



Ashton Heights News

The Newsletter of the Ashton Heights Civic Association

www.AshtonHeights.org

An Amazing Community - Great Spirit and Generosity

Scott Sklar, President, AHCA

I can't express my appreciation for all the great work and camaraderie by our Ashton Heights community which is just overwhelming. Just too many to shout out, but I am listing the handful that comes to mind:

- a group making masks for health workers
- families giving out books for children and adults
- on street dancing for children and us old folks
- establishment of a buddy system for food and errands for those unable to leave their houses
- listserv trading items that people in our community need
- organizing a blood drive for COVID-19 patients

And it is wonderful seeing families walking, biking and playing together – chalk drawing on the street, skateboards and scooters and bouts of playfulness. This is our last newsletter before the summer, so I wanted to emphasize the breadth of commitment to our community.

The day-to-day actions we at AHCA are doing, all by volunteers, for AHCA Committees on traffic & street repairs, development & zoning issues, security and safety, schools, parks-playgrounds-open spaces, native plants & tree canopy preservation, affordable housing, water bills data collection, and those representing our community on the Arlington Commission on Aging, the Civic Federation, Neighborhood Conservation, Clarendon Alliance, etc. – are ongoing and also how we contribute to the well being of our community.

I want to thank all of you -- everyone of you -- for making Ashton Heights just a wonderful place to live.

I have no idea what will be the situation with this pandemic in September. We will begin again in September our AHCA newsletter for the Fall (thank you Amy Miller), but not sure whether it will be only electronic or handed out as in the past as a printed version too. I am also not sure whether we will be able to hold our monthly meetings (third Wednesday of every month) at the Clarendon Methodist Church social hall - if not we'll explore a larger ZOOM meeting.

But all that aside – the generosity and initiative of all of you, are making a great difference. So I salute you and wish you a safe and healthy Spring & Summer.

AHCA ELECTIONS - FIRST TIME VIA WEB!

Every May, AHCA holds elections for the AHCA officers (5) and At-Large Executive Committee (ExCom) members (4). Any AHCA member who is current in dues can run for a position and vote. If you are unsure of your status, email AHCA's VP for Membership, Jim O'Brien at jimob1@verizon.net.

Rita O'Brien (reetob@verizon.net) is our Nominations Committee Chair. Those who wish to run must send an email for the position with your name and address.

Since this is the first time we have done this, rather than at our May AHCA meeting in person, we will advise everyone of the logistics on the listserv. If you are not yet on the AHCA listserv, please contact the AHCA listserv moderator, Betsey Lyon at: etlyon410@gmail.com.

NO MEETING IN MAY DUE TO COVID-19!

We will start again in September and will either meet at usual or set up an AHCA Zoom meeting for the third Wednesday of the month.

Advertise with us!

The Ashton Heights newsletter is distributed to 1,200 households September - May. Our readers enjoy supporting local businesses.

Do you know of a local business that would benefit from advertising in the AH newsletter?

Email: newsletterads@ashtonheights.org

2019/2020 Ad Rates:

Business Card	\$60	Full Page	\$245
1/4 Page	\$85	Full Back Page	\$295
1/2 Page	\$145	One Page Insert	\$325

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

President: Scott Sklar solarsklar@aol.com 703-522-3049	VP Programs: Jim Richardson jabrichardson@verizon.net	VP Membership: Jim O'Brien jimob1@verizon.net 703-528-0376	Treasurer: Doug Williams treasurer@ashtonheights.org	Secretary: Jodie Flakowicz jodie.flakowicz@gmail.com
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Members-at-Large

Cole Deines coledines@gmail.com	Jim Feaster jimfeaster1@gmail.com	Patrick Lueb jiffy64@me.com	Ken Matzkin kenmatz1@gmail.com
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Committees

Listserv Moderator	Betsey Lyon etlyon410@gmail.com	Safety & Security	Christina Schultz cmschultz@yahoo.com
Development/Zoning	David Phillips davidphillips1@msn.com	Transportation	Patrick Lueb jiffy64@me.com
Housing	Matthew Hall mhall@goldsteinhall.com		
Playgrounds & Parks Subcommittee	Brent Burris brburris@gmail.com	Tree Canopy and Native Plants Subcommittee	Brooke Alexander brooke.alexander52@gmail.com
Schools	Gregory Morse gregm748@gmail.com		
Neighborhood Conservation Rep	Brent Burris brburris@gmail.com		

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Make a Splash this Summer - Plant Some Color!

