> | <b>Lyon Park Spring Fair</b><br>11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.                                                       |
| <b>6/9</b>  | <b>Lyon Park Blood Drive</b><br>12:00 – 5:00 p.m.                                                            |
| <b>7/26</b> | <b>Lyon Park Centennial Picnic Extravaganza</b><br>4:00 p.m.                                                 |

### President's Message

By Michael P. Kunkler

It is that time of year again...may I quote Henry V, "Once more into the breach!" And by that, I mean the Arlington peak political season, where the "Arlington way" is once again tested in the heated fields of party primaries (and will this be the year for a true general election showdown?). Also once more... Lyon Park will take center stage as a potential King maker in the always anticipated party primary for County Board. On 14 May, 7-9pm, the Lyon Park Community Center will be the venue for experienced participant James DeVita and incumbent Takis Karantonis to publicly lay out their plans for navigating what could be rather rough County seas. I plan on moderating a session with questions from the neighborhood on areas as diverse as budget gaps, tree canopy, continued police vacancies, and the impact of a quickly shrinking government employment base. I welcome any other topics of interest the neighborhood would like to pose to the candidates.

While on the topic of our civic responsibility to participate in the democratic process, I would like to remind the membership of practicing political civility with all neighbors, even those that may hold differing positions or beliefs. While Arlington and Lyon Park strongly tend towards one political party, everyone has the right to support their preferred candidates. One neighbor, on their way to the April LPCA meeting, had the unfortunate experience of finding their political signs had been taken from their lawn and secreted away on the Community Center grounds (they humbly collected them en route). This was not the first time this neighbor had endured such uncivil attention. While we are open to debating the merits of positions and political actors, I respectfully remind the membership to practice thoughtful restraint in personal attacks or vandalism against others.

Please do come join the discussion on 14 May, welcoming Board Primary candidates to Lyon Park. Regardless of your overall Party preferences, all Arlington voters are eligible to vote in a single party primary. You never know, perhaps one candidate will sway previous notions on these critical topics.

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## TEEN SERVICES

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### President

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Paul Showalter: [LyonParkEvents@gmail.com](mailto:LyonParkEvents@gmail.com)

#### Treasurer

John Ausink: [johnausink@earthlink.net](mailto:johnausink@earthlink.net)

#### Secretary/Historian

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#### Membership Chair

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#### Sergeant at Arms

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#### Members at Large

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#### 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

#### LPCA Representative to Doorways

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Alt. Rep: Niels Poulsen: [Poulsen.N@gmail.com](mailto:Poulsen.N@gmail.com)

#### LPCA Representative to the Clarendon Alliance

Debbie Kaplan: [debbiekaplandk@gmail.com](mailto:debbiekaplandk@gmail.com)

Fill out the form on the Teen Services page to get listed here and on the website: [[www.lyonpark.org/explore/resources/teen-services](http://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.
- **Chiara Ciccone**, 12, Pet Sitter, Tutoring, Yard Work, Dog Walker. Text (202) 321-9964.
- **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](mailto: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: [ialbertfine@icloud.com](mailto:ialbertfine@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](mailto:mhershey28@gmail.com).
- **Kate Kiriakou**, 17, Babysitter, Odd Jobs, Pet Sitter, House Sitter. Red Cross Cert. Text: (703) 587-9277, Email: [kiriakoufamily23@gmail.com](mailto: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: [jlondon718@gmail.com](mailto:jlondon718@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](mailto: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](mailto: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.
- **Athena Roiniotis**, 10, Pet Sitter, Tutoring, Yard Work, Dog Walker. Text: (703) 966-3598.
- **Ellsie Seward**, 16, Viola and Violin Help/Tutoring/Lessons. Text: (703) 473-5051.
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- **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.



