



Ashton Heights News

www.ashtonheights.org

March 2023

Process is Everything By Scott Sklar, President, AHCA

We will have two jointly-sponsored candidates' nights with the Lyon Park Citizens Association (LPCA), to cover the entire spectrum of state and local Virginia candidates. I am using this column in a more philosophical bent, to address some underlying issues.

The County's Missing Middle process winded me, but the precursors were in the planning processes – the planning commissions, the GLUPS -- I was beginning to see a more controlled county-sponsored planning effort which focused less on process and less on genuine community input. Many of us involved in these processes have been grouching about it.

The county's earlier signature issue was "the street car, on Columbia Pike" and what surprised me was how poor the public outreach was. As a result, the first time in a long time – the party-designated candidate did not win, nor was it unanimously supported on the Board, and the issue failed.

Now in the midst of Missing Middle Housing, 13 civic associations have formally polled their members and over 70% opposed the county plan in each and every poll. The county has issued its own poll, worded in ways that many of us do not believe captured the issues of concern. The county has also staged impromptu

street events to take input, where they did not take down attendees information or make sure they were residents of Arlington.

To me it doesn't matter where any of us stand on the above issues or other issues. I actually embrace the fact that people have different views, concerns, and philosophies. That's all good.

And from that, it seems to me the role of civic associations and local governments, and their committees, commissions, councils, and bodies is to help upload these many viewpoints -- the pros, the cons, the risks, and the benefits and create a stew that comes out that tastes reasonably good to most members and residents. This was called "The Arlington Way" and became a point that we as a county crowed about.

When I became your AHCA President 13 years ago, I established a formal committee structure so that our AHCA members could work together more formally on issues. What started as a few committees, is now over seven formal and subject committees: Development, Housing, Noise, Open Spaces, Safety & Security, Schools, Tree Canopy & Native Plants, Transportation, and some AHCA leads on COVID and Stormwater Management.

In 2023 I am concerned about our county. As we urbanize and densify -- the tendency is to become more

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AHCA Monthly Meeting Wed., March 15th, 7 – 9 p.m.

Clarendon United Methodist Church 606 N. Irving St.

- 7:00 p.m.** Mingle and chair setup
- 7:30 p.m.** Scott Sklar, AHCA President and Committee reports
- 7:40 p.m.** Charlie Clark, local historian and Board Member, Arlington Historical Society, Retrocession - how and why Arlington was pried loose from the District of Columbia. He will also share information about the Arlington Historical Society.
- 8:15 p.m.** Charlie Clark will discuss the presence in Arlington of the American Nazi Party, George Lincoln Rockwell and his beef with Mario's Pizza!
- 9:00 p.m.** Adjourn

Editor's Note: View the newsletter in full color at www.ashtonheights.org!

Mark your Calendar - articles for the April 2023 Ashton Heights newsletter are due by **March 23rd (PLEASE BE TIMELY!)**

Send submissions to: amylmiller4@gmail.com.



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.

Business card: \$60
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Development Committee Update Jack Spilsbury and Alexander Tuneski, Co-chairs AHCA Development Committee

Missing Middle

On January 21, the County Board approved a Request to Advertise (“RTA”) the latest version of its proposal to permit “Missing Middle” housing (MMH) in Arlington’s single-family-zoned neighborhoods. As now revised, the proposal will create a new zoning category, which the Board recently re-branded as its “Expanded Housing Option.”

The most significant change in the Board’s current proposal eliminates the option to permit up to 7- or 8-unit buildings on current single-family lots. Instead, the amended proposal would allow for “by-right” construction of 2- to 6-unit residential buildings in Arlington’s lowest-density neighborhoods.

At its March 6 meeting, the Planning Commission will hold the first of two, final public hearings on the new zoning plan. Then, on March 18, the Board will hold its own hearing prior to voting on the final plan, including any further amendments that it puts forward. We encourage interested members to consider attending, speaking, or submitting written comment for these final meetings.

Clarendon Sector Plan Implementation

Planning for redevelopment on the western edge of Clarendon, including along Wilson Boulevard and 10th Street adjacent to Ashton Heights, continues to progress.

Joyce Motors:

At its February 19 meeting, the Board approved redevelopment of the Joyce Motors site at 10th and N. Irving St. The developer plans to build an 11-story, 110-foot building, containing 241 residential units and 3,639 feet of ground-level retail.