Brooke Alexander, Ashton Heights Tree Canopy and Native Plant Coordinator

We are stuck at home for a while longer! Why not add a bit of color to your outdoor space? In times like these, it's nice to have some instant gratification. While our native oak trees can take 100 years to become the towering structures of our gardens, here are 3 options of perennials that will bloom this summer. Plant a clump to have it show; that generally means 3 or 5 plants together. These will grow in our Virginia clay.



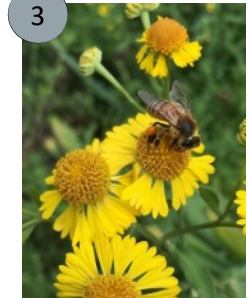
Image 1: For sun or part shade: *Solidago caesia* (Blue-stem goldenrod); 1.5 - 3 feet, Aug. to Sept., Attracts butterflies and native bees.

Image 2: For sun to full shade in that moist place in the yard: *Monarda didyma* (Scarlet beebalm)



2 - 4 feet, July to Sept., Attracts hummingbirds, butterflies and native bees.

Image 3: For sun: *Helenium autumnale* (Sneezeweed); 2 - 5 feet; Aug. To Oct., Attracts butterflies and native bees.



Native only sellers:

- [Nature by Design](#) has curbside pickup and plenty of same-day browsing appointments are available.
- [Earth Sangha](#) is offering free delivery.
- [Watermark Woods](#) offers curbside pickup as well as browsing.

For privacy reasons, Kids Inc. Is not being posted on the Ashton Heights listserv. Please view your paper copy or the copy posted to the Ashton Heights listserv and hopefully over the summer you can utilize the wonderful neighborhood teens and pre-teens.

There will be no newsletter June, July or August – during that time, please send any updates to Kids Inc. to Ann Felker at gr8est9@gmail.com to either remove your child(ren) or add your child(ren) to the September 2020 issue. Email her with your child's name, email, contact information, birth year and services offered. See the box below for a key to services.

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

KIDS INC offers a robust roster of willing, able local youth to help when the household hands are not enough. They enthusiastically await your calls.

Send updates to: Ann Felker - gr8est9@gmail.com

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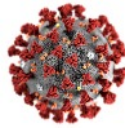
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Community Crime and Safety Corner

COVID-19 Scams

By Christina Schultz

Just a few months ago, this corner looked at phishing and robocalls, providing tips for avoiding scams. With stimulus checks being sent, people losing jobs, and the general increase in anxiety, scammers are shifting tactics to take advantage of these vulnerabilities. Coronavirus scams are appearing in many forms, but they all have one objective – they exploit isolation, fear, and uncertainty to take your money. Even when you are looking to help others, scammers are attempting to trick you into sharing your personal financial information. Here are just a few common scams that have recently appeared.

- Phone calls, text messages, and emails from a government agency with information that you can get quick relief checks, have been approved for money, or are eligible for small business loans are becoming more prolific. Government agencies do not send out this type of information and would never contact you to provide or verify your financial details.
- An Ashton Heights neighbor recently reported an aggressive call from a supposed Dominion Power representative through a spoofed number to offer a discount on utilities bills once account information was verified. (Fortunately, our neighbor hung up.)
- The grandparent scam has a new twist where the grandchild makes an emergency call to request money to be wired to her/his account because s/he has contracted the virus and needs medical attention.
- With more people working remotely from home, scammers have been using tricks to get people to provide personal information or download malware by posing as IT helpdesk agents, download a file or click a link. Scammers have even targeted popular map sites that track coronavirus infection rates with malware, asking a user to download software that could compromise your computer and provide access to sensitive information stored by your employer.
- Medical scams are offering preventive measures and cures for COVID-19. There are currently no medicines or other products, either over the counter or by prescription, either online or in stores to treat the coronavirus.
- Offers promising higher-return investments that are safe from market downturns, especially as freefalling as the current one, have been circulating. Scammers are even impersonating the FDIC by promising no risk investment options. The FDIC never requests personal financial information such as credit card numbers or bank account information.

Staying aware, taking precautions (see box), and informing neighbors on the Ashton Heights listserv are essential actions to flattening the coronavirus scam curve.

Here are 5 things you can do to avoid a Coronavirus scam

Ignore offers for vaccinations and home test kits.

Scammers are selling products to treat or prevent COVID-19 without proof that they work.

