



Ashton Heights News

www.ashtonheights.org

March 2024

Looking at the End Game

By Scott Sklar, President, AHCA

I usually contribute very upbeat President columns.

I am very upbeat on this community and on the civic association. I am very upbeat on all of you I meet in our neighborhoods. And many of you who know me, know that I love teaching at the university, truly enjoy my 23 year-old global sustainability business, and giving weekly tours to engineers, architects and international visitors at my two self-powered buildings on N. Ivy Street, where I have lived now for 40 years.

I am starting off this way, because I am going to be grouchy, but not because I am unhappy. I feel very blessed, but am unhappy on some external and internal issues that are impacting our lives here in Arlington. And I want to articulate it, mostly to spur positive dialogue and discussion. I am not lobbying for anything.

When I moved here in 1980, I did so for several reasons. I wanted to be close to Washington, DC where I worked and socialized. I enjoyed DC's museums, restaurants, and cultural offerings – and still do. So, I bought a house in an area with trees, littered with parks, and at the time, Clarendon had varied restaurants and small owner-owned shops. I was happy the Metro was opening in the corridor, and that there were lots of bicycle shops. I also enjoyed that the houses were old and varied – definitely not little boxes all looking alike. And I truly enjoyed people building onto their houses, as I did, as their families grew.

Raising a daughter here was amazing, and aside from parks and great schools, there were fabulous families and lots to do both in Arlington and Washington, DC.

But as we leave the first quarter of the 21st century, some of this sheen is wearing off. Traffic is more congested, drivers are less patient and courteous, as are pedestrians and bicyclists plowing through in front of green lights. Loud horns and vehicle revs are more common in the middle of the night.

And now housing is getting bigger or multiple units cover the lots – old trees being dragged down, less lawns for kids to play and hold neighborhood barbecues. Aside from the market forces, I have been unnerved that County professionals have played into these trends of losing tree canopy and getting more congested. And then finally, I'm frustrated with the Arlington County Board, specifically the process of missing middle which morphed into EHO – it became clear "the Arlington Way" that many of us were most proud, had vaporized away.

Arlington has also set historic building goals, and I see moves to knock down historic buildings and not incentivize individual owners to keep our varied rich architecture. I am not talking about keeping the façade of Joyce Motors in a multi-story building, but rather stand-alone buildings of varied significance.

I am proud of Arlington's quality education, adoption of a strong

Continued on page 3

AHCA Monthly Meeting Wed., March 20th, 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, President and Committee reports |
| 7:40 p.m. | EHO Lawsuit - The Policy Formerly Known as Missing Middle. It always creates some doubt when the backers of a policy think it will do better if they just rename it. It continues to be controversial, and there is a lawsuit against the County about the Expanded Housing Opportunity policy.

David Gerk, a backer of this lawsuit will present topics to include any indications about its likely success/failure, what success would mean, how fundraising has gone and the amount of money expected to be spent between now and conclusion. Where have the MM/EHO permits already granted been sought, has construction begun on any? How many people have contributed to the lawsuit? Any projects within Ashton Heights started? |
| 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 2024** newsletter issue are due by **March 21st**. Send submissions to: amylmiller4@gmail.com.

Join or Renew your AHCA Membership!

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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Slowing Down that Fast Car: Traffic Calming Measures for Safer Streets

Community Safety and Security Corner

By Christina Schultz



In our cars, we are usually looking for speed and ease. The advent of mobile navigation apps has made this easier – providing the fastest, most convenient route. But other drivers are also taking advantage of these same opportunities to save time and avoid traffic, leading to an increase in cars cutting through side streets, including Ashton Heights. Streets, especially in residential neighborhoods, are not always designed for increased traffic and higher speeds, which can create dangerous conditions for bikers, pedestrians, and even some homes as those around the traffic circle Jackson and 6th Street can testify.

There has been much talk among neighbors about the best measures to cut down on speeding on our streets, including the use of speed humps and signs – known as traffic calming measures. Traffic calming is a system that uses design strategy and physical adjustments to reduce traffic speeds for safety and accessibility. Traffic calming aims to prevent high-speed, rushed driving by ‘calming’ motorists through increased sensory awareness. There are a variety of measures that aim to reduce cut-throughs and traffic speeds (see box). Traffic calming measures are known to lead to lower fatality rates, decreases in injury severity, and reduction in traffic noise. The American Journal of Public Health has found that children who live within a block of a speed hump have significantly reduced odds of being hit by a vehicle.