AHCA participated in the Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC), which achieved several improvements in design, and increased on-site parking requirements from 150 to 176 underground spaces. In addition to incorporating the Joyce Motors historic façade into its building design, the developer has also committed to preserve the Clarendon barbershop building – designated by the County for historic preservation – located on Garfield Street at Wilson Boulevard.

The developer additionally agreed to contribute \$557,000 towards future park space planning, \$400,000 towards transportation improvements, and to dedicate nine of its units as certified affordable housing units (CAF’s). AHCA submitted a letter in support of the increased parking requirement and urged that the funding for future park space be used to advance planning for the park on the County-owned lot on 10th Street, as projected in the Clarendon Sector Plan.

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Arlington Bunny Hop



5K Charity Fun Run/Walk

April 15

8:00 a.m.

Virtual Option-April 15-30

*Running to Help Others!
Our 6th Year*

Clarendon United Methodist Church

www.ArlingtonBunnyHop.org



Development Committee, continued from page 3

Wells Fargo: Another site plan review will begin on February 27 for redeveloping the Wells Fargo Bank site (on Washington Boulevard between N. Irving and N. Hudson). This project will involve the construction:

- A new 10th Road between the Wells Fargo site and Verizon site,
- A 12-story building containing 238 residential units, 67,000 sf of office space on floors 3 and 4, 30,000 sf of retail, and 244 parking spaces (144 residential, 71 office, and 18 retail), and
- A metal acoustic screening on the two-story portion of the Verizon building to shield existing and planned future generators from the new building.

The proposed project is generally compliant with the recently passed revisions to the Clarendon Sector Plan, but there are some areas of concern, including:

- The Wells Fargo being relocated to be adjacent to the new plaza that will be constructed at the end of Irving rather than a restaurant or active retailer,
- The installation of a Wells Fargo drive-thru on 10th Road,
- The placement of retail on 10th Road (which essentially

serves as a service alley for the building),

- Fewer loading dock spaces than required,
- A narrower sidewalk with fewer trees along Hudson Street and 10th Road, and
- The appearance and effectiveness of the Verizon screening.

Development Committee co-chair Alexander Tuneski is representing the AHCA on the SPRC for the project (Contact at: atuneski@gmail.com).

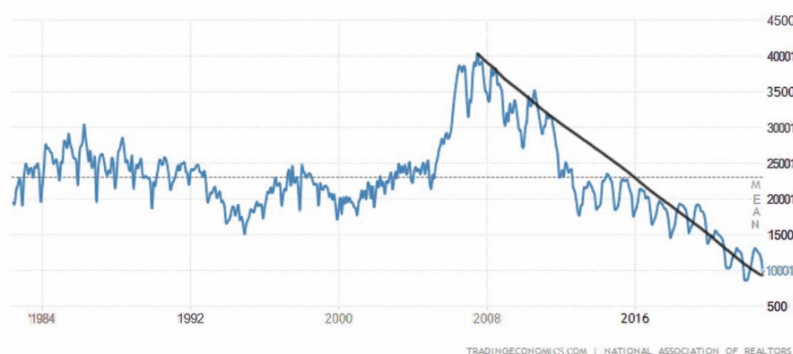
Silver Diner: Finally, the site plan review for the redevelopment of the south side of Wilson Blvd stretching the Silver Diner at Washington Circle to The Lot at 10th Street and Wilson is continuing. This development will include a 10-story, multi-family apartment building with 286 units, a 10-story hotel with 229 rooms and a rooftop bar, and another section of the new 10th Road.

The second and final SPRC meeting will be on March 16th. Alexander Tuneski is also representing the AHCA on this SPRC.

We welcome additional input from neighbors on all these plans -- including via the listserv -- as these review processes go forward.

The graph below shows inventory levels in the US have continued to drop since the peak in 2008. From 2020 to early 2023 the supply of homes has been on a decline. Hopefully we will see a seasonal inventory increase sooner in 2023 than we saw in the last few years. For a potential home seller, your house should be in high demand for potential buyers if you price it right.

NAR Inventory Levels: 970,000



If you have questions about home prices or how much equity you have in your current home, let's connect so you have a professional's advice. Put my 38 years of local market expertise to work for you and those you care about!



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President's Column, continued from page 1

hierarchical and more contorted, and in many cases less representative. The pressure on issues, and growth mandates response, many times without thorough input.

