



# Ashton Heights News

The Newsletter of the Ashton Heights Civic Association

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

## Three Months Focus on the Ashton Heights 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

By Scott Sklar, President, AHCA

In our September AHCA meeting – our first in-person meeting in 18 months – we had the beginning of formal presentations on AHCA’s history. Our AHCA historian, went over a few of the reports on the beginnings of Ashton Heights, named after Ashton C. Jones as he massed land holdings in 1921. In 1892 the electric trolley was introduced and transformed rural Arlington into new subdivisions growing from 6,430 people to 10,231 people. Ashton Heights grew from 1910 -1930, with 1914 being the first County rule requiring approval of subdivision plans by the County Engineer.

Peter W. Dickson, historian, also presented, and offered his new book, *Ashton Heights: It’s Origin and History* (you may buy a copy for \$10, Peter’s email: [pwdbard@aol.com](mailto:pwdbard@aol.com)). On page 6, of his book, he recounts that by 1919, there were 45 homes on the 600 to 800 blocks of North Irving, North Ivy, North Jackson, and North Kenmore that eventually became the beginning core of Ashton Heights.

Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> was the AHCA Birthday Bash from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Arlington Arts Center. Again, this was a chance for our community to come together and celebrate not only our anniversary but our connections together making this community a better place, and coming through our ordeal of the pandemic. Kudos to Matt Hall, Ann Felker, and Julie Mangis among others to make this happen!

Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> is the “Notable Tree Tour” coordinated by Brooke Alexander who heads our Tree Canopy & Native Plants Committee. Our tree canopy is what differentiates us from many other parts of Arlington - providing buffer from noise & pollution, habitat for birds and other wildlife, and has a cooling effect in light of changes due to global warming. Note: October 3<sup>rd</sup> is the National Solar Home tour, from 10:30 a.m. To 3:30 p.m., of which my 100 year old North Ivy Street house has been featured for the last decade.

At our October AHCA meeting, Jim Terpstra will discuss the Ashton Heights Style Guide, first published in 2003, to go

## AHCA Monthly Meeting

**Wed., October 20, 2021, 7:30 – 9 P.M.**

- 7:00 p.m.** Networking and chair setup
- 7:30 p.m.** Scott Sklar, AHCA President and Committee reports
- 7:50 p.m.** Jim Terpstra, AHCA Historian - Presentation on Ashton Heights Style Guide
- 8:15 p.m.** Adrian Stanton, Vice President, Business Development & Legislative Affairs
  - VHC leadership changes (new CEO at the end of the year with the retirements of Jim Cole who has been the CEO for 30 years)
  - An update on the hospital’s campus expansion project and future plans for the hospital over the next 5 years. A COVID update and the impact to the community and hospital operations.
- 8:35 p.m.** Tony Burchard, President, Virginia Hospital Center Foundation
  - Presentation on how staff has handled the pandemic and how you can contribute to the foundation.
- 9:00 p.m.** Adjournment

over the unique house styles that principally make up a good portion of Ashton Heights residences. Also at our meeting on Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, we will have presentations from the Arlington Hospital Center and their Foundation, an outstanding Arlington institution.

So that brings me to what the Ashton Heights Civic Association’s (AHCA) role is today at this point in our first 100 years. From my view, AHCA’s focus has been to “keep the character of Ashton Heights as we grow and urbanize, so as to maintain our unique comfort, safety and livability”.

To do that our AHCA Committees composed of members of our community are doing the following:

*Continued on page 2...*



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## President's Column, cont'd from page 1

- Development – ensure development in and around Ashton Heights protects light as well as protects against noise, maximizes open space, tree canopy, on street businesses and services, and enhance sense of community
- Housing – assure affordability and livability, track County initiatives
- Open Spaces – increase and enhance our parks and playgrounds
- Tree Canopy & Native Plants – significantly increase tree canopy and utilization of native plants
- Safety & Security – maintain dialogue with Arlington County police, inform community of crime & safety challenges and trends
- Schools – improving teaching and facilities, preserve walkability to schools, and enhance safety traveling to and within schools
- Transportation - embrace traffic calming, protect neighborhood parking, increase bike lanes and paths, pedestrian walkways, and noise reduction

These functions are essential to keep the best qualities of our community. So in this celebration of our 100 years, let us also rejoice that we are actively engaged to preserve, protect, and evolve for the upcoming 100 years.

I wish you all a happy and safe autumn. And look forward to seeing many of you in person at our Notable Tree Tour and at our monthly in-person October meeting.

