



Ashton Heights News

www.ashtonheights.org

April 2025

We Have Challenges, But We Can Handle It

By Scott Sklar, President, AHCA

At our March AHCA meeting, Arlington County Board Chairman Takis Karantonis laid out the challenges and issues before the county. Commercial space is 20% empty, close to 30,000 Arlington residents are out of jobs (federal workers, federal contractors, and low age workers), and there is lower tourism.

Atop of that sobering scenario, AHCA's chair of the Tree Canopy and Native Plants Committee, Brooke Alexander, went over a digital map of Ashton Heights-Lyon Park which shows 'tree canopy' is down while old canopy has expanded. Our quality of life, at many levels requires us to turn this downward trend around.

On a higher level, as our national politics changes direction, greenhouse gas emissions are going to go up – summers hotter, winters more extreme, and rains becoming more torrential. Which in turn brings higher energy bills, more water damage, negative changes on our trees-gardens-flora, along with severe impacts on wildlife. As a county along with our other local government partners, we are all

going to need to march together and take the lead.

And with all these stressors, on a personal level, we need to be more appreciative of one another. Pay greater attention to our kids, spouses, relatives, friends, neighbors, work colleagues – actually with all levels within our community – from home workers, delivery people, restaurant servers, healthcare aides, cashiers, teachers, and beyond. As a community, we need to be better attuned, supportive, sensitive, and agile.

Believe me, I am optimistic – communities working together can move mountains. Most change happens at the local level. I want to challenge you to suggest efforts, programs, campaigns, educational events, or just get together that the Ashton Heights Civic Association (AHCA) can launch, implement, or host. Sometimes joining together creates opportunities and helps leverage and catalyze other opportunities.

Let's use these challenges and drivers for new opportunities as well as provide some introspection and time to appreciate our families, coworkers, neighbors, and our communities that make our lives richer Happy Spring 2025!

AHCA Monthly Meeting Wed., April 16, 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

**** This is updated information from the print version. Congressman Don Beyer and Adele McClure will be the speakers at our April meeting. ****

7:45 p.m. Congressman Don Beyer will provide an update and take questions on federal legislative and executive branch actions.

8:15 p.m. Adele McClure our Virginia State Delegate will provide an update on the recently completed legislature session and its potential effect on Arlington.

9:00 p.m. Adjourn

Call for AHCA Executive Committee Nominations

Nominate yourself for any position by e-mail to Celia Slater at cecelia.slater@gmail.com by 6 p.m., Wednesday, May 14, 2025.

AHCA members attending our May 21st membership meeting at the Clarendon United Methodist Church Social Hall will vote on the slate(s) as reported by the AHCA Nominations Chair. This vote shortly after we start the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Any AHCA member in good standing can run for any spot. The following people are up for re-election.

Officers:

- President - Scott Sklar
- VP Programs - Dave Schutz
- VP Membership - Jim O'Brien
- Treasurer - Doug Williams
- Secretary - Chris Armstrong

At-Large:

- Margaret Beach
- David Phillips
- Jim Richardson
- Open

To check that you are up-to-date on dues, to be qualified to run, please e-mail the AHCA VP of Membership, Jim O'Brien at jimob1@verizon.net.

If you plan to run, please submit your intention by e-mail to Celia Slater at cecelia.slater@gmail.com.

PS from Scott: I have been your AHCA President for quite along time - 14 years - so I am **very open** and happy to have anyone step into this role.



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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2024- 2025 AHCA Officers and Executive Committee

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Featured Tree: A Middle-Aged Sycamore Tree

By Brooke Alexander, Native Plant and Tree Canopy Committee Chair

Our inspiration this month is Jason Daly (pictured with his featured Sycamore tree). He and his wife, Krista Maizel, moved to Ashton Heights in 2007. They took temporary custody of the Sycamore tree in their front yard. The tree was tall when they moved in, but has grown in girth in the last 18 years. Since Sycamores typically live 200 years, they could one day pass it onto another family. Meanwhile, it is a wonderful contribution to our canopy!

Jason has done a terrific job caring for his Sycamore tree, and it is in excellent health. He waters it during droughts, even though it's a big tree. He's allowed the roots to grow where they need to grow with some roots on top of the soil. He only adds mulch on top of the roots; no soil has been added. (Roots of some tree species are deeper than others; Sycamore have shallow roots.) As you can see in the photos, Jason has mulched a large area surrounding the tree trunk (and note that no mulch touches the trunk).

The tree was limbed up as it grew so that the large branches are above the high-powered electric lines; this eliminates Dominion Power mutilating the tree! Also note the strong root flares where the tree meets the earth. These root flares stabilize the tree; they grow in response to the tree swaying

in the wind. So let your trees sway and they grow stronger!



