



# Ashton Heights News

The Newsletter of the Ashton Heights Civic Association

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

## Community Benefits - The "Arlington Way"

Scott Sklar, President, AHCA

What makes the Ashton Heights community so amazing is its long history of participating and leading within Arlington County on development, transportation, education and other issues. In fact, much of the uniqueness of living here has been a visionary set of leaders within our community who have put their visions, along with some sweat and tears beginning in the 1960's, into a citizen's participatory process which we call "The Arlington Way."

In my ten years at the helm of the Ashton Heights Civic Association, I am always amazed at the breadth and depth of our members on the key planning issues. But I am also amazed about what I will term as "County Drift," where a few years after a multi-year collaborative process, the planning processes within the County seem to discard the prior-approved consensus so we have to gear up to weigh-in on the issues again and again.

Nothing seems more open to this than the development and parking planning now underway by County government.

In redevelopment, the County allows developers to receive certain waivers if there are clear "community benefits." In the proposed Clarendon Sector Plan, there appears willingness to allow heights above the mandated 110 feet and higher building densities without "community benefits." So what are the community benefits we have fought so long and hard for? (I quote from the listserv from a sample of our association leaders long involved in this area: Joan Fitzpatrick, Brooke Alexander, Julie Mangis, Ann Felker, and others.)

**Greenways:** The existing greenway between Irving and Ivy Streets is almost adjacent to this proposed development! It is not irrelevant. We have already experienced one attempt to penetrate this important buffer. Having the greenway form a buffer along the northern edge of our neighborhood is absolutely necessary to define our boundary. And why should we retreat from the Greenway concept, which originated here in Ashton Heights? The County actually incorporated it into the GLUP based on our recommendation.

## AHCA Monthly Meeting

### ON ZOOM

**Wed., March 17, 2021, 7:30 – 9 PM**

Join the Zoom Meeting (Click the link below)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87697160469?pwd=aU5yNGFZeDNMeituakNvZXMwMzRSdz09>

Or call: +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 876 9716 0469 | Passcode: 726138

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

- **Missing Middle Housing Initiative**
  - Arlingtonians for a Sustainable Future - Peter Rousselot
  - Alliance for Housing Solutions - Peg Hogan
- **AHCA History I**
  - Ashton Heights History - Peter Dickson
  - National Register of Historic Places - Jim Terpstra

### 9:00 Adjournment

**Building height:** It is important to remember that the 110' maximum was predicated on getting community benefits in return. So far, we have not been apprised of any proffers that would justify the 110' height, much less the 128' height. I think AHCA has done a good job of articulating our concerns about height and density, but I might consider including language regarding FARs (floor-area-ratios).

**Building setbacks:** Address light and imposing structures over our residential community. Here, we were informed that building step-backs present architectural challenges, including plumbing, electrical and other infrastructure issues. It was as if developers are resisting the step-back requirements. We need to challenge the 165' measurement from our neighborhood regarding the 1:3 taper. We need to be vigilant about the tapering, transitions, step-backs and set-backs lest they, too, get modified. We are reminded of the time when developers told us that building residential buildings wasn't "economically feasible." So they got away

*Continued on page 2...*

# 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:jabrichardson@verizon.net">jabrichardson@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:coledines@gmail.com">coledines@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

<b>Editor/Layout</b>	Amy Miller <a href="mailto:amylmiller4@gmail.com">amylmiller4@gmail.com</a>	<b>Advertising</b>	Chris Armstrong <a href="mailto:newsletterads@ashtonheights.org">newsletterads@ashtonheights.org</a>
<b>Distribution</b>	Bea Camp <a href="mailto:summercamp81@yahoo.com">summercamp81@yahoo.com</a>	<b>Listserv Moderator</b>	Betsey Lyon <a href="mailto:etlyon410@gmail.com">etlyon410@gmail.com</a>

### President's Message - continued from page 1

with building the Rosslyn office canyons, which we've been trying to fix ever since.

Open space: A hotel terrace, at whatever level, provides any benefit to those of us who live in Ashton Heights. There is no plan for open space in these proposals, with the possible exception of the linear park replacing Fairfax Drive adjacent to Northside Social and St. Charles Church. It's not clear to me whether that area would be paid for by the county or whether developers would be expected to provide the park as their community benefit.