## Get Your 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary T-Shirt While Supplies Last!

By Julie Mangis

The official Ashton Heights Centennial t-shirt is on sale now for \$15. Celebrating 100 years as "The Heart of Arlington," Ashton Heights has commissioned this special design for the anniversary. Available in small, medium, large, and extra large, while supplies last. Cash or checks made out to Ashton Heights Civic Association only. Contact Julie Mangis at [jmmangis@aol.com](mailto:jmmangis@aol.com) or 703-525-7513 to arrange pickup.



# Ashton Heights Civic Association Volunteers

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 Feaster <a href="mailto:jimfeaster1@gmail.com">jimfeaster1@gmail.com</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>
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<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>
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## Important Upcoming Election Dates!

Encourage your neighbors, family and friends to vote in the upcoming November election.



- **September 17** -- Early Voting begins and continues through October 30
- **October 12** – Deadline to register or update your voter registration: <https://vote.arlingtonva.us/Voter-Registration>.
- **October 22** – Last day to request an absentee ballot, which must be delivered in person by November 2, 7 p.m., or mailed with a postmark of November 2 and received by noon on November 5.
- **November 2** – Election Day (Hours: 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.)

**Sample Ballot:** <https://vote.arlingtonva.us/Elections>

**Questions?** Arlington County Voter Registrar: <https://vote.arlingtonva.us/Home>; 703-228-3456

## Style Guide Update

By Jim Terpstra

Ashton Heights has undergone major changes in new construction over the last 20 years. The Style Guide has detailed maps of houses in our neighborhood, year built & home styles, based on a 2003 survey of these buildings; and it also included suggestions for how changes to existing buildings should be made. The Style Guide was part of a community effort to ensure that new buildings would appear consistent with the overall look of the neighborhood. There has been a lot of new construction since then, some of which is different from the existing styles and the suggested changes and some of which is consistent with existing styles. We have conducted an updated survey of all the houses in the neighborhood and have created a booklet that reflects all of these changes. This will be presented at the October AHCA meeting, and we will also present a suggested walking tour. People who are interested in learning more about the survey should contact Jean Falvey at [jeanfalvey@gmail.com](mailto:jeanfalvey@gmail.com) or James Terpstra at [terpstrajames2@gmail.com](mailto:terpstrajames2@gmail.com)

## The Way We Were - February 1979

By Julie Mangis

One of the good and bad things about living in the same house for 56 years is the accumulation of random materials. We're not exactly pack rats, or I would have a complete set of Ashton Heights Newsletters. (Secretly, I wish I had kept them.) But for some mysterious reason, I have a couple of newsletters that escaped the occasional purges. One of these happens to be the AHCA News from February 1979, and it is notable in that, while the world around us seems to have changed dramatically in 42 years, not much has changed in Ashton Heights.

What has changed is the way the newsletter is produced. We used to type stencils and run them off on a mimeograph machine. The newsletter was one sheet, printed front and back on legal size paper. Today, of course, computers have made the process a lot less labor-intensive.

Civic Association meetings were held at the Clarendon Methodist Church on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday instead of the 3<sup>rd</sup>. And they started a little later, with the social hour beginning at 7:30 and the business meeting at 8:00 p.m. But guess who was Hospitality Chairman in 1979? Ann Felker. Until very recently, Ann was still welcoming us at every Association meeting with delicious treats and warm beverages. In 1979, she also wrote the monthly column about happenings at our schools. That February, the Arlington County Public Schools Budget was the topic for the meeting program. Ashton Heights residents have always paid close attention to school

budgets and have consistently advocated for a quality public school system.

The February 1979 President's Message included such items as plans for the Ashton Heights Greenway and Maury Park; the anticipated opening of Metro's Orange Line with stations at Clarendon, Virginia Square and Ballston, and concurrent concerns about the impact of increased traffic, commuter parking, and development pressures; as well as thanking the 50+ families who delivered the 1,700 newsletters each month. That's 500 more than we deliver today because, in those days, we delivered to all of the Buckingham Apartments on our side of Glebe Road. Today, we're still discussing parks, the greenway, traffic, parking, and development.

The list of officers in 1979 reminds us that a few have moved elsewhere and, sadly, many have passed away. But three of us still live here and, along with many other dedicated Ashton Heights residents, we continue to work on preserving the special quality of life that is ours.

The French have a saying, "Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose." The more things change, the more they stay the same.

