

# Arlington Family Connection

supporting children six and under and those who care for them



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www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org



## What's at stake in the Override Vote

By Helene Ragovin James

On Saturday, June 11, residents of Arlington will be asked to vote on a "Proposition 2 ½ override." The outcome of this proposal—whether it passes or fails—will affect the town's financial situation, and its ability to provide certain municipal services and school funding. Likewise, the amount by which the town's property tax will increase hinges on the fate of the override. As parents of young children, AFC members have a stake in the future of our town. Following is a guide to some basic questions about the override:

### What is a "Proposition 2 ½ Override?"

In 1980, Massachusetts voters approved a measure that limits the amount by which cities and towns can increase their property tax levy each year. The tax levy is the amount of revenue a community can raise through property taxes. An "override" is when the voters agree to allow the local government to raise property taxes above this set limit. For a more detailed explanation of how these limits are set, go to: [www.dls.state.ma.us/PUBL/MISC/levylimits.pdf](http://www.dls.state.ma.us/PUBL/MISC/levylimits.pdf).



### How much will the override increase property taxes?

According to the Arlington Assessor's Office, if the override were approved, the 2005 tax rate would increase by an additional \$1.01 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation (10.1 percent), bringing it to \$11.95. For the owner of a single-family home assessed at the town average of \$415,167, the tax bill would increase by \$420 a year, or \$105 a quarter.

A home's *assessed* value, as determined by the town for tax purposes, may be different than the amount the home was purchased for, or the amount that it is *appraised* for. To find your assessment, go to:

<http://arlservr.town.arlington.ma.us/Property/>.

Or, look on your tax bill—bills or copies are mailed quarterly. For a condo assessed at the town average of \$244,340, the increase would be \$247 a year; for a two-family home assessed at the average of \$503,006, the increase would be \$508 a year; for a three-family home assessed at the average of \$552,440, the increase would be \$558 a year. *(continued on page 3)*

## A Fond Farewell...

By Helene Ragovin James and Karen Donovan

For the past few months, there has been a new face at AFC meetings and functions—our vibrant and enthusiastic student intern, Lisa Smith. Lisa has been a graduate student at the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Development at Tufts University—by the time this newsletter is published, she will have received her master's degree—and she developed the idea of working with AFC as a way of fulfilling her graduation requirements. What resulted was an extraordinary partnership; while the internship was designed as a learning experience for Lisa, we at AFC have been the grateful recipients of her boundless energy and thoughtful efforts. *(continued on page 2)*

### Inside.....

Kindergarten connections, p.2  
Exciting Events, p.4  
Membership form p.7  
Save the dates, p.8

## A Fond Farewell... (continued from page 1)

During her semester at AFC, some of Lisa's accomplishments included updating our website resources, leading the transition of the newsletter team, writing articles for the newsletter as well as assisting with membership/volunteer recruitment efforts, which ultimately led to a tremendous influx of new AFC volunteers. She also successfully organized a well-attended workshop on preschool behavior across cultures, which was presented by Tufts researcher Iris Ponte at the Fox library in April.

A native of Louisville, Ky., Lisa's goal after graduation is to be able to create a grassroots organization like AFC in her home community. We wish her well in that endeavor, and throughout her future career. The children and families of Arlington are better off for Lisa's efforts, and we know the children and families of Kentucky will be, too.

Best of luck, Lisa, and thanks for all that you have given to AFC. We will miss you!

### AFC Steering Committee Members

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Wendy Clarke, 781-648-2341

### Make some Kindergarten Connections!

If you have a child starting kindergarten in the fall and you are interested in meeting the families of other children entering kindergarten in your school district (or at your chosen private school), contact the following people who have volunteered to coordinate get-togethers for your school. Get-togethers will be starting soon.

**-Bishop:** Karen Donovan, 781-777-1011 or [dorankaren@comcast.net](mailto:dorankaren@comcast.net)

**-Brackett:** Amy Bledsoe, 617-852-3293 or [amybledsoe@rcn.com](mailto:amybledsoe@rcn.com)

**-Dallin:** Lizzie Casanave, 781-643-8614 or [ecasanave@hotmail.com](mailto:ecasanave@hotmail.com)

**-Hardy:** Katherine Shao, 510-301-7915 (c) or [kshao@earthlink.net](mailto:kshao@earthlink.net)

**-Peirce:** Lisa Carlson Hill [lcarlsonhill@hotmail.com](mailto:lcarlsonhill@hotmail.com) and Jessica

Callaghan, 781-648-1798 or [ojcallaghan@comcast.net](mailto:ojcallaghan@comcast.net)

**-Thompson:** Sarah Huber, 781-643-7804 or [parkesarah@verizon.net](mailto:parkesarah@verizon.net)

A Kindergarten Connections volunteer is still needed for the **Brackett**, (maybe) **Stratton**, and **St. Agnes** schools, as well as any other private schools. If you have a child entering any of these schools in the fall and would like to help other families meet one another, please consider being the contact person for your school. The job has traditionally involved organizing "meet at the playground" events for families, but it is not limited to that; do whatever you are interested in!

