



# Ashton Heights News

The Newsletter of the Ashton Heights Civic Association

[www.AshtonHeights.org](http://www.AshtonHeights.org)

## Building Consensus 2020 – Ashton Heights Civic Association

Scott Sklar, President, AHCA

What makes me so proud of this Association and Community is how we slowly come to consensus on issues.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the State of Virginia Department of Health issued guidelines on Halloween. We had a resident, Emmilu Olson, step up to help coordinate a dialogue on how our community will celebrate Halloween and conform to the new guidance. Cory Capps on Jackson Street and over 30 other AHCA residents dialogued on this issue. We built a consensus to de-emphasize Jackson Street as a magnet for Halloween revelers this one year, have a parade and candy hand-out a day before Halloween to maintain the festive feeling for our children. We had some frank discussions and I am proud we were able to build a consensus, and Celia Slater helped us draft a press release which was picked up by ArlingtonNow.

Arlington County contacted us on the process to review neighborhood parking rules, and we have many views on on-street parking, the role of apartment/condo residents, sharing expenses and access, and the comfort of easy access to park near where we live. Again, we have had wide-ranging dialogues on the AHCA listserv and we will work to build a consensus. While there are many divergent views and priorities, I am so proud of the tenor of the discussions, respectful dialogue, and frankly, some very good points by all. I have no doubt we will forge a stance that embodies the best of Arlington & Ashton Heights.

And we are carrying all this out along with activities by the Development Committee, Transportation Committee, Housing Committee, Open Spaces and Tree Canopy Subcommittees, Safety & Security Committee, and Schools Committee – during a COVID-19 environment through limited personal meetings, zoom meetings, and listserv dialogues. Some hard work, good thinking, and in all cases moving towards building shared outlooks on all the various issues AHCA Committees and Subcommittees are dealing with every month.

*Continued on page 2...*

### ZOOM MEETING INSTRUCTIONS

The following information will also be sent in an email prior to the November Zoom meeting.

- Download the free Zoom app in the app store or create an account at <https://www.zoom.us/>.
- If you need help please feel free to email Emmi at [briggsphotography@gmail.com](mailto:briggsphotography@gmail.com) or Chris at [carmstrong07@gmail.com](mailto:carmstrong07@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Emmi and Chris (Your AHCA Zoom Team)

### November Zoom Meeting Details

**Topic:** AHCA Monthly Member Meeting (online)

**Time:** November 18, 2020 07:30 PM Eastern Time

Ashton Heights is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Join the meeting by link or dial-in.

**Join the Zoom Meeting** (Click the link below)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81697900053?pwd=TDJ5UU5Bak9zZUIXdINuYjY0SnFtUT09>

**Or call:** +1 301 715 8592 US (MD)

Meeting ID: 816 9790 0053 | Passcode: 733582

### AHCA Monthly Meeting

#### NOW ON ZOOM

**Wed., November 18, 2020, 7:30 – 9 PM**

**7:30** Committee Reports & Community Updates  
Speakers:

- **Redevelopment Plans for the Clarendon Wilson Boulevard/10th Street Triangle (Silver Diner and Beer Lot Sites)** - P. David Tarter, Esquire, Tarter Nova Law, and Tom Shooltz, TCS Realty
- **Overview of the Arlington Neighborhood Planning and Redevelopment Process** - Bob Duffy, Planning Director, Arlington Department of Community Planning and Development

**9:00** Adjournment

# 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](http://www.ashtonheights.org). You can volunteer by contacting the Executive Committee.

### Executive Committee

President: Scott Sklar <a href="mailto:solarsklar@aol.com">solarsklar@aol.com</a> 703-522-3049	VP Programs: Jim Richardson <a href="mailto:jabrighardson@verizon.net">jabrighardson@verizon.net</a>	VP Membership: Jim O'Brien <a href="mailto:jimob1@verizon.net">jimob1@verizon.net</a> 703-528-0376	Treasurer: Doug Williams <a href="mailto:treasurer@ashtonheights.org">treasurer@ashtonheights.org</a>	Secretary: Jodie Flakowicz <a href="mailto:jodie.flakowicz@gmail.com">jodie.flakowicz@gmail.com</a>
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### Members-at-Large

Cole Deines <a href="mailto:coledaines@gmail.com">coledaines@gmail.com</a>	Jim Feaster <a href="mailto:jimfeaster1@gmail.com">jimfeaster1@gmail.com</a>	Patrick Lueb <a href="mailto:jiffy64@me.com">jiffy64@me.com</a>	Ken Matzkin <a href="mailto:kenmatz1@gmail.com">kenmatz1@gmail.com</a>
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### Committees