In addition to this featured Sycamore tree, Jason and Krista have added 2 Tree Canopy Fund (TCF) trees to their yard; a black gum in the back yard, and a swamp white oak to the right of their driveway. They and their 2 girls, Kate (16) and Maggie (13) live at 3718 4th Street North. Walk by this summer when the Sycamore is in full leaf, and enjoy the shade. Thank you, Jason and Krista, for your contributions to our tree canopy.



Spring FLING

Saturday, May 10 | 12:00 - 3:00 pm
Columbia Gardens Cemetery Grounds

Fun activities for children and adults:

- Paint a rock for a Mother's Day gift
- Meet our rosarian for rose growing tips
- See how honey is made and put on a beekeeper suit
- Get planting advice from the Tree Stewards of Arlington
- Play a game of cornhole
- Refreshments served

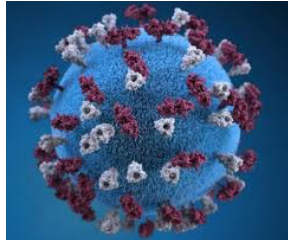


columbiagardenscemetery.org | 3411 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201 | 703.527.1235

Measles 2025

By Linda Scott, MSHA RN

With measles in the news, being informed is your first line of defense. Measles, more specifically rubeola, is a highly contagious viral infection. It is caused by Morbillivirus and primarily spreads through airborne means of droplets from cough or sneeze.



Symptoms may include runny nose, red eyes, cough, high fever, and a pinky-red blotchy rash on face and trunk. A person may be infected with measles for 7-14 days before any of these symptoms appear. This is one of the reasons measles is a disease of high concern—sick people are spreading virus for up to 2 weeks not knowing they are sick. Also, this virus is highly communicable!

Do you recall the R-factor we learned about during the COVID-19 pandemic—this is a “measure of contagiousness”. For comparison of measles with a few other known illnesses, see the table below. The higher the R factor, the more people one sick person is likely to infect.

R factor (how many people likely to be infected by one ill person)			
Flu 1-2	COVID 2-3	Rubella 6-7	Measles 12-18

Those most vulnerable to developing a measles infection are pre-vaccinated babies, and elders or others with immune compromise.¹ Like most viral illnesses, there is no treatment or cure. Supportive care, like fluids, rest, acetaminophen or ibuprofen for fever, help reduce symptoms. Serious complications such as pneumonia or encephalitis require hospitalization. These can lead to permanent disability or death.

Prior to development of an effective vaccine in 1963, most kids in the US got measles before the age of 15. Some had serious complications including death. In 1971, the measles vaccine was combined with vaccines for mumps and rubella; kids today receive 2 doses of MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine, the first at age 12-15 months, and then between age 4-6. Post MMR, you can expect 97% chance of lifetime immunity. Before 1963, there were 4 million cases of measles annually, with 8 thousand deaths annually. Since MMR, measles deaths have dropped 99%.

Measles was actually declared eradicated in the US in 2000. Since 2010, cases have been increasing probably due to declining vaccination rates in some communities, and international travel bringing cases into the US. People born before 1957 are presumed immune due to experiencing childhood measles, and those people who know or have records of completing their two-

dose measles or MMR series can presume they are immune to measles. With measles in the DMV, if you’re in a high-risk group, which includes those traveling internationally, or working in health care, or if you are unsure about your status, talk to your medical provider. You can get an MMR booster NOW, and/or get a blood test which can determine your immunity level. There are few contraindications for this vaccine, and few side effects confirmed through research.

¹Rubella is another type of measles, sometimes called German measles, Rubi virus. It is milder, less severe and with fewer complications, though EXTREMELY dangerous to pregnant women due to congenital rubella syndrome.

Arlington Bunny Hop

April 26, 2025 at 8 a.m.
Running to help others!

**Register today for
the annual
Arlington Bunny Hop 5K**
Visit www.arlingtonbunnyhop.org

Stay for the block party afterwards with activities for all ages! There will be live music, a bounce house, face painting and so much more.

** The Arlington Bunny Hop has raised over \$131,000 for Arlington charities. Sign up today to participate in this great event! **

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JOIN US FOR THE ARLINGTON BUNNY HOP 5K!

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SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH AT 8AM
CLARENDON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Don't Miss Out – The Lyon Park Plant Sale is April 19

One of spring's not-to-be missed events is the annual Lyon Park Plant Sale which supports maintenance of the Lyon Park Community Center.

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 19th from 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.** Once again we'll have lots of mostly native plants grown in neighborhood gardens, including perennials, annuals, houseplants, veggies and herbs. We'll be under the big tent in the park, rain or shine! Most plants will sell for \$5.00.