## Restaurant Vibes: Zazzy

By Philippa Kirby and Philip Conklin

On a recent sunny Sunday evening, we ambled through Lyon Park to Zazzy on N. Fillmore St for our third meal at this family-owned Lebanese fast fresh food restaurant. At the end of our meal, we had the same two takeaways as on our prior visits: "Wow! This food is delicious." And, "Why aren't there more people in here?" To us, the lack of a full house it is truly a mystery. The food is consistently delicious featuring bright, fresh flavored dishes that breakaway from the standard Middle Eastern menu. Offerings like:

- **Ousheh:** fresh baked flatbreads including zaatar spice, cheese, chicken & cheese, spinach pomegranate, and lahme biazine (ground beef with tomato, peppers and onions), and baked falafel. (We are particularly fond of the zataar ousheh!).
- **Dips:** mharfara walnut, eggplant tahini, hummus, labne and fava bean served with housemade pita chips. (We always get the sampler. So. Very. Delicious.)
- **Salata:** a compelling variety including: freekeh date salad, chicken quinoa, chicken berries, halloumi fattoush, and "not your typical" tabouli.
- **Fatayer:** a selection of vegetarian or meat spring rolls with a Lebanese twist.
- **Sandwish** (yes, that's spelled right!): among the tender and flavorful sandwich options are rosemary steak, chicken pita, "perfect" batata featuring baked potatoes, roasted eggplant with raisins, and beef shawarma.
- **Pans and Hot Bowls:** comfort main dishes that include beef shawarma with vermicelli rice, spiced eggs and beef, chicken batas (potatoes), lentil mjdara, fava and chickpea with lemon and olive oil, and chicken fatteh garnished with yogurt, butter pine nuts and aleppo pepper.
- **Helou:** desserts! including a Nutella or sweet cheese pocket, chocolate chip tahini cookies, spiced turmeric delight and a chocolate pistachio "lazy day" cake.



Over the course of three visits to Zazzy, members of our dining party managed to order from each menu category at least once and found the food delicious and highly satisfying each time. The guiding principle of "if it sounds good, it will be good" worked for us. The one dish ordered every time we visited was the lentil mjdara where humble ingredients are brought together to create a deeply satisfying combination of flavors and textures. Serving sizes are perfect for a filling solo meal or sharing as many of the portions for salads, dips, pans and hot bowls are quite generous. It would be a great place to eat "family style". The food arrives promptly and the service is kind and attentive. Ordering is available online for pick-up/delivery and Zazzy offers catering service as well.

Zazzy is positioned as an urban cafe featuring an all-day food menu, coffees and teas, house-made lemonade, soft drinks and a wine bar. The vibe is calm and bright with huge west facing windows and a design that is industrial yet homey and welcoming with a variety of comfortable seating options for individuals, couples, and small and large groups. The dining room is spacious, easily accommodating strollers (there are three high chairs available) as well as wheelchairs and the tables are well spaced. Overall, Zazzy has the feel of an oasis. And should you want to dine al fresco, there are a few outside tables on Fillmore.

Zazzy founder and CEO, Zeina Chouman El Eid, established this Arlington cafe after 12 years in Beirut where she founded and ran an all-day urban cafe that inspires the menu and vibe of the restaurant. As she states on the Zazzy website, they offer "the best of Lebanese street food with the warmth of homestyle cooking...Zazzy is a destination, a retreat for those seeking authenticity and flavor." The spirit of her excellent establishment is captured on a large mirror on the dining room's south wall: "Laughter is Brightest Where the Food Is."

*Zazzy (1025 N. Fillmore St., Ste. J): Hours of operation are Monday–Friday, 11:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m., Saturday/Sunday 10:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m. Phone number is 703–512–0002. Visit the website: <https://letszazzy.com> for more information and to order online.*





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### Lyon Park Woman's Club

**Next meeting: May 15th 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](mailto:ejswray@yahoo.com)



**SATURDAY, MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>**

# LYON PARK SPRING FAIR

\*\*\*\*\*

**11AM - 3PM**

**PRIZE BOOTH MOON BOUNCE FOOD**  
**FACE PAINTING CARNIVAL GAMES**

\*\*\*\*\*

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO MAKE THIS EVENT A SUCCESS! IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SIGN UP FOR THIS, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO [LYONPARKEVENTS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LYONPARKEVENTS@GMAIL.COM)

[coupardarchitects.com](http://coupardarchitects.com)  
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Please note: Paid advertisements in the Lyon Park Bulletin do not reflect any official position of the LPCA.



## Let's Renovate Our Playground Together!

The Lyon Park Playground Committee is excited to be working with the community to develop a plan for renovating the playground at Lyon Park. We are a group of volunteers spearheaded by resident Mark Ilich and began meeting in February to discuss the project and how we can "Play It Forward!"