So if what I laid out is a trend, how do we as caring residents in a great county and even a better community help re-orient where the county is going? Since Ashton Heights and Lyon Park are jointly sponsoring two candidate forums, I am hoping that many of us focus on process, on better planning, better risk & costs analysis. Request better surveys and input tools, where results are published and subsets are re-poll'd as a way to build consensus.

Frankly, it is up to us to help re-orient and improve governance. And build it up in a more positive way. We have raised our families, and built our careers, and participated in many events and organizations in our communities. I hope we pool our talents, ask questions to elected or aspiring elected officials, and writing to these officials as much we can. We need to energize ourselves and our inputs to let our County and State government know we are watching, what our expectations are and that we have on-going concerns.

Democracy and participatory government actually is hard work. But it is worth it. And I hope we can activate to re-energize the various government processes, established theoretically to assist us.

**TURNING THE COMMUNITY CENTER
INSIDE OUT!**
**Saturday
April 8, 2023**
8 AM to 1 PM
At least 1 dozen cupcake flavors!
All the neighborhood favorites
Just like the "old days"!



DEJA-VU CUPCAKE SALE
SPRING EGG HUNT

Gather at the park at 10:45 AM
Starts promptly at 11 AM
**For kids who toddle, walk, or run
(Age toddler to 10)**

A joint effort of the not-just-for-Woman's Club, the LPCA, the LPCC and the Arlington Jaycees



READERS PICK in 2021



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We are grateful for you—our community—for entrusting us with your most valuable asset—your health. And we are thrilled to be voted the Best in Urgent Care, and a Top Vote Getter as Best in Primary Care! PMA Health is a multi-specialty practice with four convenient locations in Arlington and Falls Church. And our Immediate Care centers provide urgent care for all ages 7 days a week!

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Falls Church
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703.236.7133

Best Primary Care

A TOP VOTE GETTER

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Falls Church
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Don't Mess with My Catalytic Converter

Community Safety and Security Corner

By Christina Schultz



As many of our own neighbors know all too well, theft of catalytic converters is on the rise. The National Insurance Crime Bureau estimates that in the United States these thefts increased by 1,215% between 2019 and 2022. Here in Arlington, that number jumped from 7 in 2020 to 43 in 2021 to 172 in only the first 10 months of 2022. In just one night in Arlington last September, thieves hauled off nearly a dozen catalytic converters from nine cars (vehicles with a dual exhaust system have two catalytic converters). Law enforcement has broken up networks of thieves in states across the U.S., including Virginia, that made tens of millions of dollars from stolen catalytic converters.

What even is a catalytic converter?

A catalytic converter is that large metal box, located on the underside of your vehicle between the engine and the muffler, with a pipe on each end. It uses a chamber called a catalyst to change the toxic gases and pollutants from an engine's emissions into less harmful gases. Gases enter from the input pipe connected to the engine then pass over the catalyst, which causes a chemical reaction that breaks apart the unsafe molecules. These safer gases travel through the second output pipe connected to the car's tailpipe. As required by the Clean Air Act, and meeting standards set by the National Emissions Standards Act, catalytic converters are designed to make our cars and trucks more environmentally friendly. The first prototypes date to the end of the 19th century. In the mid-1950s, Eugene Houdry, a French mechanical engineer, received a patent to develop these devices for gasoline engines. The first production catalytic converter at Engelhard Corporation was created in 1973 and its widespread use began a couple years later.

Why would anyone want to steal a catalytic converter?

A standard catalytic converter is typically made from platinum (3 to 7 grams), palladium (2 to 7 grams), and/or rhodium (1 to 2 grams) – precious metals whose rising prices often make them more valuable than gold. It only takes a few minutes with minimal skills and tools to remove a catalytic converter. Not only are they easy to steal, but they are also difficult to trace because they are not marked with a vehicle identification number (VIN) or a number traceable to a VIN. Thieves usually sell these stolen items to metal dealers, junkyards, or even on the black market. Buyers will pay between \$50 and \$250 for a catalytic converter, with some going for \$800 to \$1,500 if they come from hybrid vehicles.

Which cars are most at risk of catalytic converter theft?

According to CARFAX, the type of car most heavily targeted depends on what part of the country you live in – for example, thefts from Toyota Priuses are especially common in the West,

while Subarus are hit in New England. In Arlington, Priuses tend to be the vehicle of choice. In general, cars with a high clearance (like pickup trucks) are more likely to have their catalytic converters stolen simply because they are easier to access. Priuses and Honda Insights are also at high risk for theft because they have a second bonus catalytic converter and don't rely heavily on these devices which means they are usually in better condition than on other cars.