For questions or to volunteer, please contact Karen Donovan at [webmaster@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:webmaster@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org) or (781)-777-1011.

### Editorial policy:

The **Arlington Family Connection** (AFC) newsletter is published monthly and is free with membership. Published articles reflect the views of the respective authors and do not necessarily represent the views of AFC. Childcare, healthcare and legal information is provided for informational purposes only. It is not intended as a substitute for medical or professional advice. Always consult your own healthcare provider for any decisions relating to your child's well being. Copyright remains with the individual author for bylined articles. All other materials are copyright Arlington Family Connection, 2005. Permission is granted to reproduce articles for which copyright is held by AFC provided appropriate credit is given and no fee is charged. The AFC newsletter accepts submissions from AFC members on issues relevant to families with children six and under. The editorial board reserves the right to refuse submissions for any reason. Send editorial submissions to: [newsletter@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:newsletter@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org); calendar listings to [calendar@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:calendar@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

### AFC seeks input on Seminars for next year!

AFC is proud to announce that we have a new seminar coordinator, Maureen Igoe. She is in the process of planning seminars for the upcoming year and would like your input!

If you have any suggestions or requests for specific speakers or seminar topics, please send them to Maureen at "seminars@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org" or call 781-643-7217

## The override vote *(continued from page 1)*

### If the override fails...

#### **What will be the effect on Arlington public schools?**

According to Kay Donovan, superintendent of schools, if the override fails, the school department expects that 30 positions will be cut, including 23 teachers and seven administrators and support staff. This will affect courses and programs at all levels, K-12.

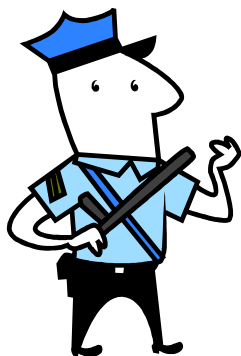
Ten new staff positions included in the proposed 2005-06 budget will be eliminated. The new positions were budgeted in anticipation of increased enrollment. Athletics at Arlington High School will be cut by 40 percent. In addition: an elementary-school nurse position would be eliminated; specialized programs such as Academic Challenge and Enrichment and MCAS tutoring would be cut or reduced; art, music and physical education would be cut at most grade levels; middle-school drama would be eliminated; the textbooks and materials budgets would be cut by \$100,000.

#### **What about public safety?**

According to Frederick Ryan, Arlington's chief of police, the police division would lose an officer. Ryan said that at present, the police department has a ratio of 1.4 officers per thousand residents. Most comparable communities in the region have an average of at least two officers per thousand residents. Police services that would be jeopardized include: a specialized traffic unit; specialized domestic violence officer; full-time narcotics officer; and the Infant Child Seat Inspection Program. The fire department would lose a position.

#### **What about parks and recreation?**

The Department of Public Works would lose three positions. The DPW's responsibilities include upkeep of Arlington's fields, parks and playgrounds. The department is also responsible for snow removal, public road maintenance, water and sewer services and cemetery maintenance.



#### **What about the town library system?**

The Fox branch library would close. Hours would be reduced at the Robbins library, and three part-time positions (the equivalent of one full-time position) would be eliminated. The budget for supplies would be cut by 19 percent. In addition, the town's ability to continue to participate in the Minuteman Library Network would be compromised. Membership in Minuteman allows Arlington residents to borrow materials from other area libraries.

#### **Are there groups in town working to support or oppose the override?**

The group "Yes for Arlington" supports the override efforts. The website is [www.yesforarlington.org](http://www.yesforarlington.org). There is a section on the website directed toward families with young children. Phone number: 781 998-0568.

The group "Arlington Coalition for Responsible Spending" is against the override. The website is [www.stoptheoverride.org](http://www.stoptheoverride.org). Phone number: 781 641-0063.

#### **Where do I vote?**

To find your voting precinct and polling place, go to:

[www.town.arlington.ma.us/Public\\_Documents/ArlingtonMA\\_Clerk/FAQS#wheretovote](http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_Clerk/FAQS#wheretovote). Or, go to the town webpage, [www.town.arlington.ma.us](http://www.town.arlington.ma.us). Look on the left-hand side and click on "elections/voting." Or, call the Town Clerk's office at 781 316-3070.

