

September 2022



Upcoming Events

9/14 LPCA Monthly Meeting at the Community Center 7:00 p.m. Socializing; 7:15 p.m. Meeting Start

9/17 Food Truck Fest at Lyon Park 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Villas & Vistas Home Tour 12:00–4:00 p.m. Tours; 4:00–6:00 p.m. Reception

Lyon Park Yard Sale 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Thank You!

Heartfelt thanks to former editor **Jeannette Wick** for her many years of service on the Lyon Park Citizen newsletter!

What's Inside?

- The pros/cons of Missing Middle
- Growing up in 1950s Arlington
- Housing Market Scoop

...and more!

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Online Registration Opens September 1

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President's Message

by Kathleen McSweeney and Thora Colot, LPCA Co-Presidents

September marks the return to school for many families. and the election of a new Executive Committee for the Lyon Park Citizen's Association (LPCA). When we stepped into the role of LPCA Co-Presidents last Fall, we had three specific objectives. One was to ensure opportunities for our neighbors to (safely) gather in person as we emerged from the pandemic. To that end, we had a lovely community celebration to open the newly renovated and renamed Zitkala-Sa Park and were joined by Zitkala-Sa's descendants. While we still held some of our monthly meetings over Zoom, our Executive Committee facilitated LPCA meetings in both parks, resurrected our annual traditions of the Halloween bonfire and Santa's visit with holiday treats, and held a topical Q&A with some of our Congressional, State, and County elected representatives. In October, the LPCA meeting will be dedicated to the redevelopment efforts at the Days Inn site; we will hear the developers' plans and engage with them.

A second goal was to enhance communication with our community and ensure that it reflects our inclusive and welcoming neighborhood. Having heard many neighbors disliked using NextDoor, we transitioned to the groups.io platform. We have also redesigned this newsletter and the LyonPark.org website. Printed newsletters will be created and distributed five times a year between September and May. Look for our communications on the website and groups.io; we welcome your feedback!

Our third goal was to be open to neighbors' concerns. We have been working with the County to make the roads around Zitkala-Sa Park safer for pedestrians after a neighbor raised issues, and to refurbish the LPCA signs that serve as the gateway to our neighborhood. We have learned that change takes time and persistence.

Serving the community as co-Presidents this year has been a rewarding experience. Our Executive Committee, listed on page 4, are responsible for our successes this year—please join us in thanking each of them. If you would like to lend your talents to this dedicated group, our nominating committee seeks volunteers. Please reach out to nominating committee chair John Goldener (goldener @ gmail.com) to volunteer. Thank you for the opportunity to serve Lyon Park this past year!

Please note: Paid advertisements in the Lyon Park Bulletin do not reflect any official position of the LPCA.

Villas and Vistas: October 2022 The Lyon Park & Ashton Heights Home and Garden Tour is BACK!

The LPCA will showcase beautiful homes and gardens and host a reception at the Community Center with delectable food, fun live music, and a classic car and bike show

Whether you have lived here for decades or just moved in, this fundraiser is an event you will not want to miss! Bring family and friends to tour fabulous properties that span a wide range of styles and time periods

When: Sunday, October 2nd, 2022

Time: Tours are noon-4 PM; reception to follow from 4-6 PM

Where: The self-guided tours start at the Community Center, 414 N Fillmore Street. Check in at the table outside by the entrance.

Cost: \$25 a ticket (\$15 for seniors, \$10 for students). To purchase tickets, visit Villas and Vistas at LyonPark.org!

We need Sponsors!! All sponsors will be acknowledged/promoted in the program booklet, on the LPCA website, and on social media. Please contact Natalie Roy at 703–819–4915 if you wish to be a:

Friend (\$500)
Best Friend (\$750)
Lover (\$1,000)

Have a classic car or bike you want to show off? Need volunteer information? Contact:

- Natalie Roy: natalieuroy@gmail.com;
- Elizabeth Sheehy: Elizabeth.r.sheehy@gmail.com;
- · Kim Franklin: blufftonjoy@gmail.com;
- Margaret Fibel: mfibel002@gmail.com;
- Sammy Elmohtaseb: Sammy.Elmohtaseb@gmail.com

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Get In Touch

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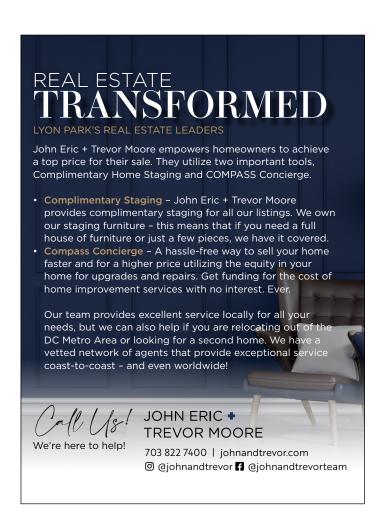
Legacy Readers: Reading with Young Learners!

