



Ashton Heights News

The Newsletter of the Ashton Heights Civic Association

www.AshtonHeights.org

Shout Out to an Amazing Community and Civic Association

Scott Sklar, President, AHCA

I want to thank you for supporting a solid team for the Ashton Heights Civic Association (AHCA) Executive Committee for the 2021-2022 year. I am now serving over 10 years as your President, it is wonderful serving you and with a great group of talented and caring people.



Since this is our last newsletter before the summer, I decided to use my column as a "shout out" to a number of volunteers that make the AHCA such a great organization which ultimately makes our community such a wonderful place to live. These volunteers devote their personal time, at the same low salary rate of "\$0", and deserve acknowledgement. I am sorry I cannot include everyone in the space provided, please do not be offended on omission – there's plenty of room for kudos in subsequent editions.

New Executive Committee (AHCA ExCom) – Winners

We're mostly the same old crowd with one addition and a switcheroo. But each and every one provides a valuable service to the association, and as a group, the AHCA Executive Committee follows many issues weekly, votes on actions monthly, and is the heart and soul of AHCA. Jim Feaster - VP for Programs, Jim O'Brien - VP for Membership, Doug Williams - Treasurer (since 2004!), and Chris Armstrong - Secretary. **The At-Large Excom members:** Cole Deines, Patrick Lueb who also Chairs the AHCA Transportation Committee, Ken Matzkin – who was our VP of Programs, and Jim Richardson who had Chaired the Development Committee for many years and then was VP of Programs this past year. This group has immense breadth and depth of experience, works well together, and are all very approachable – feel free to e-mail them with thoughts and ideas - their e-mails are on the third page of our newsletter.

Leaving

Jodie Flakowicz has served as our AHCA Secretary, as an ExCom officer and now is serving as the AHCA Nominations Committee Chair for 2021. Dave Phillips, our heroic CoChair of the AHCA Development Committee who brought on CoChair Jack Spilsbury. He built the Committee as a very strong influence on County decision-making and built a solid dialogue with County

AHCA Monthly Meeting ON ZOOM

Wed., May 19, 2021, 7:30 – 9 PM

Join the Zoom Meeting (Click the link below)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81450575490>

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

Meeting ID: 814 5057 5490

7:30 Committee Reports & Community Updates

Speaker: **AHCA History III** - Tom Petty

- As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of our neighborhood, Ashton Heights – we might ask "why here?" Well, in large part it is because in the spring of 1900, the "Town of Clarendon" was dedicated and rapidly grew to become a key commercial center for all of Northern Virginia. At the May meeting, we will cover this and more as we look at the history of Clarendon as told through the Washington Post (Clarendon Bureau) news articles and pictures.

9:00 Adjournment

officials. Emmilu Olson who stepped up as our coffee provider when we had in-person AHCA monthly meetings, and then stepped in to coordinate our monthly AHCA Zoom meetings.

Stood-up and Performed

My biggest shout-out in this department is Christopher Armstrong who took over scheduling our AHCA Monthly Zoom meetings and other civic association meetings. And, he took over Carmen's job to coordinate advertising for our AHCA newsletter. Then he volunteered to run for AHCA Excom as the Secretary, and recently stepped up to coordinate the AHCA Board web elections – a four-fer, wow!

Amy Miller who jumped in to fill an empty slot as our AHCA newsletter editor – I mean it's amazing! I don't know about you but I think the newsletter gets better all the time.

Christina Schultz who Chairs our AHCA Safety & Security Committee pushed to have an AHCA effort on Housing. She suggested, and Matt Hall agreed to be the AHCA Housing Committee chair with Christina as Vice Chair, and they hosted a

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

session on Middle Housing. Thanks Matt for stepping up as AHCA's newest Committee Chair, and Christina for pushing on key community issues on two fronts.

Martha Casey proposed to lead an information service on COVID to keep AHCA members up-to-date on the State of Virginia and Arlington County policies and programs, and availability of vaccines. She worked with Lyon Park Citizens Association to set up a joint assistance service to help people in obtaining appointments for vaccines.