#### **When will the polls be open?**

On Saturday, June 11, the polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

#### **I won't be able to vote that day. How do I get an absentee ballot?**

You can obtain an absentee ballot until noon, Friday, June 10. You can download an application for an absentee ballot at: [www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elevf/howabs.htm](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elevf/howabs.htm).

#### **I'm not registered to vote. Is there still time to register?**

Sorry, but no. The voter registration deadline was May 23.

# Calendar

## Special Events for Families

### **Rumplestiltskin**

Sat. June 4, 11am. Robbins Library, Arl. Backyard Theater presents this classic tale. Tickets required and available June 2. Free. A Russell Fund Program. Info: 781-316-3234.

### **Brackett Sports & Fitness Fair**

Sat. June 4, 10am-4pm, rain or shine. Brackett Elementary School, 66 Eastern Ave., Arl. Open to the community, kids of all ages can experience canoeing & kayaking, orienteering, soccer, basketball, hockey, gymnastics, lacrosse, long jump, a bike rodeo, radar baseball, and a strength & conditioning circuit. The fair will also feature a moon bounce, balloons, crafts, under-5 games, a community resource table, food, and medals & prizes for everyone. \$5/child, \$15max/family. Info: Rebecca Riccio, 781-646-4616, [rrriccio@verizon.net](mailto:rrriccio@verizon.net)

### **Winchester Town Day**

Sat. June 4, all day. Winchester Common and local fields. This is a fun-filled day of family-oriented activities including games, live music, face painting, pony rides, petting zoo, kids Olympics, rubber duckie race, storytelling, and more! The day ends with fireworks over the town center at 9:15pm. There will also be a CHIP (Child Identification Program) booth. Free. Info: <http://www.townday.org>

### **Drop-in Outdoor Tot Doodle**

Tuesdays 10-10:45am, June 7-July 26 (weather permitting). Boys & Girls Club, 60 Pond Lane, Arl. Parent/child outdoor activity for children 15-36 months, including art, science, games and more. \$3/child (requires membership which is \$20/year). Info: 781-648-1617, <http://www.abgclub.org>

### **20th Annual Art in the Park**

Sun. June 12, 10am-5pm (rain or shine). Decordova Museum, 51 Sandy Pond Rd., Lincoln. A unique family event featuring children's performers, musical groups, art activities, food concessions, and the area's largest outdoor art exhibition and sale. \$12/adult, \$6/child (2-14), Free/under 2. Info: 781-259-8355, <http://www.decordova.org>

### **Dragon Boat Festival**

Sun. June 12, 9am-5pm (rain or shine). Memorial Dr. around Weeks Footbridge, Cambridge. The largest Asian American

celebration in New England. A highlight of the event is the display of brightly colored dragon boats paddled along the Charles River. Various competitions take place throughout the day, and family activities include dances, martial arts demonstrations, traditional Chinese performances, and more. Info: 617-426-6500 x778, <http://www.bostondragonboat.org/>

### **Going Places @ Your Library**

Sat. June 18. All day, Robbins Library. Mon. June 22. All day, Fox Library. Sign-up for the summer reading program begins - and continues all summer. All ages of readers and "listeners" are encouraged to register, collect a reading chart and colorful bookmark. The goal is to read or listen for at least 1 hour/week for the 10 weeks of summer. As you read, mark your progress by adding animals to the different "places" around the room. Program ends Aug. 26. Info: 781-316-3234.

### **Fun Place @ Your Library**

Sat. June 18, 10am-3pm. Robbins Library, Arl. Do-it-yourself crafts; juggler and balloonist Giles Holt from 12-2pm; face painter Susan Haverson from 1:30-3pm. Free. Info: 781-316-3234.

### **Verrill Farm Strawberry Festival**

Sat. June 18, 12-4pm (rain or shine). Verrill Farm, 11 Wheeler Rd., Concord. Enjoy real Homemade Strawberry Shortcake, hot dogs, hamburgers, hayrides, live music, and children's entertainment by Dan Grady's Marvelous Marionette Medley - 30 min. shows at 12:30pm and 1:45pm. Info: 978-369-4494, <http://www.verrillfarm.com>



### **Cambridge River Festival**

Sat. June 18, 12-6pm (rain or shine). Memorial Dr. between. JFK St. and Western Ave., Cambridge. This mile long festival of the arts features multiple performance areas, music (jazz, folk, blues, gospel), family entertainment, art-making activities, and more. Free. Info: <http://www.cambridgeartscouncil.org>

