



October 2013

Barcroft News

Vol III, Issue 2

Meeting Dogs Along the Way

By Inge Nealis

Every day I see many dogs being walked in our Barcroft Neighborhood as I go to school. So it got me thinking about pets and their owners. Did you know that there are 78.2 million dog owners in the U.S? Although there are many dogs owners, cats still take the lead in being the number one pet in the U.S. There are about 3,500 animal shelters so don't adopt a dog or cat from a breeder when there are millions of dogs and cats in the world that would love to have a home. There are many different types of animals you can adopt from shelters: dogs, cats, birds, reptiles and many more.

Everybody loves to meet dogs but there are proper ways to do so. Here are a few steps to help keep you safe when meeting dogs. You always want to make sure that you ask the owner of the dog if it is ok to pet that dog. You also need to ask the owner if there are any areas on the dog that are hurt or if the dog doesn't like to be petted. Next you want to put your hand out palm facing towards the sky. You want to make sure that the dog has a chance to sniff your hand or

another part of you before you pet the dog. The dog will feel safer when you allow them to sniff you. Make sure you do not make eye contact with the dog as this is perceived as a threat to fight to see who is boss. So the next time you're taking a walk, go ahead and make a new furry friend but remember to follow these steps! •

NEXT BSCL MEETING ON OCTOBER 3

Our next meeting will take place on Thursday, Oct. 3, at 7:30 p.m. at the Community House and will have two featured items. First, Colette Bounet, Barcroft Elementary's new principal, will be on hand to introduce herself to the community. Next, as noted in last month's issue, county staff will present their revised plan for upgrading the path connecting 7th Street and the Washington & Old Dominion Trail. We will then vote on whether to endorse this revised proposal. If approved, it will advance to the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee in December for funding consideration. •

Barcroft News

Editor: Alyssa Ford Morel
703-907-9318
editor@bscl.org

Advertising: Brian Hefner
advertising@bscl.org

Publisher/Mailing: Christine Hopkins,
christinehopkins@kw.com
703-350-2101

Next Deadline: October 15

BSCL Officers

President: Eric Harold, eric@bscl.org

Vice President: Chris Kupczyk
ckupczyk@verizon.net

Treasurer: Jennifer Lis
Jennifer@bscl.org

Recording Secy.: Randy Swart
randy@bscl.org

Membership Secy.: Fay Cheung, fay@bscl.org

Board Members: Michael Behringer, Keith
Fred, Bryant Monroe,
Michael Nazareth

Contacts and Committees

Community House Rental Manager:
Barbara Swart
barcrofthouserental
@yahoo.com

Fundraising: Chris Ditta

Landscaping: Scott Brinitzer, 703-892-0308

Traffic Committee: Heidi Wicker

4th of July Parade: Andrew Hunter
703-979-8247

Columbia Pike: Randy Swart
randy@bscl.org

Demeter House: Darlene Mickey

Parks: Shirley Gay

Signs: Ken Edwards

Web/NCAC Rep.: Randy Swart. 703-521-2080

Arlington Civic Fed. Delegates: Eric Harold, Randy Swart, Pat Williamson
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Barcroft News is printed on recycled paper with vegetable-based ink by Stanley Adams Printing.

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Monthly Happenings

President's Report by Eric Harold

Halloween's just around the corner. Know what you're going to be yet? It's October, a great month not only because it's someone's (who shall remain nameless) birthday month but also because it brings in full color the beautiful autumn weather. What better way to ring in Fall than an opportunity to meet Barcroft Elementary School Principal Colette Bounet? Come and meet her, and hear an update from the County on the new trail connection at 7th Street, at our next meeting on Thursday October 3 at 7:30 p.m.

We had a nice meeting to kick off the year. Many new faces were at the meeting,... that's always great to see and we hope to see them and more new faces this month. Last month, along with approving budgets for the maintenance and upkeep of the community house and landscaping, we heard from County Board member Jay Fisetta presenting Tap In Arlington, a grassroots organization that seeks to reduce the use of single use water bottles. For more information, go to www.tapinarlington.com. •

It's membership renewal time for the
Barcroft School and Civic League.