Hang up on robocalls. Scammers use illegal sales calls to get your money and your personal information.

Watch out for phishing emails and text messages.

Don't click on links in emails or texts you didn't expect.

Research before you donate. Don't let anyone rush you into making a donation. Get tips on donating wisely at ftc.gov/charity.

Stay in the know. Go to ftc.gov/coronavirus for the latest information on scams. Sign up to get FTC's alerts at ftc.gov/subscribe.

– From the Federal Trade Commission website

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Shop Hyper-Local: Support Your Neighbors!

By Amy Miller

Support your local Ashton Heights and Lyon Park neighbors. In an effort to help our local neighbors, I'm highlighting those that own their own businesses. Considering supporting these entrepreneurs.

Arlington's Coaching - Training & Injury Center (ARCTIC) (<http://arcticva.com/>), Krista Schreffler and Dr. Keith Schreffler. ARCTIC is your local integrative health and fitness center at 1401 North Adams Street. They are currently offering: chiropractic care with limited office hours, virtual fitness classes (free first class with "FREECLASS") such as Balanced Body Yoga, Circuit Training & TRX, virtual nutrition counseling, virtual run coaching and gift certificates for future clinical massage therapy, personal training, gait analysis, & small-group fitness classes.

Cardy Career Coaching (<https://www.cardycareercoaching.com/>), Alison Cardy, founder and CEO. Career Clarity Coaching programs drive away career confusion, so that you can feel confident, clear, and on track with your best career path. No matter how directionless or hopeless you're feeling, your journey to a happier, more purposeful work life starts here. Let Alison Cardy and team help you find your next, best career move with her company's expert help.

Conklyn's Florist (<https://www.conklyns.com/>), owned by Lyon Park residents David and Christy Hicks, provides the entire Washington Metro area and beyond with fresh cut flowers, plants, event decor and floral supplies via prompt, exceptional service. They've consistently been one of the top 50 florists in the U.S. for over 15 years. Order online and surprise that special someone with a beautiful display of flowers.



Em's Quarantine Crafts (<https://emquarantinecrafts.wixsite.com/shop>). Emma started this project for two main reasons; to fill her time during the COVID-19 pandemic, and to spread awareness for Ehlers-Danlos community. She is a high school senior recently diagnosed with hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos. She makes various styles of bracelets and part of the proceeds are given to the Ehlers-Danlos Society for research. *Full disclosure: Emma is the editor's daughter.*



Enhanced Roofing & Remodeling (<https://www.enhancedrr.com/>), is a class A contractor owned by Ashton Heights resident Ryan Rubini. Whether you're looking for a small roofing repair, kitchen remodel, a bathroom update, an addition, a "pop-top," or in-law suite—Enhanced is the experienced choice for your renovation or remodeling project. Since 2003, they have been remodeling and building custom homes for the Northern Virginia area.

Farrier Leather (<https://www.farrierleather.com/>) - Farrier was founded on the idea that the items we wear and carry everyday should not only be beautiful, but functional. Founder, Janet Hamilton, strives to be a changing force in the fashion industry — requiring higher standards for the materials chosen to support the earth, the human lives, and the animal lives affected by production. Janet is offering a 30% discount to any local resident - use code WONTYOUBEMYNEIGHBOR - good for all of 2020.



Healing Works Physical Therapy (<http://www.healingworkspt.com/>). Lisa Shimberg provides one on one care of patients with orthopedic or chronic injury/pain. She uses primarily manual therapy along with providing a home exercise program. She has been a physical therapist since 1993 and has had her own private practice since 1999. She is a provider for BCBS PPO, Medicare and Tricare Standard. Phone: 703-524-1407.

Jason Horowitz Fine Art (<https://www.jasonhorowitzfineart.com/>). Jason has had numerous exhibitions in the US and abroad, including two in Arlington. Purchase one of the many pieces of artwork on the site -- pricing is discounted for the Cherry Blossom imagery on the homepage. Find Jason at his first solo show at the American University Katzen Arts Center in June as well as the all-Virginia Triennial at the **Taubman Museum**.



Kinder Haus Toys (<http://kinderhaus.com/>). While not technically owned by an AH or LP resident, Kinder Haus Toys employs many a teen from our two neighborhoods. Owned by Arlington-resident Sue Pyatt and her family since 1982, the store offers an array of high quality children's products including toys, books, hobbies, crafts, clothes, shoes, and sporting goods. During the COVID-19 pandemic you can call the store (703-527-5929) and order for a curbside pickup. You can also view products on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/kinderhaustoys/>.

