

www.ashtonheights.org

### As Arlington and Ashton Heights Evolve By Scott Sklar, President, AHCA

I was thinking about the issues we faced as a community in 1984 when I bought my home, and now. And while there are a few similarities, most are not the same.

Zoning, codes, and urbanization were the emerging issues back in 1984. In the 1960s, Arlington County leaders had successfully pushed for a Metro alignment that served the Wilson Blvd corridor and the Orange line opened in 1979, but a time traveler from 2024 would barely recognize anything above ground. Except for Tower Villas at Oakland and Wilson, no building was above four stories: 10th Street North was a row of used car lots; Ballston was a 1950s style strip mall called Parkington; Kann's Department Store and Virginia Square Shopping Center was about to close to become FDIC and the nucleus of GMU's Arlington campus, and Sears' auto and tire center spanned the property that is now Clarendon Common Market.

So, the world has changed, this region has changed, and our neighborhoods have changed. Arlington is lauded for the "smart growth" that has taken place along the Orange Line, and now the Ashton Heights Civic Association focuses on building heights, density, set-backs, tapering, native trees, parking requirements, roof top uses and noise. Urbanization - densification - has brought much good, but also much in the way of challenges to our local quality of life. Here are some:

Crime – while we are not a 'high crime' area. Crime is slowly edging up.

Continued on page 11

### Call for AHCA Executive Committee Nominations – Due by 6 p.m., Wednesday, May 8th

Once a year, the AHCA Officers and At-Large Executive Committee (ExCom) members are up for re-election. All positions are open for those "in good standing" as paid AHCA members (who live within Ashton Heights).

As of press time, we know we have one At-Large opening. Ken Matzkin, one of our longest and most esteemed members, is stepping down.

Scott Sklar has been serving as your AHCA President for 13 years now, so he is happy to step aside for some new blood when anyone wants to take "the plunge". Please send an email to: Ken Matzkin, AHCA Nominations Chair (kenmatz1@gmail.com) to list yourself as a candidate for any position (please specify) by Wed., May 8 at 6 p.m.

If you have questions, please contact Scott Sklar (<u>solarsklar@aol.com</u>) or any AHCA Officer of Executive Committee member listed on the inside page of this newsletter.

### Legislative Wrap Up II AHCA Monthly Meeting Wed., May 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, President and Committee reports
8:00 p.m.	Senator Barbara Favola. Clash of the titans between Senator Lucas and the governor on the proposed arena south of Crystal City, and the tax policy that's hotly debated. Arlington needs assistance from the state to improve service provision.
9:00 p.m.	Adjourn

### Legislative Wrap Up I May 8th at 7:30 p.m. Lyon Park Community Center

Our neighbors in Lyon Park have invited us to meet with them in a jointly sponsored legislative wrap up session with our new Delegate, Adele McClure. Triumphs and failures of the last session will be covered. Several bills passed, only to be vetoed. No consensus on the budget (yet) and the clock is ticking.

This is Lyon Park's regularly scheduled second Wednesday and takes place at the Lyon Park Community Center



Editor's Note: View the newsletter in <u>full color</u> at <u>www.ashtonheights.org</u>! We are on a summer hiatus and the next newsletter will be in September. Mark your calendar! Articles for the <u>September 2024</u> newsletter issue are due by August 23rd. Send submissions to: <u>amylmiller4@gmail.com</u>.

May 2024

### 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:

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

### Advertise with us!

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: <u>newsletterads@ashtonheights.org</u>.

Business card: \$60 1/4 page: \$85 1/2 page: \$145 Full page: \$245 Full back page: \$295 One page insert: \$325

### 2023-2024 AHCA Officers and Executive Committee

President Scott Sklar solarsklar@aol.com 703-522-3049

VP Programs Dave Schutz porgschu@verizon.net

VP Membership Jim O'Brien jimob1@verizon.net

**Treasurer** Doug Williams treasurer@ashtonheights.org Secretary Chris Armstrong carmstrong07@gmail.com

> Members at Large Margaret Beach mbetc@aol.com

Jim Richardson jabrichardson@verizon.net

David Phillips davidphillips1@msn.com

Ken Matzkin kenmatz1@gmail.com

### **Committees**

Arlington Neighborhood Program Christopher Horvath christopherhorvath@hotmail.com