Please fill out and return the inserted membership form as soon as possible.

Keep the Poop Scooped, Please

Editor's Note: BSCL President Eric Harold has received feedback about an increase in un-scooped dog poop. An excellent article by Eric Parker addressed the issue in the November 2005 edition of Barcroft News. Following are highlights of that article.

Barcroft seems a little "messy" lately. Dog owners have a responsibility to the community to clean up after their pets. Leaving dog poop un-scooped is more than just being inconsiderate:

- Bacteria in dog poop can cause diseases in humans, including dysentery and cholera.
- Dog poop can be washed into storm drains from our neighborhood, reach Four Mile Run, the Potomac, and eventually the Chesapeake Bay, where it can contribute to the creation of algae blooms which deplete the water of oxygen and kill fish.

- One word: Rats!
- Dog poop will over-fertilize and kill grass, creating a "minefield" look to your lawn. Also, eating food from a garden fertilized, intentionally or not, by dog poop is unhealthy and kind of disgusting.

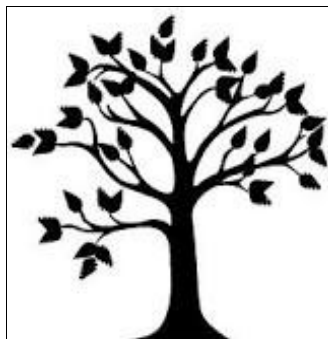
If the above are not a sufficient incentive, note that Arlington County Code authorizes a fine of up to \$100 for failing to scoop on public property. In our neighborhood the stretch of grass between the sidewalk and the curb is public property regardless of how many times you've mowed it.

Please respect our community and our neighbors and clean up after your pet. If you use a dog walker or dog-sitter, make sure they are aware of your desire to keep Barcroft poop-free. •

2014 Garden Tour Being Planned

By Noreen Atkinson

Attention all Gardeners: We are planning a Spring 2014 Barcroft garden tour. We already have some gardeners who have expressed interest in having their yard on tour next Spring. If you were here for the 2012 tour



you know it was very successful and raised over \$750.00 for our community house ongoing renovation project. We would love to beat that record! For more information or to get on our list of gardeners, contact noreenatkinson@verizon.net or 703-979-4868. •

8th Road Block Party Held September 14

By Bodie Piantanida (3 years old)

The 8th Road Block Party was the best! Tons of neighbors showed up – my mom said about 80 – but I can only count to 27 and there was definitely more than that. They blocked off the streets with huge orange barrels and we got to ride our bikes wherever we wanted and no one worried about us getting squished by a car.

Me and a gazillion other kids jumped in the moon bounce until

we nearly passed out – those things are awesome. More than a dozen “new” neighbors joined the party. These neighbors moved to Barcroft from as close as north Arlington and as far away as Japan!

Tree Distribution Event

Free trees! Arlington County's Natural Resources Division is providing 500 native tree species for residents. The annual tree distribution event takes place Saturday, October 26 at the Arlington County nursery facility (located in South Arlington on South Four Mile Run, behind Barcroft Field #6), 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. ●

Neighbors rolled out their BBQ's into the street and grilled some pretty impressive stuff – kabobs, marinated shrimp, and juicy steaks. All I got was a grilled sausage so we'll need to work on that for next year, dad. The rest of the spread was impressive as well –



homemade breads, salads, watermelon, and cupcakes. I may have eaten seven of the mini cupcakes, but who's counting...besides my mom. I can't wait until next year's party! ●

Dogtober Day

Calling all dog lovers! Join us on October 5 from 1 to 3 p.m. (registration starts at noon) at Lacey Woods Park (1200 North George Mason) for our annual Dogtober Day and Barkers Bash! Celebrate your pooch with categories including best kisser, most colorful pup, most adorable, cutest costume and more! Ribbons and prizes for all categories. Don't miss the Barker's Bash featuring a You & Me Agility fun course and other games! Pedigrees not required, but leashes and current vaccinations are. Sponsored by Arlington County Park Rangers and Petco. ●

Flavors of the Season: Pumpkin

By *Kari Hickman*,
virtualgoodyplate.blogspot.com

A few years ago I went on a pumpkin baking binge, in the hope of finding a few new seasonal favorites. This recipe, from one of those specialty seasonal magazines at the grocery store, was a huge hit with friends, family, and dinner guests alike. The bars are delicious, but the secret is the frosting - browned butter brings a warm, nutty, irresistibility to them. And as always, these are easy enough for kids to help make.