Lucy Nguyen Pottery

(<https://www.instagram.com/lucynguyenpottery/>). Seventeen-year-old Lucy

Nguyen sells wheel thrown functional pottery made in her basement home studio. She's been selling at the W-L Holiday Bazaar for the past few years and has an avid online following through Instagram and Etsy

(<https://www.etsy.com/shop/lucynguyenpottery>). Most of her work includes handpainted mugs, which has been her focus for the past year.



Masala Express (<https://www.masalaexpressarlington.com/>), owned by Lyon Park residents Vinita and Naresh Chawla, has been serving delicious Indian cuisine since 2013. Although they were closed at the start of the pandemic, they are taking steps to reopen for carryout. You can order directly through them, call 703-567-1067 and get your food delivered or pickup for carryout. As of this writing, they are hoping to open within the next week or so.

Mother's Day: Inspiration, Gratitude & Thanks to all Mothers!

(<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B086WMXSC1>).

Ashton Heights photographer and writer Jake McGuire has just released a new book as a wickedly entertaining "sanity rescue" for moms at home with too many birds crowding the nest! "The book is hilarious," says McGuire, "as it covers my childhood years where my mother was an artist by day, and a prankster who played tricks on our neighbors by night. The stories are designed to entertain and delight all mothers sheltered at home and, certainly for those in need of knee-slapping levity to just to make it to tomorrow!"



Oby Lee Creperie and Winery (<https://www.obylee.com/>), owned by Ula and Oby is a local restaurant serving sweet and savory crepes, a full coffee and espresso bar, plus Polish pierogies (now offered on an all-day, every day basis). They will begin to offer a 'Prix Fixe Dinner At Home', where Chef Ula will create a signature dinner for one night of each week available by pre-order. All meals are removed from the oven and served fresh & hot at your chosen pick up time. Be sure to follow them on [Instagram](#) or check their website for details. You can also purchase take out cocktails - wine by the bottle, wine cocktails, mimosas, slushies, sangria and more. During the pandemic, Oby Lee is open for take-out, curbside delivery as well as Postmates delivery.

Rehoboth Beach Paw-radise

(<https://www.crowleyrealestate.com/rehoboth-beach-vacation-rentals/property.php?id=132546>), owned by Liza Hodskins and her husband Steve. This beautiful, dog-friendly beach rental sleeps one to 18 people, has a pool plus tons of

amenities to keep a family or group of families busy. Easy access to both Rehoboth and Dewey Beaches.

Scott Solutions - founded by AH resident Linda Scott, Scott's Solutions serves home and community-based care providers and families seeking care at home. Linda's work with families starts when a need for a dependent family member is identified. This can be a disabled teen, or an aging parent. Linda, an RN with 35 years of experience in home care, helps define the needs, educate everyone on services available and make recommendations for how this can be accomplished safely, whether for short term or long term needs. Decision making, priority setting, home oxygen, caregiver support, safety, meals, medications—we can address all of these, and more. Call 703-861-0420 or email scott_linda@icloud.com for more information. Website coming soon!

Snyder Ceramics (<http://www.stacysnyder.com/>) - Stacy Snyder has been a functional potter for over 20 years and has been making functional work out of her Ashton Heights studio since she moved here 12 years ago. She makes cups, bowls, vases, platters, and more all designed to add pleasure to your daily life. During the COVID lockdown 50% of all sales will be donated to charity. View her Etsy shop here: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/SnyderCeramics>.



The Silverene Group (<http://www.silverenegroup.com/>). Drawing on her broad industry experience and global heritage, AH resident, CEO Shaara Roman founded The Silverene Group to help companies build intentional and inclusive cultures. The team works with leaders to identify successful strategies for change and growth, and uses analytics to devise strategies to attract, engage and retain talent. In the midst of the current outbreak, we are witnessing how intentional culture in the workplace is more important now than ever. In an effort to help ease this transition, The Silverene Group is offering mini virtual diagnostics, and a 1-hour coaching session offering guidance on how to help your employees and businesses thrive! Reach out to shaara@silverenegroup.com and visit their website to learn more. Sign up for their monthly leadership and culture blogs.

