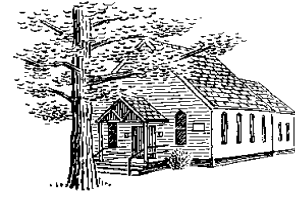


Barcroft School and Civic League
800 South Buchanan Street
Arlington, VA 22204



Barcroft News

May 2014

Vol III, Issue 9

Plan on Annual Parade and Picnic on July 4

By Andrew Hunter

If you have lived in Barcroft anytime over the last 25 years you know that on the 4th of July, everyone heads to the Barcroft parade route to join in or watch the neighborhood parade go by. Here are some facts to know about the parade:

The parade starts at 10 a.m. sharp on July 4, rain or shine. Parade participants con-

gregate in the Women's Club parking lot starting around 9:30 a.m. It starts at the Barcroft Community House and makes its way down 8th Road, up Wakefield where it passes the reviewing stand at Barcroft Elementary then doubles back on itself heading back down Wakefield. It turns right at 8th Street and finishes at the Community House. A Police

Continued on page 4

Elections and Rescheduled Reevesland Farm Program

By Chris Kupczyk

Please join us at the Community House on May 1 at 7:30 p.m. We have rescheduled the planned guest from our April meeting, which was cancelled due to a candidates' forum. Joan Horwitt will speak about the Reevesland Farm, the last working farm in Arlington County, including its history, preservation, and the efforts to keep it functioning.

Before Ms. Horwitt's presentation, we

will elect (or re-elect) a slate of BSCL officers for 2014-2015, along with one board member through 2018. The nominees are:

- President: Eric Harold
- Vice President: Chris Kupczyk
- Treasurer: Jennifer Lis
- Recording Secretary: Randy Swart
- Membership Secretary: Fay Amundson
- Board Member: Keith Fred (term to expire 2018). •

Remodels That Payoff

Which home upgrades resonate most with buyers? Realtors in 101 markets across the country judge the effects of 35 home improvement projects on sales prices in Remodeling magazine's Cost vs. Value Report (www.costvsvalue.com)

This year's report showed exterior updates and improvement projects really pay off, winning the buyers' eye and providing sellers with the most return on investment. This is the second year in a row that all of the report's projects saw more improvement dollars recouped upon a home's resale than the previous year.

The numbers vary dramatically in regions of the country. Washington DC naturally had higher cost-value ratios than the national average.

For the Washington DC area here are some popular projects with high yield paybacks:

Minor Kitchen Remodel Job Cost: \$18,689, Resale Value \$18,674, Cost Recouped = 99.9%

Major Kitchen Remodel Job Cost: \$54,334 Resale Value: \$49,436, Cost Recouped = 91%

Bath Remodel Job Cost: \$15,942, Resale Value \$15,702; Cost Recouped = 98.5%.

Basement Remodel Job Cost: \$62,254, Resale Value \$56,494, Cost Recouped = 90.7%

Results at resale will vary, depending upon congruity of other upgrades along with neighborhood & market trends. I can offer you tips on what to do and what not to do to sell your home for the most amount of money. As your neighborhood real estate consultant I can help you & those you care about with real estate buying & selling needs.

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BSCL Community Meeting: Barcroft House, Thursday, May 1, 7:30 p.m.



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Visit Us Online: www.bscl.org

Monthly Happenings

President's Report by Eric Harold

Well, it sure is nice to see Barcroft spring (pun intended) back to life. Bicyclists and walkers, kids at the playground, spring cleaning and gardening. Finally. I'll give it a month before I start complaining about the heat.

Well, the big vote in the special election to fill the remainder of Chris Zimmerman's County Board seat has come and gone. Are we done voting yet? No! Come to the meeting in May and vote for next year's slate of officers for BSCL. The super-PACs are cranking out the ads in a nasty shadow campaign (I heard the Koch Brothers are filling Chris Kupczyk's campaign coffers). Harold is a puppet for Soros and Greenpeace. You can end the gridlock. Now's your chance to vote the bums out! Come to the meeting in May!