The basic intent is to: replace the equipment, address the current drainage problems, respect the park's natural tree canopy, and install new surfacing. However, other details and what it will look like exactly is still an open question. Throughout the spring we will be at several community events to help raise awareness of the project and hear from the community. Last month we launched a survey to better understand the community's preferences and priorities. If you have not already shared your feedback, please follow the link below or use the QR code to provide your input and make sure your voice is heard! Your input is very valuable in guiding the renovation and design process, and we want to hear from as many residents as possible. Please share with your neighbors and help spread the word!

We also invite you to come to our tent at the Lyon Park Spring Fair (5/17) where we will have an activity table for kids to build their dream playground and volunteers will be available to speak with you more about the project.

In June, based on all the input collected in our Survey, we will launch the next phase of conceptual design and begin fundraising in earnest. A generous donation has allowed us to engage a local design firm to help us shepherd the project through these initial engagement and conceptual design phases; however ongoing volunteer efforts and fundraising will be critical to turning this vital need into a reality. Please be on the lookout for ways that you can participate in and donate to the efforts and help us PLAY IT FORWARD!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LP-Playground-Renovation>



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## Order a Historical Lyon Park House Plaque



*The first shipment of Lyon Park Historic District plaques has arrived! Here is one installed on a house built in 1924. Order one for your home today!*

### >> [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](mailto:lyonparkhistory@gmail.com)

## 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/>

## Are Mosquitos Bugging You?

By Jonathan Zuckerman, Mosquito Reduction Enthusiast

The best neighborhood level action we can take to reduce the nuisance of mosquitos without harming other wildlife is:

1. Eliminate standing water in our yards (about twice per week should be sufficient to disrupt their lifecycle) and
2. Set up mosquito traps in our yards.



You can buy larvicide dunks for the traps at any hardware store but to get the best deal I will make another bulk order near the end of May and distribute them to participating neighbors in early June.

The form to participate is here <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSed9phOyy7QgFH5emlp95qdbZ0FZRQOCvf49Buw7PLENbSqDQ/viewform?usp=dialog> and neighbors can reach out to me with any questions—I am just an enthusiast but I will do my best to answer! I can be reached at [j.zuckerman@gmail.com](mailto:j.zuckerman@gmail.com) or (415) 200–6788.

## We want to hear from you!

Interested in contributing to the newsletter? We are looking for articles (350–400 words) about local spots, highlighting the vibe and food options to encourage readers to try something new. Contact [lyonparkeditor@gmail.com](mailto:lyonparkeditor@gmail.com) to offer a submission. Please note: the newsletter deadline for the June newsletter is 5/15.

## 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](mailto:lyonparkpresident@gmail.com)

### MEMBERSHIP DUES:

1 YEAR: \$10 | 2 YEARS: \$20 | LIFETIME: \$250

Fill out the form on our website to join! [www.lyonpark.org/connect/join-lpca-volunteer](http://www.lyonpark.org/connect/join-lpca-volunteer)



## Celebrating 250 Years—How Will Lyon Park Make it Special?

By Elizabeth Sheehy

April 19, 2025 marked the 250th anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord. In 1775, British troops aimed to seize military supplies stored by colonial militiamen in Concord, in the hopes of suppressing further rebellion. The colonists were warned of the impending arrival of the redcoats by Paul Revere's famous midnight ride through the Massachusetts countryside, memorialized in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem.

The skirmish that resulted in a Patriot victory is known as the "shot heard round the world," and is regarded as the official start of the successful American War of Independence. In Massachusetts (and six other states) April 19th is a legal holiday known as Patriots Day, and traditionally is the day of the Boston Marathon, as well as a morning Red Sox game at Fenway Park. This year, Patriot Day celebrations also marked the start of America250, the nationwide commemoration of our nation's founding with the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Localities across the country will participate by highlighting historical events, cultural diversity, freedom, and community. Information about the celebrations, which will span more than a year, culminating in a nationwide birthday party of July 4, 2026, can be found at:

- <https://america250.org>
- <https://va250.org>
- <https://arhist.org>

In 1976, during the nation's Bicentennial (200th birthday), Lyon Park created several special community projects. That year marks the start of the Lyon Park Citizen newsletter, published for the first time in September 1976. If anyone has editions from the first two years, the history committee would love copies! Another wonderful project was the planting of red, white, and blue flowers in the gardens throughout Lyon Park. For those who lived in Lyon park at the time, what else was done to commemorate the Bicentennial?