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More Volunteers Needed for Million Mask Challenge

By Deborah Hartman

As we all have read, there is still a critical shortage of personal protective equipment for health care workers. Million Mask Challenge, a local group sewing masks for front line medical personnel in the DMV, have sewn over 41,867 masks since March 22, 2020. Currently, there are over 99 thousand requests pending. The organization needs more volunteers, especially sewers. The patterns are extremely easy, aimed at beginning sewers, and there are video tutorials!

Donations of cotton fabric (quilting weight, so not thin muslin), elastic (1/8 or 1/4) bias tape, and twill tape always needed. There's also a need for non-sewing volunteers to help with organization and coordination. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them. If you want to know more - you can also check out the following resources:

- Website: www.MillionMaskChallenge.com
- The extremely active Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/millionmaskchallenge/>
- There is a GoFund Me, to help the group buy fabric, much of it at very discounted prices: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/million-mask-challenge>



Reminder: Ashton Heights Buddies

By Christina Schultz

Are the stay-at-home orders making it more difficult for you to get groceries? Is it becoming increasingly difficult to check in with your personal network for daily contact?

This is a reminder that your community is here to support you during these challenging times. **Ashton Heights Buddies** matches neighbors seeking assistance with neighbors who are available to run errands, conduct daily check-ins, etc.

- If you are seeking assistance, please complete this form: forms.gle/U8FjEmoDpWgD5ySo6
- If you would like to help a neighbor, please complete one of these two forms, as applicable:
 - ☐ Low-risk individuals: <https://forms.gle/Xpw2kR7wuAMWiDWp9>
 - ☐ High-risk individuals: <https://forms.gle/PbvghiYUsT92xawv8>

If you have any questions, please contact AshtonHeightsBuddies@gmail.com

Frequently Asked Questions

My buddy is at high risk. How do I avoid contact with them?

Make arrangements for deliveries outside the home. For example, agree on a time when groceries can be dropped off on the front stoop.

How do I arrange payment with my buddy?

This is for both of you to decide. Mobile payment services, like Venmo and Paypal, are recommended. If that's not an option,

you might try mailing checks. Take whatever measures necessary to limit physical contact.

I don't know my neighbor, but they might need assistance?

This is a great time to get to know your neighbor. While practicing social distancing, leave a note asking if they know about this matching service and if you could provide them with information.

Several members of my family have varying skills that they can contribute. Can we only help one other individual/household?

There are no limits placed on providing support. We will be matching supply and demand as best possible.

My buddy and I have had a great experience. How can I share this with others?

Please send your stories to the [Ashton Heights Buddies email](mailto:AshtonHeightsBuddies@gmail.com) so we can learn from your experience and improve this initiative.

Even though I don't live in Ashton Heights, what can I do to help?

If you would like to provide support, we can still match you with an Ashton Heights resident in need of assistance where the demand exists. We also suggest that you contact your neighborhood's civic association to see if they have a similar system or are interested in setting up one. Finally, there are a number of [volunteer and donation opportunities in Arlington](#) where you can lend a helping hand.

What if my buddy doesn't follow the terms of our agreement?

That is for you and your buddy to resolve. The AHCA is not responsible for agreements between buddies.



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DeBaggio's Herb Farm & Nursery - Reminiscing on Tom DeBaggio

By Ann Felker

When I was 4 years old, my mother would walk up to the current Beer Garden corner and buy plants from Mr. Furr who had a nursery there. She hated to resort to store bought plants, but Mr. Furr was a sweet old man with a white mustache who had a plant she could neither propagate nor import from her mother's garden.

Decades later, I could walk to a corner, diagonal from that first plant vendor, and buy a summer garden's worth of tenderly grown plants, thanks to the devotion and skills of Tom DeBaggio, our neighbor who spent his final two decades filling greenhouses at the back of his 5,000 sq. ft plot on Ivy Street.

I used to wonder if his business name, *Earthworks*, was a declarative statement - "your soil will please you if you just pay attention!" - or a reference to little boy forts and old soldier ramparts! Research about Tom led me to re-read his highly recommended autobiography, *Losing My Mind*, detailing his life as an Arlington boy aging into an astute victim of Alzheimer's. Among other snippets of growing up in the 50's in 22205, Tom wrote of gathering raw clay on the banks of Four Mile Run and trying to become a 22205 sculptor! He was a Renaissance man, so Earthworks was probably a double entendre.