<b>Safety &amp; Security</b>	Christina Schultz <a href="mailto:cmschultz@yahoo.com">cmschultz@yahoo.com</a>	<b>Transportation</b>	Patrick Lueb <a href="mailto:jiffy64@me.com">jiffy64@me.com</a>
<b>Development/Zoning</b>	David Phillips <a href="mailto:davidphillips1@msn.com">davidphillips1@msn.com</a>	<b>Playgrounds &amp; Parks Subcommittee</b>	Brent Burris <a href="mailto:brburris@gmail.com">brburris@gmail.com</a>
<b>Housing</b>	Matthew Hall <a href="mailto:mhall@goldsteinhall.com">mhall@goldsteinhall.com</a>	<b>Tree Canopy and Native Plants Subcommittee</b>	Brooke Alexander <a href="mailto:brooke.alexander52@gmail.com">brooke.alexander52@gmail.com</a>
<b>Schools</b>	Gregory Morse <a href="mailto:gregm748@gmail.com">gregm748@gmail.com</a>		
<b>Neighborhood Conservation Rep</b>	Brent Burris <a href="mailto:brburris@gmail.com">brburris@gmail.com</a>		

### Newsletter

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### President's Column, continued from page 1

And finally our AHCA 100th Anniversary planning committee led by AHCA Historian Jim Terpstra, but robustly supported by over 10 other AHCA residents, has had several dialogues and meetings to brainstorm, collect historical information. Again, please send any documents, pictures, and other memorabilia (or information on any) to Jim at [terpstrajames2@gmail.com](mailto:terpstrajames2@gmail.com).

So as we enter this Fall 2020, probably facing another notch-up of COVID cases, but always seeking ways to work with each other and help keep Ashton Heights one of the best places ever to live.

And I want to thank each and every one of you for contributing what you can, when you can. I know we are all busy, with families, work, and other obligations. But all of us within AHCA deserve some solid pats on the back – and I wanted to thank you all, and wish you a most Happy Halloween, and wonderful beginning of Autumn.

### 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](mailto: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

## Community Safety & Security Corner

### State and Local Initiatives on Police Reform

By Christina Schultz

In the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd, there has been a growing urgency throughout the country for significant changes in policing and the criminal justice system. Many of these discussions are taking place at the state and local levels. Public officials in Virginia and Arlington have expressed their commitment to addressing social injustice and building community through reforms.



At the state level, legislators of the Virginia General Assembly introduced over 50 police and criminal justice reform bills during the special session that began in mid-August. On October 23, Governor Northam signed the following three new laws:

- [House Bill 5098](#) increases the penalty for falsely summoning or giving false reports to law enforcement officers due to an individual's race, religious conviction, gender, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, color, or national origin.
- [House Bill 5072](#) and [Senate Bill 5024](#) allow the Attorney General to open investigations related to a suspected "pattern or practice" of misconduct among law enforcement officers.
- [House Bill 5062](#) and [Senate Bill 5033](#) restore the practice of requiring judges to dismiss charges when both parties (prosecution and defense) agree.

Here in Arlington, two initiatives have recently been launched. The first is the Police Practices Group (PPG), tasked with conducting an external review of Arlington County Police Department policies and practices in six areas:

use of force, training and supervision, body-worn and vehicle dash cameras, recruitment and retention, internal affairs, and data on arrests and stops over the past three years. The PPG is composed of two outside experts and 15 citizen members, including mental health advocates, police personnel, advocacy group representatives, lawyers, and neighborhood leaders. The assessment began in July and findings and recommendations are expected to be presented by the end of the year in four specific areas: type and approach of a civilian review board, the role of police officers in providing mental health services, the role of the ACPD in traffic enforcement, and options for alternative dispute resolution. The public can partake in this review by participating in the five virtual learning sessions and providing written feedback, both found on the [County web page](#).

In the second initiative, the Arlington School Board met in September to begin reconsidering the role of School Resource Officers (SROs). SROs are ACPD officers that serve as the main security arm in elementary, middle, and high schools. They cover a number of functions such as safety plan development, dispute mediation, detention and arrests, personal and property searches, school patrols, and substance abuse and law enforcement education. Data shows that Black and Hispanic students in Arlington public schools are disproportionately reported to law enforcement for certain offences in comparison to white students. At the same time, a recent survey found that most students feel safe around their assigned SRO. The School Board plans to create a working group by December to examine the issue and present recommendations by June 2021. More information can be found in the [board's presentation](#).