> Development/Zoning Jack Spilsbury splisburyj@gmail.com

Alexander Tuneski atuneski@gmail.com

Historian Jim Terpstra terpstrajames2@gmail.com

Housing Matthew Hall mhall@goldsteinhall.com

Christina Schultz cmschultz@yahoo.com

**Playgrounds & Parks** Christopher Horvath christopherhorvath@hotmail.com

> Safety & Security Christina Schultz cmschultz@yahoo.com

Tree Canopy & Native Plants Brooke Alexander brooke.alexander52@gmail.com

> Transportation Patrick Lueb jiffy64@me.com

Schools Caroline Rogus crogus@gmail.com

Lori Faye Fischler lorifaye@gmail.com

Arlington School Rep Stacy Snyder stacyasnyder@yahoo.com

PFRC Career Center Polly Hall pollyhall40@gmail.com

**Newsletter Editor** Amy Miller amylmiller4@gmail.com

**Distribution** Bea Camp summercamp81@yahoo.com

> Julie Mangis jmmangis@aol.com

Advertising Chris Armstrong newsletterads@ashtonheights.org

> Listserv Moderator Betsey Lyon etlyon410@gmail.com

### The Subject was Ivy By Ann Felker

I looked for a Taylor Swift breakup song to match my feelings about removing the 75-year-old ivy that had obviously enclosed our brick patio since 1947. "Death by a Thousand Cuts" seems to be the best match, or maybe it is the most descriptive of the process involved in removing a dense thicket of thriving Hedera.

I succumbed to the incessant hints from friendly nature vigilantes that my healthy crop of glossy Ivy leaves was a neighborhood menace. In 1994, we bought the ivy...it is mortgaged, refinanced three times! We pruned it religiously, throughout its growing season. My husband has a wheeled gardening scooter that allows him, even as an octogenarian, to clip the 7-foot runners, tossing tendrils that would complement multiple wedding bouquets and wreath church windows if only it didn't wilt after a few hours.

The ivy crop actually helped us raise our many children. Pruning the ivy with scissors was a job that we gave to "bored" or "overactive" children who claimed there was nothing to do. When exuberant cuts created bare spots, we consoled the trimmer with assurance that, like a bad haircut, it will always grow back, actually with a vengeance.

Over the years, I used ivy pruning time to meditate – listening to the birdsong, ambulance sirens and helicopter motors, feeling the uncompromising solar power threatening my skin, watching storm clouds and pollen mist drone over my head —natureculture fusion. Each session with the pruners ended with both an overstuffed green bin and a deep admiration for the divinity that wove this thicket that kept my grandchildren from falling off the edge of the patio.

I mention the edge of the patio (see before and after photos to the right), because I realized, after I had cleared nine linear feet, that the leafy edge of the raised patio was no more. The ancient root system consisted of not only wispy vines but also obstinate roots, the diameter of a silver dollar embedded under the brick patio.

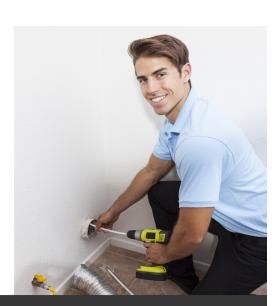
Removing an invasive species was going to be a multi chapter story – for now black gardeners' cloth, 100 aluminum pins and twenty bags of topsoil are being held back by seventeen granite boulders

formerly hidden by the ivy. I wonder whether anything I plant can hold back the grandchildren and overwhelm the ivy. Will a thousand cuts do the job?



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3

### Kiwanis Club Selling Blueberries Again this Year By Julie Mangis



The Kiwanis Club of Arlington is taking orders for 10-pound boxes of blueberries again this year. Healthful, nutritious and delicious, berries are expected to arrive in Arlington June 20 and be available for pick up June 21 and 22 in the Cherrydale Methodist Church parking lot at 3701 Lorcum Lane.

