



# Ashton Heights News

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

September 2022

## Back in the Saddle – AHCA on the Move

by Scott Sklar, President, AHCA

Welcome back! Autumn will be here soon, humidity will decrease, mosquitoes will decline, schools/colleges are open and “in person”, and the issues AHCA addresses will continue to accelerate.

As we ramp up, I want to thank a host of people within AHCA that donate their time to make our community stronger.

First, Amy Miller, our esteemed newsletter editor and Betsy Lyon, our listserv moderator who are critical in allowing us to receive and share information. Second, our new VP of Programs David Schutz, who lines up speakers for our monthly meetings.

Third, Ann Felker, who puts together our “Kids Inc.” column. The kids will be at our September meeting offering to do work of all kinds for all of us in this great community.

Fourth, our AHCA Development Committee Jack Spilsbury and his new Co-chair Alexander Tuneski and the hardworking committee members dealing with key issues.

Fifth, a tag team of myself, Ken Matzkin, Brooke Alexander and Jack Spilsbury, working with our five sister civic associations on Missing Middle Housing (MMH),

that is now before the County Board and will have huge impacts on our community.

Sixth, our other AHCA Committee Chairs: Safety and Security (Christina Schultz), Housing (Matt Hall, Christina Schultz), Open Spaces – Parks, Playgrounds, Neighbor Conservation (Chris Horvath), Tree Canopy and Native Plants (Brooke Alexander), Schools (Greg Morse, Caroline Rogus) and Transportation/Parking (Patrick Lueb).

And finally, the AHCA Executive Committee (ExCom) who work year round in coordinating our programs, policies, and key issues – Scott Sklar, (President), Dave Schutz, (VP Programs), Jim O’Brien (Treasurer), Chris Armstrong (Secretary), Doug Williams (Treasurer), and At-Large – Jim Feaster, Ken Matzkin, David Philips and Jim Richardson.

I have many more to thank (next column) – but the point is we have many neighbors working together to make Ashton Heights a better place to live.

And this brings me to the hot upcoming issues we need everyone to pay attention to this September.

*continued on page 4*

## Candidates Night Wed., Sept. 14

### Lyon Park Civic Association Meeting Hall at Fillmore and Pershing

- 7:15 p.m.** Arrive and mingle
- 7:30 p.m.** Candidates night: County Board and School Board confirmed (Beyer campaign cannot attend, we are waiting to hear from the others)

## AHCA Monthly Meeting Wed., Sept. 21, 7 – 9 p.m.

### Clarendon United Methodist Church 606 N. Irving St.

- 7:00 p.m.** Mingle and chair setup
- 7:30 p.m.** Ann Felker, brief intro of ‘Kids, Inc.’ participants (see pg 10)
- 7:45 p.m.** Scott Sklar, AHCA President and Committee reports
- 8:10 p.m.** Program: Are ground temperature and tree canopy related? Susan Agolini, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biology, Marymount University will present data on the 2021 Heat Watch Project for Arlington and Ashton Heights. David Summers and Brooke Alexander will present the county tree canopy data.

**9:00 p.m.** Adjourn

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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. Register for two years for \$25/household.

Anyone who resides or owns property in Ashton Heights and is at least 18 years old may join and then vote at AHCA meetings.

### Pay your dues online:

<https://ashtonheights.org/about-ahca/join-ahca/>

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The Ashton Heights newsletter is distributed to 1,200+ households 8 months of the year. Our readers enjoy supporting local businesses. If you know of a local business that would benefit from advertising in the Ashton Heights newsletter, please email: [newsletterads@ashtonheights.org](mailto:newsletterads@ashtonheights.org).

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## 2022- 2023 AHCA Volunteers

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carmstrong07@gmail.com

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## President's Column - continued from page 1

1. MMH – the county is holding hearings this month on a plan to allow duplexes, triplexes or quadplexes on residential lots to theoretically attract middle income buyers. The civic associations are working towards limiting the size of these buildings to the same height and footprint of housing now allowed, protect tree canopy, and potentially try other approaches that might be more successful in allowing middle income to own where they live in Arlington.
2. Development on our borders – four buildings and hopefully one park – AHCA is fighting for a park on the County-owned block and atop the fire station, while we are aggressively addressing design, tree canopy, set-backs, tapering, MMH, underground parking, among other issues on the four buildings in the process of County approval.
3. Neighborhood parking rules and issues – there are problems with neighborhood parking rules and equity. We are working with residents and the county to work out the kinks.