How will I know if my catalytic converter has been stolen?

If your catalytic converter is gone, your car will make a loud roaring noise as soon as you start the engine. A missing catalytic converter means the exhaust no longer flows through the muffler. Other telltale signs include smelly or dark exhaust, sluggish acceleration, and/or an illuminated "check engine" light. Driving without a catalytic converter can damage your vehicle so it's worth getting checked out if you suspect it has been swiped. It is best to get it towed to a nearby repair shop.

What measures can I take to prevent theft of my catalytic converter?

There are some simple steps you can take to protect your car, such as parking in well-lit areas or in a driveway or garage rather than on the street. You may also consider other measures to hopefully deter thieves, such as fitting an anti-theft device on the catalytic converter, welding the catalytic converter to the vehicle frame, covering the converter with an aftermarket part similar to a metal cage, or having your vehicle's VIN etched on the converter so it becomes traceable.

Is there any recourse if my catalytic converter has been stolen?

Theft of a catalytic converter will be covered under a comprehensive insurance policy (post deductible), but not if you only have liability coverage, or liability and collision. In any case, if your catalytic converter has been stolen, you should file a report with the Arlington County Police Department before contacting your insurance company to file a claim. You can either call the non-emergency number (703-558-2222) or file an **online report**. Anyone with information about these thefts is asked to contact the Police Department's Tip Line at 703-228-4180 or ACPDTipline@arlingtonva.us, or anonymously through the Arlington County Crime Solvers hotline at Theft 1-866-411-TIPS (8477).

What is being done about this nation-wide problem?

There are currently over 100 state bills addressing catalytic converter thefts. However, because this crime frequently involves trafficking stolen parts across state lines, a more comprehensive federal standard is needed. Bipartisan legislation (H.R. 621/S. 154) – known as the Preventing Auto Recycling Theft Act (PART Act) – was introduced last month to provide a national framework to help law enforcement combat catalytic converter theft. Hopefully, this measure won't get stalled like those cars without catalytic converters.

Urban Pesticides: An Indiscriminate Killer

By Emma Miller, Senior, Animal and Nutritional Sciences at West Virginia University

When walking around Ashton Heights in the spring and early summer months, it's not uncommon to see lawns marked with a sign stating that a pesticide application recently took place. These chemicals are most often used for weed control (herbicides) or mosquito/tick control (insecticides), but homeowners may not fully understand the environmental and health risks associated with pesticide application. While many may think that pesticide use is only an environmental problem when used for large-scale agriculture, that's often not the case. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "homeowners use up to 10 times more chemical pesticides per acre on their lawns than farmers use on crops". Insecticides indiscriminately kill all types of insects, not just the targeted species. Honey bees in particular are at risk of insecticide poisoning, and many studies have found that urban honey bees have higher levels of insecticides than rural honey bees.

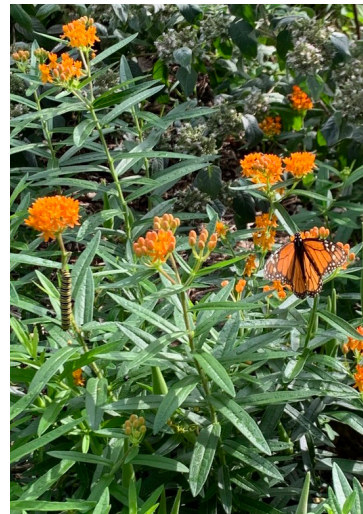
Insecticides affect honey bee colonies in two ways; by killing bees foraging on contaminated flowers and when contaminated pollen is brought back to the hive. Even homeowners without flowering plants contribute to honey bee poisoning, since wind often carries chemicals to neighboring properties. Pesticide exposure in pollinators has been shown to disrupt learning and memory, impair reproduction, and in high enough quantities can lead to colony death. Unfortunately, many homeowners are unaware of the dangers of pesticide application and their direct contribution to pollinator die-off.

Consider switching to an alternate form of pest control to do your part in minimizing your environmental impact.