"They're so good you'll think you picked them yourself!" Arlington families rave about the plump, high-quality berries that are freshly-picked and trucked directly to Arlington from a family farm in New Jersey. Customers also have an option to purchase boxes of blueberries for donation to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) for distribution to Arlington's neediest families.

The cost for a 10-pound box is \$45, and orders may be placed online at <u>https://arlingtonvakiwanis.com/blueberries/</u>. Please consider adding a box or two for AFAC to your order and Kiwanis will deliver the berries directly to AFAC. Last year, more than a ton of blueberries were purchased for donation to AFAC.

Proceeds from blueberry sales benefit the Kiwanis scholarship program for Arlington high school graduates, and grants to non-profit organizations such as Arlington Thrive, Bridges to Independence, Doorways, The Salvation Army, National Capital Treatment & Recovery, VHC Pediatrics, Arlington YMCA, ASPIRE! After-School Learning, and many others. This is the eleventh year for Kiwanis blueberry sales!

### Interested in the County FREE Canopy Tree Giveaway?



Traditionally, the county Tree Canopy Fund (TCF) offering happens in June for fall 2024 planting. As of press time, no details are available. This program provides 6-10 foot tall native canopy trees for free, including planting.

If interested, please contact me, Brooke Alexander, Ashton Heights TCF Coordinator at <u>brooke.alexander52@gmail.com</u>. I will fill you in on details when available!



### **Calling for Nominations!**

The Meet Your Neighbor column is a popular one and we need your help. Do you know someone who we can feature in the fall? It's been a few issues since we've had a spotlight and it would be great to continue this column.

Please consider nominating yourself or a neighbor! Fill out the form at this link: <u>https://bit.ly/3RBQjsZ</u> or use the QR code below.

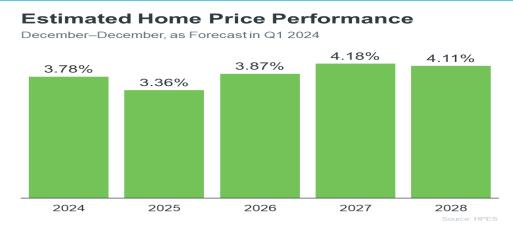


### Save the Date

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

- <u>The Armed Forces Cycling Classic</u> will be held June 1 and 2 in Clarendon and Crystal City. Kids 9 and under can participate in <u>free kids bike races</u>.
- <u>Free paper shredding</u> is held the 1st Saturday of every month (unless it's a holiday weekend) for Arlington County residents. Upcoming dates: May 4 and June 1.
- The Columbia Pike Blues Festival is back for its 27th year on June 15th.
- Acclaimed author, <u>Jesmyn Ward</u> will be at Arlington Central Library on May 14 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Be sure to register to attend this event.
- Participate in <u>*Climate Hope*</u>, an Arlington Art Truck activation. The project takes place over the course of several events throughout May. Contribute to a community created art project by writing a poem, pledge, or an illustration directly onto a hand woven 18-foot-long cotton sari that is from the artist's ancestral village in Bangladesh. The poems and pledges will complete the sari which has already been adorned with climate themed wood block prints. On the last day, the public can be a part of a procession with over 70 feet of saris through an Arlington neighborhood and by a waterway.
- Participate in <u>Arlington Unites 2024</u> on May 18 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. -- an event showcasing our shared commitment to building a stronger, more resilient community. Registration required.
- June 18th is a <u>Dual Primary Election Day</u>. First day of in person voting is May 3rd, last day to register or update your existing registration is May 28th. The last day to apply for a mail ballot is June 7th.

Each quarter, Fannie Mae and *Pulsenomics* publish the results of the *Home Price Expectations Survey* (HPES). It asks more than 100 experts—economists, real estate professionals, and investment and market strategists—what they think will happen with home prices. In the latest survey, experts say home prices are going to keep going up for the next five years (see graph below):



If you're thinking it's time to make your move, and you're ready and able to do so, buying now might make sense. Your home is expected to keep getting more valuable as prices go up. Let's team up to start looking for your next home today. Put my 39 years of experience to work for you!