Jim Terpstra our long time AHCA Historian, who now is leading with a great group of members our 100th AHCA Anniversary celebration this year. He is working with AHCA residents: Jim and Rita O'Brien, Ann Felker, Julie Mangis, Brooke Alexander, Betsey, Lyon, Peter Bard, and Tom Petty.

The Ole Reliables

Bea Camp coordinates the newsletter distribution (a thankless job) and all the volunteers who deliver the newsletter. Bea delivers to six "mid-level" distributors, who then package smaller amounts for the block captains. Julie Mangis keeps the lists. (See a full article of thanks to the newsletter delivery team on page 11 of this issue.)

Ann Felker who prepares the student jobs page in our newsletter monthly, helped co-coordinate out AHCA yard sale, and is active in our 100th anniversary celebration preparation..

Betsey Lyon – our listserv moderator who helped us transfer from Yahoo to Google, and it works seamlessly. We have over 600 residents on our AHCA listserv!

Honorable Mentions

Jack Spillsbury joined as CoChair of the AHCA Development Committee which takes a huge amount of time covering very many actions and issues. In 2021, he assumes the role as it's sole chair, and coordinates with a great group of AHCA residents who have been very active on these issues for a long time: Brooke Alexander, Cole Deines, Joan Fitzgerald, Julie Mangis, Ken Matzkin, David Phillips, Jim Richardson, Julia Tanner.

Rob Liford, a name most of you don't know, maintains our web site accounts and helps us not get hacked as often.

And most importantly – all of you – our members! Your participation on the listserv, on the committees, at the monthly meetings and at special AHCA and County events makes this all come together. I know we are all busy raising our families. working, errands, etc, --- so this public service is all on top of that -- but it does make a difference.

So, thank you each and every one of you, and have a wonderful and safe summer!

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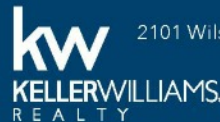
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We received so many great submissions for the Pet of the Month feature, that we're sprinkling FOUR into this newsletter – May – plus one for each of the summer months when there is no newsletter published. Enjoy!

Ashton Heights Pet of the Month - May

Meet Grays, Joan Arsenault's pet. Gray was living hear a cat feeding station when a woman captured him and I fostered him. It took him a while to no longer be afraid of people (I don't think he was feral, based on one I have who is).

You might see us walking on Ivy Street, he's on a leash. He's friendly to all and comes up to say hello to strangers. Our walks have grown shorter as he reaches 19 years as estimated by the vet. In his youth he was fearless in the snow.



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 Feaster jimfeaster1@gmail.com	VP Membership: Jim O'Brien jimob1@verizon.net 703-528-0376	Treasurer: Doug Williams treasurer@ashtonheights.org	Secretary: Chris Armstrong carmstrong07@gmail.com
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Members-at-Large

Cole Deines coledaines@gmail.com	Jim Richardson jabrichardson@verizon.net	Patrick Lueb jiffy64@me.com	Ken Matzkin kenmatz1@gmail.com
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Committees

Safety & Security	Christina Schultz cmschultz@yahoo.com	Transportation	Patrick Lueb jiffy64@me.com
Development/Zoning	Jack Spilsbury spilsburyj@gmail.com	Playgrounds & Parks Subcommittee	Brent Burris brburris@gmail.com
Housing	Matthew Hall mhall@goldsteinhall.com	Tree Canopy and Native Plants Subcommittee	Brooke Alexander brooke.alexander52@gmail.com
Schools	Gregory Morse gregm748@gmail.com	Caroline Rogus crogus@gmail.com	
Neighborhood Conservation Rep	Brent Burris brburris@gmail.com	Lutz Prager alternate pragerlutz@gmail.com	

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An Evening with Wilma Jones, Author of My Halls Hill Family