### **Drumlin Farm Strawberry Festival**

Sun. June 19, 11am-4pm (rain date June 26). Drumlin Farm, 208 S. Great Rd., Lincoln. Come pick your own berries to take home. Learn about sustainable agriculture. Meet some wild critters who also enjoy strawberries. Savor some fresh strawberry shortcake (yum!). Churn ice cream the old-fashioned way. A great treat for Fathers'

Day! \$5/members and non-members, free/under 3. Add'l chg for berries and treats. Registration required. Info: 781-259-2200, [http://www.massaudubon.org/Nature\\_Connection/Sanctuaries/Drumlin\\_Farm](http://www.massaudubon.org/Nature_Connection/Sanctuaries/Drumlin_Farm)

### **Storybook Players 'Theater to-do'**

Sat. June 25, 2pm. Robbins Library, Arl. Come see 'Little Red Riding Hood and the Good 'ol Wolf' and 'The Tortoise and the Hare'. Tickets required and available June 23. Free. A Russell Fund Program. Info: 781-316-3234.

## Sing-alongs & Music

### **Mondays**

5pm. Finagle a Bagel, 91 Middlesex Tpke., Burlington. Ed Morgan performs a selection of fun original and classic children's songs. Free. Info: 781-273-6500, <http://www.finagleabagel.com>

### **Tuesdays**

10am. Robbins Library, Arl. Babies to 36 mos. Songs and singing games. Space is limited; tickets available at 9am. Free. A Russell Fund Program. Info: 781-316-3198.

### **Thursday, June 2**

10am. Fox Library, Arl. For infants and preschoolers. Join Liz Buchanan for songs and singing games. Drop-in. Free. A Russell Fund Program. Info: 781-316-3198.

### **Second & fourth Friday of the month**

10am. Calvary United Methodist Church, 300 Mass Ave, Arl. Sing-along with Diane Taraz. \$1. Info: 781-648-3719, <http://www.dianetaraz.com>

### **Third Saturday of the month**

10am. Robbins Library, Arl. Babies to 36 mos. Songs and singing games. Space is limited; tickets available at 9am. Free. Info: 781-316-3198.

### **Saturdays and Sundays**

5-8pm on WERS 88.9FM radio. Every weekend The Playground program from the Emerson College radio station plays the best local, national and international continues throughout the summer. Ages 4 & up. 212-A Mass Ave., Arl. Info: 781-kids artists as well as classic hits, Broadway show tunes and more. Info: 617-824-8891, <http://www.wers.org>

### **Saturdays**

11am. Stellabella Toys, 1360 Cambridge St., Inman Sq., Cambridge. Join local musicians to sing songs and play games. All ages. Free. Info: 617-491-6290.

## Storytimes

**UPDATE! Robbins Library**, Wed. June 29. 10:30am. Robbins Library, Arl. Drop-in for ages 3-5 with an adult or alone, but adult must remain close by in library. Longer stories, rhymes, games and fingerplays followed by a simple craft. Info: 781-316-3234.

**UPDATE! National Heritage Museum** Thurs. June 16, 10:30am. 33 Marrett Rd., Rt. 2A, Lexington. It's a Flag Day story hour. We'll read *Betsy Ross* and *Red, White and Blue* and make our own flags to wave. Ages 4 & under. \$3/child. Info: 781-861-6559, <http://www.monh.org>

**Barnes & Noble Storytimes**  
98 Middlesex Tpke., Burlington.  
Pre-schoolers – Tues. at 10:30am  
Pajamarama – Fri. at 7pm. Free. Info: 781-273-3871.

**Barefoot Books**  
Fri. & Sat. 10:30am, ages 2 & up.  
Sun. 2pm, ages 5 & up. (Offered once per month – call for date). 1771 Mass. Ave., Camb. A fun hour of age-appropriate stories. Coloring and refreshments too! Free. Info: 617-349-1610.

**Harvard Coop**  
11am every Tues. & Sat. 1400 Mass. Ave., Camb. Join us for our preschool story hour with snack and craft on the Lower Level. Free. Info: 617-499-2000.

**Henry Bear's Park**  
Thurs. 11am at Arl. & Camb. locations. Ages 3-6. Free. 685 Mass. Ave., Arl. Info: 781-646-9400. 361 Huron Ave., Camb. Info: 617-547-8424.

**Pottery Barn Kids**  
11:30am daily. Check store for details. Free. Pottery Barn Kids, Burlington Mall, Burlington. Info: 781-221-5833.