After a series of road safety initiatives, Arlington County joined the nationally recognized Vision Zero network in 2019 as, “a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all.” The program includes traffic calming methods to slow down drivers. Several measures were implemented in late 2023, such as the addition of speed humps around several schools, the reduction of speed limits to 20mph on neighborhood streets within 600 feet of certain school access points, and bump outs on intersections popular with pedestrians. Prior to these changes, it had been 10 years since Arlington County last set up speed humps to reduce speeding. The options for traffic calming measures in our own neighborhood remain unclear, but the Ashton Heights Civic Association remains committed to working as a community with the County to continue advocating for safer streets.

Types of Traffic Calming Measures for Speed Reduction

- Speed humps are rounded, raised areas of pavement that require drivers to reduce their speed to maintain comfort and prevent vehicle damage. (Not to be confused with speed bumps which are taller and less wide.)
- Traffic circles are raised islands where traffic circulates around the island.
- Chokers, also known as corner extensions or bulb-outs, are horizontal extensions of a sidewalk meant to narrow the roadway for a section of the street.
- Chicanes are sidewalk extensions that create a zigzag pattern with alternating curves to disturb the straight path of the roadway.
- Lane narrowing, also known as a road diet, is the narrowing of travel lanes usually by widening sidewalks, creating bicycle lanes, landscaping, or inserting raised medians in the center of a street.

President's Column -- continued from page 1

greenhouse gas emissions reduction and green energy CEP plan, but the transformation to electric buses and more EV charging stations is way too slow, which is a disappointment.

I have great concerns that Arlington is moving to super-density in Clarendon, more cement than trees and open spaces. My personal concern is that it will change the nature and quality of life of our neighborhoods. More noise, pollution, light, and people. We know there are solid options to mitigate these stressors. And I do believe our Civic Association is poised to face these challenges head-on.

Through all of these challenges, AHCA has stayed surprisingly consistent. We have a strong effort in County involvement in preserving tree canopy, stormwater education, promoting bicycle lanes and traffic calming. We have had a long-term positive relationship with the Arlington County Police. AHCA's focus and organization around development, land-use planning, and project approval is strong, and top-of-the-line. And as issues come up, our committees on schools, housing, open spaces, and neighborhood conservation have strong leads who closely track on these issues.

To be clear, I feel we have some serious challenges on the array of issues we have identified as central to our community. But I am also confident that AHCA is structured to address them head on. And special thanks to the many who lead and staff our committees and follow these issues. Even more thanks to those who contribute to our newsletter and participate on our listserv. We have much to be thankful for, and we have some serious challenges. I look forward as we work together to face them, change them, and make our community the best it can be. Yes, “it takes a village”. Happy Spring!



David Schutz, AHCA VP for Programs and Scott Sklar, AHCA President

Lyon Park Plant Sale

April 20, 2024

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Spring is not far off and to help you with garden planning, mark your calendars for this year's Lyon Park Plant Sale.

The Plant Sale features plants donated from Lyon Park and Ashton Heights gardeners, so you know they'll grow well for you. We'll have plants that love sun, plants that love shade, houseplants and more! Most plants will be \$5.00.



Interested in Native Plants? Deborah Barber is again hosting Dig Your Own from Lyon Park's flourishing native plant gardens. Please bring pots if you are interested in doing some digging.

PLEASE donate potted up—and labeled—plants to the sale. We can only be successful in raising funds for Community Center maintenance if we have plants to sell! Bring donations to the park by 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 20.

QUESTIONS?

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DARK SKIES – Part 2

Human Needs for Dark Skies

By Brooke Alexander, Native Plant and Tree Canopy Coordinator



Last month, we discussed light pollution's impact to our ecosystem. Today, we talk about how people are directly affected by excess light. Our circadian rhythm is light dependent, and therefore light impacts our hormones, physiology and behavior.

One hormone impact that has been studied is the suppression of melatonin. See the graphic for the interaction of melatonin with light, sleep and body temperature. Melatonin is involved in regulating our sleep-wake cycle as well as our immune system and our metabolism.