Education research confirms that children who read below grade level in the 3rd grade have a very hard time catching up. And if children can't read well, they struggle in school or even drop out of school.

Though Arlington is a highly educated community overall, we have lots of children in elementary schools whose reading skills are behind.

Legacy readers began with a pilot last spring at Hoffman-Boston Elementary School. We're now expanding to Drew and Long Branch for the coming school year.

The minimum commitment is 45 minutes one day per week, between 4 and 6 PM, simply reading with a student and chatting about books. There is a formal process for approving volunteers and a short online training class on Safe Schools. If you'd like more information or want to sign up, contact Dan Dixon by phone at 202–262–8338 or email dandixon97@aol.com.



Missing Middle Housing: Arguments For and Against

By Chris Thompson and Elaine Simmons

On November 12th, Arlington County leaders will decide whether to implement new zoning laws to allow for denser population in single-family-only residential zones.

First, a few facts. County data indicate that about 24% of the county's housing stock is detached single-family homes (SFH) and about 47% is mid- or high-rise multifamily housing. Most of the remaining 29% is low-rise garden-style apartment buildings. In 2018, under then current zoning rules, the county forecast a net growth of 68,300 residents from 2020 through 2045 (an increase of 30%), with most of these presumably housed in an expanding number of mid- and high-rises. Our county has more room to build "up" than to create new SFH neighborhoods. In fact, the notable recent past trend in the Arlington SFH stock is not the growth in quantity; it is the growth in the size of homes via renovation or total replacement. The average size of a replacement home for an Arlington "teardown" in the past 10 years was triple the size of the original house, with an average sales price of \$1.7 million. The concept to use the limited space we have to grow the proportion of housing that is neither SFH nor mid-/ high-rise is called "Missing Middle (MM)."



Proponents of MM support this land-use approach because they see SFHs as beyond the economic reach of those in the middle class. The county also aims to rectify the injustice inflicted by racial exclusionary practices dating from the 1930s of limiting neighborhoods to SFHs. The MM approach is to rezone current SFH-only neighborhoods to allow for a mix of duplexes, triplexes, and even 8-plexes as, long as they meet the same standard as a single-family dwelling. The desired outcome is more units of housing that are less expensive than new single-family units, with an intended focus on walkable/shoppable neighborhoods. This should benefit those looking to move into Arlington, those wanting to up-size

within the County, and older residents looking to downsize. Environmental arguments for MM are that multi-family units have a lower per capita carbon footprint than large SFHs and increasing housing density within Arlington will reduce sprawl outside our county. Look for the County's slides promoting the MM approach and Five Things to Know About Missing Middle Housing—Alliance for Housing Solutions



Opponents of increasing the allowable density in low-density neighborhoods say that duplexes (which have sold in Arlington for \$1.2M) and tri-plexes will be unaffordable for middle-income buyers. They agree that 6- or 8-family dwellings in neighborhoods like Lyon Park should be more affordable but expect them to be mostly rentals. They also consider the MM proposals as environmentally unsound (especially in reducing the tree canopy) and unduly taxing on County infrastructure (to include road congestion, stormwater/flood control, parking, and schools). Opponents indicate that 60% of Arlington's trees are found in the residential areas targeted by MM, which reduces the tree replacement requirements by up to 50%. Arguments against MM here: **Arlingtonians for Our Sustainable Future.**

If you are a first-time buyer in Arlington, a key question is what size MM housing unit (duplex through 8-plex) will be within your financial reach? If you live in an Arlington SFH neighborhood, how will multi-family units nearby affect you? Will MM yield a more accessible and diverse community, or will that be tempered by issues associated with higher density living, such as school crowding, competition for parking and traffic congestion?

The county has engagement opportunities and encourages you to **Speak at a Monthly County Board Meeting**.



FOOD FEST



SAVE THE DATE: September 17, 4 - 8 PM

Lyon Park Community Center and Park

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ALL MONEY RAISED SUPPORTS THE PARK AND COMMUNITY EVENTS.