A similar set of issues appear to be happening regarding parking strategies that were established as the Metro came through Arlington so that neighborhoods near Metro stops (we have three in Ashton Heights: Clarendon, Virginia Square, and Ballston) would not have commuter cars parking all day in our neighborhoods, so our residents living in these areas can park on their own street. Luckily, the Arlington County Board has held in place the program for the existing neighborhoods, good news. However, what is not good news

is that developers are now allowed to put in less "in-building" parking for condominiums and apartment houses with the assumption that these people will not use their own vehicles, but utilize Metro. We can argue if that is true, these residents will have visiting relatives, friends, service workers and vendors that need to park as well.

I raise these points not to be whiny, but rather to illustrate that our community involvement has driven our area to be a great place to live. But that also requires the sweat and tears of an earlier time be taken on by newer and younger residents so as to keep the assets that attracted all of us to live in Ashton Heights.

We will be celebrating AHCA's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year – where we all can learn, laud, and celebrate these achievements.

But I hope as we do, and many of you who read this newsletter and participate in the listserv, can build perspectives and join in on an outstanding legacy.

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## AHCA MEMBERSHIP SIGN-UP AND DUES PAYMENT FORM

Ashton Heights Civic Association annual dues are \$15/household or \$10/individual member or \$25/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): \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**PAY DUES ONLINE**

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



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300 Calvert Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301 - conveniently located just off Rte. 1 south of Potomac Yard, right on Calvert to the end of the street. "Finding us for the first time is half the fun!"

### Winter *planning* leads to early spring *planting*!

## Community Safety & Security Corner

### *The Reality of Domestic Violence during COVID-19*

By Christina Schultz

With stay-at-home orders enacted to stem the spread of COVID-19, public health experts expected a significant increase in the incidence of domestic violence. Instead, the number of domestic assault and battery cases in Ashton Heights, as reported by the Arlington County Police Department, decreased by half from 14 in 2019 to seven in 2020 (compared to a slight increase during this same period from 399 to 434 cases for the entire county). To understand this discrepancy, I asked Doorways, a local nonprofit organization that seeks to address the cycles of abuse, homelessness, and poverty and offers emergency shelter stays and long-term support to individuals and families.



#### **Has there been an actual decrease in the level of domestic violence during the pandemic or are there factors that prevent victims from reporting incidents and/or accessing services?**

A drop in calls or reports does not indicate there is less of a problem or violence has decreased; rather, there are other variables (e.g. not everyone feels comfortable using technology, not everyone has a laptop, not everyone can take a break from kids or their intimate partner to call a hotline or engage in therapy). The isolation of the pandemic becomes a very difficult barrier to overcome for survivors that are still living with their abusive partners.

For some, the loss of job and/or having kids at home means they are more isolated, and the power and control dynamic is intensified. Some survivors are afraid to go to a shelter and potentially get infected with COVID-19, making an already extremely difficult and dangerous

decision even harder. The decline in reports is not limited to Arlington; however, since the pandemic is ongoing, there is currently insufficient data to show the whole picture. Emerging trends include clients in more difficult situations, worsening abuse, and more severe injuries in some cases. Across the board, Doorways is anecdotally seeing higher lethality risk.

#### **Are there ways that would make it easier for victims to report incidents?**

Community advocates can be incredibly helpful in supporting survivors in understanding the choices available to them. In addition, law enforcement can be more effective when officers are integrated into the community, available, and approachable for survivors.

#### **Has Doorways seen a change in trends in its domestic violence caseload?**

Doorways is still seeing a steady rate of requests for shelter with the number of clients in shelters on par with previous years. Court advocacy is also steady. Hospital accompaniments for forensic exams (sexual assault and domestic violence) are down, as is our Revive domestic and sexual violence counseling program; however, both are likely to trend up again. Total calls to our hotline ebb and flow month to month. In 2020, we averaged 36 calls to our hotline per month and 107 calls per quarter. Across the board, Doorways is seeing higher lethality risk and a real focus on the need to meet basic needs, such as food. We are also addressing compounding impacts of isolation, mental illness, and substance use issues along with domestic violence.

