



January 2015

Barcroft News

Vol 112, Issue 5

Barcroft Community House Could Grace Your Car

Voting has begun in a contest to determine the design of Arlington's 2015-2016 vehicle decal, and one of the four choices features Barcroft's own Community House.

The winning decal will appear on more than 160,000 windshields next year. The decals were designed by Arlington high school students. The four finalists were chosen from 113 student entries.

The student behind the winning entry will receive \$750 from John Marshall Bank. The other three finalists will receive \$500.



Arlington residents can vote for their favorite on the county website: <http://taxes.arlingtonva.us/vehicles/registration-decals/decalvoting/>

Voting closes at midnight on Monday, Jan. 19, 2015. •

Hear Some VIPs at Next Two BSCL Meetings

By Chris Kapczyk

We are pleased to announce our guests for the first two BSCL meetings of 2015.

On January 8, we will welcome back Takis Karantonis, executive director of the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization, who will provide an update on developments along the Pike and share his thoughts on

what's next following the streetcar project cancellation.

On February 5, county board member John Vihstadt will join us. He will discuss and answer questions about key issues impacting both the Pike and the county.

Both meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Community House. •

Barcroft News

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Monthly Happenings

President's Report by Eric Harold

Can you believe it? The annual Holiday Party was a huge hit. AGAIN! Just when you think it can't get better, new and ever more dramatic heights were hit. There was music, dramatic readings, singing. Dramatic readings of the Grinch with new and topical political re-writes added in. As usual, thanks to Barbara Swart for her organizing this. Thanks to Santa for taking time out of his busy schedule this year (and every year) to visit Barcroft. A great tradition continues.

With the new year we say good bye to Brian Hefner, our ad manager for the newsletter. Here for only two years, he and his wife Lauren and adorable son Bennet are off to greener and warmer pastures in the sunnier climes of Richmond (VA). Many thanks to Brian for keeping the ad revenues coming in. With that departure comes opportunity: we need a volunteer to take Brian's place. Email Alyssa, the newsletter editor, or myself (eric@bscl.org) if you are interested.

We kick off the new year with two great upcoming meetings that Chris has organized. And, it being January, on Sunday January 25, we will have our annual Spaghetti Dinner. Read the rest of the newsletter for details on these events. Happy New Year, Barcroft! ●

Barcrofters Celebrate the Season

By Christine Scullion

All around Barcroft neighbors celebrate the holidays together. One particular group of Barcrofters from Stafford Street/7th Road/Taylor Street held their annual party at the community house on December 14.

Seasonal joy was spread through crafts, games, a sing-a-long and a wonderful pot-luck spread that never fails to impress. The annual party is the



highlight of the Christmas season for the close-knit neighborhood with so many children that a visit from Santa is a must! After hearing about all the wonderful Christmas wishes, Santa was sent off in style, in his own personal red convertible with a local elf at the helm.

The group is already looking forward to next year's party and hoping the weather is just as beautiful as it was this year! •

Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, January 25

By Eric Harold

Come for the Spaghetti Tones. Stay for the spaghetti. Please join friends and neighbors at the Community House for the always lively spaghetti dinner Sunday January 25. Continuing the tradition started by former Barcroft neighbor Tom Palance (and unabashedly stealing Gramma Palance's Secret Spaghetti Sauce recipe), this winter event is a great time to get out of the cold and break bread with friends and neighbors. And it's worth the price if only to hear the lovely music provided by the great Spaghetti Tones. We ask only that you bring a healthy appetite and a dessert to share. Vegetarian and take out are available.

Where: Community House (800 South Buchanan Street.)

When: Sunday, January 25 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Cost: \$6 per person, children under 10 eat free. Donation requested for beer and wine.

What can you do? We always accept help setting up tables and chairs. Setup begins at the Community House around 3pm. We always need help with take down and clean up after. We can use a few hands in the kitchen during the event, to make sure everything runs smoothly, trays are full of spaghetti and salad, and bread is cut and available.

Anyone interested in helping out, please contact me at eric@bscl.org. •

Happy New Year from Barcroft Elementary

By Jenny Ditta, Barcroft Elementary Liaison

Autumn has been a busy and happy time for Barcroft Elementary. Just prior to the Thanksgiving Break, Mr. Joe Howell, the Loyalty Marketing Manager for the Silver Diner, attended the November 21 School Wide Morning meeting. He awarded the school a \$5,000 check to be used to build a fence for the school garden. The students, dressed in patriotic clothing to celebrate School Spirit day, gave Mr. Howell a warm welcome. Mr. Howell promised to visit the school again once garden improvements have been made.