<u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</u>	
Pres.- CATHY DESCISCIOLO	419 N. Oxford St. 528-3871
1st Vice Pres.-JULIE MANGIS	516 N. Irving St. 525-7513 (Membership)
2nd Vice Pres.-HERSELLE MILLIKEN	3916 N.4th St 524-8150 (Program)
Treas.- MAL YOUNG	3226 N. 1st St. 527-5320 (Budget)
Secy.- TED WEIHE	617 N. Kenmore St. 525-5835 (By-Laws)

## Copy of portions of the Ashton Heights newsletter from February 1979

Keep in mind----- Thomas Jefferson Intermediate School Spring Fair - March 31 from 10 to 4:00. Fun, Games, Wacky visitors, and good food for the whole community - Ann Felker -	<b>PROPOSED BUDGET</b>
<u>IN OUR COMMUNITY</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
Work opportunity for Ashton Heights Teenagers-- We are offering a registry of boys and girls ages 12 to 18 who are interested in earn- ing money working for other people. There are many opportunities in Ashton Heights community to shovel snow, mow lawns, rake leaves, pet and house sit, and baby sit. Those youths interest- ed in working at these activities, or who need more information may call Joan Culver, 522-0624, before March 17 to be placed on the register. A list will be printed in the March newsletter.	Federation Civic Assoc. dues \$25.00 Donation- Clarendon Meth. Church 50.00 Newsletter 250.00 Hospitality Committee 45.00 Christmas Party 50.00 Membership Committee 35.00 Reimburse Hospitality Chair. 25.00 Contingency Fund 50.00 Carryover 270.00 Total 800.00
	<u>Income</u>
	Dues (116 members) 232.00 Carryover - Checking 358.00 Savings 210.00 Total 800.00

## Meet Your Neighbor: Sharon Lovering

By Betsey Lyon

Ashton Heights residents are quite a mixed bunch of interesting people from many places on Earth, but the neighborhood lifers among us are a precious few. Sharon Lovering is one of that distinguished bunch. She grew up on North Monroe Street, graduated from Long Branch Elementary, Thomas Jefferson Middle School, and Washington-Lee High School (now Washington-Liberty High School). She just missed attending kindergarten at the Maury School, now the Arlington Arts Center, when its life as a school ceased the very year Sharon began her public school education.

Sharon grew up in the Monroe Street house her parents bought in 1970 before her birth, and now lives up the street. Both her mother and sister live nearby. Sharon remembers her large backyard fondly, with its big trees that she and her sister climbed, and a prolific vegetable garden in the back yard that her father tended each summer. Her dad passed away in 2020, a retired patent examiner at the Patent and Trademark Office.

A graduate of James Madison University with a degree in Mass Communications and Journalism, Sharon has had a long career with the American Council for the Blind, serving as editor of their magazine and membership database manager. Small but mighty in number, the Council staff has braved most of Covid



working at their Mark Center, Alexandria office for a good reason: They create a lot of materials in Braille and continuing that specialized service requires equipment housed in the Council's offices. Sharon learned Braille on the job and fastidiously edits and lays out the organization's magazine for its various formats: large print, Braille, and on digital cartridge. It also reaches readers via email, and airs on ACB's Internet radio station, ACB Media Network. The audio files also become podcasts.

Outside work, Sharon looks forward to the reopening of Central United Methodist Church in Ballston and a return to choir practice. The congregation will be moving to borrowed space in nearby Arlington Forest while their church structure is rebuilt on North Fairfax Drive. When done, Central Methodist will house Kinhaven Preschool and affordable housing managed by the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH). Parishioners look forward to continuing to feed the homeless each Friday in their new multi-

purpose, modern church building, as they did for many years pre-Covid.

An avid reader, and an experienced photographer and singer, Sharon is a fan of physical activity, too. The agile Ashton Heights tree climber of the 1980's keeps up her physical strength and agility these days as a first degree black belt in Tang Soo Do, which she calls "Taekwondo's artsy cousin" though its primary purpose is self-defense. Now there's an activity more of us would benefit from mastering as a life skill.



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## Columbia Gardens Cemetery Partners with Ashton Heights' Old Native Tree Tour

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

The **Tour of Ashton Heights' Old Native Trees** took place October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Hope many of you were able to join us! As I write this article September 19<sup>th</sup> for the October newsletter deadline, I am looking forward to our tour. However, by the time this newsletter is published, the tour will have taken place. See this space in November to read all about the event!

Meanwhile, I wanted to give a shout out to Columbia Gardens Cemetery for their partnership in putting on the tour, and give Ashton Heighters some background on Columbia Gardens' trees.

