



ARLINGTON COUNTY FAIR  
August 19 - 22, 1999

"Preserving Our Past -  
Creating Our Future"

SEE YOU THERE !!

President: Paul Gruber  
Editors: Jean Myers  
Bill Thomas

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ENJOY YOUR SUMMER

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JULY 1999  
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We have much to report in this edition, since the tempo of activity in our parks has increased. First, our own activity - our Annual General Meeting, which this year celebrated our 20th Anniversary, was held at Fort C.F. Smith Park on April 24th and was a great success, with the best attendance to date. We continued to make monthly visits to selected parks, and a report of this enterprise is on page 2. In view of the high interest in Dog Exercise Areas, we have now completed visits to six of the seven areas. A number of our officers and directors have attended public forums and other activities relating to ongoing and planned park projects, which are discussed in more detail herein. We have continued to include the architectural drawings where appropriate.

We now have two new members on our board of directors, Michael Hogan and Eric Parker. At our annual meeting new officers were approved by a vote of members present. This change is on page 7.

The construction of the Sports and Fitness Complex in Barcroft Park is under way. It can be viewed by driving south on Four Mile Run Drive from Columbia Pike. It is on the west side of Four Mile Run Drive. In our July 1998 newsletter we published the interior views of the structure. A master plan for Barcroft Park is in the final stages of preparation. There have been four public forums, the last on June 3rd. Two versions of the plan will be presented to the County Board.

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### SPARROW SWAMP

To many of our residents, and visitors from other jurisdictions, this natural area is a stop while they are using the W&OD Trail.

For those who do not know about it, the swamp is just a few yards south of the intersection of the Long Branch Connector Trail and the W&OD and to avoid missing it, the swamp is on the north side of the W&OD. Since you have stopped, walk down the W&OD a short distance to an iron railing on the south side and look down at the exposed rocky stream bed. This is Huffman's White Water, and the beginning of the flood plain just below the Fall Line - remember

your geography in school? Hopefully, the restoration of the swamp will begin this winter, when construction activity will cause minimal damage.

**THE 23RD ANNUAL ARLINGTON COUNTY FAIR - 19 through 22 August 1999.**

Location - same as previous years - Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 S. Second Street.

Hours - Thursday 19th: 7PM to 10PM    Friday 20th: 10AM to 9PM  
          Saturday 21st: 10AM to 9PM    Sunday 22nd: 11AM to 5PM

Theme: "Preserving Our Past - Creating our Future"

In our March newsletter we furnished you the dates, and we hope that you have included this fair in your plans for the summer. From the literature received to date it appears to be bigger than ever and our congratulations to the Fair Board for their efforts to provide more booth spaces within the Center.

We have had a booth since 1980 and will do so again. In addition to our exhibits in keeping with the theme, we will have membership applications and a map of the parks to give to new members. The key feature of our booth has always been the staff to answer questions and assist in any way possible.

To our membership who wish to volunteer, the pattern will be the same as in previous years - two hour shifts on Friday and Saturday and if you want to help on Thursday, two hours from 8 to 10 PM. On Sunday we will have shifts from 11 AM to 1 PM, from 1 PM to 3 PM, and from 3 PM to 5 PM. Please call Marian Cooley at 998-5077, or Bill Thomas at 671-0398. Both have recorders so leave your message, date and time. You will be sent a letter confirming the agreed date and time and the booth number.

Note: We do not yet have our booth number, so visitors should ask at the Information Desk. Watch the local media for information on parking and bus service.

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**VISITS TO ARLINGTON COUNTY PARKS**

In our Spring newsletter we listed the parks we planned to visit up to June 1999 to review park facilities and activities. These visits were duly completed, and our comments were provided to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Resources, the relevant civic associations and other interested persons. Continuing this program, here are the visits planned for July through December 1999. We make two visits a month, and visits normally start at 10AM on Tuesdays and Saturdays. If you would like to participate, call

Paul Gruber at 525-4224 for information.

<u>Park</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Association</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Dark Star	1655 N Ft Myer Drive	Jul27&31	Ft Myer Hghts	
Gateway	1300 Lee Hwy		Colonial Terrace	
		August		Arlington County Fair
Glencarlyn	301 S. Harrison St.	Sep14&18 Oct19&23	Glencarlyn Arlington Forest	Carlyn Sprgs.Rd. Parking Lot Nature Center
Charles E. Stewart	2400 N. Underwood	Nov16&20	Arlington-East Falls Church	
Four Mile Run Troy	3100 S.Glebe Road 2629 S.Troy	Dec14&17	Arlington Ridge	

During our visit to Glencarlyn Park in September we will spend some time observing the happy dogs and their owners/handlers in the Dog Exercise Area (DEA) which is now well known. With this stop our visits will have covered all of the seven DEA in our County.