APS continues its move toward making decisions on how it will address capacity issues in the coming years. The next public hearing will be on May 22 on the proposed CIP. APS is still soliciting feedback and will take it through May 7. Thanks to Jennifer Wohlander for organizing Barcroft's response and to all that contributed to it. Keep track of this issue at this APS website: <http://www.apsva.us/moreseats>.

Also at the May meeting, the discussion scheduled for April's meeting on the planned Reevesland Farm improvements will take place. See you then! •

Neighbor to Neighbor Ads

These ads are free to BSCL members.

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

Kevin's Media: Will convert VHS tapes, TC30 tapes, Laserdiscs and 35mm photograph slides to DVD. Professional packaging/artwork included upon prior request. Please inquire for rates. Email kevinsmedia118@gmail.com or text/call 703-919-7605 .

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

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

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

Babysitter, house/pet sitter: Carmen Dunlap, responsible 16 year old. Available weekends and weeknights. Dunlap.carmen@ymail.com.

Where Did the Trash Go?

By Randy Swart

Following the wild windy days of spring you may have noticed trash in your gutter. Then maybe it disappeared! If you live around 8th Road, 8th Street or 7th Street, maybe you saw Jeff Bramsen come by with his

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

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.

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

Jenny's Babysitting, Petsitting and Vacation Care:

Sixteen-year-old available weekends and some weeknights. Can water plants, bring in mail, etc., while you travel. Contact jennylclaire@gmail.com or call 703-998-5338.

Babysitter, Petsitter, Vacation Help:

Responsible 9th grader. Will water plants, bring in mail, etc. Email Tyler at tylerchanlapointe@gmail.com or call 571-244-7555.

4Sunsets Beach House: White sand, gulf front home, 14 hour drive from Arlington or fly into Panama City, Florida. Visit 4Sunsets.com or email Alissa at alissa_@4Sunsets.com •

pro-quality trash grabber and a biiiiiig plastic bag that he filled with your trash. Give Jeff a thumbs up if you see him on the street. He's a contributor to making Barcroft a great neighborhood. •

Greetings this May from Our Savior Lutheran School

By OSLS National Junior Honor Society

Thank you to everyone who stopped by at our school open house in April. We are currently accepting applications for the 2014-2015 school year for grades PreK through 8th. We offer both before and after care. Stop by or call our school office if you have any questions.

We want to congratulate two of our students from this past month. Ellie Kelly, one of our 4th graders, was this year's Washington Area Lutheran Schools Spelling Bee Champion. Also, Elisha Sutton, a 7th grader, made it to the state National Geographic Geography Bee held at Longwood University in Farmville, Virginia. Well done to both students!

The children of Our Savior would like to invite the neighborhood to this year's Spring Fling school night on Thursday, May 22, starting at 7 p.m. We begin the evening with a student musical concert in our church sanctuary at 825 South Taylor Street. This is followed by a viewing of Science Fair projects in our school gym. The students are very excited to share their work with all those who attend. The event is free and everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a great evening.

Our middle school looks forward to class trips early in May. Our 8th grade travels to New York City, 7th grade heads into downtown Washington D.C. on a mission trip, and 6th grade journeys to Science Camp.

This May, Our Savior students also head to Maryland for an annual Washington Area Lutheran School's Track Meet. Later in the month, we have our own school Field Day. Classes rotate during the day participating in different events such as a balloon toss, long jump, football throw, obstacle course, and much more. We end the day with a fun tug of war between classes. This is certainly an exciting month ahead here at Our Savior. •



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Shredding for Scholars



The Woman's Club of Arlington's 3rd Annual

Paper Shredding and Bake Sale Fund Raiser for Wakefield High School

and

Lions Club Sight and Hearing Van

◆ Saturday, May 17, 2014 ◆
◆ 9 a.m. to 12 noon ◆

When? Bake sale and Lions Club Van start at 9 a.m. Paper shredding is from 9:30 to 11:30 only. Please remove large spring-clips and 3-ring binders. Regular size paper clips and staples are OK. All paper shredded on site while you watch.

Where? The Woman's Club of Arlington parking lot, corner of South Buchanan and 8th Streets.

What? All donations and bake sale proceeds will go to The Woman's Club's Wakefield High School college scholarship that promotes women in higher education.