Lyon Park is a very special community and an official Historic District. We need to start planning for next year's celebration. Come to the LPCA meeting on May 8 to share your ideas, or drop a note to [lyonparkpresident@gmail.com](mailto:lyonparkpresident@gmail.com). This is the chance not only to look back, but to look forward and create wonderful NEW memories and future opportunities.

And mark your calendars for Lyon Park's own launch of the Semiquincentennial (quarter millennial or 250 years) Celebration at the Lyon Park Picnic in two months on Saturday, July 26 starting at 4 p.m. There will be games, music, ice cream and more! Sign up today to help or donate at [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A48ACA92FA4FB6-55905801-lyon#/?](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A48ACA92FA4FB6-55905801-lyon#/)

# 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!



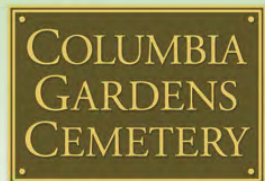


# Spring FLING

**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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# The Pets of Lyon Park

By Lauren Daly

Softest ears ever! That's what everyone says once they pet Jethro, the Basset Hound-Beagle mix known as a Bagle. It only took David & Sara Newman and their three daughters 24 hours of fostering Jethro to decide to adopt him at 1 year old. He is so gentle and sweet they had him certified by People Animals Love (PAL) as a therapy dog. Jethro has amassed quite a resume in his 11 years. His certification brings him to hospitals, hospice centers, even George Mason University during exams to calm stressed students. He's also a paid performer for a local film maker and has helped many local children get over their fear of dogs. You'll see Jethro and his best friend Enoki the cat walking the blocks between Lyon and Zitkala Parks near the Newman's home on Fillmore St. Jethro and Enoki have been on college tours with the Newman girls and naturally were the hit of the tours. Stop to say hi to the Newmans and pet Jethro and Enoki when you see them on their rounds! Jethro will brighten your day.



## Community Announcements

### Calling All Poets, Young and Old!

Do you write poetry? Do you read poetry? If you would be interested in sharing your poetry, or in hearing poetry written by Lyon Park community members, please let me know! I am organizing the first **Poetry Slam** event to be held at the Lyon Park Community House so that all aspiring Poets, young and old, can share their craft. Contact Michael Dominick at [cybermwd@msn.com](mailto:cybermwd@msn.com).

### Freshly-picked Blueberries from New Jersey!

The Kiwanis Club of Arlington is taking orders for 10-pound boxes of nutritious and delicious blueberries, available for pick-up June 20–21 at Cherrydale Methodist Church, 3701 Lorcum Lane. Each box is \$45 and orders can be placed online at <https://arlingtonvakiwanis.com>. Customers can also purchase boxes for donation to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) for distribution to Arlington's neediest families. Proceeds benefit the Kiwanis scholarship program for Arlington high school graduates, and non-profits including Arlington Thrive, Bridges to Independence, Doorways, VHC Pediatrics and many others.

## Clarendon Alliance: Upcoming Events

### Music by the Metro

The Clarendon Alliance proudly presents the Music by the Metro - Clarendon Concert Series. FREE concerts in May at Clarendon Metro Park on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

- May 8, 2025, **Mama Moon and the Rumpshakers**: <https://youtu.be/NHdl4r-xD0M>
- May 15, 2025, **Kiti Gartner & The Drifting Valentines**: <https://youtu.be/ZELBc0Dhj2g>
- May 22, 2025, **Veronneau**: <https://youtu.be/SgLYTi6HbY4>
- (Rain date, May 29)

**Armed Forces Cycling Classic:** May 31/June 1

**Clarendon Cup with Clarendon Alliance:** Sunday June 1

**Clarendon Day:** September 27, 2025



# The Changing Community Landscape: Green Valley Edition

By Anne Bodine, VP of Development

In the mid-1970's Arlington was one of the first places in the U.S. to adopt "Transit-Oriented Development," increasing zoning and land use to allow major additions of housing, withing the two new rapid transit corridors for Metrorail. It worked out. Arlington grew, but in ways that kept the county semi-urban with low residential areas, while expanding along the corridors. A balance of commercial and residential space kept a pretty even keel to balance budgets. Since then, the county has added two new transit corridors, Columbia Pike and Langston Blvd., significantly increasing the carrying capacity for development. Budgets haven't been as rosy, as commercial tenancy has declined in years since COVID-19.