These issues will determine our community's future – the way we look, live, and interact. And we need you all to be knowledgeable, interface with appropriate AHCA committees and the ExCom, and share input to the county at county meetings, and via the web site.

These are busy times, and now more than ever, we need to band together to navigate these issues, to make our community and neighborhoods as livable and enjoyable as possible. I look forward to working with everyone in our community towards this goal.

### ***Ten Steps to Nanette: A Memoir Situation by Hannah Gadsby***

**by Denise Cormaney**

**follow all her reviews at @findyourgoldenhour on Instagram**

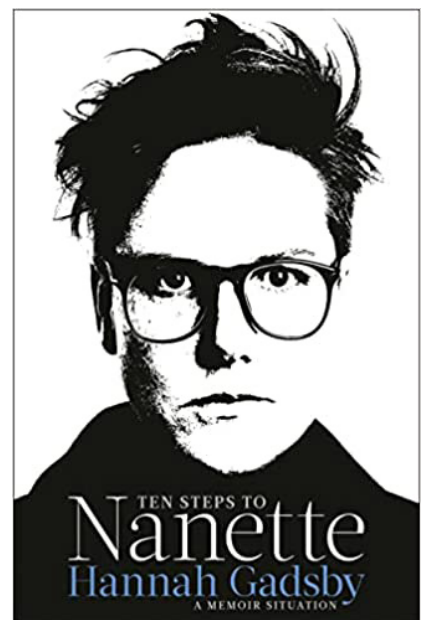
FIVE STARS!

Wow. I've never read anything like this. For those of you unfamiliar with Hannah Gadsby, she is the autistic queer comedian behind the award-winning Netflix special *Nanette*. This memoir made me laugh out loud and made me deeply sad. It gave me both new insights and recognition when she invites the reader to see how she experiences the world through her autistic brain (my son is autistic).

I've never seen a person so deftly convey their trauma with such clarity, all without conveying any gory details. We don't need them. The point is for her to show us the aftermath.

She talks about the intense self hatred and shame she felt growing up in a deeply homophobic environment in '90s Tasmania, feelings that have never completely gone away. Knowing that queer/trans kids are now hearing the same hateful rhetoric as new legislation is being crafted to eradicate their right to exist made me both sad and enraged.

Despite how I'm making this sound, this book isn't tragic by any means! It's a triumph. And not in an inspirational, "overcoming adversity" kind of way. Hannah takes us on her journey of hard won radical self-acceptance. She is a gift to humanity.





## Drive-thru Food and Toiletries Collection for Area Shelters – The Rest of the Story

by Sallie Broome

Many of you may have seen this subject line in your inboxes from the listserv over the past year or so. [Clarendon Presbyterian Church](#) has been partnering with New Hope Housing and Bridges to Independence to support their efforts to provide shelter to individuals and families experiencing homelessness and to help them move into stable, independent housing.

When the pandemic came to Arlington in March of 2020, life was suddenly different. We all remember the shortages in grocery stores, the closing of schools, the sudden pivot of our lives into a strange new reality. Most of us were suddenly AT HOME all the time. Meanwhile, the organizations that work to help those most in need were swamped with requests for aid.

We spoke with our contacts at these organizations to see what their needs were – and there were many. Initially, food was at the top of the list. Secondly came toiletries – soap, shampoo, toothbrushes! At the same time, we kept hearing from friends and neighbors anxious to help those less fortunate.

The Drive-thru collection began in April of 2020. It was contact-free and safe for the donors and the volunteers. Publicity began mostly as word of mouth in the church

and in the neighborhood. The initial response was overwhelming. Hundreds of bags of non-perishable groceries appeared, and an amazing quantity of hotel-sized toiletries moved from linen closets all over Arlington to our collection point outside the church.