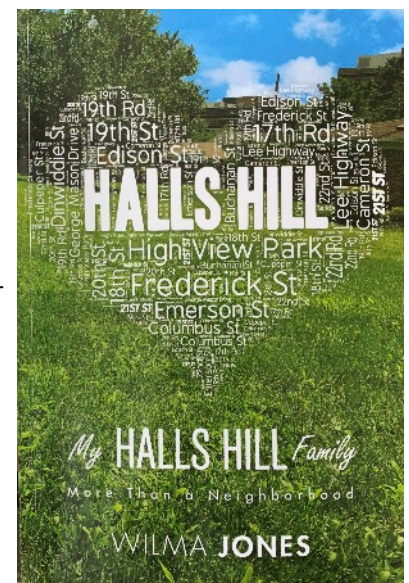
Arlington native Wilma Jones, author of *My Halls Hill Family: More Than a Neighborhood*, will speak via Zoom to residents of Glencarlyn, Lyon Park, and Ashton Heights about her experiences and those of generations of her family, friends, and neighbors in the Black enclave of Halls Hill in the decades before and after desegregation.

The program, initiated by the GCA's Committee on Racial Equity and Inclusion, will take place on Thursday, May 13, from 7 to 8:30 pm. Ms. Jones will speak for about 45 minutes and answer participants' questions for the balance of the time.

She will describe what it was like to grow up in a close-knit Black community that was literally walled-off from the adjacent White neighborhood during the dark years of racial discrimination and segregation, and how she, her family, and other Halls Hill residents struggled against and eventually surmounted the indignities, difficulties, and challenges of racism. The wall has (mostly) come down (a portion remains as a memorial), Halls Hill has been renamed High View Park, and it is no longer an exclusively Black neighborhood. But the story of how racism played out there in the not-too-distant past remains part of Arlington's history and legacy.

Any resident of the partnering neighborhoods who wants to take part must register in advance by filling out and submitting the form found at <https://bit.ly/3uFov8y>. A confirmation email along with the Zoom link will be sent immediately afterward.

Those who wish to read Wilma Jones' book before the program can order it at <https://amzn.to/3d6Trsr>. (There are also four copies in the Arlington County Library – and several people on the waiting list.)





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Meet Your Neighbor: Doug Mearns - Getting through COVID with Family and Friends

By Betsey Lyon

Doug Mearns has lived on N 4th Street since 1991 and finds his friendly neighbors full of interesting stories about experiences that seem especially concentrated in DC communities like Arlington.

“Where else would you find neighbors who are Smithsonian anthropologists who spend summers digging in the Rift Valley of Kenya, software entrepreneurs with their own businesses, foreign diplomats, and in other fascinating professions,” he stated.

With his first partner Kenneth, Doug moved to his current home from a Woodley Park, DC apartment, after searching for a house with a small garden. Facing Kenneth’s death in 1995, and the death of his husband Tom in 2016, Doug has found comfort in continued interests they had shared: gardening in Tom’s expertly-designed garden, cooking in his kitchen that overlooks the garden, hiking, and until the global pandemic, traveling with friends to distant places, including Greece, Turkey, Asia, the Middle East, and Europe.

Retired after 42 years as a civilian Chemical Engineer for the U.S. Navy’s Naval Air Systems Command, Doug is grateful for his interesting career based in the DC area. He was a technical specialist in the aviation field, focused on requirements for Navy flight fuel and related products. His busy, highly specialized job involved him in several international standards organizations, complementing his love for travel and meeting people from other countries. Doug worked with colleagues world-wide to investigate and resolve common engineering problems. Turbine engine



designers and manufacturers across the globe have for many years required U.S. Navy approval for new engine lubricant formulations. Doug was responsible for a laboratory with unique test equipment that evaluates new aviation oil formulations.

Fast forward from a busy engineering career to 2020. Doug and his current partner Michael Pyatt, retired founder of the successful business, Scuba Aruba, found their globe-trotting stopped by Covid-19. A great respite proved to be their immediate neighbors.