Inside the transit corridors, developers regularly "bargain" with the county, usually via staff, and neighborhoods, usually through civic associations, pursuant to the site planning process. Recently, however, areas that had never seen site planning are encountering them, including ours, via the Courthouse Clarendon amended sector plan, and special GLUPs (one-off changes to the land use on a site) that bring higher density in small areas, such as the Days Inn at Pershing and Rt. 50 in Lyon Park.

Now, however, the county is expanding site planning and higher density—and with some projects a departure from transit-corridor incentives—beyond these defined areas. The April 9 approval by the County Board of a 531-unit housing complex at S. Glebe Rd. and I-395, in Green Valley sets a precedent I find troubling. The vote defied wishes of African-American leaders, the Civic Association, neighbors, churches, the Arlington Civic Federation, among others, seemingly in a push to elevate housing production over other county goals.

For example, the vote defied County goals on equity and housing affordability (most 2-bedroom units will not be affordable to the 42% of Green Valley residents who are Black or Hispanic). Fewer than 2% of the new units will be committed affordable units provided by the developer. I believe that number did not correspond to what was truly possible under current zoning and land use law and policy. The site plan process governing community benefits was also extremely warped as the county granted so many exemptions as to boosting the future yield on the property perhaps six to eight-fold.

These critically important land use and zoning issues were not fully fleshed out—or done so only in a way they could not be challenged as the county attorney took the Board into a backroom during one of the Board meetings. That meant we may have left more affordable units on the table. The Board also failed to require a full VDOT analysis of the S. Glebe Rd. impacts (a road VDOT manages), allowing the developer to preempt traffic design here to maximize profit. While that is expected from for-profit entities, I believe in this case the County was not deeply committed to forging the best deal for a historic Black church next to the site, for Green Valley, or for the people who live here NOW.

The development offers 91% 2-bedroom units or smaller, thus failing to deliver family-sized units Arlington needs. It adds to the surplus of small, expensive housing and will also be 100% rentals, meaning no opportunities for tenants to build generational wealth. And 98% of units will be at market rates where the County admits it has a surplus of supply.

The project will add 23% of existing housing stock in the census tract, but the only infrastructure and "community facility" improvements designed will mainly benefit the new tenants (a new access road, new green space) and not current residents or the church; some of the benefits may never be realized (a cut through to allow a second egress point for all the new traffic depends on owners of an adjacent site!). Minimal benefits were secured by AME Lomax Zion Church and Green Valley Civic Association, although one benefit, LEED design specifications, is significant and contributes to broad county goals. Several board members behaved as if they had no other choice. This sets awful precedents for site planning across Arlington; it guarantees further gentrification of one of Arlington's most diverse neighborhoods. I hope this project will encourage you to get involved in long-term growth policy of our county and consider how we can also be better informed about these kinds of projects within our own Lyon Park.

## An Egg-cellent Time Had by All!

By Paul Showalter

Mix lots of candy...more than 3,500 plastic eggs and what do you get? Another fabulous egg hunt in Lyon Park. Numerous volunteers spent hours stuffing candy into those little plastic eggs for our annual Egg Hunt.

And what a day in the park it was. The weather was gorgeous. Lyon Park was full of kids (and parents and grandparents) having fun (and collecting thousands of eggs in a hurry). We hope you were able to join us. If you watch the videos of the event posted online, you will laugh. The kids are hilarious. And when the Giant Yellow Peep made its appearance, everyone went wild. It was a great addition to our event, and a fabulous photo op.

Thank you to my amazing team of volunteers (young and "slightly" older) ... without you, the event would not have been possible. Thanks to my volunteers, Linda Henderson and her grandkids; David Grahn; Gray Handley; Bill Anhut; Sharon Showalter; Alex, Helen and Claire Peters. Claire also returned on Saturday to help with the main event, and as always, did a great job wrangling the kids.

These types of events make Lyon Park special and a true asset for our community. Please step up and get involved in our next big event, the Lyon Park Spring Fair.



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## Lyon Park's History on Display

By Thora Colot, former President—and Lifetime Member—of the LPCA

Three exhibit cases have been installed in the hallway that separates the kitchen from the main meeting room. These three cases will be filled with historic materials, photographs, facsimiles, and artifacts to tell the story of the community and the pride generations have demonstrated in its upkeep and preservation over the years.