Sour Cream Pumpkin Bars with Browned Butter Frosting

1/2 cup butter, softened
1 1/3 cups sugar
1 1/2 tsp baking powder
1/4 tsp baking soda
1/4 tsp salt
2 eggs
1 cup canned pumpkin
1/2 cup dairy sour cream
(or plain yogurt)
1/4 cup milk
1 tsp vanilla
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 cup whole wheat flour
1 cup chopped pecans or walnuts

1. Grease a 15x10x1-inch baking pan; set aside. Preheat oven to 350.
2. In a large mixing bowl, beat butter with an

electric mixer on medium to high speed for 30 seconds. Add sugar, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Beat until combined, scraping sides of bowl occasionally. Beat in eggs, pumpkin, sour cream, milk, and vanilla until combined. Add flours; beat until combined. Stir in nuts.

3. Spread mixture evenly into prepared baking pan. Bake for about 25 minutes or until wooden toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool in pan on wire rack.

4. Prepare Browned Butter Frosting; spread immediately over cooled bars. Cut into bars. If desired, top each bar with a pecan half. Makes 32.



Browned Butter Frosting

1/2 cup butter
3 cups powdered sugar
2 T milk plus a little more if needed
1 tsp vanilla

1. In a small saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Reduce heat to medium-low. Continue to cook, without stirring, for 5 to 6 minutes or until butter becomes brown and fragrant. Remove from heat; cool slightly.
2. Transfer butter to medium mixing bowl. Add powdered sugar, 2 T milk and vanilla. Beat with electric mixer until combined. Beat in additional milk, 1 tsp at a time, to make a spreadable frosting. Use immediately. Makes about 1 cup. ●

What's Happening at Barcroft Elementary: Autumn

By Jenny Ditta, Barcroft Elementary Liaison

The arrival of cooler weather and shorter days is a welcome time at Barcroft Elementary. On October 3, the first quarter will end, and students may choose between two weeks of Fall Intersession classes or vacation from October 7 - 18. During the hiatus from regular classes, Arlington Public Schools will continue installation of a new playground for students. Construction is scheduled to be completed by mid-October.

A gentle reminder to link your Giant Bonus card to Barcroft Elementary. Barcroft's code is # 02199. The Giant A+ Rewards program runs from October 4, 2013 – March 20, 2014. Provide your name and bonus card # to Candice Kaup (at: candicekaup@yahoo.com) or link on-line at www.giantfood.com/Aplus and click on "register your card." Now more than ever, your support is needed!

There are several upcoming events in October that we invite our wonderful neighbors to enjoy. Many families are signing up to run in the Race for a Cause 8K race and 1K fun run to be held on October 13. Runners are asked to designate Greenbrier Learning Center, a local non-profit that provides after school tutoring services to 20 of our Barcroft students. To register for this event, go to: <http://communications.acumen.com/solutions.com/Theraceforacause/index.html>.

On Friday, October 25, the PTA will

host its annual Halloween Costume Party and Dance. Join us for an evening of family fun! Come dressed in your favorite costume and dance the night away. Enjoy refreshments, games and crafts too! That evening, the Barcroft PTA will begin our annual candy collection to honor our troops and veterans. The collection will last through mid-November. Neighbors can drop off bagged candy, surplus Halloween candy, cards, and letters into the orange bin at the Front Office. Barcroft students will run in the Marine Corp Marathon Healthy Kids Fun Run, to be held at the Pentagon on Saturday, October 26. Good luck!