Removing mosquito habitats by draining stagnant bodies of water at least weekly around your home is an effective form of mosquito control. Rain gutters, toys around the yard, and potted plant trays are just some examples of the possible breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Minimize mosquito bites by applying bug spray prior to outdoor activities. While the chemicals in most effective bug sprays aren't considered "natural" or "organic", this alternate form of pest control greatly reduces the risk of contact for pollinators and other wildlife. For a more natural preventative, **consider utilizing fragrance-producing plants** that are known to repel mosquitoes, such as lavender, marigold, citronella, and catnip. These plants can be planted in your garden, or consider keeping your plants in pots around outdoor gathering areas.

For more information, visit the Xerces Society where you can read more about this issue. <https://xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center/mid-atlantic>



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Calling all Ashton Heights
and Lyon Park neighbors!

Help strengthen our community. Consider nominating yourself or a neighbor for the "Meet Your Neighbor" newsletter column.

Nominations are welcome via email (erikacohenderr@gmail.com) or by filling out the form at the following link: bit.ly/AHMYN -- Your community looks forward to meeting you!

Our Heartfelt Goodbye to a Most Wonderful Woman – Marge Olson

By Scott Sklar and Alan Young

From Scott:

I have known Marge for many decades. She worked in the Arlington County School system and successfully helped my daughter at Long Branch Elementary School overcome some reading impediments. Stella, now 30, writes, “Marge had a magical smile. I remember visiting her office at Long Branch and smiling. She was a gift to her students and our block. What a kind, loving lady.”



Bob Olson of N. Ivy Street wrote, “My wonderful wife Marge passed away this past Sunday, February 12th, but these last years were among the happiest of her life. She was so proud of her sons, Jody and Tim, who continue to live here in Arlington, and was delighted by their wonderful families. She was active, doing all the things she loved best, until the very end.”

Bob’s daughter-in-law, Arlington resident Emmi Olson, wrote, “Marjorie Tapley-Olson loved the first daffodils of spring.”

Marge was an author, writing and illustrating several books for children with learning disabilities ([Benji the Bug](#), [Itty the Inchworm](#), [Finton Fish](#), and [Sly Spy](#)) as well as a book for parents and teachers ([Art Activities to Encourage Perceptual Development](#)). In later life she

wrote an adult novel, [Kindred Journeys](#), as well as a score of unpublished stories done for her grandchildren. She continued to engage in other art activities, but increasingly focused on painting rocks, becoming known as the “Rock Lady” in the places where she lived.

Many of you may remember Marge gave away painted stones for Halloween that became a community hallmark.

From Alan:

I lived with Bob and Marge for 18 months and they became my family. While Bob and Marge were spending time in Maine, Marge granted me the honor of handing out Halloween rocks. At first, as you might imagine, I was a bit hesitant; would kids really want rocks? So I bought some candy against Marge’s recommendation, and as it turned out, she was right -- the kids loved the rocks that she painted with passion, love and attention -- and I was left holding the bag, literally.

I saw Marge once several weeks ago in the hospital. She turned and gave me her wonderfully comforting smile, which even now I believe was her letting me know it would all be okay, no matter what happened. I am fortunate to be left with this final memory.

While working in the yard one day, I found one of the plants Marge loved, a Purple Shamrock, growing naturally in the yard. I replanted it and have it with me still, and will always remind me of her passion for life.

When Bob shared the passing of Marge, I wrote, “She was a beautiful and caring woman, so vibrant and full life...an inspiration to me,” she was my friend.

As Stella wrote, “Marge will be missed! Sending love and light to everyone who knew and loved her.”

Our condolences to our friend Bob Olson and his family. Marge lived her life fully, and lived it well.

Photos below are of some of the famous painted stones created by Marge.

To see these creations in color, view the Ashton Heights newsletter [online](#) or in the copy distributed through the listserv. Thanks to the Nguyen, Secrest and Van de Meulebroecke families for sharing their photos.



LYON PARK CHILI

**5:30pm
to
7:30pm**

**At the
Lyon Park
Community
Center**

COOK-OFF

Sunday March 19

Adults \$10, Kids ages 3-10 just \$5, Kids under 3 are free!

Contact Kim Franklin (BlufftonJoy@gmail.com) or

Elizabeth Sheehy (Elizabeth.R.Sheehy@gmail.com)

to contribute chili, cornbread, salad or to volunteer.