From 9 a.m. to 12 noon The Lions Club Sight and Hearing Van will provide free screenings for sight, glaucoma, hearing and blood pressure. Please bring your old eye glasses to give to the Lions Club.

Questions? Call 703.553.5800 or visit: www.womansclubarlington.org/.

Barcroft Voted!

By Randy Swart

The April 8 Barcroft turnout to vote in the County Board election was light, but higher than some previous special elections. With a big surge at the end of the day we had 568 Barcroft precinct voters (including the Southside of Arlington Forest and some Alcovans). That is about 25 percent of our active voters. John Vihstadt won 51 percent of our

votes, with Alan Howze getting 48 percent. For the County as a whole, only 16 percent voted, and John Vihstadt won decisively with 57 percent of the total votes.

The election official team included Mike Collier (Chief), Susan Cohen (Asst. Chief), Bob Guisti, Barbara Swart and Randy Swart. Thanks to all who turned out to vote. •

July 4 Parade, continued

Continued from page 1

escort and color guard lead the parade and the fire truck always brings up the rear.

Everyone is invited to watch or be in the parade. You never know what or who will show up but we have had some wonderful floats and expressions in past years. If you play an instrument join the Barcroft marching band led by Melissa Bishop.

After the parade, which lasts about 20 minutes, there is a free picnic at the Community House. Neighbors bring dishes to share. The BSCL contributes hamburgers, hotdogs, watermelon, drinks and cake. We present the colors and sing the national anthem led by some talented Barcroft singers.

There is also an act in the Community House for the children. In the past we have had musicians, mimes, and magicians enter-

tain young and old.

The entire event is over by noon and we all leave cherishing another wonderful memory of what makes our neighborhood such a special place to live.

Hope to see you there. If you have any questions, please call Andrew Hunter at 703-979-8247. More information will go out in the 4th of July edition of Barcroft News.



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Barcroft House Gardening Blitz

By Judith Richter

Join your neighbors for a few hours of beautifying the Community House gardens on Saturday, May 10. We'll be out there between 8:30 a.m.



and noon so drop by for some, or all, of that time. As added incentive, we'll provide a BBQ lunch following. And yes, we'll be checking for dirt under fingernails

before feeding.

For all of you itching to use power tools, now's your chance. Come on over with your leaf blowers, edgers, weed whackers, or what have you. We'll also need spades of all shapes and sizes, pitchforks, wheelbarrows, and rakes. •

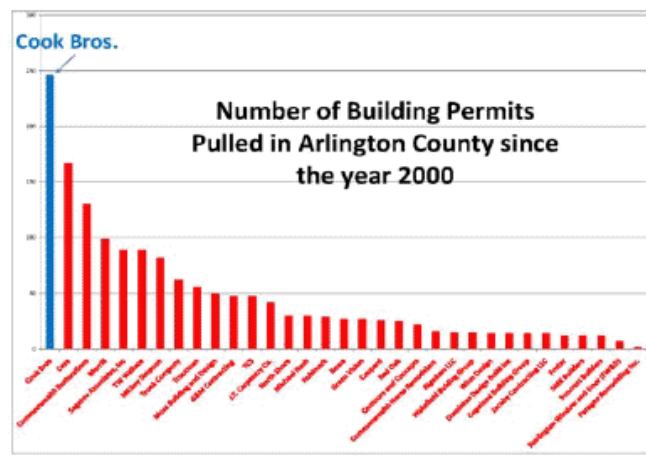
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 Rate sheet available at:
www.bscl.org/bnewsrates.pdf

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www.CookBros.org/BarcroftGraph



A Portable Fort

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

Despite Arlington's urban character, box turtles manage to hold on, especially in our parks. One of their most obvious features is their dome-shaped upper shell, or carapace, with its often brightly patterned covering of specialized scales called scutes. Each scute grows out from a center point as the shell grows, forming concentric rings. Although these rings don't necessarily form on a yearly basis, you can get a rough minimum age by counting them. Scutes wear down over time, so you can only count so many years.