Please consider potting up and labeling some of your favorites to donate to the Plant Sale. (Please don't donate plants on Arlington's invasive plant list. Check this link if you're not sure: <https://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2013/10/Invasive-Plant-List-2-19-15.pdf>.) We can only sell what our neighbors donate, so please be as generous as you have in the past. Donations should be brought to the park by 10:00 a.m. on the 19th.

"DIG-YOUR-OWN," hosted by Deborah Barber, the creator and steward of the wonderful gardens around the Lyon Park Community Center, is back this year. The beautiful native plants will be in full bloom, and you can dig some for your garden during the plant sale. Deborah and volunteers will guide diggers to the areas that are available for digging. Plants

are \$5.00 per shovelful, \$1.00 per seedling. Please bring pots or newspaper for your choices.

Interested in volunteering for the sale or Dig-Your-Own event? We'll begin set up around 9:00 a.m. and can always use extra hands to put up the tent, set up tables, arrange plants and take it all down at 2:00 p.m. Questions? Contact Susan Bell at sibell703@outlook.com



How NOAA Benefits Our Community

Community Safety and Security Corner

By Christina Schultz

Another critical federal office is facing drastic cuts that could endanger our neighborhood wellbeing. Project 2025, the Heritage Foundation's guide for systemically reshaping the federal government, proposes to dismantle the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). It recommends the privatization of many of NOAA's essential functions, several of which are congressionally mandated. The Trump Administration's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) is implementing the steps outlined in Project 2025 (see box for example). By early March, 1,300 NOAA staff members, which represents about 10% of its workforce, were fired. More layoffs are expected. In addition, scientists have been censored, budget threats are looming, and confidential and property data have been compromised.

What is NOAA? NOAA is the scientific and regulatory agency whose mission is "to provide science-based solutions through collaborative partnerships to address evolving economic, environmental, and social pressures on our Great Lakes, ocean, and coasts" (NOAA website). It traces its history back to multiple agencies and was officially established in 1970 under President Richard Nixon. The agency is housed within the Department of Commerce and is headquartered in Silver Spring, Maryland. NOAA has offices, labs, and other facilities in every state and territory, and overseas. Using evidence-based data, it is responsible for forecasting weather, monitoring oceanic and atmospheric conditions, charting the seas, conducting deep-sea exploration, and managing fishing and protection of marine mammals and endangered species in the US exclusive economic zone. The agency's services touch even the most unexpected corners of our lives.

How does NOAA keep us safe? NOAA provides critical weather information, forecasting life-threatening storms and weather events which enables communities to prepare for destructive weather patterns, like wildfires, tornadoes, and flash floods. The agency also collaborates with cities and counties to plan for the impacts of climate changes in an effort to enhance community resilience and preserve ecosystems. For every dollar invested in disaster resilience, NOAA's climate information has helped companies and communities avoid \$13 in economic losses from extreme weather.

Beyond its own work, NOAA collaborates with the Department of Defense to protect military assets, plan operations, provide global weather forecasts, and inform resource management. With the US Coast Guard, NOAA combats illegal fishing and human trafficking. NOAA even monitors solar activity and space weather that can disrupt power disrupt electric power transmission, radio and satellite communications, and global navigation. When you take

a flight, it's NOAA that provides aviation weather forecasts to ensure that your flight arrives safely and smoothly at its destination.



How does NOAA keep up healthy?

NOAA ensures the safety and sustainability of seafood by inspecting fish and shellfish, certifying the seafood trade, managing fisheries, and protecting marine species. Next time you go to the beach, think about how NOAA's forecasting and monitoring protects you from oil and chemical spills, red tides, high surf and tsunamis, and plastics and marine debris. As you lie in the sun, remember that it's NOAA that gives you the UV index report. And NOAA doesn't just keep us humans healthy: its research prevents invasive aquatic species and protects healthy ocean habitats for endangered animals like whales, dolphins, and turtles.

How does NOAA help the economy? A vast number of industries rely on NOAA's services. Farmers rely on NOAA's seasonal outlooks and drought monitoring to help determine what and when to plant and harvest. The U.S. maritime industry supports over two million jobs and contributes \$500 billion annually, with NOAA playing a key role in conservation and restoration efforts that protect coastal habitats and enhance resilience.

NOAA's services improve marine navigation, port and harbor safety, and the efficiency of ocean energy production, while minimizing environmental impacts. Through its New Blue Economy initiative, NOAA leverages technology and data to boost economic growth and address societal challenges. Additionally, NOAA's research on ecological events -- such as coral bleaching and fish stock shifts -- supports coastal communities and industries dependent on marine resources. Gutting NOAA puts communities, businesses, property, and ecosystems at risk. Without NOAA's free weather information, you might even have to pay a subscription to find out whether you need to grab an umbrella before leaving the house.