## Development Committee Update

By David Phillips and Jack Spilsbury, Co-Chairs  
Development Committee

The November 18, AHCA monthly meeting will feature two speakers addressing neighborhood development in the vicinity of Ashton Heights. First, a presentation by Arlington County Planning Director Bob Duffy will offer AHCA members an opportunity to learn about Arlington's process for managing neighborhood redevelopment and how it may impact Ashton Heights, surrounding areas, and broader development plans for the County. The second presentation will be from the development team proposing to redevelop the Clarendon Wilson Boulevard/10th Street Triangle, and will address plans for two specific sites (the existing Silver Diner and Beer Lot).

Mr. Duffy will speak to recently announced plans for Arlington's Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) to initiate a study to review the 2006 Clarendon Sector Plan. A number of developers are developing plans for

redeveloping sites in the vicinity of Clarendon Circle, which has provided the impetus to launch this more comprehensive review process of the Clarendon Sector. The LRPC is planning to hold an initial, virtual meeting open to public participation later this year to begin this study.



Other developments we are following include the Days Inn Site (Pershing and Arlington Blvd), the Harris Teeter Site (Glebe) and the new CVS project (Kenmore). The AHCA Development Committee will continue to track these and other redevelopment site proposals and will participate in the Clarendon Sector review process.

If anyone is interested in joining our 'development working group' which meets every few weeks (as needed) to dialogue with the County planners and to work on commercial and housing development issues please contact us: [davidphillips1@msn.com](mailto:davidphillips1@msn.com) or [spilsburyj@gmail.com](mailto:spilsburyj@gmail.com).

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We will continue to stay vigilant of the situation and make the necessary adjustments to meet the conditions of our community.

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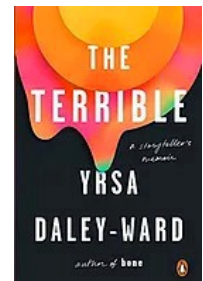
### ***The Terrible* by Yrsa Daley-Ward**

Book Review by Denise Cormaney, follow all her reviews at @[findyourgoldenhour](https://www.instagram.com/findyourgoldenhour) on Instagram

Finished this one in a day. Whoa. I've never read anything like it. Sometimes we hear a story about someone who's been labeled in ways that society is quick to judge (drug user, prostitute, private dancer/escort), and it's easy to see those labels and jump to those judgments, all the while forgetting the person is a human being with a story that led to the present circumstances.

And chances are, this human being did not start out in life with a stable home environment and loving parents who one day dreamed that she'd become a drug user/prostitute/private dancer/escort. Some painful, awful things went down to get from there to here. This memoir tells that story. But it is unlike any other memoir I've ever read. It's as if you sat down for coffee with a stranger and she just started at the beginning, in a stream-of-consciousness narrative that immediately draws you in.

Normally I don't like this style of writing, but it works here: there's a sense of urgency, as if she needs to get her story out of her soul and into yours before she loses her nerve, and she can't waste time with proper prose form and evenly timed paragraphs. And there is zero sense of vying for sympathy, or even a redemption story. (I kept waiting for it, the redemption part. We all love a redemption story, don't we? This is not that. This reads like she barely made it out alive to write it all down.) It knocked me out.



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## Meet Your Neighbors: The Guerrero Family

By Betsey Lyon

Francesca and Nathan Guerrero are grateful for their comfortable corner of Ashton Heights, where they have lived since 2009, long before Covid-19. Francesca and Nathan both currently work full time from their Oakland Street home, she as an international trade attorney at a law firm, and he as an attorney at the General Services Administration. Francesca was one day into her role at her new firm when coronavirus closed most offices and businesses. Nathan's workload increased with the pandemic, as he was heavily involved with emergency authorizations and procurements for the federal government.

In September, the Guerrero children joined the Arlington Public Schools population in 100 percent online learning, Sara in third grade and Hugo in kindergarten.

Overall, they are upbeat about how it's gone: "Better than we expected." Both children are in learning pods, and the collaboration with other parents makes participants' Key School experience more effective. The family misses some of its regular activities, like going to movies or shopping at Ballston Quarter. The Guerreros still enjoy youth soccer, an energy outlet, and an important way to be outside with other children, and allowing parents to converse from a distance. The Guerreros also try to get out into natural areas, visiting parks and trails as time permits.

Francesca and Nathan met at the DC law firm where both worked, then married and moved to Ashton Heights from DC. Francesca says leaving the District was a hard

decision, and finding a community with something of an urban vibe was important. They consider themselves very lucky to have wound up in their friendly, cohesive sub-neighborhood, where residents in roughly a three-block stretch commonly greet one another and, absent a public health crisis, socialize at block parties and happy hours.