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### DARK SKIES - Part 4 Energy and Climate By Brooke Alexander, Native Plant and Tree Canopy Coordinator



Light pollution wastes energy and money and damages the climate, according to DarkSky International. Lighting levels that are higher than necessary and light that shines when and where it is not needed is wasteful. Wasting energy has huge economic and environmental consequences.

DarkSky estimates that at least 30% of all outdoor lighting in the US is wasted, mostly by lights that are not shielded. According to them, that adds up to \$3.3 billion and the release of 21 million tons of carbon dioxide per year. To offset all that carbon dioxide, we'd have to plant 875 million trees annually.

DarkSky indicates that light pollution is reversible. They cite the City of Tucson, Arizona (population 500K) which upgraded its streetlights in 2018. By doing so, Tucson saves \$2.2 million per year in energy costs and reduced light pollution by 7%.

What can you do going forward? Follow the DarkSky Five Lighting Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting:

**1. Useful** – All light should have a clear purpose. Before installing or replacing a light, determine whether light is needed. Consider how the use of light will impact the area, including wildlife and the environment. Consider using reflective paints or self-luminous markers for signs, curbs, and

steps to reduce the need for permanently installed outdoor lighting.

**2. Targeted** – Light should be directed only to where it's needed. Use shielding and careful aiming to target the direction of the light beam so that it points downward and does not spill beyond where it is needed.

**3. Low level** - Illumination should be no higher than necessary. Use the lowest light level required. Be mindful of surface conditions, as some surfaces may reflect more light into the night sky than was intended.

**4. Controlled** – Light should be used only when it is useful. Use controls such as timers or motion detectors to ensure that light is available when it is needed, dimmed when possible, and turned off when not needed.

**5. Warm-colored** – Use warmer-color lights where possible. Limit the amount of shorter wavelength (blue-violet) light to the least amount needed. Light where you need it, when you need it, in the amount needed, and no more.

DarkSky.org approved lighting products are delineated here: <u>DarkSky Approved products | DarkSky International</u>. Select a better fixture for your application using this guide.

### Saturday, May 11 | 12:00 - 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
- Learn about growing roses from our rosarian
- See how honey is made from our beekeeper
- Get planting advice from the Tree Stewards of Arlington
- Enjoy delicious refreshments and more!

### columbiagardenscemetery.org

3411 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201 703.527.1235

### Recommended on the Ashton Heights Listserv

RECOMMENDED

Recently a neighbor asked for HVAC recommendations. Here's what companies received positive reviews:

- Arlington Heating and Air Conditioning
- TwinTech
- Brennan's Heating & Air
- Frosty's
- Nelson's HVAC
- Mann-In
- R&B, Inc.
- Comfort Zone Heating

So much happens in between issues of newsletters. Don't miss out on important information; subscribe to the Ashton Heights listerv today.

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

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### Monthly Recycling Tip By Amy Miller

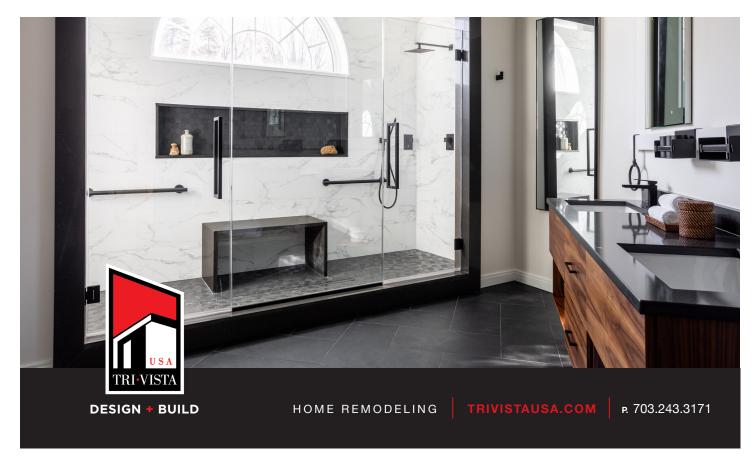
### Properly prepare all materials for collection!