How DOGE is making NOAA more "efficient"

"(N)o contracts may be initiated or extended without sign-off from the commerce secretary, creating a bottleneck. One NOAA contract that expires soon is for maintenance and repair of the all-hazards weather radio network, which broadcasts tornado warnings and watches, among other life-and-death alerts. The contract has been stuck in limbo, just as an already-deadly tornado season is getting underway."
Catherine Rampell, Washington Post, March 22, 2025



Editor's Note: View the newsletter in **full color** at www.ashtonheights.org! If you have an idea for an article, reach out, we'd love to have you. Articles for the last issue before the summer hiatus – the **May 2025** newsletter issue – are due by **April 25th**. Send submissions to: amylmiller4@gmail.com. We appreciate you.

Book Review: *American Nations and Union* by Colin Woodard

By M. Miller

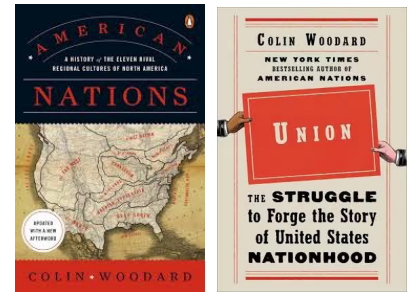
Are you trying to understand the *why* behind today's headlines, chyrons, posts, and posters? Are you willing to read more non-fiction in an actual book? If so, you might consider two relatively recent books by a Mainer named Colin Woodard. Woodard offers a new approach to thinking about our country that gives historical context to what we're seeing.

American Nations was published in 2011, not so long ago and yet a distant past. It proposes that the United States is actually comprised of eleven "nations" (groups sharing beliefs and attitudes) that started during initial settlement by Europeans, absorbed and shaped later migrations, and expanded to cover the country today. Two of those nations, incidentally, cross our national borders north and south; Virginia is split between two, and the nation that Arlington is part of, "Tidewater" is static, its power to shape national events in decline. The interests and perspectives of these cultures have shaped our history, government and society and the ripples can be felt even today. Woodard's thesis suggests that talking about red states and blue states ignores ancient factors at play today.

In Woodard's telling, cooperation among these disparate groups, first to eject the British and then to establish a permanent political union, is somewhat astonishing. Woodard has the audacity to define the influence of these nations down to the county level, but backs it up with fact-

based historical research.

Woodard surveys the "myth of U.S. national unity" in *Union*, published in 2020, tracing its evolution from the early nineteenth century, when first-hand awareness of the Revolution was dying with the founders. Woodard tells his story through detailed sketches of several historical figures - focusing most on a Yankee historian, a Southern author, and an escaped mid-Atlantic slave to tell us how we collectively wrote and rewrote what kids today would call our origin story.



Let's be very clear: this isn't Bridgerton-level escape, but it is approachable and sometimes shockingly relevant to what you are seeing in your feed. By the way, if you have renounced physical books or are looking for just a little more, maybe with a helping of data journalism, Colin's got you covered! Check out The Pell Center's Nationhood Lab (<https://www.nationhoodlab.org/>) for regular essays on how what data (census, election, income, etc) looks like seen through an American Nations lens.

If you don't see either book in your nearest Little Free Library, fret not - both are available at the Arlington County Library!



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Come One – Come All!

Help with our 2025 Canopy Tree Planting Blitz

By Brooke Alexander, Native Plant and Tree Canopy Committee Chair



The County Board has 12 elements of the Comprehensive Plan for Arlington. The Comprehensive Plan guides development in Arlington. One of these elements is the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP) which was adopted recently by the County Board. In it, the goal of 40% average tree canopy in Arlington County was adopted.

The Ashton Heights tree canopy as of 2023 was 36%. That is 115 acres.

How many more trees does Ashton Heights need in order to get back to a 40% canopy?

Ashton Heights would need an increase of 13 acres of canopy in order to meet the 40% average goal set by the County Board for the county.

However, there are many developed areas in Arlington which would never be able to reach this 40% goal. Recognizing this, the low-density residential areas of Arlington (which is where most Arlington trees are) must carry a higher percentage in order for the county to meet its 40% goal overall. The Metropolitan Council of Governments (MW COG) publication "Conserving Trees and Forests in Metropolitan Washington"

looked at the region and how to obtain the regional goals. To do that, they recommend that low density residential areas, like Ashton Heights, carry a canopy of 55%.

How many more trees would Ashton Heights need to get to 55% tree canopy ?