Scientists are still learning the mechanisms, but find that circadian disruption increases our risk of obesity, diabetes, mood disorders, reproductive problems and cancers. As an example, working the night shift increases breast cancer and prostate cancer risks. Conversely, a good night's sleep helps reduce weight gain, depression and the onset of diabetes.

The information provided is from the article "[Light pollution affects human health](https://www.darksky.org/light-pollution-affects-human-health)" at DarkSky.org. DarkSky International suggests these lighting solutions to benefit our sleep:

1. Keep bedrooms dark by using a blackout curtain, and remove/cover light sources such as clock radios or charging stations.
2. If a night light is needed, use a dim red or amber light. Red light is the least disruptive; blue light is most disruptive to our sleep.

Next month, we discuss safety and dark skies and in the meantime, see [www.DarkSky.org](https://www.darksky.org) for more information.

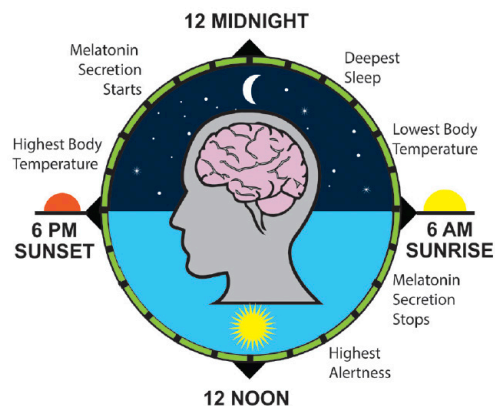


Photo from DarkSky.org

Arlington Bunny Hop



5K Charity Fun Run/Walk

April 13

8:00 a.m.

Virtual Option-April 13-30

Running to Help Others!
Our 7th Year

Clarendon United Methodist Church

www.ArlingtonBunnyHop.org



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So much happens in between issues of newsletters -- especially when we take a break in December and over the summer. Don't miss out on important information; subscribe to the Ashton Heights listserv today.

Email: main+owner@ashtonheights.groups.io. Always include your full name and street address and we'll get you set up to be "in the know."

Did you know that you can set your preferences on how you receive email from the listserv?

If you're worried about receiving too many emails or missing out, some options include:

- Individual messages
- Full digest (up to 12 messages grouped together in one email)
- Daily summary (one email each morning containing only the list of topics posted to the group the previous day)
- No email (receive no email, but view messages on the groups.io website)

Lyon Park Woman's Club

Despite its name, The Lyon Park Woman's Club is not just for women. We welcome everyone.

The group meets the third Thursday of the month at noon at the Community Center for a delicious potluck lunch. We have a great time socializing at these gatherings.

Many neighbors know us by the popular cupcake sales we host throughout the year. We also run several annual events that help build our community, such as the Chili Dinner, the Spring Fair, the Pancake Breakfast, and the Halloween Bonfire.

We are always looking for volunteers to staff these events, and it is a fun way to get to know our neighbors.

Please join us for good food and fellowship! For more info, contact Elizabeth Wray at ejswray@yahoo.com or 703-522-1263.



Restaurant Review – Thompson Italian

By Vinh and Susan Nguyen

Website: thompsonitalian.com/falls-church
124 N. Washington St., Falls Church, VA 22046
703-269-0893

The restaurant is a labor of love of acclaimed chefs Gabe and Katherine Thompson. They honed their skills at starred restaurants in NYC, opened their own establishments there, and moved back home to open Thompson in 2019. Since then, Thompson has been a favorite spot to celebrate special occasions, even as it continues to pride itself as a friendly, if elevated, neighborhood spot.

The knowledgeable and attentive staff is the first sign of how seriously the Thompsons take their craft. Not content with just listing ingredients, our waiter gave fulsome descriptions that gave life to the dishes on the menu. Later, his pride of place caused him to be totally offended when we remarked how the focaccia bread was chewier than we have had before (let's be clear, it was delicious).

Our starters included Roasted Delicata Squash with whipped ricotta, pistachios and vinaigrette; the sweetness of the squash was further enhanced by caramelization from the roasting. The Octopus a la Plancha was amazingly tender, resting on a bed of fregola and avocado cream, garnished with blood orange. The Spicy Pork Meatballs were delicate and the marinara sauce was fine, but did not stand out.