We've continued these drives, the second Saturday of each month, for over two years. We no longer see hundreds of bags of groceries, and the "Priority needs" listed in the announcement every month have changed as well. They transitioned from food items to kitchen items like cookware and dinner ware and bathroom items like shower curtains and towels. Now "Wish Lists" often include Trash bags, Lysol Wipes, Paper towels, Toilet paper and other supplies.

Just as COVID-19 is still with us, so is the need for a helping hand here in Arlington. I hope you will consider making a contribution. Our next Drive is **Saturday, September 10, 2022**. Watch your inbox for details or visit <http://www.clarendonpresbyterian.org/service-and-mission/food-and-toiletry-drives>.



## Fall Family Celebration

**Saturday, October 22 | 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
- Find out how to grow roses from our rosarian
- Paint a pumpkin
- Learn how honey is made from our beekeeper
- Enjoy delicious refreshments and more!



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## Meet Your Neighbor – Ted Hobart

by Erika Cohen Derr

Long-time Ashton Heights resident Ted Hobart grew up in our corner of the world, but the miles he's logged as a marathoner and endurance athlete have taken him to all fifty states and beyond. Over the last eighteen years, Ted's marathon journey has earned him a place in the elite 50 State Club, for those who have run a marathon in each US state, and the equally monumental achievement of running 100 marathons.

In 2013, his most driven year, he ran sixteen of these races. Perhaps just as importantly, these running challenges have allowed Ted to raise thousands of dollars for various charities, notably Whitman Walker Health, where he now works. But these statistics are so much more than a mark of physical and mental achievement; they are a reflection of his humility, persistence, and generous spirit. While Ted has finished in last place on more than one occasion, he runs not for the "personal best" time or even the finish line crossing, but as a way to honor the memory of friends who have left a lasting impact on his life.

Ted's marathon journey was borne of tragedy. In 1996 his friend Lollie Winans and her girlfriend Julie Williams were brutally murdered while hiking along the Appalachian Trail; the horrific episode is notable as the first federally designated hate crime. Ted runs to honor his friends' memory and to call attention to the tragedy in the hope that those responsible may someday be brought to justice. His friendship with Lollie -- begun through a chance encounter at a Grateful Dead concert, and strengthened through shared experience at Sterling College in Vermont -- brought laughter, joy, and personal acceptance.

Arlington Connection, RunWashington magazine, and other publications have covered Ted's feats; he is a notable figure on the local and national running circuit. His marathon achievements include running the same mile-long course twenty-six times, and also running ten sequential marathons over the course of ten days. Many marathons have held special significance, including the Vermont City Marathon in 2005 -- the first one undertaken officially to honor Lollie and Julie -- for which Ted partnered with and raised funds for Outright Vermont, an organization that supports LGBTQ youth. Other milestones include his 50th US state marathon at Mount Desert Island, ME, and his 100th marathon - the Donegal Wild Atlantic Marathon in Killybegs, Ireland -- on the 26th anniversary of Lollie and Julie's death.

Despite the tragic circumstance that led him to this life of running, Ted recounts a strong sense of purpose and draws strength in the lessons imparted from his friendship with Lollie. His future running goals include ultramarathons and endurance runs of hundreds of miles over several days. For Ashton Heights neighbor, Ted Hobart, the journey truly is the destination.



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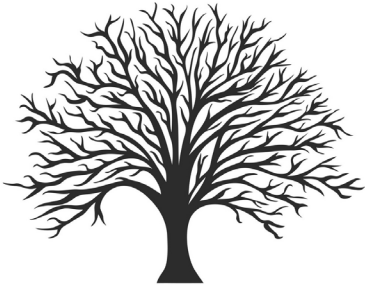
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## The Large-Stature Tree Argument (vs Small-Stature Trees)\*

by Brooke Alexander, Ashton Heights Tree Canopy and Native Tree Coordinator



Are large-stature trees worth the price to plant and care for? Note that size really matters!