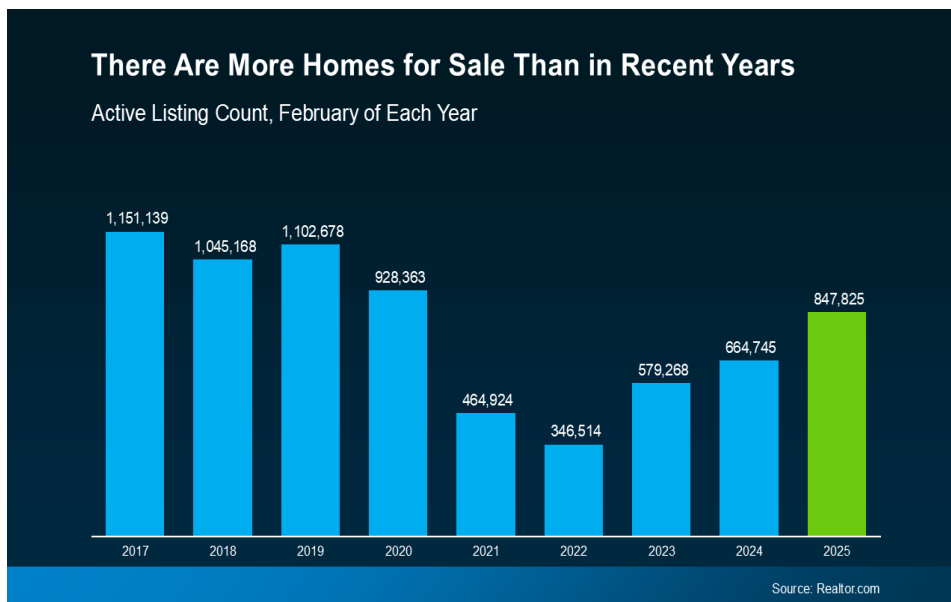
Ashton Heights would need an increase of 61 acres of canopy in order to meet the 55% tree canopy goal that the MW COG says is needed to meet the regional canopy goals.

I hope that many of you will join me in the ambitious goal of adding one canopy tree to each household in Ashton Heights. That would be 1,200 trees. Please look at your property. Talk with your neighbors. Look at all the wonderful things trees do for us (opposite page) And sign up to help as you can!

If you are not on the [Ashton Heights listserv](#), and would like to be kept informed about our 2025 Tree Planting Blitz, please sign up for our weekly updates. Contact Brooke at brooke.alexander52@gmail.com.

The number of homes for sale this February was higher than it's been in any of the past five Februaries – and that's great news for buyers. The graph below uses the latest data from *Realtor.com* to show the supply of homes on the market has [grown by 27.5%](#) in just the last year throughout the US.

Put my 40 years of local real estate experience in your neighborhood to work for you. We can discuss your situation, questions and best options.



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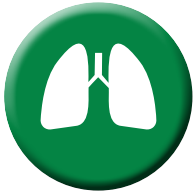
THE BENEFITS OF TREES!

Trees help keep us and our environment healthy.



Heart Healthy

Spending time around trees can reduce the stress-related hormones cortisol and adrenaline, and lower blood pressure.



Cleaner Air

Leaves filter particulates from the air, making green spaces healthier places to exercise. In urban areas, higher street tree density is associated with lower rates of childhood asthma.



Improved Water Quality

When it rains, tree roots intercept stormwater and reduce soil and nutrients from washing into local waterways. Just one mature deciduous tree can intercept 500 to 760 gallons of stormwater per year.



Improved Health

Patients with exposure to trees and gardens have faster recovery times. New mothers who live near denser tree canopy are more likely to have babies of healthy birth weight.



Improved Quality of Life

Trees help create beautiful and pleasant spaces to live, work and play, so staying healthy and happy is easy!



Healthy Foods

Fruits and nuts from trees have great nutrition to keep you healthy and provide food for wildlife too!



Energy Savings

Trees shade buildings, lowering cooling costs in the summer. On a hot day, a home that is 50% shaded by dense trees uses 14% less energy than one in full sun.



Reduced Heat Extremes

Trees help cool down hot city surfaces and lower the risk of heat stroke. In one study, areas with tree cover of 5% or higher had an 80% reduction in heat-related ambulance calls.



Local Wood Source

When neighborhood trees need to be removed, their wood can be reused to make furniture, art, and other long-lasting products with special meaning to your community.

Virginia Department of Forestry, PST006, 12/2019

Block Party Anyone? By Sarah Frances Fridrich

As the days grow warmer and even the most reclusive of us can't help but wander outside, I am planning to talk to the neighbors on my block about having a Block Party. Now, you may think this is because I know all my neighbors really well and we are a tight-knit block. But, I have to say, it's quite the opposite!

Many of our neighbors are friendly enough that we share a wave "hello" on occasion. But, would I be able to call on any of them for assistance or to offer support in a crisis? I do have a few phone numbers, and we are quite close to our shared driveway neighbors. Beyond that, I would say that I have no idea about who my neighbors are. And, it's not anyone's fault. Everyone's lives are busy and we are all pretty self-sufficient, independent, and blessed as (relatively) high-earning households. But, the upheaval of Covid and now the rapid changes at the Federal Government (the area's biggest employer), has brought to light a vulnerability in our community.