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**STATUS OF THE BARCROFT MASTER PLAN**

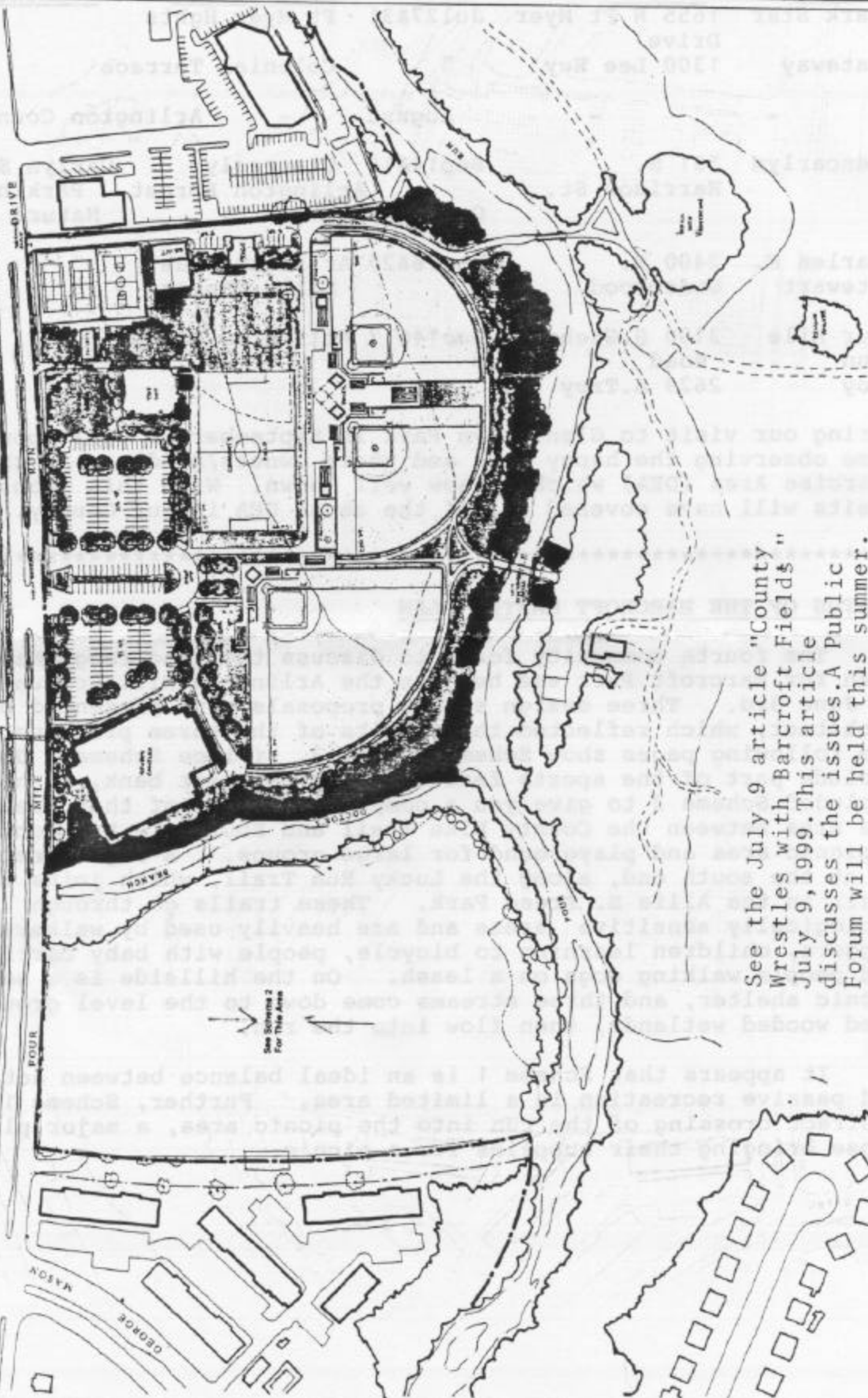
The fourth community forum to discuss the long range Master Plan for Barcroft Park was held in the Arlington Mill Community Center on June 3rd. Three design scheme proposals were presented by the architect, which reflected the results of the three previous forums. The following pages show Schemes 1 and 2. (Since Scheme 1 does not include part of the sports facilities on the east bank, we have included Scheme 2 to give you a complete picture of that area). The area between the County Bike Trail and Four Mile Run contains a picnic area and playground for large groups. A Dog Exercise Area is at the south end, along the Lucky Run Trail, which joins the main trail in the Allie S. Freed Park. These trails go through ecologically sensitive areas and are heavily used by walkers, joggers, children learning to bicycle, people with baby carriages, and people walking dogs on a leash. On the hillside is a small picnic shelter, and three streams come down to the level ground, feed wooded wetlands, then flow into the run.

