



Ashton Heights News

The Newsletter of the Ashton Heights Civic Association www.AshtonHeights.org

NEW YEAR - NEW CHALLENGES

by Scott Sklar, President, Ashton Heights Civic Association

I hope you all had a great Holiday and Happy New Year!

Great news - we have had no droughts, forest fires, floods and storm surges, earthquakes, or hurricanes -- as experienced across the country. Sure makes me appreciate living here in the Washington Metropolitan area.

But that doesn't mean that there are no challenges. The National Weather Service (NWS) announced that Reagan Airport's total observed rainfall for the year had reached 61.34 inches at exactly 6:26 a.m. on December 15th, shattering D.C. areas old record of 61.33 inches set in 1889, making this past year as the wettest calendar year on record. Dealing with basement flooding is common in this area - cleaning downspouts, keeping water away from foundations, and landscaping to slow water movement are local requirements.

If I were to categorize the top three challenges living in Arlington, I would have to say:

1. **Building density** as empty lots become filled, existing housing on lots expand to the property boundary, and buildings grow higher and higher -- all impinging on our community's open space, tree canopy, and

AHCA Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, Jan 16, 2019 7 - 9 PM

7:00 Refreshments and mingling
7:30 Community & committee updates
8:00 Anne Guillette, Watersheds Project Manager
8:30 Jennifer Toussaint, Animal Welfare League of Arlington
9:00 Conclusion

Meeting Location is the Clarendon United Methodist Church at N Ivy St & Sixth St N - Accessible entry is on Ivy St, take stairs or elevator down to the ramp leading to the social hall. Cars must enter the lot from Ivy St.

quietness that drew many of us originally to Ashton Heights.

2. **Traffic congestion** has been growing every year, and even with the Metro, greater orientation towards "walkable communities", bike lanes with bike share and now scooters -- we still are becoming more grid locked.
3. **Crowded schools** came upon us as demographics have changed. The student population has grown, and the County and School Board have driven building and upgrading new public schools on existing sites as well as new sites. And keeping schools walkable from our communities is becoming more difficult.



Ashton Heights Civic Association Volunteers

Civic Association Mission

AHCA's mission is to promote the welfare and interaction of Ashton Heights and Arlington. Meetings, usually held the third Wednesday from September to May, are open to all residents, although only paid members can vote. Active participation is welcome. AHCA keeps you informed through meetings, this newsletter, and the website: www.ashtonheights.org. You can volunteer by contacting the Executive Committee.

Executive Committee

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Handy Numbers

ABANDONED VEHICLES AND BICYCLES

Vehicle on a county street: 703-228-4144

Bicycle: 703-228-4057

(Give exact location, description, and how long it's been there)

ANIMAL REMOVAL

For dead animals reporting and to request removal, call the Animal Welfare League of Arlington at 703-931-9241.

For live animals

www.animalcontrolsolutions.com/virginia/arlington-wildlife-removal.html

ARLINGTON APP and EMERGENCIES

Use the Arlington Virginia app on your mobile device for many services: search apps for "ArlingtonVA"

Sign up for Arlington Alert – A great way to stay informed and receive timely information during emergencies. Get more info at www.arlingtonalert.com.

CRIME

Suspicious activity & non-emergency: 703-558-2222

Online reporting:

<http://police.arlingtonva.us/online-police-reporting-system>

Crime prevention services (security assessments/ literature): 703-228-4057 or hhurlock@arlingtonva.us

Online crime mapping tool:

www.raidsonline.com/?address=Arlington,VA

STREET LIGHT OUTAGE & POTHoles

Street light outage: 703-228-6570

(Give exact location and pole number)

For filling street pot holes, call 703-228-6570) or file on web site <https://topics.arlingtonva.us/reportproblem>

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The *Ashton Heights News* is distributed to 1,200 households September – May. Our readers like to do business locally.

2018/19 Ad Rates:

- Business Card: \$60
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- Full Back Page: \$295
- One page insert \$325

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President's Message Continues from Page 1

Counter to this, crime has not increased, and tree canopy, while less, is being actively replenished.

We are in the process of updating our AHCA Guidelines for all our Committees.

- In 2018 we adopted Schools Principles
- in January we will vote on our updated Development Principles
- in February we will vote on Development Operational Guidelines and our AHCA Transportation Principles
- We have Draft Tree Canopy and Native Plants Principles which will also be finalized

The goal of these activities is to build consensus, priorities, and involvement so the Ashton Heights Civic Association (AHCA) can be proactive in the County processes and decision making and maximize our impact on outcomes.