#### **How has Doorways been able to engage with victims during the pandemic?**

Doorways services have not slowed down during the pandemic. We continue to provide 24-hour immediate hotline response to connect survivors and their loved ones with services and support. We have also maintained

*Continued on page 5...*

**Safety & Security Corner continued from page 4**

in-person shelter, court advocacy, and hospital accompaniment services/response, while adapting and remaining flexible to ensure health and safety with COVID-19. We added secure and confidential tele-mental health to continue providing counseling through our Revive Program; shifted in-person meetings to virtual; and provided items, such as art therapy supplies for children and home goods, through no-contact or socially distant drop-offs.

As part of our outreach efforts, Doorways has increased targeted social media outreach to help survivors learn about and access support and services, as well as creative offline outreach (e.g., community members posting flyers in their apartment buildings) to reach survivors who may be struggling to access help due to COVID-19 related or exacerbated isolation. Along with our Project PEACE partners, we conducted virtual outreach, especially around Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month in April and Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.

If you are afraid of your partner or concerned about a friend or loved one who may be experiencing abuse, please call Doorways' 24-hour hotline at 703-237-0881. If you are interested in supporting Doorways by volunteering or donating, please visit [www.doorwaysva.org](http://www.doorwaysva.org) or call 703-504-9400 for more information.



**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)

**2021 Ad Rates:**

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**REMINDERS & DATES TO REMEMBER**

- Contribute to the next Ashton Heights Newsletter – content for the April 2021 issue is due Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Upcoming Ashton Heights Civic Association meetings will be held over Zoom on March 17<sup>th</sup>, April 21<sup>st</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Have you always wanted to plant native plants in your garden? Sign up for the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia program: [Selecting Native Plants for Your Home Garden](#) which will take place on March 19th from 10 to 11:30am. Free!
- Registration opened Wed., February 24<sup>th</sup> for the **55+ guide activities/classes**. View the guide [online](#).
- Check out the **Families Unplugged at Home - Art to Go Boxes**. Register for your box [online](#). \$20/box with supplies for 4 individual projects.
- Arlington County Parks & Rec is hopeful that they can hold **summer camp** this year. Their **online-only catalog** will be available starting March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Registration will begin Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. (Subject to change). The first camp session is currently scheduled for Monday, June 21st. [Click here for more details](#).



3301 Wilson Blvd.  
Walk-in and Virtual Visits

Monday-Friday: 8am-5pm  
Weekends: 9am-2pm

703.522.1860

**Hello Neighbor! Welcome to Immediate Care by PMA Health,** part of a multi-specialty practice with four offices in Arlington and Falls Church. Our newest location is open in the heart of Clarendon for life's unexpected medical needs. Your care is our concern.

Check out all we have to offer at [mypmahealth.com](http://mypmahealth.com)



### ***The Push* by Ashley Audrain**

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

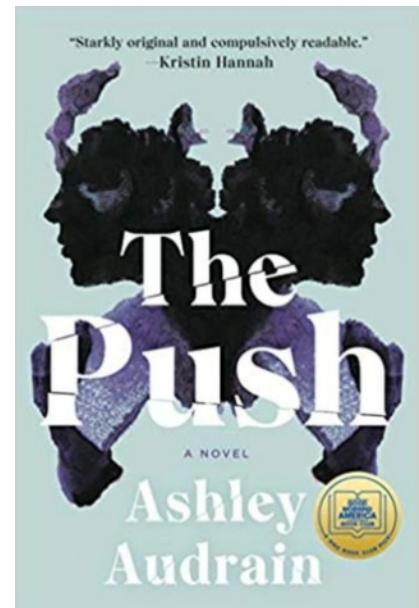
Whoa. I haven't read a book like this in a long time. The kind you can't put down, the kind you look forward to picking back up the first free second you have, the kind you keep thinking about when you've finished the last page.

This is a dark book. It doesn't read like a traditional thriller; it's more psychological literary fiction. I've seen it described as having an unreliable narrator, but I don't think that's true. I think the author did *\*such\** an excellent job of writing from the main character's point of view; when she starts to question her own reality, you do too.

She is struggling with motherhood, especially because of how she was mothered. How much is nature vs. nurture? She is so gaslit by the people in her life, she doesn't know what to believe after a while. Some things happen, some feelings that are so dark, she doesn't know what to believe. She doesn't *\*want\** to believe them.

I can't emphasize enough how well written it is. I was so fully pulled into the story, so invested in the outcome; I could've read it in one sitting if I'd had the time!

I think despite the many triggers that abound here (and there are many), this will be one of *\*the\** books of the year. I bet people will be putting this in other readers' hands, saying, "you've GOT to read this!" I bet it makes its way to a screen near you in the near future. It's that kind of book.