Ashton Heights Pet of the Month By The Hartman Family

Many of you out there already know me, and call me by my name – which is PULA! I hail from the African nation of Botswana, but have lived on North Oakland Street for the past 6 years. Pula is the national currency of Botswana – so apparently their money was named after me. Pula also means “rain” in the local Setswana language. As Botswana gets very little precipitation, rain is highly valued – so Pula also means “good fortune”. So it’s appropriate to think of me as a combination of money, good fortune, and life giving rain.

North Oakland Street is now my turf, and I mean pretty much all of North Oakland. I grace many of your doorsteps and porches with my presence. I sometimes just lie in the street; as I said, it’s my turf. So please don’t drive fast down our cul-de-sac, as I blend in nicely with the dark asphalt.

I have lots of fans amongst the humans out there. Dogs are pretty intrigued by me too, in the simple way they think. I hang out with the local foxes as well. I pretty much get along with everyone. I often walk with my dog and humans up and down our street. For some reason that seems to intrigue many of you. Haven’t you ever seen a cat walk his human and dog before?

I’m a pretty independent and special cat, with a mostly black, silky smooth coat. I may let you pet me if you see me lounging on the sidewalk. If you do, then call me by my name – Pula.



Stunning Decline in Ashton Heights Tree Canopy Documented

By Brooke Alexander, Native Plant and Tree Canopy Coordinator



Those of us who have lived here for any period of time know this to be true, but now we have actual numbers. The latest tree canopy study (based on 2021 data, published in 2023) for Arlington shows a stunning decline in tree canopy for Ashton Heights.

- 2008 - 48%
- 2011 - 41%
- 2016 - 40% (unknown how shrubs/scrub were counted)
- 2021 - 31% (36% counting shrub/scrub)

The 31% caveat: the 2021 data were analyzed using LiSAT, which can separate trees from shrubs/scrub (green vegetation less than 10 ft tall). Prior years did not use this state-of-the-art LiSAT, so it is unknown how shrubs/scrub were counted historically. Whether we use the 31% or the 36%, the decline in tree cover for Ashton Heights over the years is massive. And unfortunately we know the loss continued in 2022.**

The study was done by the non-profit Green Infrastructure Center, Inc (GIC), and the recent webinar which presented the data was sponsored by Arlington's Civic Federation. See webinar here: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/cvttworzgkx8uk/Arlington%20Tree%20Canopy%20Study%202023.mp4?dl=1>. If you have limited time, look at minutes 8 to 47, as this has the meat of the presentation.

Notable items covered:

- how trees intercept rain water (e.g. champion white oak intercepts 4000 gallons/tree/year)
- mature trees can decrease heat up to 12 degrees. (remember David Summers' measurements?!)
- why saving mature trees is valuable (versus replacing mature trees with young trees)
- how exactly do trees help climate change?
- how do trees help asthma?

Trees are good for our collective health, and the environment, feed our social interactions, an increased tax base and attract better paid jobs. People like to live with trees. We cannot let this decline continue. We need to reinstate our tree canopy. To join Ashton Heights' efforts to increase our tree canopy, contact me at brooke.alexander52@gmail.com.

GIC and the Civic Federation will be doing a follow up workshop titled "Come Decide on Trees for Your Neighborhood's Health, Wealth and Climate" on March 25th from 8:45 to 11 a.m. Register online: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/come-decide-on-trees-for-your-neighborhoods-health-wealth-and-climate-tickets-549559526337>.

**All of the available maps of Arlington tree canopy coverage will be published on the Ashton Heights website in the next several months. Some maps (1970s, 1980s and 1990s) are done graphically, and do not enumerate an Ashton Heights canopy percentage. The 2008, 2011, 2016 and 2021 data show a numerical percentage for Ashton Heights. Looked at together they show a significant decline in tree cover, in Arlington and in Ashton Heights.

Did you know that you can view all issues of the Ashton Heights newsletter in COLOR and with clickable links online?

Go to:

**<https://ashtonheights.org/ahca-newsletter/> -
then select the month that you're interested in reading.**

Spring FLING

Saturday, May 13 | Noon to 3:00 pm
Columbia Gardens Cemetery Grounds

A fun-filled celebration for children and adults:

- Paint a rock to make a special Mother's Day gift
- Go exploring with the Agents of Discovery App
- See how honey is made from our beekeeper
- Get planting advice from the Tree Stewards of Arlington
- Enjoy delicious refreshments and more!

Let us know if you will come!