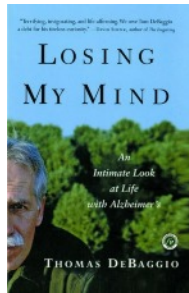
Earthworks, planted in 1975, became a renowned herb farm and botany lab which drew throngs of professional as well as amateur gardeners to the little Sears Dutch colonial on Ivy Street. Disillusioned by a 20- year career in mundane, tragic and radical small-town journalism that he began as the teen reporter for the Arlington Sun as an 11th grader at W-L, Tom brought his beloved wife, Joyce, their son Francesco and a couple of cats to Arlington. One of his journalistic efforts was a one-man newspaper named *underground*, a title which might have been predictive of his later reliance on soils, but at the time of publication, demonstrated his mindset...radical peace.

Tom started his Arlington gardening by growing tomatoes and cabbage just to feed his family. Urban Farming was a new concept in 1975, but there were enough hippies and horticulturalists to cause a sensation in Ashton Heights. The business grew, literally and figuratively for 25 years. Francesco grew up and moved to California. Joyce maintained her artistic gifts with a studio at the Torpedo Factory and Tom became a world-class herbalist, developing among other things a winter-hardy herb variety named for his beloved wife (Rosemarinus. Oficialis. Joyce DeBaggio). Many people shared my copy of his plant which lasted 23 years at the end of my driveway.

After puzzling about a cascade of memory lapses while trying to carry out daily tasks like using the cash register and walking to the Virginia Square Giant, Tom was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's in 1999. Francesco came back from his California

world and the functions of Earthworks moved methodically to a small farm in Chantilly, Virginia cultivated by father-son team.

While struggling with insidious deterioration, Tom brought out his life-long love of words and ideas to collaborate with Joyce and a few friends on the story of his spiral into the depths of memory loss. His masterpiece, *Losing My Mind* is romantic, poetic, inspirational and very raw. His horticultural celebrity was overshadowed by his eloquent revelations, such that he spoke both on Oprah and NPR. But more relevant to our zip code, his book is a delightful memoir about being a child of Arlington mid-20th Century, a rebel in the 60's and 70's and an idealistic farmer in our own neighborhood. A great meditation about a memorable neighbor, and a home-grown business, both gone.



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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The Spring Market has arrived!

Momentum from the 2019 real estate market has continued into the new year. We are in the 8th year of a real estate bull market, and the conditions have been much more favorable to the seller. There has been a shortage of housing inventory nationally and locally. In 2019, the supply of property in Arlington & Alexandria was down 50% compared to a historic 5-year average. Single family homes in Alexandria & Fairfax appreciated 9.6% & 10.5% over a 5-year period while Arlington homeowners realized a 22% growth rate. Another factor in the current and recent market was the announcement in 11/18 of Amazon's HQ2 move to Crystal City. In an already hot market, Arlington became a focal point for speculators, home buyers and investors. The hype is more psychological than actual. Amazon hired 400 workers last year and is scheduled to bring on 600 to 800 employees in 2020.

Here is an example of what is happening in the current real estate market. After a 2-week coming soon marketing period starting in mid-January, we activated an Arlington property on 2/12. After one week of aggressive marketing we received 12 offers on the day of our contract deadline, resulting in an astounding \$70K above the asking price.

With current mortgage rates at 3.5%, homebuyers are coming out in droves, seeking homes to buy to take advantage of existing conditions with very few properties to choose from.

Have you had thoughts of selling? The next few months will present a huge opportunity with the current environment and trends. Contact me for a confidential discussion about your situation and we can customize a plan for you. *Who you hire matters - put my 35 years of local market expertise to work for you!*



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Restaurant Review - Texas Jack's Barbecue

2761 Washington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201

By Vinh & Susan Nguyen

*Note: Texas Jack's currently offers carry-out only. Order **online** and choose a curbside pickup time from 11:15 am to 8:45 pm and select from a trimmed-down menu.*

We are lucky to live within walking distance of Texas Jack's Barbecue, which has won widespread accolades from local food critics and bloggers, including as WaPo's No. 1 barbecue joint in the DMV area two years running (and No. 2 the year before). We just see Texas Jack's as an amazing neighborhood treasure.

Texas Jack's occupies the same building as a local hangout legend, Whitey's (we are dating ourselves here), famous for its roasted chicken, chicken-fried steak, and cheap beer. Then Tallula and EatBar moved in and had a mostly successful 10-year run. Texas Jack's combined the two restaurant spaces and renovated the place in a style that might be described as modern rustic; their best decision was to keep the iconic EatBar sign out front. The restaurant opened in December 2015 and has thrived since.