“We have fantastic neighbors who are a joy to be around.” On their block, residents Rick Potts and Jenny Clark, along with Tom and Dana Halkowski started a weekly Friday evening happy hour in their driveway and side garden. “On a typical Friday evening, you will find 10-12 neighbors gathered, a life saver” of human interaction and conversation during our difficult public health crisis. The hosts wound up purchasing propane heaters to keep the happy hours going throughout the winter. The group held their one-year-of-happy-hours celebration in mid-April.

Doug is close to his three siblings and their seven children. They usually gather several times each year, often in Arlington. Now that everyone has been vaccinated, the family recently reconnected for an in-person Easter picnic on North 4th Street.

A frequent volunteer with Meals on Wheels and Arlington Democrats, Doug hopes to venture out into the community as Covid restrictions progressively lift. He says he enjoys Ashton Heights because it reminds him of his hometown in West Virginia, “only much better.” He and Michael like our compact neighborhood with a selection of restaurants, grocery stores, and parks within walking distance. Doug and Michael can often be seen walking their dogs in the neighborhood, Lucia, a 90-lb Golden Doodle and Olie, an 18 lb Miniature Schnauzer.

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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 (ARMN)

Free Native Canopy Trees - Sign Up Now!

The Arlington County Tree Canopy Fund (TCF) program has just released information on their next free canopy tree planting. The application period is NOW! Planting will happen in the late fall.

Contact Brooke Alexander (Brooke.alexander52@gmail.com), Ashton Heights Tree Canopy Fund coordinator, by Wednesday, May 26th, in order to express your interest. Send your name, street address and phone number. We will then set up an individual appointment at your home, socially distanced, to review the tree choices, and look at location options together. These site visits will be scheduled prior to June 8th. I will help shepherd you through the application process, and upon acceptance, follow the trees going forward. There is a bit of bureaucracy involved.

Ashton Heights is losing our wonderful tree canopy. Our big trees are over a hundred years old. That means that each will take over one hundred years to be replaced. Ashton Heights' canopy was 48% in 2008; and was reduced to 40% when last measured in 2016. Unfortunately, the losses have continued. Let's add to our future tree canopy by planting trees now!

The TCF plants free trees that are 1.5-2-inch caliper (diameter at chest height) and 6-10 feet tall. The program is administered thru Ashton Heights Civic Association, and Arlington EcoAction, in conjunction with Arlington County staff. The planting is funded by Arlington County. The box below lists trees offered for Fall 2021. The TCF does their best to accommodate your first or second choice.

Note: it is possible to apply on your own. But higher priority will be given to applications coming through Ashton Heights, as you have an Arlington Regional Master Naturalist overseeing the program. PLUS, the added bonus of advice from a retired landscape designer. (To apply on your own, visit: <https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/community-programs/trees/tree-canopy-fund-application-fall-2021/>.)

Tree options:

- American Hornbeam
- Pin Oak
- River Birch
- Sugarberry
- American Sycamore
- Swamp White Oak
- American Linden



Community Safety & Security Corner

The Results Are In:

Findings from the Police Practices Working Group

By Christina Schultz

In the wake of high profile police shootings, there has been increased focus on civil rights and police reform, such as the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. As previously reported in this Corner, closer to home, Arlington County has been taking a look at its own policies and procedures. Arlington's Police Practices Working Group was a 15-member committee of advocates, attorneys and police that spent six months reviewing local and national police practices and conducting outreach for community input. On February 15, 2021, they presented their findings to County Manager Mark Schwartz.



The report includes over 100 recommendations in four areas: creating a civilian review board; understanding the role of police in traffic enforcement; exploring the role of the police department in providing mental health services; and identifying potential models for alternative dispute resolution in our community. There are several highlights from this examination.

The group recommended that a civilian police-oversight board, composed of 15 county residents, be led by an independent auditor. This board should have the power to review internal investigations and disciplinary decisions, as well as investigate complaints on its own and subpoena information. The aim here is to increase police accountability and build trust with communities.