## Other Arlington Fun Stuff

**UPDATE! Arlington Boys & Girls Club**  
60 Pond Ln., Arl. The Boys & Girls Club offers a variety of programs for children ages 6 mo. & up from swimming to tumbling and more. *Free family swims for members and immediate family: Fridays thru June 3, Thursdays starting June 30.* \$20/annual child membership, plus fee for each program. Info: 781-648-1617, <http://www.abgclub.org>

**UPDATE! Fidelity House**  
25 Medford St., Arl. Fidelity House offers summer camp programs for preschool, kindergarten and older kids. Most

programs start June 20. Info: 781-648-2005, <http://users.rcn.com/fidelityhouse/default.htm>

**UPDATE! Puddlestompers Nature Classes**  
Outdoor nature program for ages 2 to 5. Check the Web site for a summer schedule of 2, 4-week sessions. A portion of tuition is donated to Arl. conservation and open space organizations. Info: 781-449-0776, <http://www.puddlestompers.com>

**Opening for Season! Reservoir Beach**, Lowell St., Arl. Open June 26-Aug. 28. Hours: June & July 12-8pm weekdays, 10am-8pm weekends; Aug. 12-7pm weekdays, 10am-7pm weekends. The beach provides: lifeguards on duty, a clean sandy beach area, filtered, chlorinated, and aerated water, daily water quality testing, bathrooms, changing area, and outdoor showers. Also vending machines and picnic tables. Enjoy a stroll along the walking trails, bird watching, or fishing. Free parking. Season Passes for Arl. residents: \$35/adult, \$20/child (ages 1-17). Family season passes for Arl. residents: \$100 for 2 adults, 2 children + \$10 for each additional child. (Season passes available to non-residents for a higher fee.) Daily passes: \$4/day (Mon-Fri), \$6/day (weekends & holidays). Purchase season passes at Arlington Rec. Office, 422 Summer St., 781-316-3880.

**Opening for Season! Thompson Spray Pool**  
Thompson School, N. Union St., E. Arl. Hours: June 13 – 28, 3-7pm weekdays, 9am-7pm weekends; June 29-Aug. 28, 9am-7pm daily. Weather permitting. Free. Adjacent to fun playground. Note: NO bathroom facilities. # 781-316-3880.

**Arlington Rec. Dept.** Each season, the Arl. Rec. Dept. offers a number of programs for small children, including indoor gym playtime, arts & crafts, gymnastics, sports, and yoga. 422 Summer St., Arl. Info: 781-316-3880, [http://www.town.Arlington.ma.us/Public\\_Documents/ArlingtonMA\\_Recreation/ind](http://www.town.Arlington.ma.us/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_Recreation/ind)

**Art Beat Weekend Workshops**  
Weekday drop-in program June 27-Sept. 2. Different themed craft each week, focusing on world cultures. \$10-20/project. Sat. drop-in from 3-6pm continues throughout the summer. Ages 4 & up. 212-A Mass Ave., Arl. Info: 781- kids artists as well as classic hits, Broadway show tunes and more. Info: 617-824-8891 ex 646-2200, <http://www.artbeatonline.com>

**Capitol Theater Movies for caregivers with babies.** Mon., new movie chosen weekly starting between 1-2pm, \$4.50/adult. Nursing, bottle feeding, fussing, and changing diapers is strongly encouraged and never frowned upon! 204 Mass Ave., Arl. Info: 781-648-6022. To join the email list send an email to [BabyFriendlyMovies-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:BabyFriendlyMovies-subscribe@yahoo.com); or visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BabyFriendlyMovies>; for this week's movie visit <http://www.somervilletheatreonline.com>

**Puddlestompers Playgroup**  
Mondays 10:30am-12:30pm. Drop-in toddler and pre-school playgroup meets at various local playgrounds and takes occasional fieldtrips. To join the group's email list, contact 781-641-0944, [JulieLucey@comcast.net](mailto:JulieLucey@comcast.net)

## Beyond Arlington

**UPDATE! Bedford Family Connection Playroom** Mon.-Fri. 9:30-11:30am *until June 17*. First Parish Church, 75 Great Rd., Bedford. The playroom offers a warm, informal atmosphere where children can play while parents and caregivers supervise and chat. Members: \$.50/child per day; non-members: \$2/child per day. Info: 781-275-5231, [http://mywebpages.comcast.net/rlcww/BF\\_C.htm](http://mywebpages.comcast.net/rlcww/BF_C.htm)

**NEW! Sundays on Memorial Drive**  
Every Sun. through Nov. 13, Memorial Dr. in Cambridge is closed to traffic 11am-7pm. Bring your bike (tricycle, trail-a-bike...), stroller, rollerskates, scooter, running shoes or walking feet to take advantage of this magnificent parkway along the Charles River.