While Texas barbecue is first and foremost about beef – brisket and short ribs – the restaurant wisely chose to serve a full range of smoked meats. They also paid attention to the quality and variety of their appetizers and sides, including Mexican-inspired offerings. The result is a menu that will cater to all tastes.



Photo courtesy of Texas Jack's Instagram

Any meal has to start with the beef brisket, of course. It's super tender and simply seasoned with salt and pepper, letting the beef flavor shine in true Texas style. If you buy by the pound, you can specify how much of the fat cap you like, from generous to stroke-inducing (the former is recommended). The beef short rib is gigantic and tender and delicious, but you're paying for the big bone as well so it's probably the least cost-effective item on the menu. Pulled pork shoulder is amazingly good for a place with Texas in its name. The smoked chicken is moist and delicious (not the dry throwaway found in many other places) and the rope sausage has the right amount of heat, bounce and juiciness.

Most meat items are available by the pound, as a sandwich, or as part of a sampler platter. We highly recommend the meat medley platters, regular for \$49 and large for \$72. The regular platter plus 3-4 sides is plenty for our family of four, so that's a heck of a deal. On Monday nights, the deal gets even better as these platters are half-price! For brunch, there's a \$35 all-you-care-to-eat option.

Speaking of sides, our favorites include esquites (roasted corn, cotija cheese and scallions); brussel sprouts with parmesan aioli; baked pinto beans with brisket sauce; and collard greens braised in chicken stock and pork. Unfortunately, the mac 'n cheese and coleslaw have a harder time standing up to the hardy meats. Starters include nachos, deviled eggs, wings, tacos and quesadillas. Definitely a wide variety, with most dishes thoughtfully conceived and well-executed.

Texas Jack's keeps it simple with the BBQ sauce: Original and Spicy. When they first started, the sauce was extremely vinegary, but they've adjusted since to make it slightly sweeter.

We're not big fans of cocktails, but the bar side is always lively and packed so good things must be happening there. Happy Hour (M-F, 3 to 7pm) features \$6 wine, \$5 wine and draft beer, and a selection of "bar bites" from \$3 to \$7.

All in all, one of the best neighborhood eating out options ever.

Meet Your Neighbors: The Deines Family

By Betsey Lyon

Relative newcomers to the nation's capital may find life here requires a flexible attitude to reach a comfortable fit. Cole Deines is one of those adapters who enjoys life in the DMV, with an observant eye about our area's distinctiveness. His wife Elizabeth Dale-Deines grew up in South Arlington and Falls Church, and their five-year-old daughter Ella is an Arlington native.

After Cole graduated from the University of Colorado Boulder, he started his career in film production in Los Angeles. When Elizabeth entered a Museum Education master's degree program at George Washington University, Cole's job supervisor referred him to CNN in Washington. Elizabeth now works for the Smithsonian American Art Museum and Cole is part of a video production team that supports shows familiar to many, including Wolf Blitzer's *The Situation Room* and Jake Tapper's *The Lead*. His team produces national news stories of all variety, though often focused on Washington fare—including politics, the Supreme Court, and the Department of Defense.

The couple didn't expect to stay in the DC area this long, but their professional successes have kept them here. When it felt like time to buy a home, they searched extensively through DC, Maryland, and Northern Virginia, and wound up in their current duplex on North Oakland Street. Arlington's assets appealed to them: public transit, walkability, and proximity to the city.

As a student, Cole loved the natural environment of Boulder and the state of Colorado, known as "the fittest state in the country," where most residents spend great amounts of time in outdoor pursuits. As a young professional in LA, he appreciated the city's dynamic lifestyle and diverse economy. He initially felt that the DC area was lacking in non-political culture, but feels that the arts, entertainment, and restaurant scenes have come a long way even since he first arrived here in 2008. Now Cole and Elizabeth love living in Arlington, and he is fascinated by how much of a "company mining town" Arlington is, with so many pieces of its economy remaining in support of "the mining company" – the federal government.