## Ashton Heights 100 Year Anniversary in 2021

By Jim Terpstra

Our wonderful neighborhood turns 100 this year and its time to start planning ways to celebrate and memorialize this wonderful place. We will have a short presentation at the March AHCA meeting.

We are looking for people who are interested in sharing their memories, getting involved in the related activities, and know how to convert old paper materials into modern formats, e.g. Facebook, etc.



Colonial Revival.



Tudor Revival.

If you haven't done so, be sure to look at the historical materials on our [website](#). We are thinking about creating a 100 year timeline that will allow us to identify when different types of houses were built, when people came and went, and many of the other ongoing changes to this dynamic area.

### Interested in being involved?

Contact AHCA's Historian Jim Terpstra at 703-903-9231, [terpstrajames2@gmail.com](mailto:terpstrajames2@gmail.com) or come by 522 N. Ivy St.

Photos courtesy of the [Ashton Heights Style Guide](#).



American Foursquare.

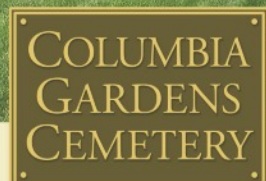
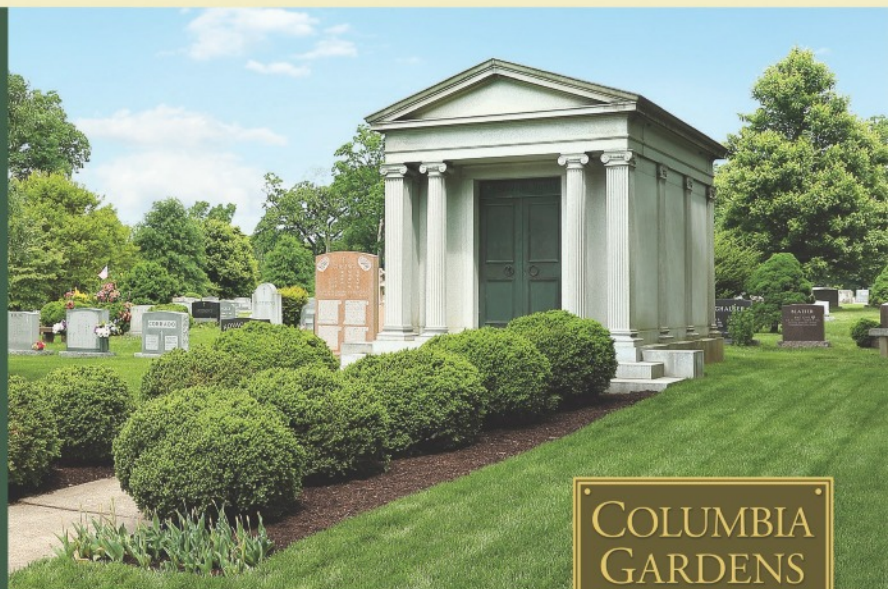


Bungalow.

## Pre-Planning Gives You and Your Family Peace of Mind



Planning ahead for funeral and burial arrangements relieves your family of the burden of having to make decisions at a stressful time. Pre-planning is a true gift of love for your family—both emotionally and financially. Columbia Gardens Cemetery is approved by the State of Virginia to accept pre-payment for funeral and burial services. If you have not yet decided what arrangements you would like, we are here to guide and support you. We will explain burial, cremation, memorialization, options for funeral services and more.