Call 703.527.1235 or email info@columbiagardenscemetery.org. 3411 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201



COLUMBIA
GARDENS
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***Transcendent Kingdom* by Yaa Gyasi**

By Denise Cormaney

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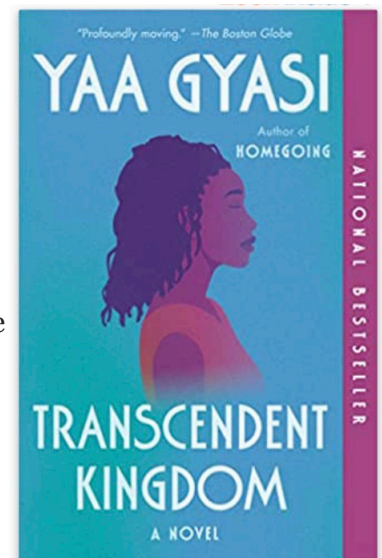
FIVE STARS!

"But this tension, this idea that one must necessarily choose between science and religion, is false...both became, for me, valuable ways of seeing, but ultimately both have failed to fully satisfy in their aim: to make clear, to make meaning."

When I read this book the first time, I really liked it. I reread it for book club this month and it knocked my socks off. Sometimes it's not the book, it's where your head is at when you pick it up. It's not you, dear book, it's me.

Yaa Gyasi gave us a stunning, sweeping epic with her first novel "Homegoing." This novel is just as impactful and brilliant, but on a much smaller scale. Instead of following a family across generations and continents for hundreds of years, we take in one woman's experience of faith and grief, and ultimately hope. This is one worth savoring, highlighter in hand.

(Is there anything better than a book with dozens of flags because so many passages jumped out at you??)



Save the Dates: May 10 and 17, 2023 Special Program: Candidates Night By Dave Schutz

On May 10, 2023, there will be joint meeting with the Lyon Park Citizens Association (LPCA) at the Lyon Park Community Hall and will cover County Board, School Board, SB Caucus, and ranked choice voting. Jay Fisette will moderate.

On May 17, 2023, there will be a joint meeting with LPCA at the Clarendon Methodist Church. It will cover the constitutional officers, Senate, and House of Delegates District 2 (HD2). Since it is generally very difficult for candidates who have not won a primary to prevail in November, the winners of the June primary are likely to be elected, so it's important that you have the information to make a thoughtful choice. And there are contests!

The upcoming June primary will be one of the most consequential in years. For County Board, there are at least (so far) five Democratic primary candidates for two slots: Maureen Coffey, JD Spain Jr., Tony Weaver, Natalie Roy, and Jonathan Dromgoole. Spain appears enthusiastic about the current Missing Middle proposal, Roy unenthusiastic, and Weaver, Coffey and Dromgoole maybe somewhere in the middle. Each of the Board candidates says there is a housing problem. There may be a sixth candidate, either as a Dem or as an Independent.

The County Board primary will be the first run by the state by ranked choice voting. It's important that voters understand how this works and there will be a short presentation on RCV in the course of the evening on May 10th.

Miranda Turner and Erin Freas-Smith are running for school board.

House of Delegates: Ashton Heights and Lyon Park have been placed in the new HD2. After the political parties failed to come to agreement last year, the Virginia Supreme Court appointed special masters who did what is generally regarded as a very nice job of creating political districts which match the populations on the ground, Virginia wide.

For Ashton Heights and Lyon Park this has had the effect of moving Patrick Hope's district generally north and away from us, he is now in the new District 1. Those of us who have gotten used to being represented by Patrick Hope have to adjust. We are now in the new no incumbent Second District, for which Adele McClure and Kevin S. Saucedo Broach have announced candidacy.

Senate: Also redistricted, with the effect that Senator Barbara

Favola remains the Senator from Ashton Heights, but her district (which formerly went all the way to Loudoun County) has been consolidated into Arlington. James DeVita is an announced candidate against her nomination.



Controller: Ingrid Morroy is retiring, Kim Klingler is running to replace her and so far there are no other announced candidates.

A contested primary will take place between incumbent Commonwealth's Attorney Parisa Dehghani-Tafti and announced candidate Josh Katcher. There will be a contested race for Sheriff. Jose Quiroz who recently became Sheriff on the retirement of Beth Arthur will run against Wanda Younger and James Herring.

All the above Democratic candidates will be invited, and if there are independents and Republicans identified as candidates they will be invited to present, too, even though they will not be candidates in the primary.