Special collections (brush, metal and E-waste) all require separate requests, which can



be made <u>online</u>. One big thing I notice on trash days is that cardboard boxes are not being broken down. Be sure to break down your cardboard boxes and take the time to remove any packaging materials (ex: Styrofoam) so that the boxes can be recycled.

Condensed information from a Solid Waste Bureau flyer from 2023.



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### A Celestial Spectacle By Sara Guerrero, 6th grader at Gunston Middle School

This year, the world witnessed an astronomical wonder known as a solar eclipse. A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes in front of the sun, partially or totally blocking it from view. Many people gathered outside to watch the eclipse, or even traveled to see this celestial spectacle in its totality.

Solar eclipses happen very rarely in the same spot, but there is almost always one in a different part of the world. For example, there won't be another solar eclipse for twenty years in the US, but there will be one next year passing over parts of Spain, Morocco, and other countries. And, of course there will also be the lunar eclipses taking place.

This year, many people traveled to areas of the world where they could see the total eclipse. A total eclipse can be very different then a partial one, because when the moon completely covers the sun, it suddenly gets really dark, like at nighttime. Many animals fall asleep or start their after-dark behaviors, because they think that it's truly nighttime.

This year, we got to witness an astonishing event, a solar eclipse. However people decided to view this astronomical wonder, one thing is for sure, everyone was wowed at the sight of this solar eclipse, and can't wait until the next one.



### **Jackson Street Residents Rally for Safety Improvements** An interview with the Jackson Street Safety Coalition **Community Safety and Security Corner By Christing Schultz**

You may have noticed freshly painted yellow lines along North Jackson Street, leading up to and around the traffic circle at North 6th Street. Given the safety concerns along this street, several of our proactive neighbors formed the Jackson Street Safety Coalition (JSSC) through the support of the Ashton Heights Civic Association (AHCA) earlier this year to advocate with Arlington County for improved traffic measures. The JSCC is seeing a growing number of neighbors on Jackson Street engaged in this effort. I asked JSSC leaders to find out how those yellow lines got there.

#### What was the problem you were seeking to address?

The design of Ashton Heights neighborhood streets has not changed in over 30 years, despite the surrounding area growing denser and more diverse. As a result, our street, North Jackson Street (from Wilson Boulevard to Route 50) is seeing more and faster vehicles, along with larger trucks using the street as an artery rather than a neighborhood street. We have had a dramatic increase in the number of accidents and unruly driver-resident interactions. Compared to neighboring streets that have natural traffic calming features, ACPD data show that the 500 block of N. Jackson St sees a higher percentage of vehicles traveling over the posted speed limit (25% speeding vs. approximately 7% speeding on calmed streets), a higher overall speeding profile with more vehicles traveling at or near the speed limit, and even higher maximum speeds (55 MPH vs 44 MPH). This data came to head in April 2023, when a fast-moving car with a distracted and speeding driver, jumped the traffic circle destroying the front steps of a corner house causing \$20K in damage. Just days after this incident (one of many) when long-awaited reflective signs were installed at 6th and Jackson, an oversized truck crushed the traffic circle and the new safety signs.

#### How did you organize your neighbors to address this problem?

We began writing emails to the County Manager, Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) and the Department of Environmental Services (DES). We were so shocked at the limited response. Feeling a sense of urgency with the accelerated development of the Metro Corridor near Ashton Heights, including a new hotel and apartments (former Silver Diner site), multi-family "Expanded Housing Option" units, and George Mason University expansion, local residents formed the JSSC in conjunction with the Ashton Heights Civic Association. We then initiated a series of meetings with the ACPD and DES to create an evidence-based and evidence producing street design and infrastructure pilot to reduce traffic accidents and allow for safe and comfortable use by all users.

#### What was your request for safety measures along N Jackson St?

In early February 2024, the JSSC and AHCA submitted an improvement request to DES for working together to create a comprehensive short and long-term traffic safety plan. This included three proposed key interventions:

- 1. White stripping the street to better direct drivers and reduce traffic speed;
- 2. Limiting oversized trucks from using the street as a cut through; and
- 3. Traffic threshold installment speed bumps

What process have you gone through with County counterparts? Following this series of email communications and meetings with the County, the ACPD collected and presented speed and volume

data to the AHCA between April and August 2023. Both ACPD and DES attended an AHCA meeting in November 2023. This culminated earlier this year in the submission of our formal improvement request to DES. Despite the fact that the County had already designated the northern portion of N. Jackson Street near Wilson Boulevard for mitigation under the Safe Streets program, no action had been taken.