According to Wikipedia, Columbia Gardens was incorporated by the Alexandria Park Association in 1914. One of the founders was Harry Randolph Thomas. Since it opened in 1917, the Thomas family has been responsible for the Cemetery. Current President, Daun Thomas Frankland, is the 4th generation of Thomas' to run Columbia Gardens.

The landscape plan for Columbia Gardens was designed by the firm Jenney and Jenney of Cleveland, Ohio. The design emulated that of Frederick Law Olmstead, designer of NYC Central Park, with attention to the topography and planting of trees. Thus, the curving roads and numerous 100-year-old trees in the Cemetery.



Columbia Gardens continues to honor and preserve its trees. In 2017, the year of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Columbia Gardens became certified as an Arboretum (Level 1) by ArbNet, the interactive community of Arboreta. As part of that effort, Columbia Gardens has labeled many of their trees. They have 30 of the 57 (per NOVA Natives) tree species native to our area, many of which were highlighted on our tour.

So, if you missed our Ashton Heights Old Tree Tour October 2<sup>nd</sup>, take a stroll thru Columbia Gardens and check out their labeled trees. Many of them are native to Ashton Heights, contributing to the support of our shared ecosystem. And all their trees contribute to our collective tree canopy. Columbia Gardens to open for strolling 7 days a week from sunrise to sunset.

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Email: [main+subscribe@ashtonheights.groups.io](mailto:main+subscribe@ashtonheights.groups.io) or email [etlyon410@gmail.com](mailto:etlyon410@gmail.com). Always include your full name and street address and we'll get you set up to be "in the know."

### 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:

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

## Lyon Park ANNUAL YARD SALE - Saturday, October 30, 2021

The Lyon Park Community Center will hold its annual yard sale on **Saturday, October 30, 2021** from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Lyon Park. This is a rain-or-shine event.

**Please note for this event, you must pre-pay, and the deadline is Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

Unload all your accumulated trash – or TREASURE! Rent one space for \$20 or two for \$35 Residents and guests (yoo hoo! Ashton Heights?!) are encouraged to participate.

Need a table? Rent ours for \$10 each. Let us do the advertising and attract the crowd.

For information, or to volunteer to help, contact **Margaret Scrymser** at [scryms23@comcast.net](mailto:scryms23@comcast.net).

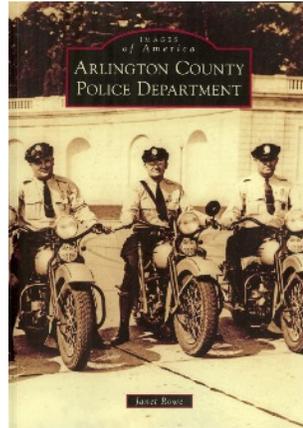


## Community Safety & Security Corner

### *The History of Law Enforcement in Arlington*

By Christina Schultz

Reflecting on Ashton Heights' anniversary, policing has changed greatly over the past 100 years. Prior to 1940, the sheriff's department, assisted by citizen groups, was charged with patrolling our streets. Deputies were paid by the number of warrants they served, arrests they made, and outhouses they inspected. Rapid population growth in the area brought significant changes. On February 1, 1940, the county board voted unanimously to create a professional police department and appointed deputy sheriff Harry Woodward as the first chief of police. The first police department had nine officers, but within a couple years the force expanded to 39 officers.



In those early days, there were no two-way radios, and Arlington did not have a communications center. If you had an emergency, you had to call law enforcement in Washington D.C., who then dispatched the call via one-way radios mounted in police vehicles. If the police officer missed a radio message, he could find one of the call boxes located around the county, further delaying the response time. In addition, patrol cars lacked air conditioning, and sirens could freeze in the winter because they were mounted on the fender. Even police uniforms were cumbersome – made of heavy material with few pockets.

As Arlington transitioned from a mostly rural county to a densely populated suburban corridor, the police department mirrored the growth of the area. The 1950's brought the crime scene unit, the detective bureau, a patrol wagon for prisoners, a patrol camp for youth, and standardized forms for incidents and traffic summons. In the 1960's, cruisers were introduced, the communications system was linked to other precincts for information sharing, the first canine unit was established, and training of new recruits moved from American University to join nearby jurisdictions at the Northern Virginia Police Academy. In the time of social unrest in the 1970's, the department assisted with policing anti-war protests and a tactical unit was formed. The 1980's saw additional changes in training, equipment, and technology, including the creation of a

911 emergency response system. In 1984, the Arlington County Police Department became the first agency in Virginia and the second in the country to be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement. That same year, Arlington became the first jurisdiction in Virginia to have a DNA sample accepted as evidence in a capital murder trial, which resulted in a conviction. Bike patrols, community policing, bilingual services, and school resources officers were introduced in the 1990. Following the September 11, 2001 attack at the Pentagon, Arlington police officers assisted with perimeter security, rescues, and traffic control of people fleeing Washington D.C.