**For More Information, Please Contact Us at 703.527.1235**

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ESTABLISHED 1917

## The Ashton Heights Listserv Keeps Us Connected

By Betsey Lyon

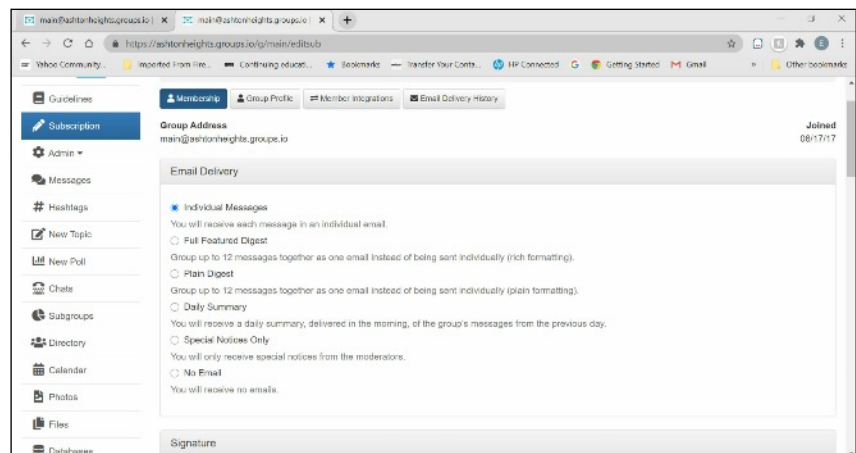
The Ashton Heights Civic Association is one of countless neighborhood groups in Arlington and around the country that communicate up-to-the-minute information using an online listserv. Currently, about 600 residents of Ashton Heights and Lyon Park have accounts on the [Ashton Heights listserv](#) to stay current on our neighborhood and Arlington news.

Neighbors and civic association leaders discuss issues related to Arlington County governance, development along the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor with an emphasis on Clarendon and Virginia Square, what's going on in Arlington Public Schools, and over the past year, developments with Covid-19 and vaccinations. Neighbors issue curb alerts for giveaways of worthwhile household items, and seek and share recommendations about home service providers. When a pet goes missing or is found wandering, alerts are posted. The civic association oversees the list via an appointed moderator, who helps residents join or resolve technical issues with list membership.

**How do I join:** Send an email with your full name and street address in Ashton Heights or Lyon Park to Subscribe: [main+subscribe@ashtonheights.groups.io](mailto:main+subscribe@ashtonheights.groups.io) or to [etlyon410@gmail.com](mailto:etlyon410@gmail.com). Listservs are programmed to enroll email addresses, so be sure to sign up with the address(es) you intend to use on the list. If your preferred email address changes, you can also change it in your list account.

**How do I post to the list:** Once a moderator approves you as a member, you can send emails to Post: [main@ashtonheights.groups.io](mailto:main@ashtonheights.groups.io). You'll be approved via a list email with that link at the bottom of the welcome message. Click or copy that link to post to neighbors.

**How do I adjust my subscription to receive all group emails or fewer emails?** Our discussion list service gives you subscription options. Visit any page on the site to access your subscription information. Persistent left hand links include "Subscription." Open that link to see your personal account settings. (See image to the right)



**I don't want to miss discussions, but once I've seen enough of an issue, can I stop getting emails on that topic?** Yes. Each email you receive has helpful links at the bottom including "Mute This Topic." You click it and then will be asked to confirm

### Groups.io Links:

You receive all messages sent to this group.

[View/Reply Online \(#36816\)](#) | [Reply To Group](#) | [Reply To Sender](#) | [Mute This Topic](#) | [New Topic](#)  
[Your Subscription](#) | [Contact Group Owner](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

that you want no future message carrying that subject line:

**I'm an active list member, but I can't see photos or attachments members are sending. What's the problem?** Stay logged into your account for full access to account features:

- Go to the [Ashton Heights discussion list main page](#) and click the **Log In** link at the top of the page, upper right.
- On the resulting Log In page, enter your email address and password, and click the **Log In** button. If you don't have or know your password, you can establish a new one.

The list can be an effective way to stay in touch with neighbors and local issues, especially while the pandemic keeps us home more than we might like. If you've questions about the list, use the "Contact Group Owner" link at the bottom of any list message or email [etlyon410@gmail.com](mailto:etlyon410@gmail.com).

## COVID-19 Vaccine Update

By Martha Casey

Here's the most current information as the newsletter goes to print. Things change rapidly so check the Ashton Heights listserv for regular updates as they become available.



### Residents 65 and Over Now Eligible

Arlington has begun scheduling appointments for those 65 and over. If you have pre-registered, you will be contacted by the County to schedule your appointment. Anyone who has not pre-registered should do so through the Virginia Department of Health scheduling system, at Vaccinate Virginia, <https://vaccinate.virginia.gov/>, or by calling 1-877-VAX-IN-VA.

Public health authorities are urging all adults to pre-register at the state site so they are ready to go when their priority group becomes eligible. The next priority group to be scheduled will be those 18 to 64 with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk for Covid. You can find the current list of qualifying conditions at Vaccinate Virginia.