Lyon Park ANNUAL YARD SALE—Saturday, October 29, 2022

The Lyon Park Community Center will hold its annual yard sale on Saturday, October 29, 2022 from 8 AM to 1 PM in Lyon Park. This is a rain-or-shine event. Please note for this event, you must prepay, and the deadline is Sunday, October 23.

Unload all your accumulated trash - or TREASURE!

Rent one space for \$15 or two for \$25

Residents and guests (yoo hoo! Ashton Heights?!?!?!) are encouraged to participate

Need a table? Rent ours for \$5 each.

Let us do the advertising and attract the crowd.

For information, or to volunteer to help, contact Margaret Scrymser at scryms23@comcast.net



Saving Our Diminishing Tree Canopy

By Anne Bodine

Several months ago, the association's copresidents encouraged Lyon Park tree lovers to form the Lyon Park Tree Group to explore how to save or boost our precious tree canopy. Trees are vital to human and planetary health, and we need more, not less of them.

Our Canopy is Shrinking! Lyon Park lost 11% of its canopy from 2011–2016, the highest percentage of any large civic association in Arlington. The canopy reduction from 2000–2016 was a worrisome 23%.

| Lyon Park Area Tree Canopy | |
|--|----------|
| Total Land Area | 30 acres |
| Potential Tree Canopy Cover | 59% |
| Actual Tree Canopy Cover | 34% |
| Land Area that Could be Covered with Canopy, but Currently is Not | 25% |
| * Based on 2017 Arlington County data | |

The Lyon Park Tree Group has:

- Begun identifying lots where we will approach owners to ask if they would like to receive a free tree from Arlington's Tree Canopy Fund;
- Met with 2 women who increased the canopy in their Alexandria neighborhood by almost 300 trees via outreach to neighbors;
- Coordinated with the Virginia Department of Transportation and Arlington's Urban Forestry Office to green a section of Route 50 near Cambridge Courts with 129 new trees;
- Created an interactive map of the trees in Lyon Park, showing approximate age and species/ genus with Bill Anhut. We drew on a map showing the waterways—part of the Long Branch of the Potomac River—that used to transect the park.

The volunteer Tree Group can't do this alone. Email lyonparkeditor@gmail.com if you are interested in helping to restore the canopy.

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Lyon Park Woman's Club Update

The Woman's Club is for all residents of Lyon Park and Ashton Heights. We meet the third Thursday of the month at noon at the community center for a delicious potluck lunch. We have a great time socializing but we also contribute to the community, such as volunteering for the Chili Dinner, the Spring Fair, the Pancake Breakfast, and the Halloween Bonfire. Please join us! For more info, contact Elizabeth Wray at ejswray@yahoo.com



The market is changing—call me for a predictive analysis strategy!



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Who Was Dr. Charles Drew?

By Kalkidan Ausink

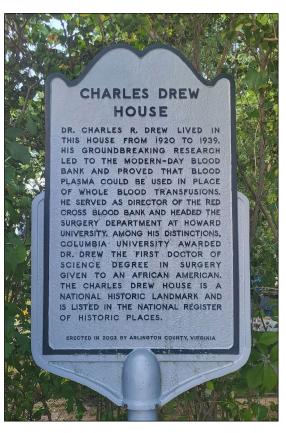
You may be familiar with Charles R. Drew Elementary or Community Center, but not the local hero for whom the school is named, a Black physician whose blood transfusion discoveries transformed emergency medicine and surgery. When Dr. Drew started studying blood, it only had a shelf life of a few days. Drew made two remarkable discoveries:

- 1. He figured out that cells are what determine blood type and that plasma, when separated from cells, could be given to anyone regardless of blood type,
- 2. He invented a method by which plasma could be dried and reconstituted when needed.

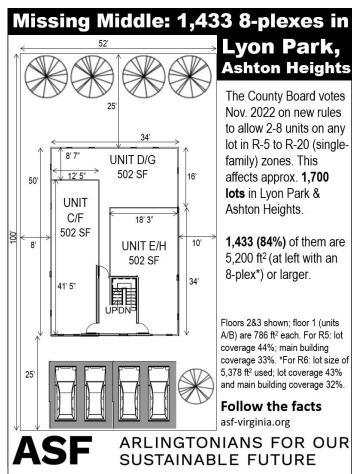
Dr. Drew was born in 1904 as the eldest son of a carpet layer. He grew up in Washington D.C. and attended Dunbar High School, the first public high school for Black students in the U.S. In 1920, Drew's family moved to Arlington's Penrose neighborhood after Drew's sister died from tuberculosis/influenza in a city-wide epidemic.