Some changes came more slowly. The police department did not begin hiring women until the 1950's, assigning them to the juvenile bureau. Doris Beiswanger was the first woman hired to the police department in 1951. It took another six years before Delores Brown became the first sworn female officer. Women were not deployed on patrol assignments until 1973, when



Arlington County Police - Feb. 1, 1940  
Courtesy of the Arlington police website

Arlington became one of the first jurisdictions in the region to do so. In 1967, Irving Corner became the first Black police officer. He began as a communications officer and later served as a school resource officer and youth resource detective, where he created innovative Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Program, among his many accomplishments. His daughter, Angela Corner, joined the department three decades after her father.

Since the establishment of the Arlington County Police Department, seven officers have died in the line of duty. Today, the department has over 350 sworn personnel and about 100 professional staff serving Arlington County. Charles "Andy" Penn was appointed chief of police on June 4, 2021. As part of his effort to work collaboratively with communities, he recently completed a series of consultations to listen to Arlington residents about their concerns with police services and gather input on the future of policing in the county.

## Dear fellow AshHeightsians!

By Dave Schutz

You may remember that the Civic Federation established a task force to re-examine our County form of government, including election methods, whether we have the right number of members on School and County Boards. We are also considering how our governing bodies (County Government and Public Schools) receive input from the community and use the input to make decisions. There's a survey, which will expect will improve our understanding of citizen feedback.

## Have Your Voice Heard: Take the Arlington Civic Federation's Community Engagement Survey

The survey is designed to gather community feedback from individuals on the mechanisms used to provide input to the County and Public Schools. We appreciate your honest feedback. Individual surveys and individually identifying demographic information will not be shared. However, information will be aggregated, and written comments may be shared.

Access the survey by visiting:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CivFedTiGER>.

**The Survey will close on Wed., September 30, 2021**

## Dates to Remember and Other Info:

- Contribute to the next Ashton Heights Newsletter – content for the final issue of the year (November 2021) is due **Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>**.
- The Ashton Heights Civic Association meetings this fall are: October 20<sup>th</sup> and November 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Check out the **Lyon Park Citizen Newsletters** here: <https://lyonpark.org/library/>
- **ECARE** will take place on **Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>** from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. At 1425 N. Quincy Street. Safely dispose of your household hazardous materials and other recyclable items. Learn more at: <https://recycling.arlingtonva.us/household-hazmat/e-care/>



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If you owned a home over the past year, you've seen your household wealth grow substantially, and you'll see another nice boost in 2022. If you're thinking of buying, consider buying now as prices are forecast to continue increasing into next year.

There are many gauges of U.S. Home prices, but the S&P Case-Shiller Indices is among the most closely followed. The index is constructed to accurately track the price path of a typical single-family home in each of the nine U.S. Census divisions. According to the most recent release, home prices are still increasing, and the gains can be seen almost everywhere. In their latest report, S&P Case-Shiller shows a *National Home Price Index of 18.6% of an increase in home price appreciation.*

Prices have hit all-time highs everywhere according to Craig J. Lazzara, managing director and global head of index investment strategy at S&P. "The last several months have been extraordinary, not only in the level of

price gains, but in the consistency of gains across the country," Lazzara said. "Home prices in 18 of our 20 cities now stand at all-time highs."

Fortunately for home buyers, the number of homes for sale has begun to improve and should help slow the rate of price increases in the coming months. According to [realtor.com](http://realtor.com), 432K new listings hit the national housing market in August, an increase of 18K over last year. There will however, still be a shortage of supply compared to demand in 2022 CoreLogic reveals: "Given the widespread demand and considering the number of standalone homes built during the past decade, the single-family market is estimated to be under supplied by 4.35 million units by 2022." Yet, most forecasts call for home price appreciation to moderate in 2022. The Home Price Expectation Survey, a survey of over 100 economists, investment strategists and housing market analysts, calls for 5.12% appreciation level next year.



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## Shop Local at The Urban Farmhouse

By Patricia Vandemeulebroecke

The Urban Farmhouse, a home and gift shop in a 120-year old farmhouse on Wilson Boulevard just outside the Ballston neighborhood, is a charming oasis from cookie cutter chain stores. The shop celebrates home design and entertainment through unique offerings from local artisans including local art, pottery, and vintage furniture.