A tree is defined as a large-stature tree if, at 40 years of age, it is taller than 40 feet and has a trunk diameter in excess of 30 inches. Here are the benefits: large

trees have (a) more shade, with more energy savings; (b) cleaner air, with better health and fewer hospital visits; (c) more stormwater management, with lower costs for stormwater controls, and less flooding; and (d) more shaded streets, with a longer time between resurfacing. Large trees also (e) reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide, (f) improve water and soil quality, (g) provide wildlife habitat, (h) increase property values, and (i) enhance the attractiveness of a community.\*

The U.S. Forest Service's Center for Urban Forest Research modeled the costs and benefits of large, medium, and small trees over 40 years. They found that a large tree has an average lifetime benefit of \$6,600, and average lifetime costs of \$2,160. Comparable numbers for a small tree are: \$690, and \$420. These numbers were generated in 2004, so they have changed, but the relative numbers are probably the same. (i.e, (1) mature large tree delivers an annual net benefit two to six times greater than mature small trees.\* And (2) large trees have 8 times the value (benefits minus costs) of small trees.\*) Also keep in mind that the benefits calculated in this article do not include the value of the biological ecosystem contributions of (native) trees, such as habitat, food for wildlife, pollination services and biological diversity.

Interestingly, this article\* asserts that crape myrtle provides merely \$15 per year in benefits. And, since it is not native, it provides negligible biological ecosystem services. This will not surprise anyone who has heard me talk about crape myrtle.

Having large older trees provide immediate benefits. Upfront establishment costs for these large-stature

trees have already been made. So keeping these trees healthy and functional is one of the best investments communities can make.

This article\* concludes: 'On some restricted sites, small-stature trees may be the best choice. But let us not succumb to the limited space argument so easily. We need to continue to fight for more space for trees in every new project and every retrofit. The bigger the tree, the bigger the benefits, and, ultimately, the better our quality of life.' I totally agree! Let's work together to keep the Ashton Heights' trees we have, and to plant trees that will become large-stature trees in 40-100 years!

*\*Info and statistics are from US Forest Service Center for Urban Forest Research, Southern Center for Urban Forestry Research and Information. 2004*



### Congregation Etz Hayim Announces High Holiday Services

High Holidays at [Congregation Etz Hayim](#) - 2022 | 5783

#### Rosh Hashanah:

sundown September 25 - sundown September 27.

#### Yom Kippur:

sundown October 4 - sundown October 5.

Non-members welcome. \$180/person ages 13+. Holiday services + youth programming. Click [here](#) for tickets. Please contact the office regarding military and college discounts. In-person and virtual services available.

Congregation Etz Hayim  
2920 Arlington Blvd  
Arlington, VA 22204  
[office@etzhayim.net](mailto:office@etzhayim.net)  
703-979-4466

## Making Do with Less

### Community Safety and Security Corner

by Christina Schultz



The Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) has not been spared from the national trend of a decrease in law enforcement officers. As of August 2022, there are 319 functional and certified officers who can provide solo law enforcement services out of the 376 sworn officer positions that are authorized for the county. Another 15 officers are on light duty and 11 recruits are currently in field training, leaving 57 vacancies. The staffing shortage is reportedly due to attrition, retention, and officers seeking other opportunities. One proposed solution is to increase salaries, but this may not be enough. As a result of having fewer officers, the ACPD has had to adjust some of the ways it delivers services.

While officers have continued to respond to in-progress crimes and emergency calls where there is a threat to life, health, or property, there is a reduction in services for non-emergency incidents and investigation of certain crimes (see box). Some of these changes were initiated when the COVID-19 pandemic began and are now being kept in place. Police Chief Charles “Andy” Penn has emphasized that despite these measures, the department remains committed to responding to public safety incidents, transportation flow and safety, connecting with Arlington communities, and recruiting and training new officers. The Community Engagement Unit remains a key priority with recent events such as the Teen Police Academy, public safety block party, and back-to-school transportation safety campaign.