But—why now? Elizabeth Sheehy spearheaded a grant application to Arlington County's Historic Preservation Fund last year. She has long been aware of the historic records from 1919 on that have never been adequately archived nor stored. Before anything further could happen to them, she applied for and got this grant to digitize the records, and through this process, as well as outdoor signs and exhibit cases, make the history of Lyon Park more available to everyone. Thank you, Elizabeth! The goal of the exhibits in the cases will be to share the unique history of Lyon Park with everyone that uses the building. Even renters will understand what an incredible space they're able to use through the information in the exhibits—the displays will add one more reason why the Community House is so unique to Arlington.

Our goal is that the themes in the three cases will focus on:

- Recognizing the supreme contributions of the many people throughout the years that have built, renovated and kept the Community House an important and extremely usable and useful historic part of the story of Arlington
- Displaying artifacts and examples of past activities that demonstrate the true meaning of community, through events such as performances, lectures, girl scout meetings, as well as minutes of the first Women's Club.
- Highlighting photographs and other evidence that testify the community spirit is still alive through the ongoing efforts of everyone to make sure a cupcake sale, a food truck music evening, the spring fair and the Egg Hunt (among others!) continue to bring the neighborhood together.

Every resident of Lyon Park actually owns Lyon Park and the Community House! This makes us unique among neighborhoods in Arlington. Under our stewardship, they will not only be vital to the future of the community, but also continue to bond us, nurture our children and provide a place with activities for everyone! We are so grateful for community members that have tirelessly contributed time and energy that helps to keep this mission alive.

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## BINGO Night Success!

By Lilly Rizzi and Emma Pike

Bingo night was a success!! We raised \$1,600 for PathForward and over 100 people showed up!! We are Lilly Rizzi and Emma Pike and we go to Thomas Jefferson Middle School. For our required 8th grade community service project, we knew we wanted to host a fundraising event with the community that was fun and engaging.

During school, there was an in-school field trip day to introduce us and our classmates to various nonprofit organizations. PathForward came and we had a fun time helping make sandwiches for the people they support. We learned that they work to not only get homeless people into shelters and homes, but also to help them become successful in everyday life. Since homelessness is a growing problem all around the world, including Arlington, we thought it would be perfect if we included them for our community project.

We then had to decide what type of event to host to raise money for PathForward. After consideration, we landed on hosting our own bingo night. The idea originated from Lilly's annual family beach trip, where she and her family always attend the weekly bingo events. The bingo nights were always so much fun, and we thought our neighbors might also enjoy it! We contacted PathForward - they were excited about this fundraiser and Jon Davis came to our event to promote PathForward and what they are doing.

The process for hosting this event wasn't easy, but with months of planning, an incredible amount of support from the community we made it happen. We started by emailing the Lyon Park Board of Governors, who allowed us to present a pitch at their monthly meeting. This included a presentation about why we wanted to rent out the Lyon Park Community Center at no cost. They agreed - that email was incredible news! It was going to be held at the community center on April 6th. We then started the planning phase. This consisted of planning everything to a tee, including the setup of the room, advertising, and more. After that began the collection of prizes - lots of emails, facebook posts and in-person visits yielded a lot of generous prize donations worth over \$400.

Now we only had to wait for the big day to arrive. We had no idea what to expect - would we get 10 people? 30 people? Close to 100 people ended up attending our event and supporting PathForward. After an hour and a half of many, many rounds of bingo, the night came to an end. After counting up all the money, we couldn't believe it - we made around \$1,650 to help PathForward's mission to get Arlington homeless off the streets.

We are so incredibly grateful for everything the community and our families and friends did to help. We would like to especially give a huge thank you to Paul Showalter, who mentored us along the way and chose to celebrate his birthday with us at our event.



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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](mailto:LPCCRental@gmail.com) for additional information.

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

### Required Cleaning Costs for All Rentals

<b>Monday-Thursday</b> events ≤ 20 guests	\$145	<b>Monday-Thursday</b> events > 20 guests	\$165
<b>Friday/Saturday/Sunday/Holiday</b> events ≤ 20 guests	\$150	<b>Friday/Saturday/Sunday/Holiday</b> events > 20 guests	\$275
<b>Birthday Party</b> (ages 10 and under)			\$165
<b>Friday/Saturday/Sunday/Holiday</b> (> 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](mailto:LPCCRental@gmail.com)



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