The shop is owned and run by Lyon Park resident Sarah Allen, who took over the four-year-old business in 2020. Sarah's interest in design began with her prior neighborhood home, a fixer-upper home she purchased in Ashton Heights a decade ago. Through her renovation process, the former lawyer honed her appreciation for local art and design elements. The Urban Farmhouse showcases Sarah's love for design, retail, and shopping. The Urban Farmhouse is a family affair, as Sarah's children often ride bicycles to do chores at the shop on weekends.



While the pandemic changed business, Sarah feels that it caused people to refocus on the home, family, and outdoor entertainment. The store's unique furnishings and "happy stuff" are designed to brighten homes while

supporting local artisans. The store sells paintings from an artist with a studio on Wilson boulevard, and the shop's wallpaper was designed by an Arlington mom Sarah met at Faith Lutheran Preschool. Sarah even works with a local furniture refinisher to recycle dressers, side tables, and even kitchen tables into unique showpieces. Sarah also keeps a focus on being part of the community through fundraisers for local charities.

The shop is open Wednesday through Sunday for in-person shopping and curbside pickup.

The Urban Farmhouse  
[www.theurbanfarmhousestore.com](http://www.theurbanfarmhousestore.com)  
 5140 Wilson Blvd.  
 Arlington, Virginia 22205  
 1-703-718-4897  
[theurbanfarmhouse@icloud.com](mailto:theurbanfarmhouse@icloud.com)

## COVID-19 Vaccine Update

By Martha Casey

Once again, plenty of vaccine news this month. This update is current as we go to press, but we know for sure it will change in the next week or so. Stay tuned to the Ashton Heights Listserv or email me at mlcasey@oacpc.com and I'll try to get the answers to your questions.



### COVID booster shots

The FDA has authorized, and the CDC has endorsed (as of Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>), booster shots for adults who received the Pfizer vaccine and are:

- 65 and older;
- At higher risk of severe Covid due to underlying medical conditions;
- At higher risk of exposure to Covid due to their occupation

States generally follow CDC guidance on who is eligible, and Arlington County, providers, and pharmacies will very quickly provide boosters. Watch the Ashton Heights Listserv for updates.

Only Pfizer boosters will be available at first because only Pfizer has submitted complete data to the FDA. Dr. Fauci said on September 19<sup>th</sup> that Pfizer and J&J decisions are "a few weeks away". According to both Israeli and CDC studies, Pfizer efficacy against hospitalization declines after four months. Studies so far do not show similar declines for Moderna or J&J, so there may also be more urgency to getting boosters to Pfizer recipients. Worth noting that all vaccines are highly effective against severe illness and hospitalization (between 71 and 92% according to available data), transmission between vaccinated people is rare, and Arlington has a high vaccination rate. Despite the spread of the Delta variant, it is now, sadly, a pandemic of the unvaccinated. The vaccines work.

### Vaccines for 5 to 12

Pfizer on September 20<sup>th</sup> announced results from their pediatric trial. The vaccine is safe and effective at lower doses - one third - of the dose adults receive. The data is preliminary, not yet peer-reviewed. The company plans to submit the data to the FDA by the end of September, and if, as promised, the FDA makes a decision in weeks, not months, Vaccinations for 5 to 12 could be available within two months.

Good news for our entire village

### Messaging on boosters

As the debate among public health experts about boosters has played out publicly, it has at times seemed very confusing. Some believe boosters are unwarranted in the US until more around the world get first vaccinations, or that vaccines should go first to Americans who remain unvaccinated.

A "false choice" President Biden says. There is now plenty of vaccine. The US is about to donate another 500 million doses to countries around the world. Unvaccinated Americans have had many months to change their minds, and it could be a long time - if ever - that they do. No point in holding off on boosters to concentrate on the unvaccinated. No one eligible for a booster should refuse it in the belief that it will go to someone in greater need - if you need one, it's OK to go get it when it's your turn.

### QR Codes for Verifying Vaccination Status

Virginia is now the fifth state in the country to provide QR codes for verifying vaccination. As vaccine mandates are put in place in the coming weeks and proof of vaccination is increasingly required this will make it easier to show proof.

Go to [vaccinate.virginia.gov](https://www.vdh.virginia.gov) to obtain your QR code. Here is a link to the full press release:

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/news/2021-news-releases/virginia-department-of-health-announces-launch-of-qr-codes-to-verify-covid-19-vaccination-status-qr-codes-are-secure-and-private-for-users-easy-for-businesses/>.