Francesca is known in Ashton Heights for coordinating our neighborhood yard sale for seven years. Now, in addition to working at her career, doing tech support for family computers, and cheering her children at soccer, she is vice-

chair of the [Neighborhood Complete Streets Commission](#).

She progressed to that role after working with Oakland Street residents to explore getting sidewalks on the full length of their street, from Route 50 to Wilson Blvd.

The Neighborhood Complete Streets Program mission is to: "(1) make streets safe for all users of all ages and abilities, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and other users, and (2) preserve or

enhance neighborhood character and desired community attributes." Their work follows Arlington Master Transportation Plan goals and policies. Francesca says she has learned a lot about working with neighborhoods, hearing a full range of opinions from "friendly and opinionated" Arlingtonians, and reaching out to Arlington communities often not represented on commissions and committees – a major challenge to all county programs and initiatives.

While juggling their family's competing demands, Franny and Nathan look forward to the APS start of hybrid learning, where students have the option of going back to physical school buildings part-time, an option they're considering, optimistically.



## Drive Through Food & Toiletry Collection for Arlington Homeless Shelters - November 14<sup>th</sup> and December 12<sup>th</sup> - 9am to noon

The Food Drive will support family residents of Bridges to Independence in Clarendon. Top priority needs: Rice, boxed cereal, applesauce, juice, and packaged healthy kids' snacks (no prepared or opened food please) and other dry food items. The Toiletry Drive will support individuals living at Residential Program Center (RPC) on Columbia Pike and a day program providing showers, laundry and meals for drop-in visitors. They need: Razors (men's and women's), toothbrushes, toothpaste, shower curtains, queen size bed sheets, deodorant (regular and travel size), new men's underwear (XL, 2XL, 3XL), new women's underwear, new socks, combs and brushes, flip flops for showers, and bar soaps.

Clarendon Presbyterian Church is located at 1305 North Jackson Street, Arlington, VA 22201. No physical interaction. Masks required. Drop-off at curbside location outside church. Please send questions to [clarendonmission@gmail.com](mailto:clarendonmission@gmail.com) or (703) 527-9513.



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## It's a Bird - It's a Plane - It's SUPER SQUAD!

By Elizabeth Fry

Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation's Super Squad left its mark on Oakland Street in October. Our Parks and Recreation dynamic duo battle stress and frustration for all of Arlington with their super power of creating obstacle courses out of sidewalk chalk.

The masked crusaders created one for Ashton Heights featuring hopping and jumping. Skipping and leaping over tall buildings was optional.

Many young, and young at heart Arlingtonians took a break and enjoyed the Oakland Street obstacle course. Keep an eye out for other courses throughout the county and enjoy this fun outdoor activity. The Super Squad is promoting fitness all over town. Follow <http://www.facebook.com/ArlYouthandFamilies> to find out where the obstacle courses will be each week.



## Modern Building Style Research for 100 Anniversary Update

Our neighborhood has had a lot of new houses built within the last 20 years, and there are a lot of new building styles on display. Our extensive review of existing house styles is called the "[Ashton Heights Style Guide](#)" from May 2007, which is on our website. Pages 2.3 and 2.4 have detailed maps showing the year built and housing style of every house based on 2003 research. Since then, a lot of new and different styles of houses have been built and it would be interesting to compare the newer houses with the earlier houses. Volunteers are needed to walk through the neighborhood and identify and describe all these new houses. Eventually we could then present this comparison in the form of an update to the existing style guide. If interested, contact AHCA Historian Jim Terpstra at [terpstrajames2@gmail.com](mailto:terpstrajames2@gmail.com) or 703-908-9231.

## REMINDERS & DATES TO REMEMBER

- Contribute to the next Ashton Heights Newsletter – content for the January 2021 issue is due Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. (With the holidays, the date has to be earlier)
- The January Ashton Heights meeting will be held over Zoom on Wed., January 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Fairlington Community Center is hosting a Community Arts Outdoors program on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 4 p.m. Make a pinecone turkey. RR, Activity #: 782003-21.
- Adults - get your heart rate up and get a bodyweight workout on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the TJ Community & Fitness Center. RR, Activity #: 782007-31.
- For the last two bullets, register online or call 703-228-4747.



**Did you know that the Summer surge continued into September for Northern Virginia Home Sales?** The Northern Virginia real estate market produced yet another strong sales month for September, with the pace of sales continuing to eclipse activity during the same time period in 2019. A total of 2,166 homes sold in September 2020, a 38% increase above September 2019 home sales of 1,578.

September activity was a continuation of the strengthening market Northern Virginia has witnessed since June. Active listings decreased in September compared with 2019. Listings were down 5.62% below last year, with 2,469 active listings in September, compared with 2,616 homes available in September 2019.