**Babes in the Woods**  
Tues. 10am. Middlesex Fells. Strolls and hikes through the park. Free. Info: 781-396-8994, <http://www.fells.org/babes.html>

**Kids Playground**  
15 Normac Rd, Woburn. Indoor playground with play space, tubes & tunnels, mini golf, interactive village and more. Info: 781-935-2300, <http://www.kidsplayground.com>

**Michaels Imagination Saturdays**  
Sat. 10am-12pm. Michaels Arts & Crafts, 34 Cambridge St., Burlington. Different craft each week. Ages 5-10. \$2/child. Info: 781-229-7592, <http://www.michaels.com>

### **Puppet Showplace Theatre**

32 Station St., Brookline. Wed. & Thurs. 10:30am & 1pm shows. Recommended for age 3 & up. Age appropriateness varies per show. \$7/members, \$8.50/non-members. Info: 617-731-6400, <http://www.puppetshowplace.org>

### **Rattle at the Brattle,**

Baby-friendly film series. Wed. afternoons 1-3pm, 40 Brattle St., Harvard Sq., Cambridge. Free. Film schedule only available at box office or by joining the email list. 617-876-6837. For more info or to join the list: [parents@brattlefilm.org](mailto:parents@brattlefilm.org)

### **Local Attractions**

#### **UPDATE! Harvard Museum of Natural History**

26 Oxford St, Cambridge. Summer science camps for kids ages preschool-5<sup>th</sup> grade. Discover dinosaurs, wildlife and insects; explore oceans; investigate artifacts and more! Programs start in July. 1 week program: \$120 non-members, \$108 members. Registration and info: 617-495-3045, <http://www.hmn.harvard.edu>

#### **The Butterfly Place**

120 Tyngsboro Rd., Westford. A large, warm (80-degrees!) atrium containing up to 500 butterflies (representing up to 50 species from around the world) and filled with colorful plants and shrubs on which the butterflies feed and reproduce. Come walk amongst the butterflies and see them up close! Info: 978-392-0955, <http://www.butterflyplace-ma.com>

#### **Children's Discovery Museum**

177 Main St., Acton. A Victorian house with rooms, corridors, and closets creatively transformed into ten hands-on exhibit areas. Ages 6 & under. Check their calendar for many special programs. \$8/Person; Free/under 1. Info: 978-264-4200, <http://www.discoverymuseums.org>

#### **Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary**

208 S. Great Rd, Lincoln. Explore the fields and forest and visit the farmyard. Weekly programs for kids. Closed non-holiday Mondays. Members free, \$6/Non-member adult, \$4/Non-member ages 3-12. Info: 781-259-2200, [http://www.massaudubon.org/Nature\\_Connection/Sanctuaries/Drumlin\\_Farm](http://www.massaudubon.org/Nature_Connection/Sanctuaries/Drumlin_Farm)

### **Ecotarium**

222 Harrington Way, Worcester. Nurture young children's curiosity and wonder with hands-on exploration of real things. Monthly family preschool programs. Members free, \$8/Non-member adult, \$6/Non-member ages 3-18. Explorer Express Train ride, \$2.50/person. Info: 508-929-2700, <http://www.ecotarium.org>

#### **Take a Walk at Gore Place**

Thru June 19. 52 Gore St., Waltham. Explore the open spaces and hidden places on this 45-acre estate. With Gore Place's spring "activity packs", visit the llama, sheep, goats, chickens and rabbits at our farm. Each backpack contains binoculars, a magnifying glass, and activities. Ages 3-9. One hour backpack rental: \$5. Hours: Mon.-Fri. 10am-3pm, Sat & Sun 1-3pm. Info: 781-894-2798, <http://www.goreplace.org>

#### **Habitat Wildlife Sanctuary**

10 Juniper Rd, Belmont. Monthly Sat. nature walks with stories and crafts for ages 3-4 w/adult. Trails wind through forests, across meadows, around 2 ponds, and wetlands. Fun programs for kids including storyhours. Members free, \$4/Non-member adult, \$3/Non-member child. Info: 617-489-5050, [http://www.massaudubon.org/Nature\\_Connection/Sanctuaries/Habitat](http://www.massaudubon.org/Nature_Connection/Sanctuaries/Habitat)

#### **National Heritage Museum**

33 Marrett Rd., Rt. 2A, Lexington. Great monthly programs for kids and families including storytimes with crafts and family programs. Info: 781-861-6559, <http://www.monh.org>

#### **Southwick's Zoo**

10am-5pm, 7 days a week. 2 Southwick St., Mendon. About an hour from Arlington but worth the trip! Info: 800-258-9182, <http://www.southwickszoo.com>

#### **The Stone Zoo**

149 Pond St., Stoneham. Small local zoo, with a petting barnyard, playground, and lots of animal exhibits. Great for young children! \$7/Adult, \$4.50/Ages 2-15. Info: 617-541-5466, <http://www.zoonewengland.com>