Happy fall - stay safe, stay well.

## 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](https://www.ashtonheights.org/join-ahca)



# Fall Family Celebration

**Saturday, October 23 | Noon to 3:00 pm**  
**Columbia Gardens Cemetery Grounds**

**Let us know if you will come.** Call 703.527.1235 or email [info@columbiagardenscemetery.org](mailto:info@columbiagardenscemetery.org). 3411 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201

Celebrate fall with us at a special afternoon filled with activities for adults and children.

- Explore the grounds with the Agents of Discovery App
- Attend a tree planting demonstration by the Tree Stewards of Arlington & Alexandria
- Paint a pumpkin
- Learn how honey is made from our beekeeper
- Enjoy delicious refreshments and more!



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## Ashton Heights Pet of the Month

By Lea Komlodi (age 9)

Meet Szaffi, the beautiful and friendly 6-month old silver tabby cat. She was adopted from Last Chance Animal Rescue. She loves being outside in her tent or taking a walk around the house on a leash. She loves playing and doing all sorts of mischief too. She sleeps in various interesting positions and drinks only from a glass.



## Meet Your Neighbor Request

By Erika Derr



Hello neighbors! I am happy to introduce myself as the newest columnist for the Ashton Heights newsletter regular feature "Meet Your Neighbors." In November I'll be taking the column over from Betsey Lyons. I'm grateful for Betsey's interviews over these last several years and to all who have shared their stories in service of making Ashton Heights a more familiar and friendly community.

Now it's YOUR turn! Nominate yourself or a neighbor to be featured in the monthly spotlight. And before you think "No way, I'm too boring," remember, that's a challenge to your columnist! Your idea of "boring" is another person's "relatable."

To volunteer or to nominate a neighbor, reach out to me at [erikacohenderr@gmail.com](mailto:erikacohenderr@gmail.com) or complete the form found at: [bit.ly/AHMYN](http://bit.ly/AHMYN).

## Your Ashton Heights & Lyon Park Real Estate Expert



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## Drive-thru Food and Toiletry Collection for Area Shelters & Afghan Evacuees

Join us on **Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>** from 10:00 a.m. to noon at Clarendon Presbyterian Church for our drive-thru food and toiletries collection to support Northern Virginia shelters as well as evacuees arriving in the DC metro area from Afghanistan. Volunteers to help staff the event are welcome.

### Priority toiletry items for Afghan evacuees include:

Unopened deodorant, razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and bar soap.

### Priority food items for Bridges to Independence families this month include:

Cereal, healthy kids' snacks, mayonnaise, seasonings (salt, pepper, garlic salt, etc.), microwaveable cup of soup/noodles, bottled water, sugar, and juices.

Clarendon Presbyterian Church is located at 1305 North Jackson Street, Arlington, VA 22201. 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](mailto:clarendonmission@gmail.com) or (703) 527-9513. And please check the church website for any inclement weather announcements at [www.clarendonpresbyterian.org](http://www.clarendonpresbyterian.org).

## Reflections and Hope

By Ann Felker

Ashton Heights has been around 100 years. We have old-style houses, inadequate plumbing, antique wiring, aged newspaper advertisements about "Love Nests" and grand old trees to prove that. We have long-time neighbors and newcomers, 21st

Century imitation old houses and trend-setting new architecture, traffic circles and nubs, rain gardens and sump pumps, abandoned scooters and zoned parking signs, a complex mixture of the best efforts of four generations to build a livable community for everyone. Apparently, the neighborhood is still as desirable as it was when my parents escaped a Silver Spring, one-bedroom apartment with their three children, to settle here in December, 1947.

No weepy nostalgia here. Of course, things are different. Do I miss muggy nights and noisy fans? Sleeping porches that let mosquitoes in along with the humidity? Basements that were built to treat rainwater with floor drains? One electric outlet per bedroom? ¼ Inch of ice on the windows in the winter, inside the room? Sidewalk cracks that swallowed metal roller skate wheels?



Worst of all, the shameful legacy of red-lining and racial exclusion? Not looking back.

While this edition of the newsletter is being distributed to every doorstep, our 1,200 households should be looking forward to the future because of the triple celebrations that brought us together, just because we live here.

New voices suggested a Shindig - Matt Hall is to be commended for putting some new energy into our history deliberations by thinking up a party. Favio Garcia brewed the beer. Lee and Marty Mathis were the first volunteers. Brooke Alexander reminded us that our most impressive asset is not our housing styles, but our tree canopy. She planned a Great Tree appreciation walk that brought out many neighbors who did not necessarily recognize the value overhead.