We have intervened in pushing a more formal process to accelerate street light repairs so that calls are not shuttled between Arlington County and Dominion Power. We have met with Dominion Power on better control, public notice and interaction with Ashton Heights residents on tree cutting near power lines. We negotiated this year with the beer garden

developer at Wilson Blvd and 10th St North to put up barriers, have lighting downward towards the ground, limit parking and they complied with our requests. AHCA supported the neighborhood in blocking a hotel on the Staples lot because it did not comply with approved plans, and we have a functioning stop sign on Pershing Drive that makes entry from North Irving Street possible during the rush hours.

Our AHCA Committee Chairs have been dutifully following and influencing roadway redevelopment, Ballston and other developments, tree canopy and open spaces, neighborhood planning and sidewalk projects, and new schools projects, among many other activities.

As always, we are always looking for ideas, concerns, and your input. Our emails are on page two of this newsletter, and of course, there is the AHCA listserv. Thank you all for your efforts for our community, to make Ashton Heights even a better place to live.

And again, Happy New Year.

January's AHCA Meeting will Include these Great Topics:

- **Green Streets Project on Oakland Street** featuring Anne Guillette, Watershed Projects Manager, Arlington County
- **Arlington County Animal Control** with Jennifer Toussaint, Chief of Animal Control, Animal Welfare League of Arlington - will be available to discuss animal control, as well as any questions the audience may have (including feral cats)

If you have an idea for a topic you would like to hear about at an upcoming meeting, simply email Julia Tanner at jktanner1@gmail.com and pass along your suggestion.

Community Safety and Security Corner
Safer and More Enjoyable Nightlife in Clarendon
By: Christina Schultz

You may have noticed over the past year that weekend nights in Clarendon are a bit less rowdy and problematic than they used to be. This progress is due to the Arlington Restaurant Initiative (ARI), started by the Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) and several other county offices, in February 2018. ARI, based on a successful model in the United Kingdom, aims to improve safety for patrons and restaurant staff while increasing nightlife business. Rather than concentrate on patrons, this program focuses on the restaurants. ACPD offers a training program for restaurant owners and staff that includes responsible alcohol service, fake identification detection, recognizing and responding to sexual harassment, and de-escalation techniques, among other sessions. The George Mason University Center for Evidence-Based Policy and the Social and Decision Analytics Lab Biocomplexity Institute of Virginia Tech have partnered with ARI to, respectively, assess challenges faced by businesses that serve alcohol and to conduct an economic and social impact study.

Sixteen restaurants in Clarendon that serve alcohol are participating in this voluntary accreditation

program and have lauded its results for their business and customers, as well as the community at large. Prior to this initiative, an average weekend in Clarendon involved about three arrests for drunken and disorderly conduct. Thanks to ARI, there were three arrests in Clarendon over the entire summer in 2018. The program is expected to be rolled out in other nighttime hotspots in Arlington this year.

For more information, check out the ACPD webpage – <https://police.arlingtonva.us/arlington-restaurant-initiative>

"The Arlington Restaurant Initiative . . . works collaboratively with County agencies and businesses to improve the standards of establishments that serve alcohol through education, partnerships and open lines of communication."

- M. Jay Farr, Chief of Police, ACPD

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Dominic Blackwell	2006		B	C			F			703-951-2707
Katie Brown	2001		B	C	D		F	G		703-955-0538
Sophia Brown	2004			C			F	G		703-955-0538
Kaitlyn Cooper	2005		B	C			F			517-340-1212
Lila Derr	2006			C						703-528-8880
Max Derr	2003	A		C	D	E				703-528-8880
Sarah Eichorn	2005		B	C				G		703-528-8360
Apple Gould	2001		B	C			F			703-528-7310
Rafa Gould	2003		B	C			F		I	703-528-7310
Eliza Hall	2004		B	C			F	G		631-258-3805
Ethan Hall	2001								I	703-655-9745
Kerik Hayes	2002	A		C		E				571-232-4366
Maggie Hayes	2004		B	C						571-309-5103
Martha Hays	2002			C				G		703-807-0015
Clara Helms	2001		B	C				G		703-908-0121
Ryan McFarlane	2001		B	C						571-429-1615
Emma Miller	2002			C						703-528-0447
Miriam Morse	2002			C	D		F			703-524-8182
Claire Mowery	2004		B	C				G		202-304-6149
Jack Mowery	2001	A					E			703-437-2174
Keyven Olson	2007	A		C						703-798-1981
Emery Parker	2003		B	C			F	G		703-414-9371
Nora Parker	2007		B	C			F	G		703-528-2436
Amy Parr	2001		B	C	D		F	G		703-243-4129
Isabel Ramon	2004		B	C				G	I	917-969-6668
Cepheus Randolph	2003	A		C		E				703-774-5400
Seneca Randolph	2001		B	C			F	G		703-774-5400
Laura Rapazzo	2003		B	C			F	G		703-915-0518
Ellie Rosenberg	2007			C				G		571-645-1879
Josh Rosenberg	2002	A	B	C	D		F	G		571-214-2908
Amelia Sahn	2005			C						703-956-0684
Sophia Scharpf	2002		B	C				G		703-466-2327
Annie Schutz	2001		B	C	D			G		703-915-8463
Anna Secrest	2003		B	C			F			703-294-6686
Declan Secrest	2001	A		C		E	F			703-294-6686
Sophia Sleigh	2004		B	C			F	G		703-340-7968