**CVS** and **Safeway** pharmacies are now providing vaccinations in Arlington and Giant will be soon. Go to their websites to make appointments if you are eligible. (Currently vaccinating ages 65 and over.)

Anyone with questions or concerns about the Arlington County vaccination program can call the Arlington County Hotline at 703-228-7999. County staff from all departments have been pulled in to answer calls to the Hotline.

### Ashton Heights Neighborhood Assistance

The scheduling system is improving, but can still be confounding. To help neighbors with scheduling, transportation, or any other vaccine-related issue, the Ashton Heights, Lyon Park, and Buckingham Civic Associations have teamed up to help. Contact the Vaccine Assistance Committee by emailing [vaccinehelparl@gmail.com](mailto:vaccinehelparl@gmail.com) or calling 571-249-5819. You can also contact me directly at [mlcasey@oacpc.com](mailto:mlcasey@oacpc.com). Volunteers can also sign up using those emails - thanks to all who have already done so.

### Complete Vaccination Committee

The Arlington County Complete Vaccination Committee is up and running, working toward the goal of ensuring that every Arlingtonian has the information and the opportunity to be vaccinated. Ashton Heights was the first civic association to sign up as a community partner. As the vaccine supply increases, it will be increasingly important to get accurate information out in ways that work in every community. You can learn about the CVC at <https://www.arlingtonva.us/cvc>.

Please contact me with your questions, concerns, suggestions and I'll try to find out the answers. Stay well. The light is truly visible at the end of this tunnel.

## Drive Through Food & Toiletry Collection for Arlington Homeless Shelters - March 13<sup>th</sup> and April 10<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.



Demand for single-family homes and town homes is intensifying and competition among buyers has reached a fever pitch, causing buyers to make aggressive offers to compete for those homes. In contrast, the supply of condos for sale in our area has been growing for the last several months, especially with high-rise and luxury condos. The hurried level of sales seen at the end of 2020 continued into January, with sales volume increasing by more than 30% across the NOVA region versus January of 2020. The strong sellers' market saw median sales prices increase 6%, with the median time on market for listings dropped 31% to 13 days. Typically, January is slow, although buyers last month experienced double-digit competing offers, price escalation and waived contingencies, and those conditions are continuing into February.

As a buyer in today's real estate market, your offer to purchase will likely be up

against offers from other motivated buyers. Based on my experience and perspective as a buyer's agent and seller's agent in multiple offer scenarios, I've written a guide called "**13 Ways to Write a Winning Offer**", to make your offer stand out from the competition and be the one that gets accepted. Of course, the strategies you use will depend a lot on the type and condition of the property, your level of motivation and how much competition you have from other parties. You can download a FREE copy of the guide on our website.

***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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## Development Committee Update

By David Phillips and Jack Spilsbury - Co-Chairs

This is a summary of some recent developments that have raised questions from the community, namely, plans for the County's Clarendon Sector Plan Update and the Highlander Motel on Wilson.

**Clarendon Sector Plan Update.** In October 2020, the County initiated a year-long public engagement process to update the 2006 Sector Plan for a part of the west end of Clarendon bordering on Ashton Heights. The purpose is to develop strategy for coordinating a number of new construction projects proposed by different developers following years of effort to assemble viable land parcels. Arlington Planning Director Bob Duffy explained plans for the review process and three of these developers presented their proposals at AHCA meetings in 2020. While the review is underway, the County has put consideration of these individual developer's plans on hold through at least September 2021.

In January, we represented AHCA at the first substantive meeting of Arlington's Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC), which focused on the review process and the options for the 10th Street fire station. We also submitted to the County a preliminary summary of issues raised by the AHCA. A critical, second LRPC public engagement session is on March 3. The LRPC has posted two presentations on its website, focusing on building issues including height, tapering, setbacks, step-backs, and streetscapes - and on public spaces. The presentations, as well as the LRPC's review timeline, is accessible at [projects.arlingtonva.us/plans-studies/clarendon-sector-plan-update](http://projects.arlingtonva.us/plans-studies/clarendon-sector-plan-update)).

In advance of the LRPC session, we have a working group that is developing a formal submission based on a balance of community views, and have sought input on the listserv. Thanks to those neighbors who provided input prior to the February 22 deadline.

**The CVS Project.** The owner of the now-closed Highlander Motor Inn on Kenmore/Wilson has granted a 40-year lease to CVS for a new store after Court rulings against County zoning and use objections. Construction is expected to start in March.