Drew attended Amherst College and then earned medical and surgery degrees from McGill University in Montreal, Canada. He returned to our area in 1935 as a pathology instructor at Howard University and later earned a Doctor of Medical Science degree from Columbia University, the first African American to do so.

Drew saved thousands of lives as the medical director for "Blood for Britain," creating what would eventually be today's mobile blood bank for British soldiers in World War II. As Drew ramped up plasma stockpiles for America's entry into the war,



the military stipulated that the American Red Cross exclude African Americans from donating, later deciding that they could donate blood, but only for Black troops. Drew, the leading expert in blood banking, was ineligible to participate in the program he helped establish. He resigned in protest. In 1950, at age 45, Drew's life was tragically cut short by an automobile accident in North Carolina. Drew's Penrose home at 2505 1st Street South is now a historical landmark.









Fall Family Celebration

Saturday, October 22 | Noon to 3:00 pm Columbia Gardens Cemetery Grounds

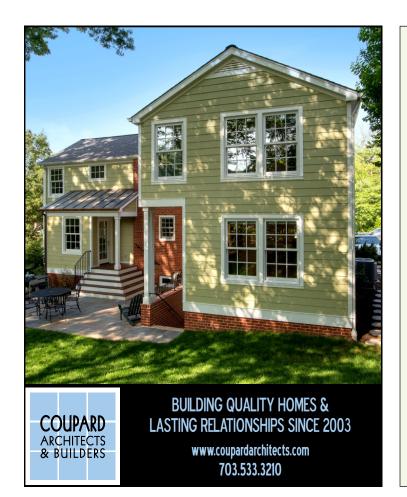
Let us know if you will come. Call 703.527.1235 or email info@columbiagardenscemetery.org. 3411 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201

Celebrate fall with us at a special afternoon filled with activities for adults and children.

- Explore the grounds with the Agents of Discovery App
- Find out how to grow roses from our rosarian
- Paint a pumpkin
- Learn how honey is made from our beekeeper
- Enjoy delicious refreshments and more!



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Looking for the Teen Services Listing?

Find it on our new and improved website! Visit <u>lyonpark.org/explore/resources/teenservices</u> to view a list of neighborhood teens who babysit, petsit, do yard work, and all kinds of other things!

Interested in having your teen listed? Simply fill out the form on the Teen Services page.

Memories of 1950s Arlington

By Rita O'Brien

I moved to Arlington in 1952 with my sister and parents from Bedminster, New Jersey. While it was a good opportunity for my father's career, it must have been a bit of a shock for my mother leaving behind a big house with 88 acres that had been General Knox' headquarters during the Revolution for a two-bedroom apartment in Lee Gardens (now Woodbury Park). My sister and I, however, despite trading fields, a barn, and a hayloft for playgrounds and storm sewers, found it great fun and loved it from Day 1. Our brother was born in 1953, and my sister and I, at the ages of 9 and 10 were allowed to





take him in his stroller to Lee Shopping Center on Pershing Drive at Route 50 to pick up groceries for my mother at Lee Market. My father would stop at Lee Bakery for doughnuts after church on Sundays—and birthday cakes and other celebrations always consisted of baked goods from Lee Bakery. Years later, they catered my wedding.

We moved to Lyon Park in 1954, which as I remember looked pretty much the same as it does now, with the exception that houses were not being torn down to be replaced. Neighborhoods were tree-lined with sidewalks to ride bikes and skate. At Pershing Drive and Washington Boulevard was a restaurant that we always called "Eat" due to the neon sign outside (it's now Texas Jack's—and a favorite of ours). I remember my grandfather and uncle coming to visit and telling my mother they'd take my sister and me for an outing. They gave us money for ice cream, but it turned out we spent the whole time waiting for them in the car while they went into "Eat" for beer!

We loved Lyon Park, with its proximity to the shops: in Clarendon—JC Penney's, Murphy's, Sears, shoe stores, etc.; Virginia Square shopping center with Kann's Department Store, where I worked while I was in college, as well as the bus line down Wilson Boulevard to go into Washington to shop. Rosslyn was mostly pawn shops. My only recollection of Rosslyn as a child is the streetcar, which we would take to meet my father downtown at his office for dinner.

I went to St. Charles from second through eighth grade, then to Bishop O'Connell for high school. Schools (at least mine) were racially segregated during the 1950s until I was in 5th grade. We would have air raid drills fairly often, where we would have to crouch down under our desks with our hands behind our necks. I wonder why educators put us through that trauma (and it was, and to some extent remains) as I sincerely doubt that exercise would prevent harm in the case of a nuclear attack.