The average days on market for homes in September 2020 fell by 38.71% to 19 days - compared to 31 days on

market for homes in September 2019. Decreased inventory levels of homes for sale, coupled with increased buyer demand and low interest rates, has created a true seller's market where prices are increasing and the number of days a home stays on the market is dropping.

The average home price for Northern VA was \$690,981, up 15.09% from 2019. **Arlington's average was \$826,675**, up 17.09% (includes Condos, TH & Detached)

***Are you living in your ideal home now?*** If you're thinking of a new lifestyle, I'm glad to help with some strategic planning.

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## Tree Canopy and Native Plants Subcommittee Updates

By Brooke Alexander, Ashton Heights Tree Canopy and Native Plant Coordinator, Arlington Regional Master Naturalist

### Available: Free Native Canopy Trees

Add to Ashton Heights' tree canopy by planting a tree in your yard! Arlington's TCF (Tree Canopy Fund) provides free native canopy trees and also plants them for free. See related article in the [October AH Newsletter](#).

As of October 23<sup>rd</sup>, the specific potential trees and the deadlines for application are not yet known. The process: if you are interested in applying for a free tree, email me ([brooke.alexander52@gmail.com](mailto:brooke.alexander52@gmail.com)) with your name, address and phone number. When the details are available, I will email you the specifics when published.

I will do a **free individual consultation** (the first week in Dec) and help you apply. I bring my experience as a retired biologist and landscape designer, a member of the Arlington Regional Master Naturalists (ARMN), and several years of coordinating the TCF in Ashton Heights. Planting for successful applicants will be in the spring of 2021.

**DEADLINE for expressing interest: Friday NOVEMBER 20.**

### Wanted: Old Trees

Ashton Heights is celebrating our 100-year anniversary in 2021. As part of that, we want to celebrate Ashton Heights' trees!

First step: identify the OLD TREES. Then, document them! And put them into historical perspective. Then, if interest, perhaps a tour.

So, if you know of an OLD TREE in Ashton Heights, let the OLD TREE committee know. And you're welcome to join us - email [brooke.alexander52@gmail.com](mailto:brooke.alexander52@gmail.com) to get involved.



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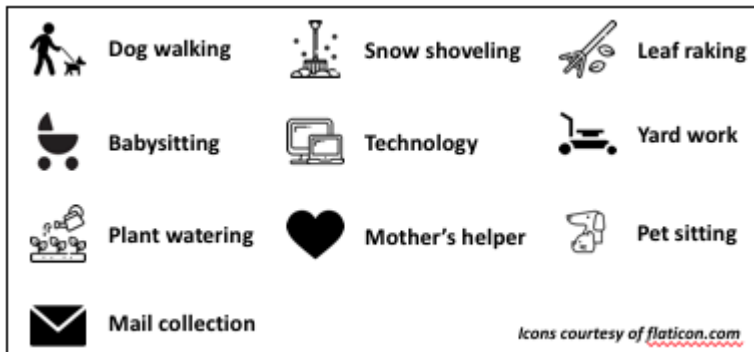
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**Online Registration Opens September 1. VIRTUAL TROT See website for more details.**

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## Kids, Inc. Entrepreneurs



We have a new and improved guide to services that our local youth offer. Kids, Inc. is a robust roster of willing, able local youth to help when the household hands are not enough.

Send updates to: Ann Felker -  
[gr8est9@gmail.com](mailto:gr8est9@gmail.com)

**For privacy reasons, Kids Inc is not available on our website version of the newsletter. Please see the Ashton Heights listserv OR your printed copy that is delivered to your door. Thanks!**

## Lubber Run Community Center Completed but Opening Delayed

by Leo Horwitz

The coronavirus pandemic did not stop Arlington County from completing the new Lubber Run Community Center on schedule this year. But COVID-related funding shortfalls will delay the new building from opening until next year.

AFCA officers got a tour of the site on August 5. Outdoor basketball and volleyball courts feature push-button-activated lights until 10 p.m., and the new playground has something for kids of all ages. Toddlers can safely enjoy playhouses, along with a rubberized play area and sandpit. Older kids can play on a modern climbing apparatus, and swings of various kinds are available, along with two long slides and a climbing slope. All facilities, indoors and out, are fully accessible through ADA-approved ramps and other features.