Landscaping, with a vegetation buffer and fencing on the East side of the site, has been the concern of a neighbor group whom we assisted to arrange meetings with the County and developer on issues like light, noise, traffic, deliveries, access, landscaping, and fencing. The County staff shared with the group a set of project drawings and the developer cooperated by providing a revised landscape plan. This interaction was specially arranged by Arlington Planning Director Bob Duffy, since the County is not required to discuss 'by right' projects with the public. Going forward it is essential to monitor construction and operations, especially light and noise at night.

One of the many questions regarded demolition of a house on an adjacent lot. This lot is not, however, part of the project itself but provides for a rainfall management facility and is expected to be left vacant and landscaped.

If anyone is interested in joining our "development working group" please contact [davidphillips1@msn.com](mailto:davidphillips1@msn.com) or [spilsburyj@gmail.com](mailto:spilsburyj@gmail.com).

## Columbia Gardens Cemetery is a Beautiful Anchor of Ashton Heights

By Chris Armstrong

Columbia Gardens Cemetery is a historic and unique cemetery at the southern end of Ashton Heights, bordered by Arlington Boulevard, North Oakland Street, 3rd Street North, and North Jackson Street. First conceived in 1914 by, among others, the former superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery, Colonel Robert Dye, the intent of Columbia National Gardens was to “make a place that will be attractive as a park and a credit to the County.” Throughout its history, the cemetery has been under the care of the Thomas family, and it now run by president and superintendent Daun Thomas Frankland. She is the great-granddaughter of one of the founders, Judge Harry Randolph Thomas. I don’t think there is any question that the cemetery, under the care of the Thomas family, has met these goals.

Columbia Gardens Cemetery is now the final resting place of a number of notable people. While the full list is too numerous to detail here, they include former U.S. Senator from West Virginia and President pro tempore of the Senate, Robert C. Byrd, feminist activist and inventor of *The Landlord’s Game* (the precursor to Monopoly), Elizabeth Magie, Brigadier General Margaret Brewer, who was the first woman general officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, Washington Senators third baseman Eddie Foster, Secretary of Health and Human Services Margaret Heckler, Nobel Prize in Chemistry winner Jerome Karle, and many others.

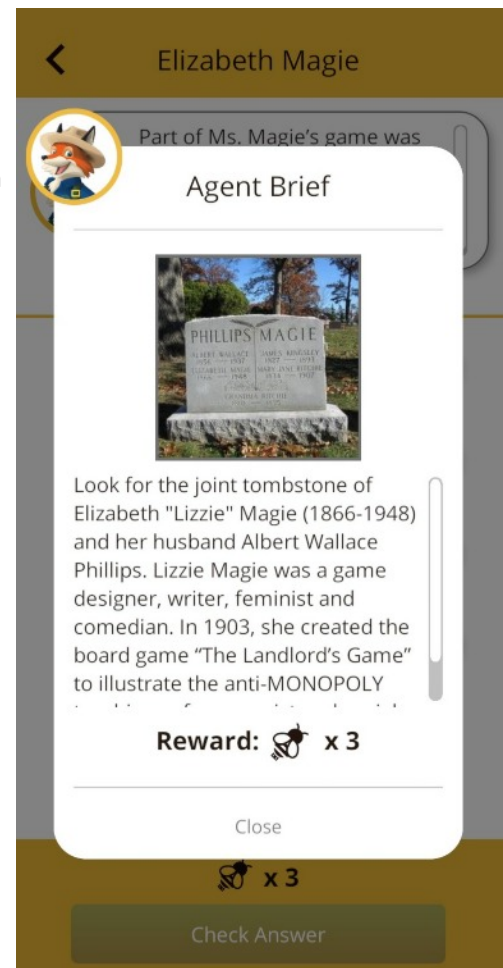
The cemetery is also home to the Memorial Rose Garden, a beautiful collection of over 200 rose bushes that also serves as the location for rose growing classes in warmer weather. The location is also home to Columbia Gardens Memorial, established in 1964 and crafts monuments and markers including for such notable Americans as famed boxer Joe Louis and Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.



Most importantly, the Columbia Gardens Cemetery and Memorial Rose Garden are open to the public and invite visitors to walk, reflect, and pay their respects during the day. As one of Ashton Heights’ many avid runners, I often end my runs at the gates of the cemetery and walk through its paths on my way home.