We rented in Lyon Park, moving to our 4-bedroom house in Ashton Heights in 1960, and I believe my parents paid about \$17,000; they sold it around 1970 for about \$26,000. My husband and I purchased our first house nearer to Falls Church in 1967—a 3-bedroom, 1–1/2 bath—for \$28,000, and my father was shocked that we paid so much!

We lacked a lot of what kids these days have. Most moms—not all—stayed home; as a rule, families had one car and one television. We did not have structured activities but were free to roam. Arlington was an amazing place to grow up—and for that matter, it's an amazing place to grow old!

Professionals Talk About our Local Housing Market

By Natalie Roy (Bicycling Realty Group|KW Metro Center) and John Eric (Compass Real Estate)

Lyon Park is one of DC's most desirable areas, as it provides the best of urban/suburban living with its easy access to stores, shops, and restaurants...along with easy commutes to many jobs. Numerous corporations have chosen Arlington to host their headquarters, which will only continue to drive up the desirability of our neighborhood.

Pricing in Lyon Park generally sits on the higher side, and our current market inventory is still bearing that out. Limited inventory always means high prices. The COVID era created a hyperactive sellers-market, with much more demand than inventory. Remote-working professionals wanting to improve their living situation, historically low interest rates and low inventory set the market on fire. For competitively priced homes, multiple offers, waived contingencies, and escalations over list price were the norm. Offers made sight unseen and contracts done in one day were not unusual. Home prices skyrocketed, increasing 20%–30% in just over two years. We are now seeing an easing in the market due to inflation concerns as well as the rise in interest rates. While there is still competition, home inspections and financing contingencies have returned, and if a home is not competitively priced or presented well, it will sit longer on the market.

Housing inventory continues to be a challenge. In June, active listings were down again by 20% from the same time last year. With a decrease in supply, one would expect to see an increase in average prices, and the average sales price in June was up a slight 2% in the past year. Unit sales were down by 21%, pushing Months of Supply up to a moderate 1.5 (this means it would take about 1.5 months for all available inventory in our market to sell). The average days a house sits on the market experienced no change, continuing to hover around three weeks. At the end of the day, unless you are an investor, you should worry less about resale value and more about what kind of home you will enjoy living in. This region is very resilient—it has weathered many economic downturns and will continue to do so.

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What is Lyon Park's Board of Governors?

By Jeannette Wick

As the Chair of the Lyon Park Community Center's Board of Governors (BoG), I am writing this article to explain how the BoG differs from its constituent organizations, the Lyon Park Citizens Association (LPCA) and the Woman's Club.

Lyon Park is unique among Arlington's neighborhoods because 100 years ago, Frank Lyon, who established Lyon Park, donated the building and its surrounding two-plus acres to the community. Since that time, the entire Lyon Park community has managed its operations. The Lyon Park Community Center is the umbrella organization for the LPCA and the Woman's Club. A group of 10 volunteers from these two organizations serves on the Community Center's BoG. They are elected annually in September.

In 2015, that management included coordinating a \$1,000,000 renovation of the community house. With tremendous support from residents in Lyon Park and Ashton Heights, we repaid our construction loan early—a remarkable accomplishment. However, our rental income plumeted. Simply keeping the doors open costs \$5,500 per month. This includes utilities and maintenance and costs associated with tree care and mowing. In the coming year, the BoG will work on restoring our financial security. With rentals picking up, our future looks much brighter.

The BoG meets approximately monthly from September through June and sponsors many events. In October, we sponsor the Annual Yard Sale, the Parade of Costumes, and the Bonfire. In November, we host the Annual not-just-a-Craft Fair. The Holiday Party for kids is always a hoot in December. A new issue concerns what to do with the tree stumps in the park. We will invite community involvement.

We need people to help with these and other events. If you can attend a monthly meeting over Zoom on Thursdays at 7 p.m. and can do some of the Board's work in between meetings, we could really use your help. Our meetings are open to the public. For more information, email me at: jywickrph@aol.com.

Sukha Center: A Unique Yoga Studio in Clarendon

By Michelle McMahon

After more than two years of pandemic-induced hardship and the loss of many local businesses, it is heartening to see new ones opening around Arlington.
Sukha Center is



one such newcomer. Located in Clarendon, Sukha (meaning "good place" in Sanskrit) is a unique approach to a yoga studio with practice offerings from Ashtanga, Vinyasa and Rocket to the less typical Budokon—a fusion of martial-arts, yoga, mobility, and meditation. The studio includes a rooftop space which enables practice under the stars.