The Barcroft Girls on the Run team successfully completed a 5K race in Rosslyn on Sunday, November 23. Also through the end of November, the PTA sponsored an Usborne Book Fair, with 15 percent of Book Sale profits donated in free books to the school Library.

On December 1, many Barcroft Elementary families and neighbors braved the rain and attended Silver Diner Night at the Clarendon Silver Diner. Over \$400 was raised for the PTA that evening. Thank you to everyone for your support!

On December 4, the 4th Grade attended an all-day field trip to Jamestown, where they learned about colonial settlers and natives living 400 years ago. The hands-on knowledge gained during this trip will be applied when the students take the 4th grade Virginia History Standards of Learning test in the Spring of 2015. On December 11, Barcroft

families enjoyed a Winter Concert featuring performances by our 4th and 5th Grade Band, Orchestra and Chorus. On December 15 and 16 the holidays started early as staff and families dropped off gifts and gift cards to the Office in celebration of the school's Secret Snowman program.

Second quarter student learning was showcased during the December 17 evening Leonardo da Vinci Learning Night. Students guided their families and community members through their classrooms providing examples of recent lessons learned and projects completed. Congratulations to the School Chorus which performed at the December 18 APS School Board meeting. Their performance was broadcast both on-line and on the local school cable access channels.

Winter Break begins on Wednesday, December 24 and continues through Sunday, January 4. Barcroft students also have off on Monday, January 5 as the teachers have a Grade Preparation Day to conclude the second quarter. When students return to school on Tuesday, January 6, they will start the third quarter. From January 12 to 24, families will be able to register for Winter After School Enrichment classes, featuring programs in art, science, chess, hip hop dance, sports, and Spanish Chorus. The monthly PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 13. Happy Holidays and a safe and Happy New Year to all of our neighbors from Barcroft Elementary! •

Flavors of the Season: Chicken Verde

By Kari Hickman,

Virtualgoodyplate.blogspot.com

It's that time of year when, facing the rest of winter, we want it all. Comfort food. That's also healthy. With fresh ingredients. But also warming. And easy; in fact, if it could just cook itself that would be great. Here's a great recipe that fits all those bills and more. We usually serve it with rice and fruit salad, but you could just as easily use it to top greens for a warm chicken salad, or on top of a freshly loaded tostada. Happy cooking and stay warm!



1/2 cup unsalted chicken stock

Cooking spray

8 chicken leg quarters, skinned

8 lime wedges

Oregano leaves (optional)

Preheat

broiler. Combine first 5 ingredients, tossing to coat. Arrange mixture on a baking sheet. Broil 10 minutes or until vegetables are blackened in spots. Place mixture in a blender; add cilantro, chopped oregano, cornstarch, salt, pepper, and stock. Remove center piece of blender lid (to allow steam to escape); secure blender lid

on blender. Place a clean towel over opening in blender lid (to avoid splatters). Blend until smooth.

Heat a large heavy skillet over medium-high heat. Coat pan with cooking spray. Add 4 chicken leg quarters; cook 5 minutes or until well browned. Repeat procedure with cooking spray and remaining chicken. Arrange chicken in a 6-quart electric slow cooker; top with tomatillo mixture. It will smell heavenly. Cover and cook on LOW 4 hours or until done. Separate thighs and drumsticks, if desired. Serve with lime wedges; garnish with oregano leaves, if desired. •

Slow Cooker Chicken Verde

(Serves 8)

1/3 cup garlic cloves

1 T canola oil

2 pounds tomatillos, husks removed

2 poblano chiles, stemmed and seeded

1 medium onion, quartered

1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro

2 T chopped fresh oregano

1 T cornstarch

1 tsp salt

3/4 tsp freshly ground pepper

Barking Up the Right Tree Service

By Debora Southwell

Most people care about the living things that surround them and look to learn about keeping them healthy and safe. Consider the largest living things that populate our neighborhoods: our trees. Wouldn't it be nice if you could protect the trees, help them stay healthy, and safeguard a substantial property/community investment? I thought you'd say yes. Read on.