Highlights for November and December 2013 include the November 5 Election Day Bake Sale. The PTA will sell coffee, breakfast items, individually-packaged baked goods such as brownies and cupcakes, whole items like breads, pies, and cakes, and savory foods that work great for lunch. Be sure to stop by, exercise your civic duty, and support your neighborhood school! During the week of November 18 - 22, Barcroft will also host a Book Fair and Holiday Shop. Choose from a selection of books, Stella & Dot jewelry, and other goodies for everyone on your list. Finally, celebrate 2013 with the PTA at the Clarendon Silver Diner. On Monday, December 2, the PTA will host a Silver Diner Night. We hope that our neighbors and esteemed alumni join us for delicious food and fabulous company! •

Support Barcroft Elementary Through Grocery Purchases

When you purchase Harris Teeter brand products between August 2013 and May 2014, a donation will be made to Barcroft Elementary. Go to www.harristeeter.com/community/together_in_education/link_to_your_school.aspx and use Barcroft code # 4238. Or next time you check out at your local Harris Teeter, mention Barcroft code #4238 to the cashier.

Please go to <http://www.apsva.us/Page/16024> for online registration instructions for Giant, Safeway and Target. •

Come meet Barcroft Elementary's new principal,

Colette Bounet

at the

Barcroft School and Civic League Monthly Meeting

Barcroft Community House

October 3, 2013, 7:30 p.m.

everyday
Yoga

Wednesday and Thursday Evenings
Barcroft Community House

Yoga for all Levels, Gentle, Prenatal and Private Class Offerings
Visit EDYoga.com, email at info@EDYoga.com or call 703-975-3816

Barcroft News

Want to Escape the Rat Race?

In just 2 ½ hours you could be in Staunton, VA, the best-kept secret in the Commonwealth!

Visit our home-away-from-home, "Quickly's Retreat", for a weekend or a week. The house sleeps 9, so bring your family or friends! For more information go to www.stauntonhouse.wordpress.com or send an e-mail to lsukate@verizon.net.

Your neighbors, *Kate Beyselance and Rich Erler*

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Chipmunks Stock Up for Winter

*By Cliff Fairweather,
Naturalist, Long Branch Nature Center*

Chipmunks have become more numerous in recent years, even in my urban corner of the county. Because of their daytime habits, relatively bold personalities, and audible communications, these little members of the squirrel family make a great example of watchable wildlife. Their occasional indulgence in a backyard tomato seems a small price to pay for a bit more native biological diversity in our neighborhoods.

Chipmunks are rarely still for long and are especially busy at this time of year as they prepare for winter. Unlike our local flying squirrels and gray tree squirrels, chipmunks don't remain active all winter. Instead, they snooze through much of the season in their burrows. But, unlike our largest squirrel, the woodchuck, they don't put on a thick layer of fat for a deep hibernation.

Instead, as winter nears, chipmunks begin to fill the larders in their burrows with acorns, seeds, nuts and other food. The quantities can be impressive: James J. Audubon reported finding almost a peck of acorns in one chipmunk burrow, along with a variety of other grains, nuts, and seeds. Getting all that food into storage is what keeps chipmunks busy in the summer and fall.

The chipmunk's answer to this transportation challenge is expandable cheek

pouches that it can stuff with food items for its cache. Some reports of what fits into those pouches include: 6 chestnuts, 31 kernels of corn, 70 sunflower seeds, 32 beechnuts... multiply that by many trips a day and it's easy to see how a chipmunk can sock away a half-bushel of food.

As temperatures drop in late fall, chipmunks move into their burrows for long periods, though they will emerge during warm spells. During the coldest periods, they drop their body temperature to a degree or two above their surroundings, leaving their metabolic activity at a mere idle and reducing their energy needs by as much as eighty-five percent. By going into torpor, chipmunks reduce the need to dip into their food supplies.