The group also recommended expanding the use of automated traffic enforcement cameras with fines set on a sliding scaled based on income levels. The intention is to remove racial bias for police stops, while at the same time relying on drivers becoming more aware of their speed when cameras are in place. Another notable traffic suggestion is using sheriff's deputies or dedicated traffic safety officers to deal with disruptions from electric scooter traffic.

Other recommendations call for reducing the reliance on police for dealing with crisis calls involving mental health, behavioral and drug problems, and instead turning to mental health professionals and expanding social services. The final area looks at changing the use of 911 calls by educating residents that "differences among community members" are not a reason to call the police.

For more information, you can read the [complete report](#), watch the [virtual public meeting](#), or review Mr. Schwartz's April [presentation](#) to the County Board. Still pending are the results of an independent study examining police department policies and data on the use of force, training and supervision, body-worn cameras, recruitment and retention and internal affairs.

Ashton Heights Pet of the Month - June

Meet Eli - the Banks' family dog. Eli had a rough start in life, living on a concrete slab in DC. Eli was adopted by the Banks family in December 2008 at the tender age of 4 months and has been living happily in Ashton Heights ever since.

Eli enjoys chasing the bunnies that wander into his yard, though at nearly 13, he has no chance of catching one. He also enjoys vigorously ripping apart stuffed toys, eating any people food he is given, slow ambles through the neighborhood (there is not a blade of grass in Ashton Heights he hasn't dutifully sniffed), hanging on the front porch, and when not in Arlington, relaxing at the beach.



Arlington Bunny Hop



June 12th

Bluemont Park-W&OD Trail
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Virtual Option-June 12-20



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Down Under Fun this Summer

By Deena Ackerman

Maybe you caught a game on ESPN in the wee-hours decades ago. Maybe you saw kids playing in Bluemont Park one summer. Maybe Footy is completely new to you and your kids. No matter. Australia's greatest sport has a place in Arlington. Long-time Ashton Heights residents Chris Adams and Deena Ackerman have been bringing a taste of Down Under to Arlington since 2006 with Saturday Morning Footy (SMF). Australian Football, or Footy, is Chris' passion. He started the program because raising an American child without footy was not going to happen. Their son CJ, now 21, grew up with the program before moving on to play for the local men's teams in DC and Minneapolis. In 2019, CJ helped take the Minnesota Freeze to a National Championship.

For more than a decade, until the pandemic slowed them down, the Adams family has run a free summer program teaching the rules and skills of their favorite game to kids in the Arlington area. The Adams family models the program on the AFL Auskick program, which is the largest children's sports program in Australia. They cater to Australian families in the DMV with the military or foreign service, expat families living the area, and local families for whom this sport is brand new. They, and a cadre of volunteers, teach the skills of the game in a fun and safe environment. They are looking to be back Saturdays this June and July, COVID permitting. Check in with Chris at christopherpadams@gmail.com or <https://www.satmorningfooty.com/> for more details.



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Drive-thru Food and Toiletry Collection for Arlington Shelters - May 8th - 9am to noon

Please join us on **Saturday, May 8th** from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Clarendon Presbyterian Church for the next monthly drive-thru food and toiletry collection to support Arlington shelters and our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness.