Both the scutes and the skin of box turtles are patterned, sometimes quite dramatically, and each individual has its own unique pattern. Their patterning, even though it often includes bright yellows or oranges, is a very effective camouflage in the leaf litter on the forest floor. That makes them a challenge for predators to find -- and for researchers, too, which is one reason box turtle natural history has been relatively understudied.

Turtle shells are composed of bone and the carapace includes the backbone and ribs. The bones forming the shell of most turtles, especially aquatic ones, aren't completely fused, leaving gaps between the bones. The scutes still cover the gaps, but those are fairly easy to penetrate and aquatic turtles get an extra measure of protection by living in water. The bones of

the land-dwelling box turtle shell are fused to create a solid shield, at least in adults. Young box turtles have softer, more vulnerable shells.

The flat lower shell, called a plastron, has a hinge that allows the box turtle to close both ends against the carapace and form a tight seal -- like a box. Few predators can penetrate the closed shell of a healthy adult box turtle, making the shell a portable fort. Sometimes, if a box turtle is a too slow to close up, or a little too fat to close tightly, a predator might bite off a foot or tail or, more fatally, a head. Usually, though, the predator just ends up with a frustrating puzzle.

A box turtle's shell can protect it from many dangers in nature, but danger from humans is another story. Roads and traffic pose a particularly difficult challenge; even the box turtle's portable fort is no match for a sedan. They are also vulnerable to lawn mowers; if you have box turtles in your neighborhood, check for them in your lawn before you mow.

Sick and injured turtles can find help at the Long Branch Nature Center but we need your help to provide that care. One way you can help is by participating in the 4th Annual Turtle Trot 5K run at Bluemont Park on Sat., May 17 at 10 a.m. The fee is \$30 for adults and \$15 for children 12 and under (or you can just donate). Go to Active.com to register. Give us a call at 703-228-6535 if you have any questions about the run or about turtles or other wildlife. •

Flavors of the Season: Asparagus

**By Kari Hickman,
virtualgoodyplate.blogspot.com**

As the days become longer and warmer, we crave lighter foods, and especially fresh, seasonal produce. This quick-and-easy way to use asparagus will impress and delight anyone you serve it to, even if it's just yourself. Trader Joe's and Harris Teeter both sell 1-lb bags of



pizza dough, or of course you can make your own. Also, if your asparagus is too thin to shave (or you're too short on time), just slice it into diagonal 1/2-inch pieces. If it is very thick, shave it into ribbons -- they are so pretty, and cook quickly. You can also adjust the amount of cheese, or vary it with other kinds.



Asparagus-and-Potato Flatbread

Makes 2 flatbreads; 6 servings

- All-purpose flour, for rolling
- 1 pound pizza dough, thawed if frozen, divided in half
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 medium Yukon Gold potato, peeled and thinly sliced
- Coarse salt and ground pepper
- 1 bunch asparagus (1 pound), trimmed and shaved with a vegetable peeler
- 3 ounces fresh goat cheese, crumbled (3/4 cup)

1. Preheat oven to 500 degrees, with racks in middle and lower thirds. On a lightly floured surface, roll dough into two 6-by-16-inch ovals and transfer to two parchment-

lined rimmed baking sheets. Brush each with 1 tablespoon oil. In a medium bowl, toss potato with 2 teaspoons oil and season with salt and pepper. Arrange potatoes on dough, leaving a 1/4-inch border. Bake until edges of crusts are golden and potatoes are beginning to crisp around edges, about 12 minutes, rotating sheets halfway through.

2. Meanwhile, toss asparagus with 2 teaspoons oil and season with salt and pepper. Reduce heat to 450 degrees, remove sheets from oven, and top flatbread with asparagus. Return sheets to oven and bake until asparagus is crisp-tender, 5 minutes. Top with cheese and bake until cheese is warmed through, 3 minutes. Drizzle each flatbread with 1 teaspoon oil, then cut into wedges to serve. •

Join Barcroft Elementary for the May 4 Spring Fair!

By Jenny Ditta, Barcroft Elementary Liaison

Spring is finally in the air, much to everyone's relief! From March 31 to April 11 Barcroft hosted Spring Intersession, a two-week break from traditional classes. Students attended field trips, planted seeds, participated in outdoor scavenger hunts, rode bikes, and performed feats of engineering as they took interactive, hands-on enrichment classes in areas such as science, architecture, math, literature and physical fitness. As a special treat for students, Author/Illustrator Michelle Nelson-Schmidt visited Barcroft on April 1.