Cole is a member-at-large of the Ashton Heights Civic Association Executive Committee, where he has

represented us at various development hearings. Longtime Ashton Heights Development representative Jim Richardson encouraged Cole to volunteer for the neighborhood good several years ago after they chatted at a meeting. In other volunteer work, Cole has been active in anti-gerrymandering efforts for One Virginia 2021. He completed the Arlington Neighborhood College program that teaches residents how the County functions, and by invitation, was among a group of people providing input to the Arlington County Board on the future of Arlington, and

especially development. Cole says he voiced appreciation for single-family-home and low-rise neighborhoods in this time of hyper focus on increasing density as one theoretical way to decrease housing costs. He expresses hope that the County can balance preservation with new forms of affordable housing for Arlington's next generation

His family is fond of their immediate Ashton Heights neighbors, many of whom they count as friends and part of a helpful, cohesive neighborhood. All in all, "it seems like we're settled Arlingtonians for the foreseeable future!"



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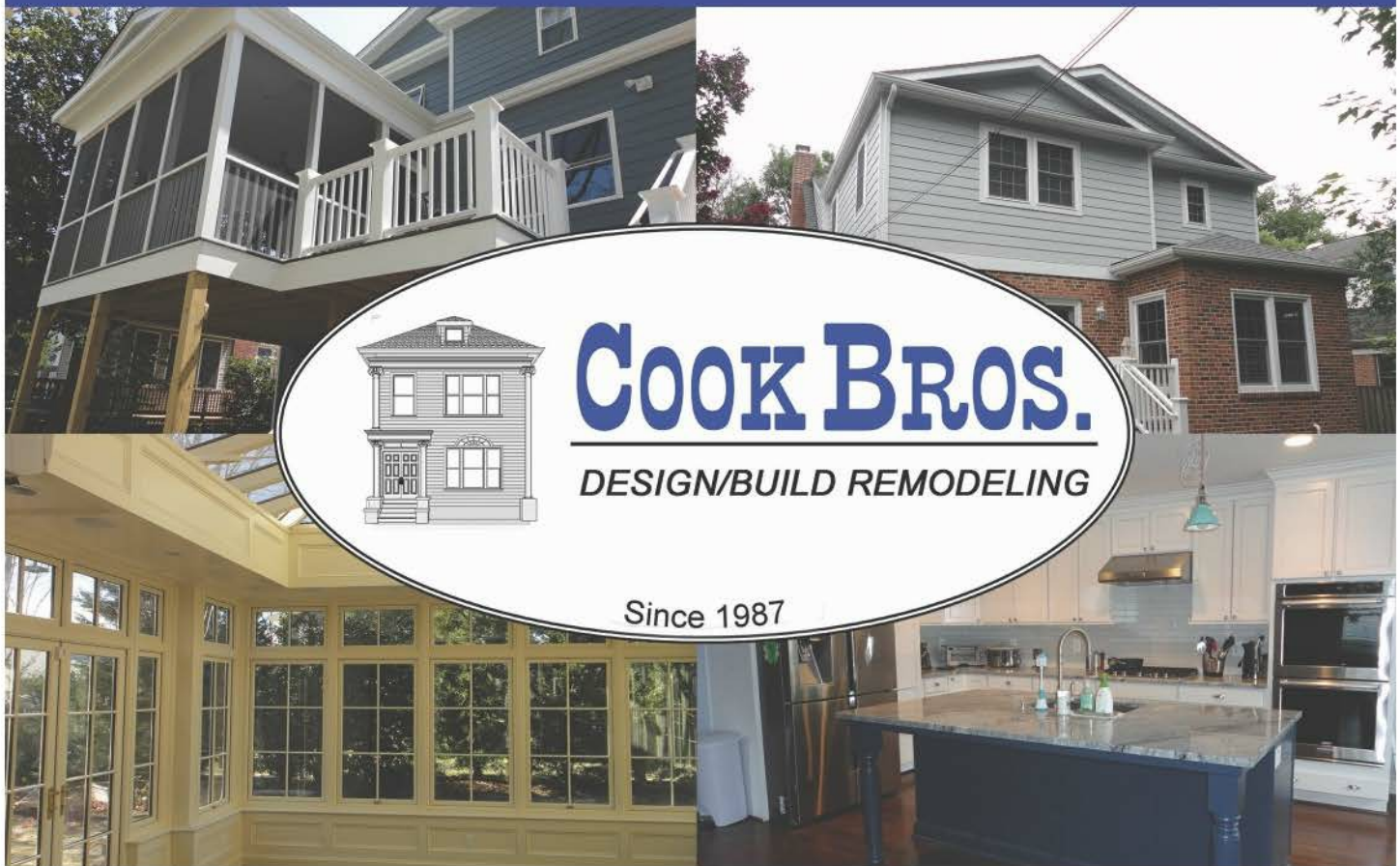
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