It appears that Scheme 1 is an ideal balance between active and passive recreation in a limited area. Further, Scheme 1 proposes a direct crossing of the run into the picnic area, a major plus for those bringing their supplies for a picnic.



ADDED BY EDITORS

We have included two of the three options discussed at the last forum and the Board will develop a position for the next forum and participate in it.



See the July 9 article "County Wrestles with Barcroft Fields" July 9, 1999. This article discusses the issues. A Public Forum will be held this summer.

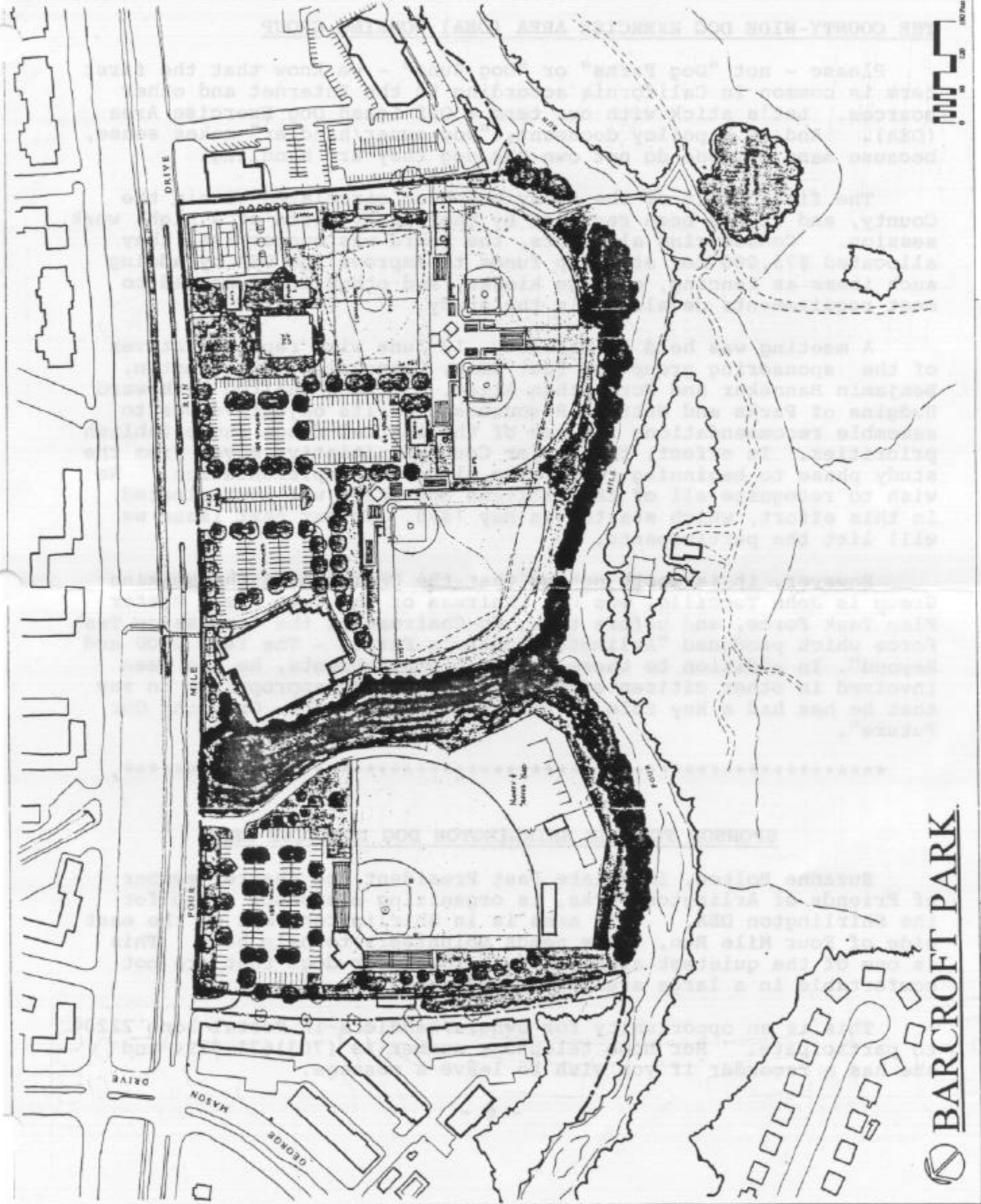
ADDED BY EDITORS

**BARCROFT PARK**



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 **BARCROFT PARK**

THE COUNTY-WIDE DOG EXERCISE AREA (DEA) WORKING GROUP

Please - not "Dog Parks" or "Dog Runs" - we know that the first term is common in California according to the Internet and other sources. Let's stick with our term - Off Leash Dog Exercise Area (DEA). And in a policy document, "dog owner/handler" makes sense, because many persons do not own the dog they are handling.

The final draft of the Study has been circulated within the County, and it has been reviewed by the County Board at a night work session. Considering all facts, the Board was supportive, they allocated \$75,000 for start-up funds to improve the DEA by adding such items as fencing, message kiosks, and other items needed to meet requirements developed in the study.

A meeting was held on Saturday, 12 June with representatives of the sponsoring group for four DEAs, Glencarlyn, Shirlington, Benjamin Banneker and Fort Ethan Allen. It was chaired by Howard Hudgins of Parks and Natural Resources, and its objective was to assemble recommendations for use of the initial funds and establish priorities. In effect, this major County initiative moved from the study phase to beginning to develop plans for implementation. We wish to recognize all of the citizens and staff who participated in this effort, which started in May 1998. In our next issue we will list the participants.

However, it is worth noting that the Chairman of the Working Group is John Tuccillo, who was Chairman of the Open Space Master Plan Task Force, and before that, Co-Chairman of the Commission Task Force which produced "Arlington County's Future - The Year 2000 and Beyond". In addition to these three accomplishments, he has been involved in other citizen efforts. It appears appropriate to say that he has had a key role in "Preserving Our Past - Creating Our Future".