We zeroed in on the hand-made pasta dishes, served in shallow bowls as just-right portions (this is not Olive Garden). The simplicity and focus on a limited palette of ingredients exquisitely prepared come straight from the home country. The evening special envelops the Pappardelle with the deep flavor of beef ragu. The squid ink Bucatini (Vinh can never resist squid ink) is enriched with decadent gobs of lobster meat. Braised pork shoulder and pancetta melt in your mouth as an accompaniment to the Gemelli. Interestingly, the simplest dish stood out the most, with the San Marzano tomatoes literally jumping out of the Bolognese sauce and elevating the Rigatoni.



*Photo courtesy of the
Thompson Italian Instagram page*

Of course we had to show appreciation to the pastry chef by trying the cannoli – a crunchier-than-usual vessel filled with ricotta mousse, dark chocolate and pistachios – as well as the upside down pineapple cake with gelato. The olive oil cake was definitely compliment worthy.

There's a decent wine list (of course) and our table enjoyed the evening's "Oaxaca Old-fashioned" cocktail.

A second location can be found in Old Town Alexandria, where on Monday nights you can have any bowl of pasta and any glass of wine for \$30. That's a really good reason to check it out!



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Save the Date for the FOAL Spring Book Sale

Save the date for the Friends of the Arlington
Public Library book sale — **April 18 to 21, 2024.**

This bi-annual event
is for all ages. All
proceeds from the
sale directly support
funding for library
programming and
collections.



Thursday, April 18th is [FOAL member night](#).

Friday, April 19th and Saturday, April 20th are open to the general public. Sunday, April 21st is open to the general public and is half-price day on books.

More Residential Zoning Changes May be on the Way

By Ken Matzkin

As many of you know, the Arlington County Board last year changed residential zoning regulations to permit a limited number of two-to-six-unit housing units on land that had been previously reserved for single-family houses (SFH). This initiative, originally known as “Missing Middle” housing was renamed “Expanded Housing Option” (EHO) housing upon adoption.

People favoring this change argued that more residences on the same amount of land would lower housing prices in the County. Those against it feared that permitting somewhat uncontrolled housing increases in neighborhoods designed for low intensity residency without understanding the full implications of this could strain or even damage the County’s infrastructure systems (i.e.: wastewater treatment, sewer line capacity, and public education). The Board agreed, but went ahead without first studying the ramifications of this “upzoning”.

The anti-EHO contingent has not abandoned its activities to protect the County’s provision of various essential public infrastructure systems and the

taxpayers who pay to build, maintain, and use them. Specifically, many of these folks have increased their efforts to influence the Board to objectively study and better understand the issues related to how many more people can live on a block previously zoned for SFH can before the infrastructure is overwhelmed and expansion is required.

Aside from preparing for a too rapid increase of new students in some schools, the basis of much of this concern stems directly from the issue of “lot coverage” — how large can new residences be relative to the land on which they are situated before bad things happen. I offer here just two basic examples of why getting coverage right is so critical.

First, as residential buildings grow larger with larger roofs, rainwater is condensed from them onto the ground around it while there is less ground to absorb it. Less rainwater going into the ground causes more of it to go into the public sewer system. Arlington’s sewer system is designed to conduct rainwater into our sewage treatment system; too much water flowing in at a given time may cause sewer line backups and/or the redirection of some untreated water directly into the Potomac River. Second, the current trend of building residences fully to the current “setback”

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Meet Your (Former) Neighbor — Dave Henderson

By Erika Derr

Dave Henderson's story reminds us that even when one moves out of Ashton Heights, the neighborhood spirit stays with you. His childhood years growing up on North Kenmore Street in the 1930s, 40s and 50s have stayed with him, along with memories of friends and neighbors throughout Arlington.

Dave spent his formative years in the house his parents purchased in 1933. His father was a World War I veteran who became a cartographer for the government; he is credited with making the first aviation charts of Alaska, at a time when maps were all hand-drawn. His mother was a home maker who raised Dave and his younger sister, Diane and was herself an active member of the community. She later served as President of the Ashton Heights Women's Club. Before moving to Ashton Heights, the Hendersons rented half of a two family home at Randolph Street and Lorcom Lane. The now gone duplex included a pass through doorway between the adjoining units on the second floor; this layout allowed for easy babysitting between the Hendersons and their neighbors, the Geigers, which led to fast and easy lifelong friendships.