In difficult times, hyper-independence can give way to the anxiety of feeling isolated. When large numbers of citizens are stressed out, all at the same time, tension around and uncertainty about community health & safety put a strain on each of us, individually, but also collectively, as a neighborhood. Most experts on managing stress now recognize that resilience and a sense of community (some kind of meaningful connectedness to others) is a powerful antidote to isolation and stress.

Which brings me back to the block party idea! Block Party, Anyone?

Block Parties used to happen more organically, I believe. Today, like many things, such gatherings take effort and attention. Even before covid, the transitoriness and "Internet way of life" we live has kept us inside our home-life bubbles and less connected to our surroundings, including the people who live on our block, just steps away from us.

It is my hope that this article will provide enough information about how to throw a Block Party in Arlington County that more of my fellow Arlingtonians will plan and enjoy this fun and relaxed way to get to know their close by neighbors, thus organically building more resilience and trust in our community!

Now, because I've filled out the "block party permit application" a few times before, most recently for my kid's birthday - *the kids*



LOVED riding bikes and running in the blocked off street, by the way!
- I have included some of the main steps you need to take to plan your Block Party:

Step 1: Pick a date AND a rain-date for the event. BOTH are needed for the permit application. (If you have a friend on your block, I suggest working with them to find a date convenient to both of you, so you can co-host the event.)

Step 2: Pick a theme! Other than the usual national holidays – when, frankly, many people around here travel out-of-town – here are some other themes for hosting a block party:

- "Meet Your Neighbors"
- "Tree Planting Party"
- "Sing-a-long Pot-luck"
- "Birthdays of the Month"
- "Gardens and Grills"

This year, I'm hoping to get some neighbors involved in the Ashton Heights Tree Planting Blitz by organizing a Tree Planting Block Party!

Step 3: Apply for a County "Block Party" permit online. Here are some key steps:

- Get an Arlington County Resident "account", which is used for all Arlington County services, if you don't already have one - you probably do!
- Fill out the "[Block Party Permit Application](#)" Block Party Permit.**
- Mark-up a screenshot of your block from google maps (required on the application)
- Pay your fees. The block party permit cost is approximately \$45 and the traffic barrier rental fee is approximately \$36. (Last year in October, I paid about \$89 total.)

Step 4: Make a flyer about your event - a simple invite email, or a paper invite, especially if you don't have all your neighbors' emails; I sure don't.

Step 5: Distribute flyers/invites 1 month to 2 weeks in advance. (NOTE: Per county rules you MUST inform ALL neighbors on block a minimum of **48 hours** before the event. Once, I was late telling neighbors and I got some upset texts the night before. So, I recommend you drop a note on your neighbors' doorsteps as soon as your permit is approved!)

Step 6: Plan and prep as you would for any party, BBQ, or potluck. (NOTE: It's helpful to have a buddy hosting with you. But also, if you keep it simple by making it just a "meet your neighbor" event the planning can be simple and fun!)

**Go to: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Residents> and click on the [Permit Library: Permit & Application Types](#) card and you will find yourself on the [Permit Library: Permit & Application Types](#) page. Then, scroll to "Food & Events" and click on "Block Party Permit", which will take you to the [Block Party Permit](#) page. Click on: [Block Party Permit Application](#) which will take you to a page that asks you for your sign-in info. You can sign-up for a county account then, or sign-in to the one you already use for all other county services.

Timeline Information:

- A Block Party Permit application must be completed and submitted **5 days before the event**. (I recommend applying for the permit as soon as you are sure you want

to have the gathering and you know what date you want to have it! You'll want to send out invites to give people lots of notice anyway!)

- Once you receive your permit, you must inform all residents on your block about the road closure **48 hours before the event**. (Note: They will still be legally allowed to come and go from their dwellings/driveways. But, it is a courtesy to let them know that what time the cones will be up blocking through traffic.)