For people of all ages – download the [Agents of Discovery app](#) and head over to Columbia Gardens. You can use this app to learn about many of the notables as well as other historic or nature-based facts throughout Columbia Gardens.

To have such a historic and beautiful cemetery right in our back yard is a blessing, and one of the many things that make Ashton Heights a wonderful neighborhood. In 2017, Columbia Gardens Cemetery celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ashton Heights neighborhood follows along closely. Here is to 100 more!



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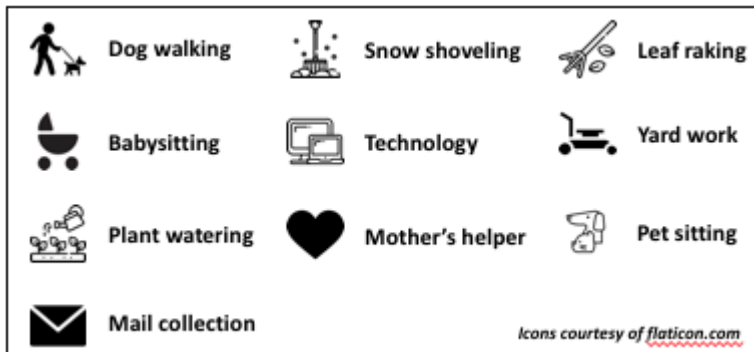
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## How to Hang a Swing with Minimal Damage to the Tree!

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

All this time at home! Some people are adding puppies to their families! Others are putting up swings! To put up a swing with minimal impact to the tree, one needs to know a little tree structure and physiology. It turns out that most of the trunk and the major branches are dead tissue. The only living part of the tree trunk and major branches is the periphery of the trunk/branch, right underneath the bark. This is where the xylem, cambium and phloem are.



The **xylem** (pronounced ZI-lum) is groups of tubules which individually go from the roots all the way up to the leaves. These tubules carry water and minerals from the ground. Dead xylem tubules become the heartwood of the tree.

The **phloem** (pronounced FLOW-um) carry food from the leaves to the rest of the tree. Individual phloem tubules run from the top of the tree, all the way down to the roots. The phloem is immediately underneath the bark; dead phloem tubules become the bark.

The **cambium** is the growth layer of the tree. It is just underneath the bark, between the xylem and phloem. The cambium makes new cells which become the xylem and phloem cells. The cambium is a very thin layer, often one or two cells thick, and only visible by microscope.

### What does this have to do with

**hanging a swing?** Well, it may be counter intuitive to some, but the best way to hang a swing is to put an eye-hook into the tree. This minimizes the disturbance to the phloem (which remember is supplying food to the tree). Encircling the branch with a rope constricts the phloem right underneath the bark, all the way around the branch. This cuts off food to the branch beyond the tourniquet, and can starve the branch. When one inserts a hook, one only disturbs a small percentage of the circumference of the branch. Very small impact!



The same rationale applies to hanging a hammock or anything else one hangs from a tree. Use a hook. Do not encircle the trunk with a rope or a strap. Use a large enough eye-hook to support the weight.

The same rationale applies to the climbing structures which encircle the trunk of the tree. Rather than attach those steps with a strap, it is better for the tree to attach the step without a strap, nailing or screwing it in. If you're committed to the straps, remember that the most active growing time frame for a tree is March thru May. In this case, consider removing the restrictive straps for the growing season, and reinstall after that time.

"North Lincoln Street, Arlington, Virginia"



Congratulations to Ashton Heights resident, Jason Horowitz whose piece pictured above was acquired by Arlington Public Art and Arlington Economic Development for the Portable Works Collection. The 44" x 85" print was installed in the lobby of the Bozman Government Center (2100 Clarendon Blvd).

Artist statement: These images are part of the ongoing Re/Seen project in which I am working with the Google Photo Sphere/Street View app and my smartphone's camera in a new way to create disassembled and reconstructed 360° images. By subverting the normal process for creating digital panoramas, I am able to deconstruct and re-imagine the nature of things as I wander through the night in my Arlington neighborhood. Instead of depicting the world in a realistic documentary fashion, my camera and a small light for illuminating the darkness become tools for bending space and time to create immersive abstract views that reinterpret reality and are filled with a dizzying sense of mystery and wonder.

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