The building itself is shaping up as a state-of-the-art community center while also serving as headquarters for the Arlington Department of Parks and Recreation. A bright copper exterior faces the adjoining streets; glass windows along N. George Mason Dr. light up the interior, and an exterior of glass and wood facing the park lets in more light. You enter from N. Park Dr. into a corridor that crosses an industrial design with a modern one to create a unique look. You can also use an entrance from the underground garage or a park-level entrance at the far end of the hallway. The entry hall has a customer service and call center desk where residents will be able to reserve spots for senior trips, teen activities, camps, and more. The center will also house a separate area of offices for county staff.



As you walk in, a huge gymnasium grabs your eye. Containing basketball, pickleball, and volleyball court markings, it will be freely accessible, with no membership required. Overlooking the gymnasium is a rubberized indoor track with two lanes for walking or other low-speed sports. On the same level is a fully equipped workout room requiring a membership to use. Three multipurpose rooms on the entryway level are available for county-organized or private events. Around the corner is a hallway with three more rooms: one for senior activities; a wood-floor studio for tai chi, yoga, dance, or other classes; and, for the returning preschool program, a colorfully decorated room containing cubbies, bathrooms, play spaces, and a small stage.

Arlington's standard for new public buildings is LEED Silver, but the new community center will be LEED Gold, thanks to its energy-efficient LED lights, stormwater management system, and solar-ready roof. The county is pursuing a cost-effective contract for solar panels to further reduce the site's carbon footprint. The rough lumber paneling in the entry hall was milled from onsite oaks cut down for the renovation; the mass timber used in the building, in addition to being a renewable resource, stores carbon onsite. Stormwater from the roof pours into an open-air, rock-filled drain that leads to an underground cistern used for onsite irrigation, with the overflow emptying into a bioretention pond at the foot of the playground. The pond removes pollutants from the runoff while letting it soak into the ground. Green roofing over the underground parking lot greatly reduces the overall area of impervious surfaces, and hundreds of planted trees and shrubs will add to the beauty and ecological integrity of the site.

The outside facilities, including the courts, playground, and walkway to Lubber Run Park, have already opened. Faced with funding shortfalls due to COVID, the county has delayed opening the building itself; the Department of Parks and Recreation hopes to move in and open the building for public use by July 2021.

*\*\* This article originally appeared in the September 2020 edition of The Arlington Forester.*



## A Note from the Editor...

A big THANK YOU to all of those who contributed to the Ashton Heights newsletter this month and in prior months! It's turned into quite a robust offering and I hope that you're enjoying the content.

Our next newsletter will be in January 2021. If you'd like to contribute an article – have an idea for a new advertiser (this allows us to have more pages in the issues) – or have any feedback, please contact me, Amy Miller at [editor@ashtonheights.org](mailto:editor@ashtonheights.org).

## One Family's Guide to Eden Center (Part 2)

6751 Wilson Boulevard @Seven Corner

By Vinh & Susan Nguyen

[edencenter.com](http://edencenter.com)

**Note:** Note: Due to COVID-19, some stores may have special hours; please check before going.

If you ask Vietnamese folks where they go to eat, the likely answer is, "It depends" – usually based on what dish(es) they desire. For this reason, this review is dish-centric, including some less familiar dishes for the curious. To make it easier for neighbors, however, all dishes can be found at either [Rice Paper](#) and [Huong Viet](#); both restaurants have received multiple, repeated awards and the latter has had a loyal following for over 30 years!

Fried spring rolls (**Cha Gio**) and fresh garden rolls (**Goi Cuon**) are well-known appetizer staples. Good spring rolls are twice-fried crunchy with crab in the filling. Garden rolls should be made fresh to order with the just-right balance of shrimp, pork, noodles, lettuce and herbs. Huong Viet makes these the best.

You can also consider **Goi Tom Thit**, a salad of either green papaya or lotus stem ("**Ngo Sen**") with shrimp and pork belly slices. **Banh Mi Chien Tom** (shrimp toast) is always popular. **Bo La Nho** is ground beef wrapped in grape leaves then grilled. **Chim Cut Quay** is quail marinated in fish sauce then roasted, served with a lime/salt/pepper dipping sauce. You may want to try **Oc Nhoi** – conch, pork paste, ginger and lemongrass stuffed in an escargot shell and steamed [this item is found only at Rice Paper].



Image courtesy of Rice Paper on Instagram

Everyone of course knows about **Pho**. Most places offer only the traditional beef pho, while some will have a chicken option. [Pho VA](#) is the only pho "house" at Eden, and it's pretty good. However, our advice is to go instead to **Pho 75** in Rosslyn – the first and still the best. Other noodle soups include **Mi Tom Thit**, egg noodles in pork-based broth with shrimp and pork (try it with the broth on the side); **Mi Vit Tiem**, egg noodles in broth with braised duck; **Hu Tieu Bo Kho**, rice noodles in beef shank and tendon stew; and **Bun Rieu**, thin rice noodles in tomato and shrimp broth, with minced crab and pork.