### What responses have you received from DES?

The response was rather lukewarm.

Following the submission of our traffic improvement request, DES

followed up a few weeks later with a letter outlining its engagement with AHCA. They said the county has many requests and will analyze specific requests as they fall within the queue. Citing the JSCC and other requests from the Ashton Heights neighborhood on streets and intersections with traffic safety concerns in its letter dated February 26, 2024, DES reported that "(t)he majority of these are categorized as 'intersection analysis', which implies a full study . . ." In addition, when citing how these issues are linked to the Vision Zero initiative, the DES clarified that "Vision Zero is not a limitless funding tool for us to deploy safety improvements immediately based on requests for action."

#### So then what's the story with the new lines?

Don't ask how or exactly why, but you will notice that DES painted yellow non-reflective lines around the traffic circle the day after the eclipse. No one received any prior communication. It was a surprise to us.

#### What's the next step for the JSCC?

We considered simply sitting back and waiting for the county to take some action - at some point they would be forced into action. Through various conversations, a number of examples were described where things got done because neighbors spoke with a united and committed voice. We were told unofficially that if we really want improvements, we should be vocal. While slowly things have begun to happen, this process has not progressed in the cooperative manner we had hoped for. We spoke with a few people who suggested we add a "signed petition" to our request and followup with DES and County Board members. The JSCC's intention is to pilot ideas on Jackson Street and demonstrate evidence of impact. These interventions could then be executed throughout Ashton Heights and Lion Park. Increased density requires a comprehensive regional strategy. To continue this initiative, we will need to work together. It would be great if we had at least 75% of the street residents behind our proposal. What a statement that would be!

For more information on or to get involved with the JSCC, please reach out to Peter Joyce at pjoyce0@gmail.com. Also stay tuned for the opportunity to attend future meetings.





### **SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024**

## 98TH ANNUAL LYON PARK SPRINGFAIR 11AM - 3PM

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## LYON PARK FOODTRUCK FESTIVAL 5PM - 8PM

New this year! Lyon Park will host a "RECYCLING PARADE" from 11am to 3pm.

Volunteers are needed for all events. Email **LyonParkEvents@gmail.com** if you can help!

### President's Column continued from page 1

Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change – the County has adopted an ambitious plan and has a solid set of activities to significantly reduce GHG emissions that had risen with more buildings and traffic.

Leaf Blowers – with more buildings crowded together and more people, there are now more amped up professional gasoline-powered leaf blowers in early morning and dinner time. Moves to constrain allowable times, and promoting use of rakes and battery-powered leaf blowers are being adopted by more and more US municipalities.

Night Time Noise: Bars, Restaurant and Traffic – AHCA now has a noise committee dealing with night time music from restaurants and bars, and also many complaints from cars without mufflers in the middle of the night. More cement and hard surfaces make sounds echo, while tree canopy (which we are losing) muffles the sound, block light, and reduce pollution.

Parking – around metro stops we have neighborhood parking on weekdays, but as more rentals and duplexes are available, overly crowded streets are happening throughout the county. Moves by the county to reduce parking in buildings, also exacerbates this problem. We need places friends, family, service workers, and consumers coming from outside Arlington coming to our homes and to our restaurants and stores have a place to park.

Parks, Playgrounds and Pets - as we grow the quality of open places for children, adults and pets to play, we are threatened. Off-leash dogs have become a problem. We need to work together to expand, preserve and broker use of our open spaces, safely and equitably.

Pollution – buildings are the biggest users of energy followed second by transportation. What comes out of our chimneys and tailpipes cause a huge amount of pollution that have huge negative impact on our health and well-being. Pollution harms wildlife, plants, and buildings and car. Higher density exacerbates these problems.