MONTHLY FOOD AND TOILETRY DRIVE

2ND SATURDAYS
10 AM - 12 PM
2/11, 3/11, 4/8, 5/13, 6/10

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BRIDGES TO
INDEPENDENCE
AND NEW HOPE
HOUSING**

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Cereal, kid-friendly snacks and juice, paper towels, cleaning supplies, bar soap, lotion, men's boxers (new)

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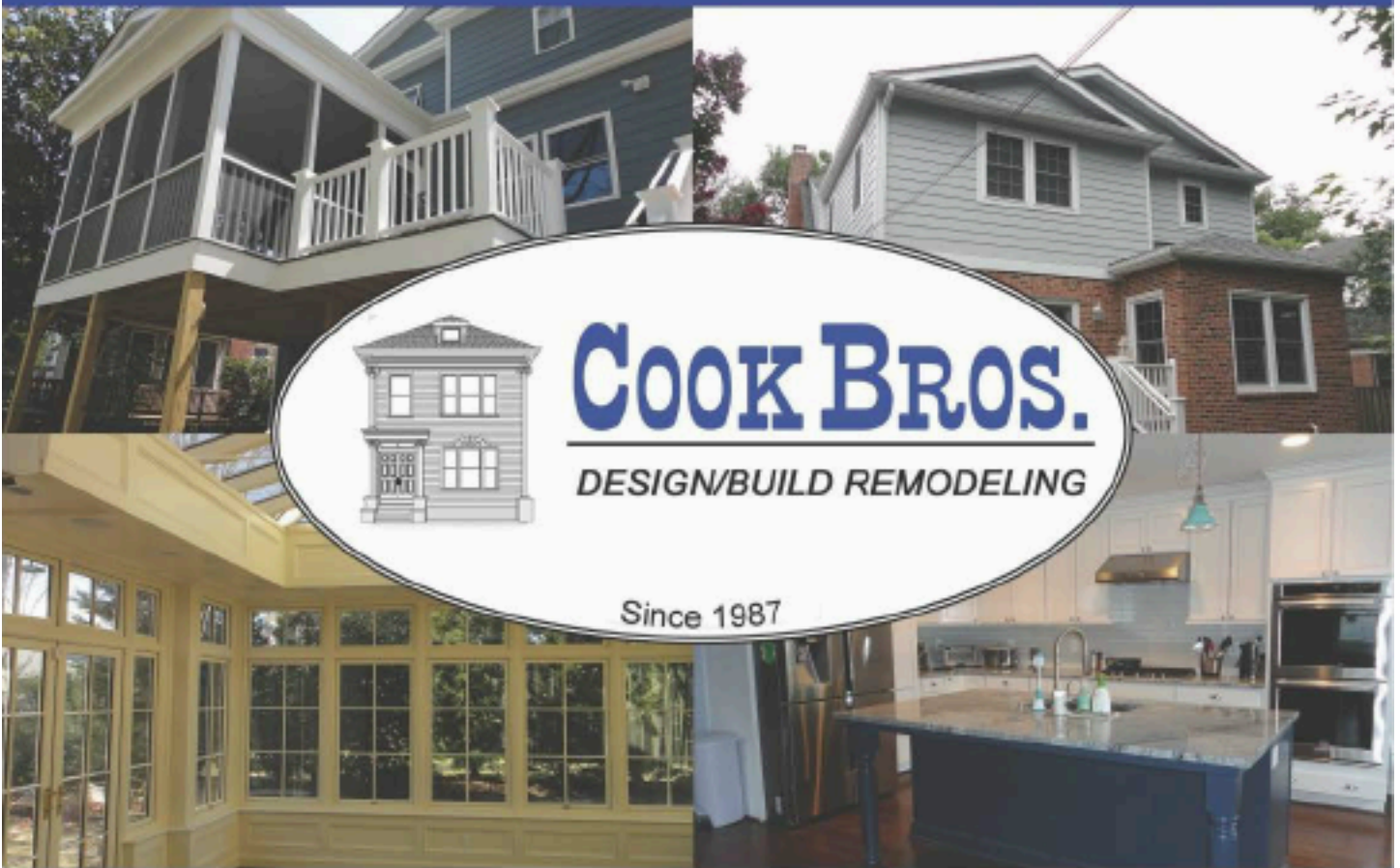
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