Other favorites include **Banh Xeo**, crunchy turmeric rice crepe filled with shrimp, pork, mung bean, bean sprouts and onions; **Banh Cuon**, steamed rice crepe filled with minced pork and mushroom); **Bun Thit Nuong**, thin rice noodles with grilled pork (or beef, chicken, shrimp); and **Com Tam Bi Dac Biet**, "broken" rice with pork multiple ways (grilled, frittata-style, shredded rind) and fresh vegetables.

A traditional family-style meal for sharing typically includes a protein dish, a pan-fried vegetable, and a soup. For the protein, try the popular **Bo Luc Lac**, pan-fried marinated beef tenderloin with watercress and tomato; **Heo Kho Tieu**, caramel pork with black pepper; **Ga Xao Xa Ot**, spicy lemongrass chicken; **Ca Kho To**, caramel fish cooked in earthenware pot; and pick-your-seafood variation of [shrimp, fish, calamari or crab] done **Rang Muoi** style, i.e. coated with salt and jalapeno and flash-fried.

Besides the usual vegetable combination offerings, try **La Dau Hoa Lan**, snow pea leaves in garlic or **Rau Muong**, sometimes translated as "morning glory" (you have to ask for this off-menu item). A really authentic family-style soup is **Canh Chua**, a sweet-and-sour broth packed with either fish ("Ca") or shrimp ("Tom"), tomato wedges, bean sprouts, okra, and herbs.

At **Rice Paper**, you may also want to emulate Vietnamese families huddled around a big tray of Lau (hot pot) with mounds of varied protein, starch and vegetables to be cooked in a shared boiling broth.

We hope this introduction will entice you to try some new dishes. Let us know how it works out!



## Our Biking Adventure

By Layla Moustafa (3rd grade, N Pershing) and Lilly Rizzi (4th grade, N Jackson)

On Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, we participated in the Arlington Treasure Hunt sponsored by [Phoenix Bikes](http://PhoenixBikes.com). We did the Family Friendly Route, a six mile biking route with eleven stops in the Penrose and Ashton Heights neighborhoods. At each stop you had to find something and answer a question based on a clue/riddle that the website gave you, and then you would be able to read a fun fact about that stop.

We were glad we did the Arlington Treasure Hunt because we had the time of our lives. The biking was fun, especially with our friends, but at the same time tiring. We loved learning new information and seeing the Halloween decorations on Jackson Street. The stops that were put on the route were really unique. One of the stops was the painted rocks house, which had at least thirty painted rocks. Every so often they switched the theme for what the painted rocks said. Some of the prior themes were rainbow and Hamilton, and now the theme is voting. Another one of the houses had an eight-year-old girl who could not concentrate on her school work at her kitchen table. Her kind neighbors gave her father wood and other materials and he built a little room on the side of their house for her school study, which she calls her "rainbow elementary." We also stopped at the new Mosaic Park.

The most unexpected part of the trip was going to a bike shop called Spokes Etc., after a stop at Gumball Park, where Spokes gave us gumballs. In order to get the gumballs we had to yell as loud as we could, "BLIBBER BLUBBER," which we thought was hilarious! When things got hard, we wanted to give up and go home, but at the end we were the only two kids from our group that finished the whole thing. We were really proud of ourselves and learned a lot about Ashton Heights!

We really hope there is another Arlington Treasure Hunt next year. If there is, you should definitely try it because it's so amazing and fun.



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## 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.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Children (and ages) (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Resident since: \_\_\_\_\_

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Neighborhood interests: \_\_\_\_\_

**PAY DUES ONLINE:**

[www.ashtonheights.org/join-ahca](http://www.ashtonheights.org/join-ahca)

## A Smarter Fall Clean Up

By Barbara E. Taylor

In a recent article in the New York Times ("A Smarter Fall Cleanup", September 30, 2020) Margaret Roach makes an ecological argument for a "messier" approach to fall yard and garden cleanup. Roach cites Cornell University scientists who explain that, when we remove all our fallen leaves, we disrupt insect habitats and interrupt the "food web" of creatures like pollinating bumblebees, caterpillars that provide food for baby birds, and spiders that control pests. Faded plants often provide critical shelter and contain seeds or fruits for hungry birds.

Rather than think of garden cleanup as removing every last leaf, Roach advises thinking of it as "editing." It's not necessary to leave every leaf where it falls, particularly if you have grass that might die under a thick blanket of leaves. Mow over and mulch those leaves, or rake them into your borders and vegetable beds. You can move leaves from places where small early bulbs such as crocus and snowdrops are planted. And you might also want to rake leaves away from the bases of ornamental shrubs like peonies and roses.