Co-owners Ahmed Jabali-Nash and Damion Moss are local athletes who combined their expertise in yoga and martial arts to create the only Blackowned yoga studio in Arlington. Their philosophy is to "offer authentic yoga, regardless of the style, and to build a healthy community of practitioners who are comfortable being themselves in a space that promotes the belief that yoga is for everyone." Says Jabali-Nash, "You don't have to look a certain way to practice yoga." A unique element of Sukha Center is an in-house Certified Physical Therapist (who is also a yoga instructor). Moss said, "Arlington is an ideal location for this unique studio, because residents are serious about pursuing health through exercise. To be voted the fittest city in America is something special." The studio will take part in this year's Clarendon Day festivities on September 24, so stop by and give them a try! Sukha Center is located at 1016 N Garfield Street.





Keeping "Abreast" of the Turkey Trot

Based on an interview with Mark Riley, member of Christ Church of Arlington and race director ("Chief Turkey")

With the 17th running of the Arlington 5K Turkey Trot fast approaching, let's "talk turkey" on how the race started, how it responded to challenges, and why it is important. While the race now has a max of 4,000 registrants and is a beloved tradition in Arlington, it started as a suggestion by the wife of the former pastor of Christ Church. She had some prior experience organizing a race; the rest of the church volunteers had a very steep learning curve, but they were "game"!

The first race in 2006 had 275 runners and disbursed \$4,200 to two beneficiaries in the neighborhood: Doorways and Bridges to Independence. In recent, "normal" times, with the help of about 100 volunteers and corporate sponsors, the typical net is about \$120,000—all "gravy"!! The beneficiaries have grown from two to 18. The goal: inclusion of these organizations in the community as well as inclusion of the people they help (who often don't feel included).

Because of covid, the race was conducted virtually in 2020 and it took a huge hit: registrants dropped by 75%. Last year the in-person Turkey Trot rebounded with 3,200 registrants but there were other challenges, such as not enough police. The cancelation "chopping block" loomed, but organizers decided instead on a course correction—literally running up and down Pershing Drive—which indeed "ruffled some feathers." This year the organizers expect the course to be back to normal.

While the Turkey Trot attracts serious runners with 15–16-minute times (a sizzling sub-5 minute mile pace), most are there to have fun, with "dressings" to include a gorilla, dinosaur, flamingo, families of bananas, pilgrims, and, of course, TURKEYS!!! There are adults who now run it with their kids who once ran it as kids with their parents.

There are many ways to participate: you can donate, promote, register, sponsor, or volunteer. So don't "chicken out"; join in and help the community!

Find all of the Lyon Park Bulletin features (and more), on our new & improved website:

www.lyonpark.org

Our Solar Journey

By John Ausink

This is not about billionaires' vanity projects in space, it is about the process of getting solar panels on our roof and dropping our electric bill to zero. Arlington County has, on average, 201 sunny days per year. Why let all of that sunshine go to waste?

With just our home address, the solar company we called produced an image of our home's roof, showed the exact panel design, predicted the impact of the growth of our trees on energy production, and determined the exact cost—all in the first Zoom meeting! We signed a contract and three months later we got a 10kW system with 25 panels.

The Feds still allow a 26% tax credit for solar systems, so comparing the cost of the system (minus the credit) to our annual electric bill allowed us to calculate how many years it would take to "pay off" the upfront cost of the panels. There are two ways your personal electrical production can save you money:

- You will remain connected to your power company, but your electric meter will be changed to a "net meter." If your panels produce less electricity than you use, you will still draw (and pay for) power from the grid. If you produce more power than you use, the net meter puts it into the grid and your next bill will be reduced by the value of that electricity.
- You can sign a contract related to Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs). These credits help
 utilities meet state regulations that require a certain percentage of electricity be produced from
 renewable sources. Power companies buy and sell them, and SRECs allow you to sell credits for the
 energy you produce.

 (Continued on next page)

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Several considerations will affect the financial impact of a solar system. First, since the panels have a guaranteed 25-year life, our company required a roof inspection before installation to make sure the solar panels won't outlast the roof. Second, our house was built in 1920, and our electrical panel required an upgrade to accommodate the solar panels (\$1,800). Finally, we added an electric vehicle charger to the system (\$2,200) so the sun can power our future car as well.

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Natalie Roy, 30+ year resident of Lyon Park, voted Best Real Estate Agent by
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