Chris Armstrong developed the map. Julie Mangis commissioned a Centennial t-shirt as a memento. Phyllis Shea brought her Sunshine Gang to make music. Local scouts pitched in to host tree visits. Charlie Clark, an Irving Street native, told our story. Peter Dickson wrote our story. Jim Terpstra kept our records. Like the tasty 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cake at the Birthday Bash said, we have been "Neighbors for 100 Years."

## Kids, Inc. Entrepreneurs



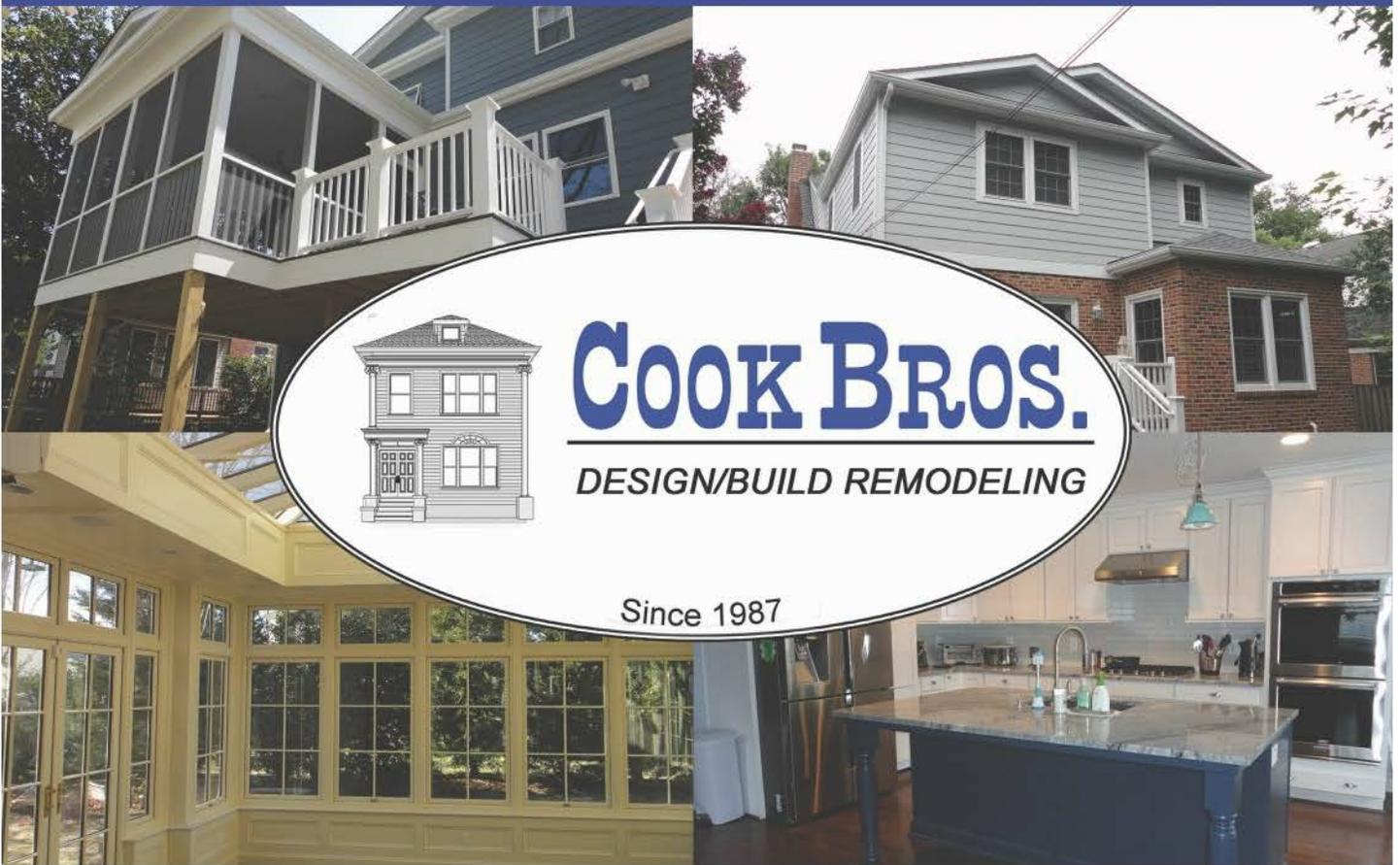
Kids, Inc. is a robust roster of willing, able local youth to help when the household hands are not enough.

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