#### **Swan Boats in the Boston Public Garden**

Hours: (weather-permitting only) Until June 20: Daily 10am-4pm June 21-Labor Day: Daily 10am-5pm \$2.50/adult, \$1/child (2-15). Info: 617-522-1966, <http://www.swanboats.com>

### **Seminars**

#### **Effective Parenting**

Ongoing. Groups forming continually for 4 weekly, 2 hour evening or weekend sessions in Arl. A parenting workshop designed for parents of children birth to 3 yrs. In this workshop, you will learn practical parenting skills as well as effective ways to communicate with your child. Led by a seasoned mom and skilled facilitator, this small and highly interactive group will explore different parenting topics each week through lively discussion. \$120/person, \$160/couple. Info: Melissa Lucius, 781-641-4284, email [parenting@rcn.com](mailto:parenting@rcn.com) or <http://www.effective-parenting.org>

#### **Benefits**

#### **Brackett School Yard Sale**

Sat. June 4, 10am-2pm, rain or shine. Brackett School cafeteria, 66 Eastern Ave., Arl. The sale will feature a wide range of items, including children's clothing, toys and games, sports equipment, household items, and more.

#### **Benefit Concert for the Arlington Public Schools Fine Arts Programs**

Fri. June 10, 7pm. Regent Theater, 7 Medford St., Arl. This benefit concert will feature Boston's best vocalists and singer-songwriters including: Jennifer Matthews, Parul Vakani of Red Velvet Slide, Vykki Vox and Jennifer Truesdale. Special Guest Gary Backstrom of Jiggle, and More! \$20/adult; \$15/under 12; \$40/adult VIP; \$20/under 12 VIP (VIP includes preferred seating and backstage meet & greet party with performers). Info: 781-646-4849, <http://www.regenttheatre.com>

#### **Kans for Kids**

Sat. June 4, 10am-1pm. Gibbs School on Tufts St., Arl. Donate clean returnable bottles and cans to benefit Arl. Rec. Youth Activities. Info: 781-316-3880.

#### **PTO Thrift Shop for the Arl. Public Schools**

Wed. 4-8pm, Thurs. 9:30am-1pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of the month 12:30-5pm. Basement of the Fox Library at 175 Mass. Ave., E. Arl. Gently-used clothing for all ages, toys, books, housewares and more. Volunteers needed during store hours and for donation processing. Info: 781-483-3433, <http://www.ptothriftshop.com>



# AFC Membership/Renewal Form



New Member  Renewal

Date:

School District (circle for geographic location):

Bishop Brackett Dallin Hardy  
Peirce Stratton Thompson Out of town

Name(s):

Address, Zip:

E-mails:

Phone:

Areas of Interest:

Events/Parties New Parent Outreach Seminars  
Newsletter Outings with kids Web site  
Playgroups Outings without kids Other

Please list your children:

Name Gender Date of Birth

Membership Dues *All memberships renew in September*

One-year membership \$20 (joining July-January)  
 Mid-year discounted membership \$10 (joining Feb-June)  
 Send a gift membership (\$10 or \$20) to the following:

Please circle all that apply:

I am a: Parent Child Care Provider Educator  
Grandparent Health Care Provider Other

I am: Employed full-time Stay at home parent  
Employed part-time Other

Newsletter delivery preferences:

US Mail Email Both

Please make check payable to **Arlington Family Connection** and mail with this form to:

Arlington Family Connection  
PO Box 150  
Arlington, MA 02476

For information or questions, contact Ruth Schmidt at (781) 643-2362 or [membership@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:membership@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

## Groups

### **Arlington Fathers' Group**

Tues. 7:30-9pm. Sponsored by Parents Helping Parents. Free support group for fathers who are feeling isolated, overwhelmed, or concerned about their anger toward their children. For location & information, call 800-882-1250.

### **Belmont Food Allergy & Asthma Support Group**

A group of parents who meet monthly to discuss and advocate for the issues that arise when you have children living with food allergies and asthma. Info: Theresa Normile, [Tnormile@foodallergyfacts.com](mailto:Tnormile@foodallergyfacts.com) or 617-489-6668.

### **Grandparents' Support Group**

Second Tues. of the month, 12-1:30pm. For grandparents who are primary caretakers of their grandchildren. Free, sponsored by the Town of Arl. Info: 781-316-3410.

### **La Leche League**

An int'l, nonprofit, organization dedicated to providing education, information, support, and encouragement to breastfeeding women. Arl. meetings at Fox Library, 175 Mass. Ave. at 7:30pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tues. of ea. month (pregnant women & nursing moms) and the 1<sup>st</sup> Thurs. of ea. month (moms of nursing toddlers). One morning meeting is held in Camb. on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs. of the month at 10am, call for location. Free. Info: Heather 781-648-2988, <http://home.comcast.net/~jrsladkey/lll/index.html>. Neighboring towns also have leagues with monthly meetings. Refer to <http://www.llusa.org/MARIVT/Massachusetts.html> for a listing of Mass. Leagues.