Cost Information:

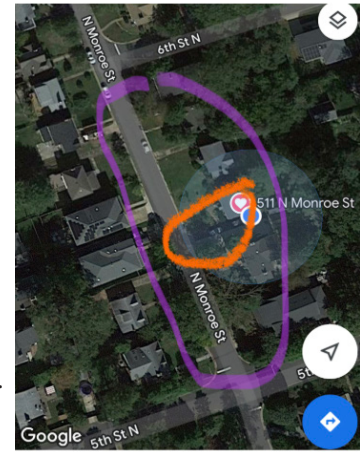
- As of March 1, 2025, the permit fee was \$43.
- Additionally, traffic cones are required. If you don't have the right kind - which you probably don't - then you can rent the cones (and they will be delivered) from the County. "Barricades" rental fee is about \$38 for 6 cones (required).
- A small additional fee was about \$8.
- In 2024, I paid \$89. It's been around that much each year. One year I split it with one neighbor. Pretty reasonable cost for having your street essentially turned into one big front yard for a day! (*Just remember to keep grills and tents out of the right-of-way, in case an emergency vehicle has to get to one of your houses!*)

Extra Information:

You will need to upload a "Map of Block Party" image file, which can just be a screen-shot of your block on google maps, and the area circled. (I used the basic image edit program on my computer to draw a crude circle around our block.) Here's what I use every time I do the application:

A couple things to know about the county's block party permit parameters:

- Technically, you can't have anything on the street that would block the street, like a grill or tables. The spirit of the "law/regulation" is that emergency vehicles can still get down your street, if need be. So, just keep that in mind!
- While the county traffic cones are used to prevent vehicles from driving down your street, residents who live on the block are still permitted vehicular access to their homes. The idea is, block neighbors can move the cones to get their cars in and out, but random, through traffic will be averted. Thus, the street is much safer for people to mill about and kids to run around, or ride bikes. Personal note: One year there was quite a spirited water balloon battle in the street during our block party. (Nowadays, one can buy reusable water balloons, which is nice because you won't have to worry about picking up tiny bits of balloon before rain washes them into our sewer system and towards our Potomac River watershed.)



Arlington Historical Society Reopens with New Exhibits After Extensive Renovations

By Bethany Baker, Arlington Historical Museum Director



The [Arlington Historical Society \(AHS\)](#), founded in 1956, is dedicated to preserving and sharing Arlington's rich history. After a yearlong renovation, the AHS Museum, housed in the historic Hume School (built in 1891), will reopen on **May 3, from 10 AM to 4 PM**, featuring all-new exhibits under the theme *Rediscovering History*. As part of the restoration, all of the historic windows were carefully repaired and re-installed, continuing the Society's mission to preserve and protect the building.

AHS is thrilled to invite the community to visit and explore the new exhibits that highlight Arlington's fascinating past.

AHS is proud to introduce a new exhibit as part of our Rediscovering History theme: Memorializing the Enslaved. Memorializing the Enslaved is an ongoing project started by AHS and the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington. This exhibit highlights the project and its efforts to shed light on the lives of enslaved individuals who lived and labored in Arlington, honoring their contributions and resilience. Through historical records, artifacts, and personal stories, the project seeks to ensure that their voices are acknowledged and remembered as part of Arlington's complex history.

AHS also owns and operates the **Ball-Sellers House** (5620 3rd St. S, Arlington, VA), Arlington's oldest surviving structure. This historic gem has been under the Society's care for 50 years and will reopen for the season on **April 5 from 1 PM to 4 PM**.

Visit us at the **Arlington Historical Museum**, located at 1805 S. Arlington Ridge Road, and the Ball-Sellers House and rediscover Arlington's history. Follow us on [social media](#) to stay updated on upcoming programs and events.

Both museums are always FREE and the Arlington Historical Society relies on the generosity of donations.

Friends of the Arlington Public Library Spring Book Sale

The [Friends of the Arlington Public Library book sale](#) will take place **April 3–6, 2025** at the Central Library in the garage. Specialty books can be found in the Quincy room inside of the library on the main level.

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

Thursday, April 3rd is [FOAL member night](#).

Friday, April 4th and Saturday, April 5th are open to the general public. Sunday, April 6th is open to the general public and is half-price day on books.

If you're a teacher or librarian, be sure to stop by with your school ID and get 50% off your book purchase on Friday and Saturday.

Full details about the book sale can be found here: <https://arlingtonlibraryfriends.org/about/faqs/>



Join us at the Lyon Park Community Center on Saturday, April 19 at 11am, for our annual **SPRING EGG HUNT**

Lyon Park will be filled 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!

Remember to bring a basket or bag to collect your eggs.

Arrive by 10:45am so you don't miss all of the festivities.

Bring your camera and get a photo with our giant Peep!



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Move-in or Move-out

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Save the Date – Upcoming Events

Here are just a few events coming up in our area. Underlined events are links in the online version.

- The [National Cherry Blossom Parade](#) is on April 12.
- So many Earth Day events! Check out all that is taking place in Arlington (<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Sustainability/Earth-Day-Events>), plus [Earth Day at The Wharf](#) and a celebration at the [Anacostia Community Museum](#).
- The [Arlington Festival of the Arts](#) takes place April 26-27 in Clarendon.
- The [LAC Studios Spring Show and Sale](#) will take place on Saturday, May 3. The studios are not usually open to the public, so check this is an opportunity to see some beautiful art.
- Free [paper shredding and inert materials drop-off](#) takes place on Saturday, May 3.
- The [Capital Pride Parade](#) will take place on June 7 and the Capital Pride Street Festival on June 7 and 8.