So, why have we been seeing so many chipmunks in the last couple of years? No one is sure, but some ideas have been suggested. The last couple of winters have been mild, so perhaps more chipmunks are surviving to reproduce in the spring. Another suggestion is that mange has reduced fox numbers and consequently fewer chipmunks are becoming fox snacks. Or, it could be long cycles in chipmunk populations, reduced incidence of disease or other difficult to detect factors.

Regardless of the cause, I plan to take full advantage of our chipmunk bonanza this fall and watch for chipmunks with full cheek pouches ● around my home and at Long

Nature and History Programs for October 2013

A number of programs and classes are offered at Long Branch Nature Center (625 South Carlin Springs Road) in the month of October. To register for any of them, call 703-228-4747 or go On-line to: <https://registration.arlingtonva.us/wsc/webtrac.wsc/wb1000.html?wbp=1>.

Bird Walk: Wednesday, Oct. 2, 8:30 to 11 a.m. Adults. Join members of the Northern Virginia Bird Club for an informal walk through Long Branch and Gelncarlynn Parks in search of resident birds. Beginning and experienced birders welcome. Bring binoculars and field guides. For information:703-228-6535. Meet in the parking lot. Free.

Survival Skills: ID Poisonous and Venomous: Friday, Oct. 4, 4 to 5 p.m. Kids 9 to 14. This hands on classe teaches traditional

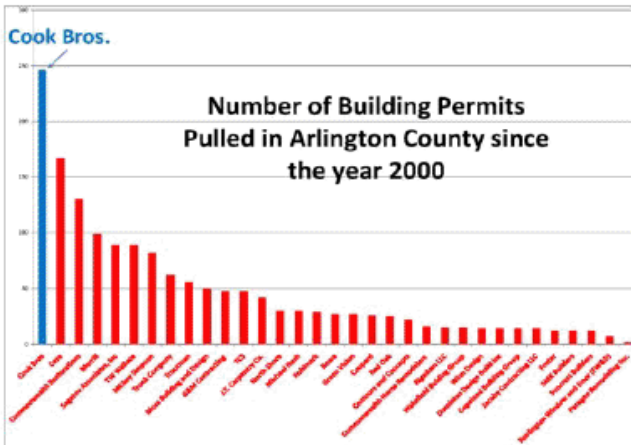
survival skills. To survive, you need to know what plants and animals to use - but knowing which ones to avoid can be even more important! Information: 703-228-6535. \$7 fee due upon registration.

Third Sundays - Remove Invasives! Sunday, Oct. 20, 2 to 5 p.m. Ages 9-Adult. Not all plants are good for the environment. Learn what these troublesome beasts look like and help rescue the park from them. No registration required. Free. Information: 703-228-6535. Meet in the parking lot.

Notable Nature: Sunday, Oct. 27, 3 to 4 p.m. Families. Learn about nature journaling. We'll begin by constructing our own nature journal, then head out to record nature... focusing on ducks and geese! Information: 703-228-6535. Free.

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www.CookBros.org/BarcroftGraph



News Notes

SPICY EVENT FOR A CAUSE

A Salsa Party including dancing and an auction will be held on October 18 at 7:30 at the Women's Club of Arlington. The event will raise funds for Young Life, an Arlington-based ministry for adolescents. Tickets are \$20. For more information, contact Cory Dimas at 315-727-3983.

SUSTAINABLE YARD CLASS

Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia will present "Designing a Sustainable and Maintainable Yard" on Saturday, October 19, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Fairlington Community Center at 3308 South Stafford Street, Arlington.

A beautiful and environmentally friendly home landscape grows from a workable design—one that you can comfortably implement and maintain. Whether you are doing it yourself or working with a designer or contractor, this workshop will give you the knowledge to evaluate your site, identify your needs, and choose plants and materials appropriate for local conditions. Fee: \$20 per household. Register on-line at www.mgnv.org or by contacting the VCE Master Gardener Help Desk (703-228-6414 or mgarlalex@gmail.com).

ARLINGTON FUN RIDE

Join us Saturday, October 5 at 8 a.m. for a morning full of fun and bike activities!