Michelle gave a wonderful presentation to the students and read from several of her books, including *Jonathan James and the Whatif Monster*.

Spring Break was held during April 14 to 18. When school resumed on Monday, April 21, many activities were planned including two weeks of swim classes for third grade students at Wakefield pool, practice for the fifth grade Spanish Language Proficiency test, and an Earth Day celebration with our Marine Buddies. Barcroft was chosen to host the annual countywide Arbor Day celebration on April 24. With guests including Superintendent Dr. Patrick Murphy and school board members Noah Simon and Abby Rafael, the school planned to plant a new tree near the playground.

Thanks to the neighbors who participated in the April survey regarding a potential expansion of Barcroft Elementary and who provided feedback to our wonderful PTA coordinator, Jennifer Wohlander, about the Arlington Public Schools Capital Improvement Plan. Together as a community, we can ensure that Barcroft remains the wonderful neighborhood school that it is today.

Sunday, May 4 is the Barcroft Spring Fair from noon – 4:00 p.m. There will be games, cash prizes, great food, raffles, cake walks, bakes sales, jewelry sales, and lots of FUN for the entire family. Stop by and support your neighborhood school as we raise funds for field trips and other important activities!

May 5 to 9 is Staff Appreciation Week. During that time, the PTA is planning special activities to thank our wonderful teachers and staff for all that they do for our students. Annual Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) testing will also commence for Grades 3 -5 this month and end in June. Farm to Table week will occur on June 9 - 13. During the week, students will have an opportunity to sample fresh, local produce during lunch. On the evening of June 13, there will be a special dinner and Leonardo learning event. Please join us! •

New Date for the Barcroft Spring Fair: Sunday, May 4 from noon to 4 p.m.

Barcrofter Tim Shea is III

By Randy Swart

Many Barcrofters know Tim Shea, longtime resident of the corner of Buchanan and 9th Street South. His home has unfortunately been deteriorating for years and has become a landmark because of that.

In February, Tim was taken away in an ambulance. A very large man, he had been losing a lot of weight, and was no longer able to ride his bicycle to FoodStar. Inquiries by neighbors did not find him at Arlington Hospital or the Hospice, but nobody knew how to contact his wife and family to inquire.

Tim is a character. He once coached inner city basketball teams with black players he said were sent to him by coaches at white schools who did not use them, and he produced winning teams. He accumulated derelict vehicles in his driveway, and had been

forced by the County to get rid of some of them. As his home deteriorated, he was threatened by Code Enforcement with condemnation, spurring him to repaint and make needed roof repairs. Neighbors helped out by leaving buckets of white paint on his porch.

After the ambulance took Tim away, the Fire Department came to secure the house. Code Enforcement came next, putting up condemnation and Do Not Enter signs. According to Code Enforcement, the county can not demolish the house, but has the power to make sure that the house is closed up. For safety, they can do tree work and remove trash, putting a lien on the property to cover the costs. They are always reluctant to act.

We can hope that Tim will come back from the hospital. If not, Barcroft has lost a colorful character. •

Upcoming Dates to Note

The **Wakefield High School PTA Plant Sale** will be held Saturday, May 3, 2014, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Annuals, perennials, herbs and vegetables, plus gorgeous flowering baskets. Perfect for Mother's Day Gifts! Wakefield High School, Dinwiddie Street side of building.

The **Glencarlyn Library Community Garden** holds its annual plant sale on Sunday, May 4, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A large selection of locally grown plants, including natives, will be available at 300 South Ken-
Barcroft News

sington Street, Arlington. Proceeds support this demonstration garden run by Master Gardener volunteers.

Jocelyn Swigger, Associate Professor of Music at Gettysburg College will present a musical program, "Chopin to Tin Pan Alley", at the **Woman's Club of Arlington** on Monday, May 5 at 1 p.m. This program is free and open to the public.

The **Barcroft Garden Tour** has been cancelled due to the harsh winter weather. It will be rescheduled next spring. •