#### ACPD Service Adjustments

- Reports of applicable nonemergency criminal activity that are not in progress [can be reported online](#) or by phone (703-228-4300) in lieu of an in-person officer response. All submissions to the online reporting system are reviewed by an officer and once approved, a report number is issued.
- Reduced investigative follow-up on some property crimes, particularly when the incident lacks solvability factors (e.g., reports of scams when no identifiable suspect exists; late reports of hit-and-run crashes).



## Ashton Heights Pet of the Month

by Kevin Thompson

Hi my name is Nikki. I was born in Seattle, WA in December 2010 and moved to Ashton Heights in 2011 where I have lived ever since. My favorite hobbies are going on walks to see my friends and playing with my pet squeaky toy named Lambchop (or Lammy for short). I also like going to parks and for a time was a show dog which was lots of fun since I got many treats and even more attention.



My favorite season of the year is winter because I love to play in the snow and its not too hot.

If you see me walking around the neighborhood please say hi since I really like making new friends.





The **November 8, 2022** election is just around the corner and here are some important dates to keep in mind!

**September 23:** Early voting begins

**October 17:** Last day to register to vote or update your voter registration

**October 28:** Last day to apply for a mail-in ballot. You can review the ballot here: <https://vote.arlingtonva.gov/Elections>

For further details, visit the Arlington County Election website: <https://vote.arlingtonva.gov/Home>

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## Development Committee Update by Jack Spilsbury, Co-chair AHCA Development Committee

With adoption of the updated Clarendon Sector Plan on April 23, 2022, the County is now launching review processes for two initial Clarendon developer applications. The [Site Plan Review](#) Committees (SPRCs) conduct statute-based, public reviews, guided by the revised sector plan and other regulatory parameters (i.e., the General Land Use Plan and Zoning Code). The committees include representatives from the Planning Commission and other County Advisory Commission as well as from designated civic associations.

Thus, the AHCA will have an official SPRC seat and welcomes member input via the listserv or directly to the AHCA representative listed below. The following members will act as the AHCA representatives:

**Joyce Motors Site: AHCA's representative is Joan Fitzgerald.** This recently initiated review involves a proposed 110-foot residential building containing 241 units, including preservation of the Joyce Motors historic facade. The County has scheduled two SPRC meetings to review the Joyce Motors application on Monday September 12 and Thursday October 13 (7-9 pm). Site plan link: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Site-Plan/10th-and-Irving>

**Silver Diner/The LOT: AHCA's representative is Alexander Tuneski.** This second project proposes constructing a new hotel building containing 229 rooms and a new residential

building containing 286 units, and approximately 16,000 sq. ft. of retail floor area. These two buildings -- to be known as the "Bingham Center" -- will be built on the site bordered by Wilson Boulevard to the west, N. Irving Street to the east, Washington Boulevard to the north, and 10th Street N to the south. An initial SPRC Online Engagement Opportunity is slated to run from September 12-22, 2022. Site plan link: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Commissions-and-Advisory-Groups/Shared-Content/Commissions-PC-Hearings-Meetings/SPRC-Online-Engagement-Opportunity-Bingham-CenterSilver-Diner-Site>

A third proposal, to redevelop the Wells Fargo Bank site in West Clarendon (Washington Boulevard and Irving St. N) remains in a preliminary stage. This project, which is still pending official "acceptance" of final site plan documents, foresees construction of a new 12-story building containing 238 residential units, approx. 66,000 sf of office space, and approx. 35,000 sf of retail.

We again thank those neighbors who provided online input to the County on the Joyce Motors applications by the June 27th deadline in the County Notice circulated on our AHCA listserv. We welcome additional input from neighbors -- including via the listserv -- as these review processes go forward.

Finally, I'm very pleased to report that Alexander Tuneski is the new co-chair for the Ashton Heights Civic Association's Development Committee. Alexander has been an active Development Committee participant for several years and actively contributed to AHCA input to the Clarendon Sector Plan update. Welcome!