Name	Birth Year	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	I	Phone
Andy Spitzer	2004	A			D	E				703-465-0424
Brooke Tanner	2001	A	B	C			F	G	I	703-507-2703
Mia Tanner	2003		B	C						703-528-8852
Charlotte Thomas	2006		B	C				G		703-276-9465
Georgia Thomas	2004		B				F	G		703-276-9465
Samantha Thomas	2006		B	C				G		703-276-9465
Grace Vande-Meulebroecke	2005			C						703-778-2009
Sydney Vande-Meulebroecke	2001		B	C			F			703-778-2009
Natalia Whitman	2000		B	C				G		571-533-5253
Anna Williams	2001		B	C	D		F	G		703-965-5439
Annie Zetkolic	2001		B	C			F	G		703-516-0024

Kids, Inc. Entrepreneurs

Key to Services Offered

- A - Leaf raking, shoveling
- B - Babysitting
- C - Pet/plant sitting
- D - Odd jobs/errands
- E - Lawn mowing
- F - House sitting
- G - Mother's helper
- I - Technology

Send updates to

Ann Felker gr8est9@gmail.com

KIDS INC offers a robust roster of willing and able local youth to help out when the household hands are not enough. They are enthusiastically awaiting your calls. Birth years allow you to match the size of the job with the age of the person. We manage the directory; you define the work and determine the pay scale. Let it be known that entrepreneurship is alive and well in Ashton Heights.

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GROW CHICKADEES---Plant a native tree!

Brooke Alexander

Tree Canopy Fund coordinator for Ashton Heights

ARMN (Arlington Regional Master Naturalist)

Brooke.alexander52@gmail.com

A pair of Carolina chickadees requires 6000 to 9000 caterpillars to successfully raise one brood of young. Like 96% of all songbirds, **chickadee babies** require insects as food; chickadees favor caterpillars. (Adult chickadees eat seeds and berries, in addition to insects.)

Carolina chickadee parents feed their nestlings for 12-16 days, until they fledge; and then they feed them for another 3-4 weeks until the young disperse, and go off to fend for themselves. So, that's 6000-9000 caterpillars over a 5-8 week period of time in the spring, for one brood of chickadees. That's a lot of caterpillars!

So, where do the chickadee parents find these caterpillars? On our native trees!

All plant leaves have poisonous substances protecting them from predators. However, certain caterpillars have evolved alongside particular plants, and can safely eat the leaves. Thus, our NATIVE caterpillars are the caterpillars which will sustain our NATIVE songbirds. Our historical forest here in Ashton Heights is an Oak-Hickory forest. Oaks support 534 different species of caterpillars; hickories support 200. Plant an oak or hickory! (Crepe myrtle, burning bush, and callery pear have been documented to support one species of caterpillar.)

By the way, it's worth pointing out that our native caterpillars also mature to become our native butterflies and moths. Thus, in addition to feeding our native baby songbirds, our native trees also feed our young native butterflies and moths.

As it turns out, chickadees are cavity nesters. They'll nest in nest boxes, but more likely our local chickadees are nesting in cavities they have excavated in dead tree snags, or rotten branches. So, for the chickadees, leave a rotten branch or stub (at least 6 inches wide, and 4 -20 feet off the ground), or a rotten tree trunk in your yard for an extra year. Chickadees generally don't nest in the same site twice.



Contribute to the next newsletter
Email: editor@ashtonheights.org

Happy New Year

AHCA MEMBERSHIP SIGN-UP AND DUES PAYMENT FORM

Ashton Heights Civic Association annual dues are \$15 per household or \$10 per individual member or \$25 per household for two years. Anyone residing or owning property in Ashton Heights who is at least 18 may join and then vote at AHCA meetings.

Send this form and a check payable to AHCA to Jim O'Brien, 643 N. Kenmore St. 22201, or bring it to this month's meeting.

Name(s): _____

Children (and ages) (optional): _____

Street address: _____

Phone: _____ Resident since: _____

E-mail: _____

Neighborhood interests: _____

PAY DUES ONLINE at www.ashtonheights.org/join-ahca



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SPRING INTO THE MARKET

In real estate, Spring is the most advantageous time to market and sell your home. If you are planning on selling, after the first of the year is a great time to prepare your home.

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