KIDS, INC.

Our local youth are ready to help when the household hands are not enough. If you would like to be added to this list, please send updates to Ann Felker: gr8est9@gmail.com. Include your child's name, birth year, contact information and list the jobs that they are interested in being contacted for hire.



Dog walking



Pet sitting



Babysitting



Leaf raking



Plant watering



Yard work



Snow shoveling



Parents helper



Technology



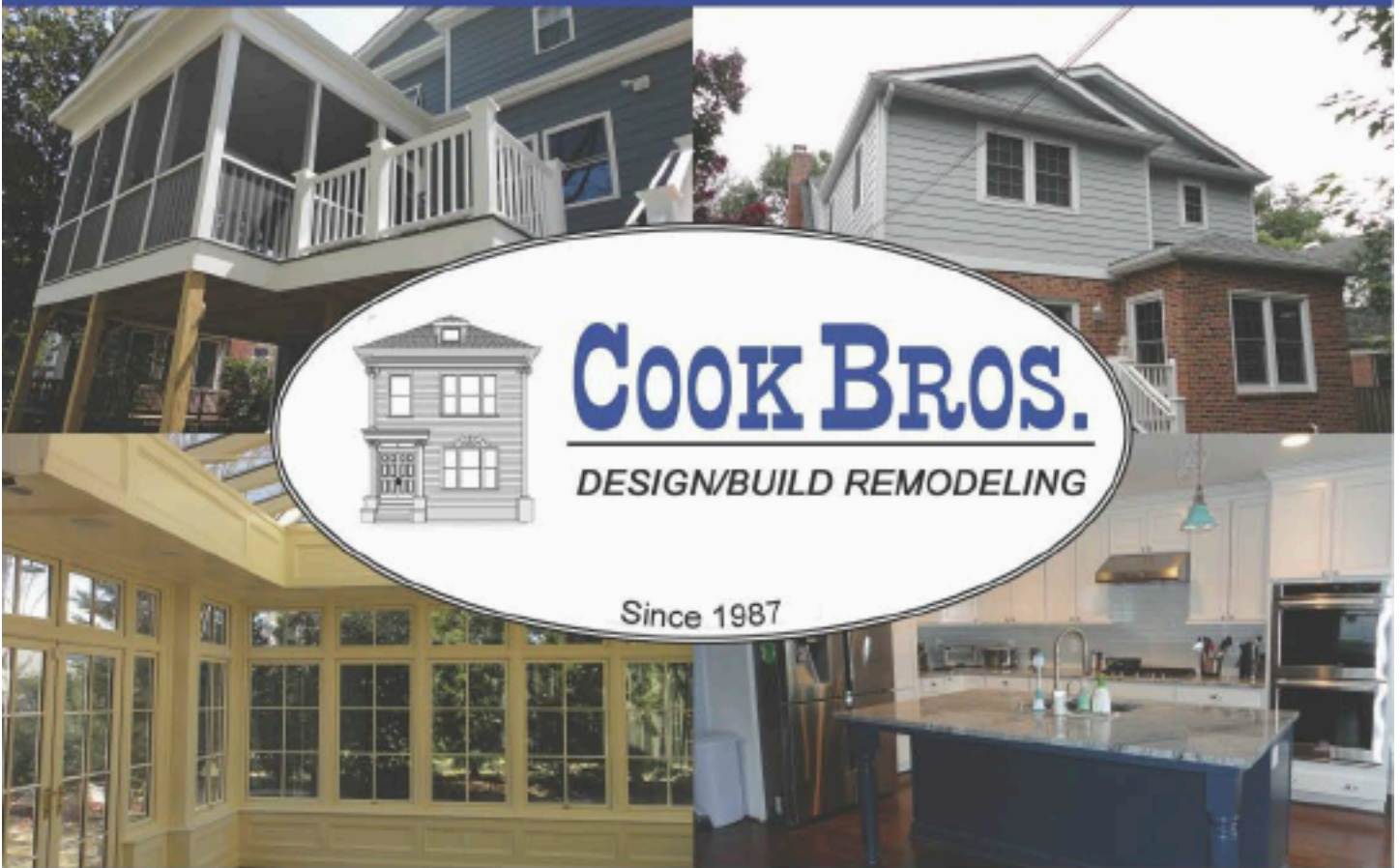
Mail collection

Icons courtesy of flaticon.com

**Please consult the newsletter that
is posted to the Ashton Heights
listserv or the hand-delivered
newsletter for a full list of kids who
are available for hire!**

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