Hosted by the non-profit organization, Phoenix Bikes, the Arlington Fun Ride is scenic and family friendly, and that takes you on the paved multiuse trails that make up the Arlington Loop. There will be pit stops to refuel. Hosted by the non-profit Phoenix Bikes. Details: www.arlingtonfunride.org. Barcroft Park, 4200 South Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington.

NATIVE SEED COLLECTION PROJECT

Volunteers are needed to work with Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE) to help collect native seeds and acorns on Saturday, October 5 from 10 a.m. to noon at Lubber Run Park, North Columbus Street and 2nd Street, Arlington. The collected seeds will be used to increase the diversity of native tree stock for local restoration projects. This is a great activity for families, groups or individuals! No experience needed. Sign up Today! If you have questions, please contact the ACE office at 703-228-6406.

US ARMY STRINGS CONCERT AT ARLINGTON PRESBYTERIAN

The US Army Strings will perform a FREE concert on Friday, October 18, at 7 p.m. The concert will be held at Arlington Presbyterian Church, 3507 Columbia Pike. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, please call the church office at 703-920-5660. •

Neighbor to Neighbor Ads

These ads are free to BSCL members.

The listings run for three months unless requested to be removed or updated.

College-aged Babysitter: Holidays and summers: Sarah. 571-329-5607

Rebecca Bean Babysitter: 9th grader available nights and weekends. Email: rebeccaahbean@gmail.com or call 571-344-4134.

Need music for youth-focused party?

Concerned about cost? Call Dylan "DJ VIP" Vega: Local, teenage and reasonably priced. Dylanrvega@gmail.com or 703-907-9162.

Babysitter, House/Pet Sitter: Carmen Dunlap, responsible 15 year old. Available weekends and weeknights, more hours in the summer. 571-243-1039 or Dunlap.carmen@ymail.com.

Neighborhood college student: Available for babysitting, odd jobs, cleaning, housework, etc. anytime. Abby Fram, 703-892-1090 email: abbyfram94@aol.com.

Babysitter available this summer: Experienced VCU Elementary Education student. Call Sarah Hunter at 703-927-4128.

Vacation Help: Responsible teen to water plants, bring in mail, care for pets, water gardens, etc: Dylan Vega, 703-271-5987, dylanrvega@gmail.com.

Pet Care: High school senior, Rebekah. 571-245-0159.

Alexandra's Babysitting: high school senior available, afternoon, nights and weekends. 703-307-4889.

August's Pet Sitting: 703-892-6712.

Babysitting, Pet Sitting, and Violin Lessons: Responsible 9th grade babysitter and pet sitter. Violinist in AYSO, with over 10 years of experience playing, can teach beginner violin. Call/text Tyler at 571-244-7555, or email tylerchanlapointe@gmail.com •



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In the **Washington DC area inventory is tight, in many scenarios home sellers are receiving multiple offers**, often at thousands above list price, sometimes without inspection contingencies and without even a mortgage or appraisal contingency. Below are a few tips:

One useful tool for buyers to gain consideration when competing for a property is an Escalation Clause, where a buyer shows the very most they are willing to pay. To enable the escalation there needs to be at least two bona fide competing offers. **The cap is the high limit of the offer, and the other component is how much higher than other competing offers a buyer is willing to go.** A buyer willing to pay \$5,000 instead of \$1,000 over another contract can gain **a more compelling advantage.** Another key element of the escalation is whether a buyer wants **to keep the appraisal contingency or waive it.** There is **one clever move to navigate around the appraisal contingency** that I share with a client in our first consultation meeting.

Always have a home inspection - at least for informational purposes, **where a buyer can cancel the sale** if a serious problem is found.

Another tool is to **offer a free rent back** if the seller is occupying the home and may need a few weeks to stay in the home after settlement. **The free rent back has made a huge difference in winning the bid for many buyer clients.** When a seller is buying another property, the ability of a buyer to close quickly and offer a rent back is huge.

With the craziness in the market - this is where **our expertise is critical to both the buyer and seller for maximizing their outcome.** Contact me to learn the secrets of managing a successful sale - whether buying or selling!

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