The exception to desirable messiness is your vegetable garden, since diseased crops may leave pathogens that will survive winter and infect subsequent plantings. One Cornell horticulturist explains that she removes everything from her vegetable garden in the fall and mulches it with grass clippings or leaves mowed from the lawn.

When spring arrives, Cornell ecologists advise waiting to clean up until after at least five consecutive 50-degree days to "give your garden's inhabitants a chance to awaken and move along, beginning the cycle again."



*Image courtesy of the Plant NOVA Natives Facebook*



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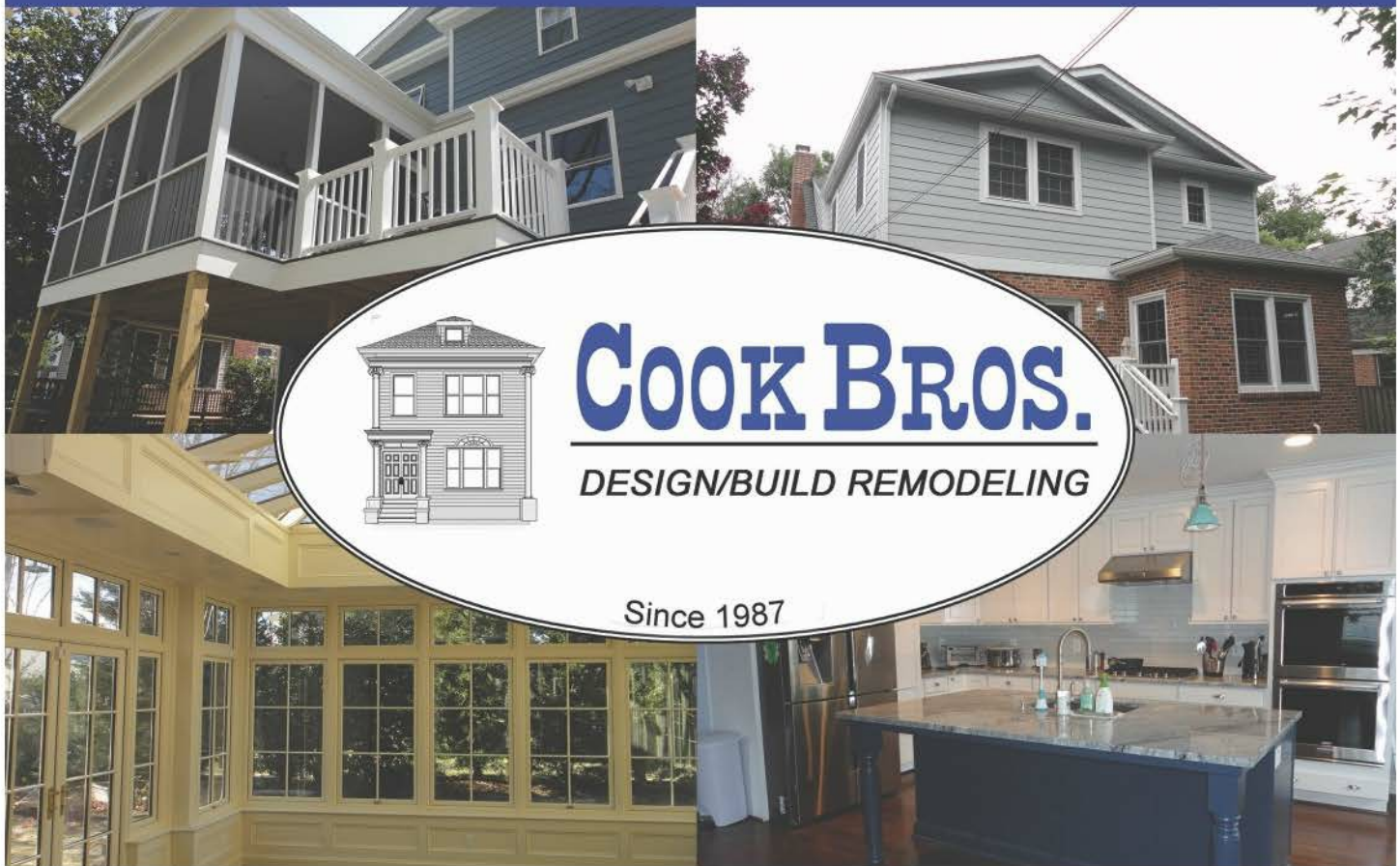
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