Upon moving to Ashton Heights, Dave met many neighborhood children who became good friends and companions. Dave recalls many afternoons spent playing with Tom and Jack Gilligan, Cary Massey, Billy and Francis Moore, Dick Money, and others. As the Kenmore Street homes backed up to Columbia Gardens cemetery, that was a natural place to be outside, especially after a snowfall when the hills near Oakland Street allowed for good sledding. Occasionally their antics would draw the attention of Mr. Dye (Colonel Robert Dye, Superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery and [first supervisor of Columbia Gardens](#)). Dave recalls one occasion that the boys were chased away from playing on the roof of a tool shed by Mr. Dye on his tractor.

Early in life, Dave entered the working world right here

in Ashton Heights. His first job was selling the weekly Liberty Magazine door to door for five cents apiece. "I think I earned one and a half cents for each copy sold" recalls Dave. "They didn't sell very well -- I think I made about seven and a half cents a week -- but I still have the delivery bag!"

When a Times Herald daily newspaper route became open, Dave leveraged his experience to take it, delivering the early morning edition of the five edition daily paper. He went on to deliver the Washington Post and later the Evening Star, an afternoon paper, which meant he didn't have to get up so early in the morning. Delivering newspapers gave him great experience in being reliable and working with people, especially when collecting weekly bills.

He graduated from Washington-Lee (now -Liberty) High School in 1949. After serving in the army he attended the University of Virginia on the GI Bill, studying economics and business; he received a B.S. in Commerce. He married and moved with his wife a few miles away, first to Dominion Hills, and later to Vienna, Virginia. Dave held a few different jobs before settling on a career working for the Naval Department; upon retiring in the late 1980's, he found more time to dedicate to managing his rental properties (including his childhood home on Kenmore Street) as well as hobbies like antique cars. He is also a devoted father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Dave's memories of Ashton Heights remind us that formative years spent in a community can stay with you for decades. He recounts hours spent with several local friends enjoying the casual timelessness of childhood, playing on swings in one another's backyards, peeking in garages at old cars, patronizing local businesses, attending school, getting his first taste of responsibility through regular work. The rich history of Ashton Heights is alive and well in Dave Henderson's stories.



Left photo: members of the Ashton Heights Woman's Club celebrate their 50th anniversary on 9/17/74. L to R: Mrs. Golden Dagger, Mrs. Albert Henderson, Mrs. Leonard G. Jones and Mrs. J.W. England. Right photo: Diane and Dave in their backyard - 1936.

Residential Zoning Changes -- continued from page 8

(i.e., the distance to neighboring buildings and the streetscape) requirements leaves less land than former development trends to support trees that clean the air of carbon dioxide, produce oxygen, and absorb rainwater. These examples and the many others not mentioned here present a wide variety of further subtle but real spinoff effects.

The last comprehensive set of changes to residential zoning rules was put in place in 2005. The County Board and staff have been considering updating them since at least 2015 but without definitive action. With the implementation of EHO, larger houses, as well as the significant increase in mid- and high-rise residential residences since that time, the “anti-EHO” contingent has repurposed their efforts to urging the Board to undertake the several studies needed to better understand the likely effects of our booming residential growth as well as to how to effectively control, direct, and otherwise accommodate it.

As one of the “anti-EHO” but “pro-Arlington County” agitators, I’m hoping that there will be positive local government movement on this important work soon. Stay tuned.

Save the Date

We have lots of events coming up in our area -- here are just a few to put on your calendar. If you’re reading this newsletter issue online, all of the underlined text below are hyperlinks that will take you to the website with more details on each of these events.