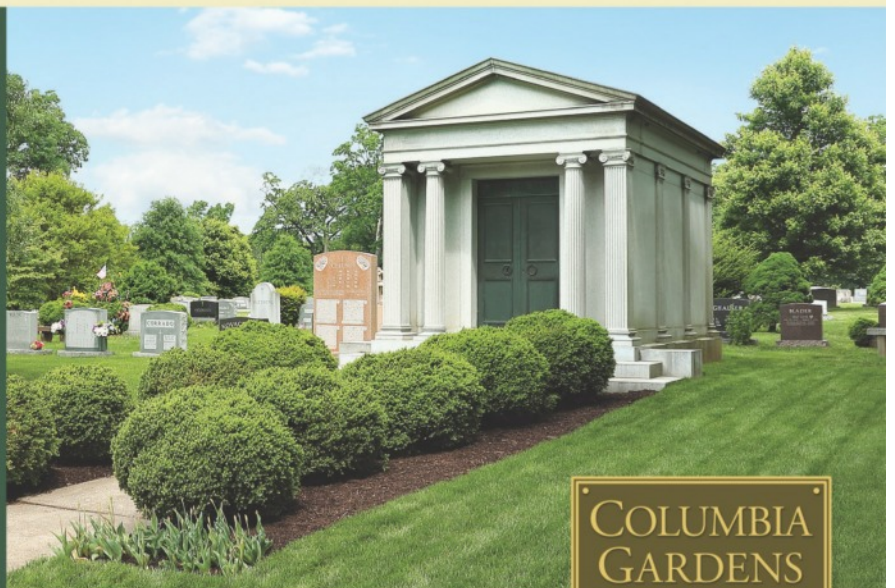
Clarendon Presbyterian Church is located at 1305 North Jackson Street, Arlington, VA 22201. Drive-thru collections are held on the second Saturday of each month on the Jackson Street side of the church building. If you have questions about upcoming events or donations or if you'd like to volunteer to help staff upcoming events, please contact the church at clarendonmission@gmail.com or (703) 527-9513. And please check the church website for any inclement weather announcements at www.clarendonpresbyterian.org.



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COVID-19 Vaccine Update

By Martha Casey

What a long way the vaccination campaign has come since these updates started in February.

Individuals 16 and over can now directly schedule a vaccine appointment at Arlington County health clinics. Appointments may be directly scheduled at the County website, or you can search [VaccineFinder.org](https://vaccinefinder.org) for appointments at nearby locations.



Arlington County is working through the estimated 30,000 members of the Phase 2 general public category who are pre-registered. The J&J vaccine is available again, and in the last week health systems, universities, and physicians offices joined pharmacies in administering vaccines. Those providers are reaching out directly to their patients to offer appointments. The state this week opened the first mass vaccination clinic in Northern Virginia, at Tysons Corner. It seems the period of vaccine scarcity is ending.

On April 21 President Biden announced that 200 million Americans have been vaccinated; 41.8% have received at least one dose, and 27.8% are fully vaccinated. According to the CDC, 29.8% of Virginians have been fully vaccinated.

Arlington, according to a February Facebook survey, has the highest vaccine acceptance rate in the country (96%), but it's clear there's plenty of work to be done to ensure access and address questions and concerns. The Complete Vaccination Committee continues regular outreach to underserved communities to ensure that all who wish to be vaccinated can do so and those who are hesitant get the information they need. If you'd like to help, please let me know - email mlcasey@oacpc.com. I'll connect you with County staff doing vaccine outreach.

As we move into summer I have suggested a mobile clinic at The Lot, that very special feature of our neighborhood. The crowd could come for a shot and a shot. I'll let everyone know if it happens and if we need volunteers, especially those who, unlike me, are awake past 10 p.m. All outreach suggestions for this next phase are most welcome.

Next Vaccine Category

The next group to be vaccinated will be ages 12 to 15. Clinical trials of Pfizer and Moderna for that group are well underway, and experts predict both companies could apply for Emergency Use Authorization by late May or early June. If approved, vaccines could be available this summer, before the start of the school year, and most vaccinated by November.

Clinical trials for those under 12 are just beginning, and vaccines for those children may be a year away.

Into the World

Governors are beginning to loosen restrictions, and public health experts increasingly believe outdoor mask use may no longer be necessary if combined with distancing. (Read this New York Times article: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/22/well/live/covid-masks-outdoors.html>).

It's strange and exhilarating to cautiously go back out into the world. I hope we can all continue to do so, and am so grateful to live in Ashton Heights, where the neighborhood has stuck together to get each other through this tough year. A safe and happy summer to all.

Ashton Heights Pet of the Month - July

Meet Lomo - the Moustafa family dog. Lomo, which means "Sunshine" in Hausa (a Nigerian language) was born in Dakar, Senegal in 2018 to a Senegalese street dog who was adopted by a family at the US Embassy in Dakar. He was one of 5 puppies born in his litter and adopted by multiple families in Dakar, including ours when we were stationed there. Lomo is an African ridgeback; he is loud but playful, very friendly, and his biggest characteristic is being scared of everything under the sun! Once he gets to know you though, he is the friendliest dog around.