### **New Mothers' Drop-in Group**

Fri. 10-11:30am, Calvary United Methodist Church, 300 Mass Ave., Arl. Free, nonsectarian, facilitated group. All new parents are welcome with their babies. Sponsored by Jewish Family & Children's Svcs. Info: 617-558-1278.

### **New Mothers' Drop-in Group**

Every other Tues. (6/7, 6/21), 9:30-11am, Henry Bear's Park, 685 Mass Ave., Arl.

Free, informal drop-in group for new mothers with infants. Info: 781-646-9400.

### **New Mothers' Group**

Tues. 10-11:30am, Beth Israel Deaconess & Children's Hospital Medical Care Ctr., 482 Bedford St., Lexington. Free, group meets for 8 weeks. To register or for more info, call Kristin Hicks at 617-667-2229.

### **Nursing Mothers' Group**

Wed. at 1:30pm. Baldwin Park I, 12 Alfred St., Woburn. Drop-in. All breastfeeding mothers & babies welcome. Meet other moms and have your breastfeeding questions answered by a certified lactation consultant. \$2 donation suggested. Info: 781-756-4788, <http://www.winchesterhospital.org/>

### **Older First-time Moms' Group**

Third Wed. of every month, 7-8:30pm. Fox Library, 175 Mass. Ave. Arl. Social and support discussion group for first-time moms in their late 30's & 40's in the Boston area. Free. donation suggested. Info: 781-674-2029.



# Arlington Family Connection

PO Box 150

Arlington, MA 02476

Happy Father's  
Day !! ♥♥

June 2005 Newsletter

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## Save the Dates!

### Thursday, June 2

#### AFC Book Club

Meets first Thurs. of every month.

Contact Trish Richardson at

[richardson\\_728@hotmail.com](mailto:richardson_728@hotmail.com). This

month's book is *The Three Junes* by  
Julia Glass.

### Saturday, June 4

#### Working Moms Group

Usually meets the first Sat. of the month  
10:30am-12pm, for a casual discussion.

Arl. Senior Ctr., 27 Maple St.

Occasionally there will be social  
outings. For questions or to join the  
mailing list contact

[workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)  
[info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org) or call Wendy at 781-648-2341.

### Tuesday, June 7

#### AFC Steering Committee Meeting

7:30pm. Open to all members. For the  
meeting's location, contact Ruth  
Schmidt at 781-643-2362 or

[info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

### Wednesday, June 8

#### AFC Outing to Drumlin Farm

10am (rain date June 9). Drumlin Farm,  
208 S. Great Rd, Lincoln. Come join other  
AFC families at this Mass. Audubon farm  
just 20 minutes away

(<http://www.massaudubon.org>). Roam the  
gardens and fields and view the wild  
and farm animals. Admission for non-  
Audubon members is \$6/adult, \$4/ages 3 &  
up, free/under 3. Hayrides are available for  
an additional \$2. Registration requested  
but not required. We will coordinate  
carpools and caravans if there is interest.  
Info: Call Jeanne at 781-643-6212 or  
[outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

### Saturday, June 11

#### VOTE!

The town wide override vote will have  
significant impact on our community  
whether it passes or not. Make your voice  
heard and VOTE! Polls will be open from  
8am-8pm. Info:

[http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/Public\\_Documents/ArlingtonMA\\_Clerk/S003C1C4B](http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_Clerk/S003C1C4B)

### Friday, June 17

#### AFC Playground Fun!

10-11:30am (rain date June 24). Parallel  
Playground, Medford St. at the Mystic  
Valley Pkwy. Rotary, Arl. Join AFC  
families for the first in a series of monthly  
playground fun with special surprises for  
the little ones! Info: Call Amy at 781-646-  
5417 or

[outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

### Sunday, July 17

#### Circus Smirkus 2005 'Pinocchio'

11am, Middlesex School, Concord. Join  
other AFC families for the only touring  
youth circus in the country  
(<http://www.circusmirkus.org>). This  
professional, high energy and entertaining  
one-ring Big Top circus of Smirkus  
trouper's ages 10-18 is not to be missed!  
Tickets are \$15/person for this all ages  
show. AFC will have a block of reserved  
seating for this general admission event.  
Tickets reserved on a first-come first-  
served basis. Call Johanna at 781-316-8131  
or [outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)  
to reserve your ticket today!