## Kids, Inc. Update

by Ann Felker

All Kids, Inc. entrepreneurs are invited to attend the AHCA meeting on **Wednesday, September 21st**, for a special opportunity to introduce yourselves to the community that will be hiring you. We will have special kid snacks, name tags and a chance for you to tell the world about your skills and hopes from 7:30-7:45. The people at the meeting might want to ask you a question about your skills. This is a great way to promote yourself and your abilities. Watch for messages from Ann Felker and please plan on being there.

First order of business for Kids, Inc is to celebrate our recent graduates who, having served the community of Ashton Heights and the county of Arlington well, are launching their next adventure. Sophia Brown - UMass at Amherst, Max Derr - University of Delaware, Charles Morse - Michigan State, Isabel Ramon - City Year (hoping to serve in NYC) and Percy Zimering - William & Mary. Notable destinations for beloved entrepreneurs.

With some additions, the up-to-date list of kids interested in working around the neighborhood fills an entire page (**see page 11**), good news for all those who need some assistance.

### Reminders for employers:

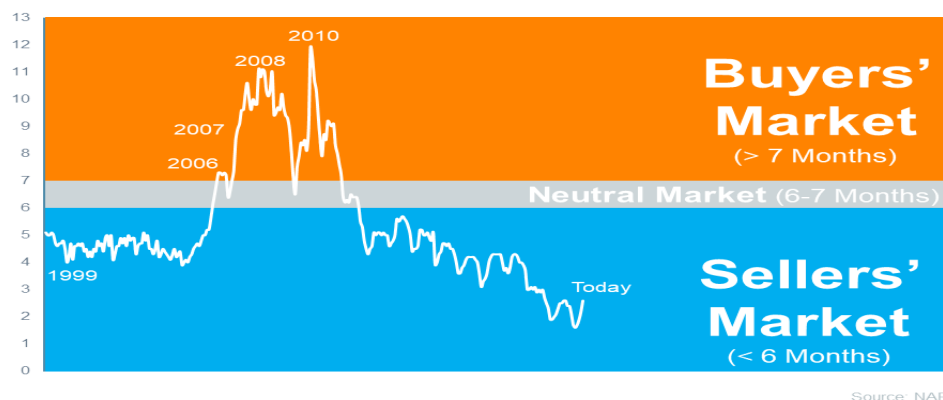
- Text or email the kid you are seeking. Phone calls might make an unwelcome sound, especially if the phone belongs to Mom or Dad who actually have meetings.
- Arrange a price for service before setting the date.
- Leave a detailed list of expectations, emergency phone numbers and the house address.
- Hand over your key in an envelope, preferably with a distinguishing characteristic attached, to prevent loss of the key.

### Reminders for kids:

- Take your neighbor's job seriously. They want your help and they are willing to pay.
- Respond to texts and emails promptly. Contacts have real needs.
- Have an idea of your fee.
- Keep your commitments and you will be rehired.
- Do not lose the keys.
- The puppies, fish, azaleas, petunias, lawns, snowflakes and leaf piles, packages, and most of all, babies are depending on you to keep them happy and comfortable. You are an important part of our neighborhood.

The housing market is in transition. Elevated buyer demand, fueled in part by historically low interest rates, slowed this spring when rates increased, and buyers hit pause on their buying plans. While affordability conditions are more challenging for some folks, the market has gotten more buyer friendly with more homes hitting the market and less frenzy. Buyers will finally get some relief from the stressful pace of the last few years. The best summary is that we'll move from a gangbuster sellers' market to a modest sellers' market.

### Months Inventory of Homes for Sale



In the coming months it's possible we will see a slower pace of sales, higher mortgage rates and continued home appreciation. Are you considering a new lifestyle? Put my 37 years of local Arlington market expertise to work for you and your largest financial investment!



Casey O'Neal  
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## KIDS, INC.

Our local youth are ready to help when the household hands are not enough.

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



Dog walking



Pet sitting



Babysitting



Leaf raking



Plant watering



Yard work



Snow shoveling



Parents helper



Technology



Mail collection

Icons courtesy of flaticon.com

Kids Inc. listings are not included in the online version of this newsletter for privacy reasons. Please consult your hand-delivered newsletter  
OR the one posted to our neighborhood listserv.



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