When we returned to Arlington from Senegal in June 2020, unfortunately due to COVID Lomo could not join us. We had to wait until October of that year to fly him back to us - it was a very long trip for him but we are so glad he made it and was reunited with our family.

Since he was raised in Africa, Lomo hates the cold, and is very glad that the weather is warming up and he can spend time outside. If you see Lomo walking around the neighborhood with my kids (my 10-year-old son Alex walks him every morning), please say hello!



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Check out the **Spring into Summer Special** going on now at yogastretchandmove.com - offering in-person and virtual sessions.

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Dates to Remember and Other Info:

- Contribute to the next Ashton Heights Newsletter – content for the September 2021 issue is due **Saturday, August 21st**.
- The Ashton Heights Civic Association meetings this fall are: September 15th, October 20th and November 17th.
- Check out the **Lyon Park Citizen Newsletters** here: <https://lyonpark.org/library/>

Online Discussion List Tip: Respond to Sender

By Betsey Lyon

Do you stay connected with neighbors with the Ashton Heights listserv? Several hundred of your neighbors do, and emails fly back and forth several times a day, most days. To avoid overloading inboxes, you can:

As a list email recipient: Choose to receive digests rather than individual emails. At our [homepage](#), upper left, use the Subscription link to adjust your list email settings to a choice other than Individual Messages, your default setting.

As a list email sender, help everyone out: When responding to a list email message, figure out if you need to reply to the entire group or just to the sender. For instance, 600 people don't need to read your logistical plans on claiming or picking up a curb alert item. The sender can alert the list when something is taken. Instead of telling everyone, (1) check out footers in the list email and hit Reply to Sender if your email format provides that option, instead of your basic email reply that responds to the entire group OR (2) respond as we all do within our personal email programs: Hit reply and then double-check that the email address is to the individual only.

Note: Footers on individual list emails you receive in html format look like this, with the Reply to Sender email. Digests and personal email settings may vary footers.

Ashton Heights Listserv Most Common Footer (pictured at right)

To subscribe to the Ashton Heights list, email: main+subscribe@ashtonheights.groups.io or email etlyon410@gmail.com. Always include your full name and street address.

Groups.io Links:

You receive all messages sent to this group.

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More housing inventory came on the market in March, yet those listings were snapped up quickly; there are simply more buyers than available homes for sale. The average March sales price increased 7% across Northern Virginia compared to last year as prospective buyers often found themselves in multiple offer competitions, pushing the limits of what they can afford.

Buyers competed vigorously for new listings that came on the market, particularly single family, detached homes. Single family and townhouses continue to sell on average above the listed price, with an average sold price to original list price ration of 101.4% in March. Some hot properties that are strategically priced are seeing original averages of 107.56%, with one property selling for nearly 20% over asking price!

In Arlington County in March 2019, there were 292 condos listed for sale in Arlington, compared with 76 in March of 2020, pushing the year-over-year increase in total sales.

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.

Who you hire matters - put my 36 years of local Arlington market expertise to work for you and your largest financial investment!



Casey O'Neal
Associate Broker
703-217-9090
casey@caseyoneal.com
Compass Real Estate
www.caseyoneal.com

Free Notary Service for Ashton Heights Residents.

With me as your advisor, I can help you sell your home faster and at a higher price. Compass fronts the cost of the services to enhance your home's value. Visit our website for details on the Concierge Program.

Kudos to the Newsletter Delivery Team

By Bea Camp and Julie Mangis

As we begin our summer hiatus, we would like to say "**Thank You**" once again to the neighbors who assist with delivering the AHCA Newsletter to each household every month.

The mid-level team includes: Nese & John Gundelsberger, Phyllis Charles & Nancy Carey, Jim Richardson, Jim Abramson, Ann & Tim Felker, and Randy Custer. They each receive about 200 newsletters which they hand over to block captains, the ones who go door-to-door.