Preservation – we have a large and varied building stock, many beautiful old trees, and other artifacts of our past worth preserving. On our National Archives is emblazoned "What is Past, is Prologue". Ensuring preservation adds to our community identity.

School Crowding – it surprised the county some years back, but more than half the schools have out-buildings and trailers – as housing densifies, so will school attendance – more housing density will accelerate and exacerbate this problem.

Stormwater Management – significantly more construction and pavement leave higher-downpours of rain water with no place to go. Arlington has just established a new tax and some codes to help alleviate as well as and pushing trees and native plants to address the issue.

Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Safety – more cars = crowded roads, more pedestrian and bicycle accidents, and more noise. The county now bumps out sidewalks for shorter intersections crossings, and strobe lights for pedestrian crosswalks. A good

start! But, new approaches to reduce traffic speeds and redirect large trucks away from residential neighborhoods is seriously needed.

Tree Canopy – Arlington is losing tree canopy – the biggertaller buildings, bigger houses, and now duplexes are all contributing severely to this loss.

These twelve issues addressed above have intensified and have gotten worse directly due to densification. And, they may worsen, be moderated in the future, or stagnate. That is up to US.

I believe the goal of the Ashton Heights Civic Association and our other Arlington-based civic associations is to work to together to moderate, set boundaries, and interact with the county government, business community, and non-profits to ensure our quality of life, comfort, and safety & security of our families. It's no easy job, and I appreciate everyone's earnest efforts to steer us to a better future.

### **Prom Dress Drive Update** By Emma Abramson

The prom dress drive was a huge success! Our drive collected more than 40 dresses, suits, and accessories, all generously donated to Formals for Five.

Formals for Five offers students in Arlington Public Schools the chance to shop for gently pre-loved formal wear, including dresses, tuxedos, shoes, and accessories (each priced at just \$5)! The students running "Formals for Five" were so excited to see the generous support from Ashton Heights and Lyon Park. Throughout the prom dress drive, I was able to see many students styling new outfits and feeling confident to rock it at prom.

Seeing countless students holding prom dresses around school made me so happy and shows what the collective efforts our neighborhoods can truly do. I am so thankful to all the donors, not only within our neighborhood but across all of Arlington, who contributed to Formals for Five.



### SEEKING: Stormwater Mentors for Ashton Heights

Do you have expertise in any of these areas that you are willing to share with others in Ashton Heights? Rain barrels, tree planting, conservation landscaping (with native plants), rain garden (with native plants), permeable driveway



The Ashton Heights Stormwater Committee

is setting up a peer-to-peer learning network so neighbors can help each other reduce flooding damage and reduce stormwater pollution reaching the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay. Please contact us if you can mentor your neighbors in any of these areas.

The county's stormwater <u>website</u> and <u>stormwater manual</u> have lots of details, including webinars and workshops, on designing and installing each of these items. (These are useful whether you choose to apply for a rebate or not.)

### Ashton Heights Stormwater Committee

Christine Lewicki, Chair, <u>chris22203@gmail.com</u> Margaret Beach, Member, <u>mbetc@aol.com</u> Brooke Alexander, Member, <u>brooke.alexander52@gmail.com</u>

### **Spring Egg Hunt Recap** By Paul Showalter (Lyon Park)

What does bags of candy, plastic eggs, lots of hands and time get you? A fun day in the park, that's what. Numerous volunteers spent hours stuffing candy into 3500 little plastic eggs for our annual Spring Egg Hunt in the Park. And what a day in the park it was.

Lyon Park was full of kids (and parents) having fun (and collecting thousands of eggs in a hurry). We hope you were able to join us. If you watch the videos of the event posted online, you will laugh. They are hilarious.

Thank you to my amazing team of volunteers (young and slightly older) – without you, the event would not have been possible. Special thanks to Kim Franklin, who helped stuff more than 1,300 eggs and for providing the incredibly positive energy I needed.

These are the types of events that make Lyon Park special and a true asset for our community. Please step up and get involved in our next big event, the Lyon Park Spring Fair.











Rebecca Reynolds MSN/L.Ac. 4141 N. Henderson Rd. (#14) Arlington, VA 22203 401-533-2790

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