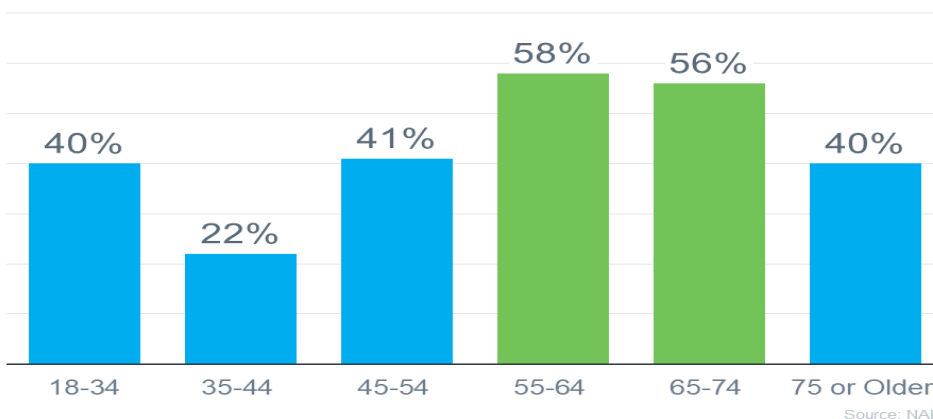


- The [Spring E-Care](#) will be held on March 23rd from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Wakefield High School.
- [Free paper shredding](#) is held the first Saturday of every month (unless it’s a holiday weekend) for Arlington County residents. The next dates are March 2 and April 6, 2024.
- March 5, 2024 is the [Presidential Primary Election](#). Virginia is an open primary state, meaning that voters do not register by political party. Be sure to cast your primary vote! FYI: March 2, 2024 is the last day of early voting.
- On March 16, 2024, head to The Wharf for [Ireland at The Wharf](#). From noon to 6 p.m. enjoy a fun, free festival for all ages.
- The [National Cherry Blossom Festival](#) will take place from March 20 - April 14, 2024. Highlights include the opening ceremony (March 23rd), the Blossom Kite Festival (March 30th), Petalpalooza (April 6th) and Parade (April 13th). A full list of events can be found here: <https://nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/all-events/>

Grandparents Are Moving To Be Near Loved Ones - Recent data from The National Association of Realtors (NAR) shows people between the ages of 55 and 74 are moving farther (more than 100 miles) than any other age group (see graph below): Never underestimate the power of grandchildren – especially when it comes to lifestyle and financial decisions.

Grandparents Are Moving Farther Away

Percent of Sellers Who Moved at Least 100 Miles by Years of Age



If you have grandchildren of your own, maybe you can relate. When you decide it’s time to be closer to your loved ones, let’s connect! Put my 39 years of local market expertise to work for you and those you care about!

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Join us at the **Lyon Park Community Center**
on **Saturday, March 30 at 11am** for our annual

SPRING EGG HUNT

Lyon Park will be covered with more than 3,500
candy-filled plastic eggs for children to collect.

Three age groups will participate: 1-2, 3-6, and 7-10.

Each age group will collect eggs individually.

Children ages 1-2 will collect empty eggs which are
exchanged for parent approved prizes!



Valentine's Day: A Candy Conundrum

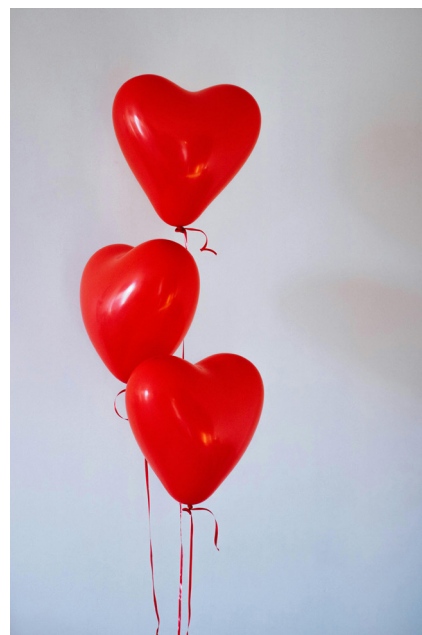
By **Sara Guerrero, 6th grader at Gunston Middle School**

This Valentine's Day was filled with love and happiness among friends and family, but at the schools, there was a bit of a debate. This year, Escuela Key Elementary School banned giving candy on Valentine's Day. Some parents were confused by this because at middle schools like Gunston Middle School, there were no rules, or even mentions of Valentine's Day gifts.

Some parents wondered why there was a ban on candy at Escuela Key, if at Gunston, teachers are awarding giant full-size candy bars and treats often. Not saying that we don't appreciate and love these teachers, it just doesn't make sense to give out giant bags of candy when elementary school students can't give their friends fun size chocolates and gummies to celebrate the holiday.