Our block captains are: Brooke Alexander, Geoffrey/Andelin family, Donna Banks, Merrill Boone, Braverman family, Debby Chin, Jane Collins & Liz Harter, Sandra Connell, Thane Culver, Cummings family, Peter DeBoor, Jennifer DrGross, Donose family, Fagerstrom family, Jodie Flakowicz, Trisha Gruesen, Dana Halkowski, Haltiwanger/Reilly family, Nancy Hopper, Chase Huntley, Tom Iveson, J.B. & Roger Jenkins, David Johnson, Karen Lange, Diane Lechmanik, David Lippert, Jennifer London, Betsey Lyon, Wes MacAdam, MacCrae family, Ken Matzkin, Maza family, Jean & Eric Miller, Jim O'Brien, Shaara & R Roman, Rosa family, Serfis family, Lisa Shimberg, Sweeney family, Szewczyk/Mueller family, Karen Tober, Nancy VanDoren, Jan Vranich, Susan Weinbeck, Robert & S. Williams, Mary Dunn Wojanis, and Harro & Janie Wulf.

Well done Team! Thank you and see you in September!

Kiwanis Club Annual Blueberry Sale is On!

By Julie Mangis

What do you think when you hear or see the word **blueberries**?

Healthful? - Nutritious? - Delicious? - Kiwanis Club of Arlington?



Of course, it's all of the above. And blueberry season 2021 is about to start. Always picked at the height of their freshness, the berries are expected to arrive in Arlington the last weekend in June, directly from the grower. The berries are sold in 10-pound boxes for \$35.00 and will be available for contact-free pickup at Cherrydale Methodist Church, 3701 Lorcum Lane. Please place your orders online before June 15 at www.arlingtonvakiwanis.com or contact Julie Mangis at jmmangis@aol.com or (703)525-7513.

"They're so good you'll think you picked them yourself!" There is also an option to purchase boxes of blueberries to be donated to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) for distribution to needy families. Please consider adding a box or two for AFAC to your order and Kiwanis will deliver the berries directly to AFAC. More information is available on the website.

In addition to AFAC, proceeds from Kiwanis blueberry sales benefit Arlington Thrive, Crisis Link, Arlington 4-H, ASPIRE, VHC Pediatrics, National Capital Treatment & Recovery and many more Arlington safety-net non-profits.

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<https://www.nature-by-design.com/>

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!"

Native pollinators desperately needed, be part of the solution!

Reminder - Old Trees Wanted!

Part of Ashton Heights' 100-year anniversary celebration in 2021 will be celebrating our old trees. Please let the Old Tree Committee know of any old trees in the neighborhood that you are aware of. We will document them, and potentially include them on our tour in October. Email brooke.alexander52@gmail.com to get involved.



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

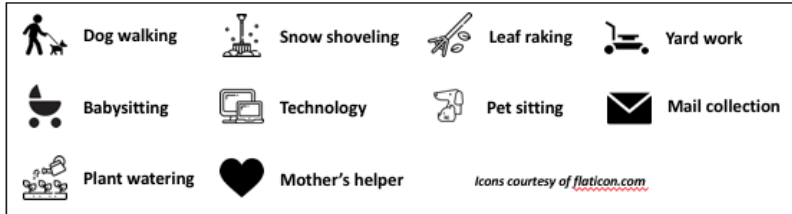
www.ashtonheights.org/join-ahca

Ashton Heights Pet of the Month - August

Meet Wendy - George Hobart's dog who just turned 21! Yes, you read that right - **TWENTY-ONE!** Wendy belongs to the Hobart family in Ashton Heights, but also spends a lot of time with the Putnams in Lyon Park. Photos of her birthday celebration follow.



Kids, Inc. Entrepreneurs



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

Kids, Inc. is not included in the website version of the newsletter for privacy reasons. Please view your printed newsletter hand-delivered by generous volunteers OR the issue that is distributed through the Ashton Heights listserv. Thanks!

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