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SPONSOR FOR THE SHIRLINGTON DOG EXERCISE AREA

Suzanne Bolton, Immediate Past President and charter member of Friends of Arlington Parks, is organizing a sponsor group for the Shirlington DEA. This area is in Shirlington Park on the east side of Four Mile Run. She needs volunteers to help her. This is one of the quietest areas, and is ideal for dogs that are not comfortable in a large area with many dogs.

This is an opportunity for owners/handlers in Postal Zone 22204 to participate. Her home telephone number is (703)671-8794 and she has a recorder if you wish to leave a message.

AT THE FAIR  
 Friday: Senior Citizen's Day  
 Saturday: Kid's Day  
 Sunday: International Day

**1999 COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS**

The schedule for Community Celebrations from July is included below. Note that they are being held at several locations. When you are planning your time at the County Fair on Sunday August 22nd, note that this event is being held from 1 to 6PM in the Jefferson Theater.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FESTIVAL</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Sunday, July 18	Bangladesh Celebration	Wakefield H.S.	7:00pm-9:00pm
Sunday, July 25	Peru National Day	Barcroft Park	1:00pm-6:00pm
Sunday, August 8	Bolivia National Day	Wakefield H.S.	11:00am-6:00pm
Sunday, August 22	Arlington County Fair	T.Jefferson Theater	1:00pm-6:00pm
Sunday, Sept.12	El Salvador National Day	Barcroft Park	Noon-6:00pm
Sunday, Oct.3	Vietnam Children's Festival	T.Jefferson Gym	2:00pm-6:00pm
Wednesday, Oct.13	Hispanic Heritage Celebration	Kenmore M.S.	7:00pm-9:00pm
Saturday, Nov.13	Celebrate Colombia	T.Jefferson Theater	7:00pm-9:00pm

For additional information call (703)228-6416

**FRIENDS OF ARLINGTON PARKS - OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 1999-2000**

At our Annual General Meeting on 24th April 1999, the following officers were elected:-

- President - Paul Gruber
- Vice-President - Terry Hillerich
- Treasurer - Bill Thomas      Secretary - Jean Myers
- Committee Chairs: Special Projects - Terry Hillerich
- Computer (co-Chairs) - Mike Hogan, Erik Toft. Mailing - Elena Toft

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**FRIENDS OF ARLINGTON PARKS MEMBERSHIP FORM**

I/We enclose 1999 membership dues of \$3.00 (individual); \$5.00 (family); \$7.00 (group or organization) for FRIENDS OF ARLINGTON PARKS.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP TO WHICH YOU BELONG: \_\_\_\_\_