The schools might be enforcing this rule out of health concerns for their students. Also, it can be exhausting to have to wrangle a bunch of sugar-hyped kindergartners. But kids can still bring candy and treats in their lunches, and share them with their friends. And they didn't have this ban at Gunston, but being a middle schooler doesn't make junk food any healthier.

Despite this confusion, people still had a fun Valentine's Day. People celebrated in many ways. Some people stayed at home and exchanged gifts with their family's, including everything from chocolates and flowers to fancy pens and books. Others went out to eat or went out with their friends. Either way, people had fun expressing their love and appreciation this Valentine's Day.



Community Service Project

Yes folks, It's that time of year! **Prom season is just around the corner.** As part of a **local community service project**, Emma Abramson is collecting donations of prom dresses/formal dresses/gowns/tuxedos/shoes and accessories. Donations will be made available to students at Washington-Liberty, Wakefield, and Yorktown High Schools.



Do you have fancy outfits just sitting in your closet or jewelry that you want to pass along? Make someone's year by donating them today. Donations will be accepted from **March 13th through April 1st.**

We are also collecting clothing racks and monetary donations as well!

When you are looking at your attire, please ensure they are in good condition and are formal enough for prom (vs. cocktail or business attire). Consider whether they are age-appropriate as well; the average prom-goer won't gravitate to a "mother of the bride" look or your grandmother's shoes from 30+ years ago.

Donations are being collected at locations in Lyon Park and Ashton Heights.

- 515 N Lincoln Street (Emma Abramson) Ashton Heights
- 818 N Danville Street (Paul Showalter) Lyon Park

You can drop off your donation at either location or email us and we can arrange a pickup from your home. Reach out to us at LyonParkEvents@gmail.com if you have any questions.

North Woods by Daniel Mason

By Denise Cormaney

Follow all her reviews at @[findyourgoldenhour](https://www.instagram.com/findyourgoldenhour) on Instagram

FIVE STARS!

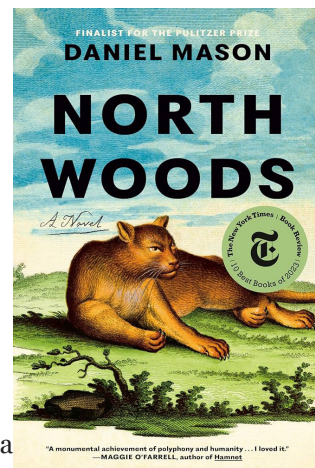
"She has found that the only way to understand the world as something other than a tale of loss is to see it as a tale of change."

I loved this book! An easy 5 stars. The cast of narrators makes for an especially good listening experience (Denise listened to this book). Instead of following a family through generations, this book follows a house in the woods of western Massachusetts, spanning 400 years.

Have you ever felt the energy of an old house? Somehow sensed the layers of memories and experiences of the people who have lived there? Maybe even felt like a space was a little... haunted?

This isn't a ghost story. It's a brilliant literary trip through time. There are a few ghosts, but by the time they show up, you're fully invested.

[Ron Charles](#) gave it 5 stars, and I tend to like what he likes. And [Meredith](#) from the [Currently Reading Podcast](#) picked it as one of her top 10 books of the year. So don't just take my word for it is what I'm saying.



Recycling Tips — The Big 3

By Amy Miller

As I walk my pup around the neighborhood, I often see trash and recycling bins full of things that should not be in them. To that end, here are THREE tips you can try to follow at a minimum to help support the County's waste reduction efforts. This is condensed information from a Solid Waste Bureau flyer from 2023.



Tip #1 — Do not bag recyclables!

If you do this, they will be considered contaminated and will not be recycled at the processing facility. Only put loose materials into the cart.



Tip #2 — Put food scraps and other organics in the green cart!

Placing food scraps into the organics cart instead of the trash cart allows for more composted material to build healthy soils.



Tip #3 — Do not put batteries in the trash or recycling carts!

Lithium batteries can ignite fires. Take batteries, computers, phones, etc. to the Household Hazardous Materials facility.

KIDS, INC.

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

Send updates to Ann Felker:
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

**Please consult the newsletter that
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listserv or the hand-delivered
newsletter for a full list of kids who
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