While the trees "slumber" during these winter months (trees go dormant in November), you, snuggled in your cozy home, are in perfect position to take action and check out those folks in the D.C. Metro area who are tree savvy and best for you to consult when the time comes. (Hopefully, there'll be little or no ice damage this winter.)

Who are these professionals who speak for the trees? They are known as arborists, people who are trained in the care and maintenance of trees. Many tree services call themselves arborists just because they work with trees. Why settle for anyone less than the best, though, when it comes to the wealth that trees bring to our lives (joy to our children, money to our pockets, beauty to our communities, diversity to our ecosystems)?

To begin a worthwhile search, you need to know if an arborist is knowledgeable and skilled and adheres to a code of ethics. There is a certification process that arborists

can go through to document their abilities. In the world of trees, the place to go for this data is the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), located in Illinois. An ISA certified arborist "possesses a high degree of knowledge about caring for and maintaining trees." Becoming certified is a voluntary process, but one that is valued within the professional world of arboriculture.

Where can you find an ISA certified arborist? Take a peak at www.treesaregood.org. Click on the tab "Find an Arborist." You'll be able to locate one within 10 miles of your home. •



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Model General Assembly Delegate Day

By Markarius Nealis

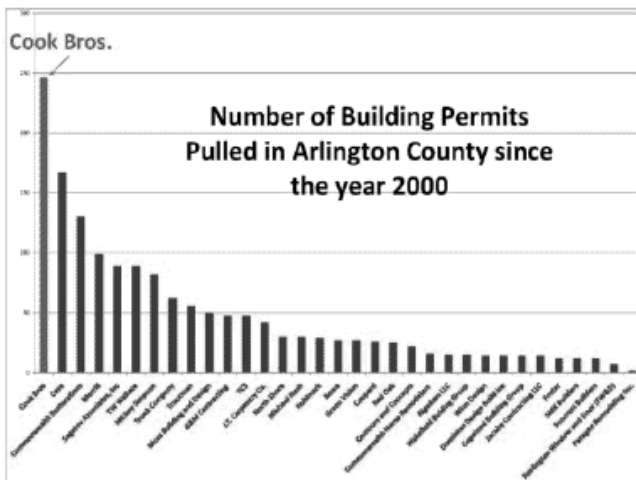
Last month I introduced you to Model General Assembly (MGA). On Friday, December 12, 2014 MGA participants got to enjoy a great experience. Students from Wakefield, Washington and Lee, Yorktown, HB Woodlawn, and Arlington Career Center gathered in the Arlington Central Library Auditorium for Arlington MGA Delegate Day. At this event we got to meet several elected officials from our area: State Senator Barbara Favola, Delegate Patrick Hope, and Commonwealth Attorney Theo Stamos.

All of the politicians were presented with several bills from different small groups and were asked to form opinions on how well the bills would fair in a real political situation. Through this forum the students learned that they would have to make certain changes to their bills to take into consideration the varying views of different regions of Virginia.

This wonderful opportunity gave us the chance to see a different side of politics. It also gave the students new ideas on how to present their bills for when they go down to Richmond in April 2015. •

You Don't Have to Interview the #1 Remodeler in Arlington... But...

Why Wouldn't You?



For a larger Graph image and more information about the Graph, visit our website at

www.CookBros.org/BarcroftGraph



Under the Ice

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

In summer, the ponds at Long Branch and Gulf Branch Nature Centers are lively places. Green and bull frogs sit along the edge or float in the water. Turtles bask on logs and rocks. Northern watersnakes lie in the sun or patrol the water for frogs to eat. Dragonflies and damselflies zip about in aerial duels or in pursuit of prey. Green herons silently stalk fish and frogs.

As fall advances and the weather turns colder, this activity slows and finally ceases, at least above the surface. Beneath the surface, though, the ponds are full of life, even when they are covered by ice. One of the many unusual properties of water is that it gets less dense and lighter as it approaches freezing .

Like most substances, water becomes denser and heavier as it gets colder. Water, however, does something odd – it starts to get less dense and lighter after it falls below 39°F (3.89°C). As a result, water colder than 39°F rises above the warmer water. At 32°F (0°C) water turns to ice, which floats on top of the slightly warmer water underneath.

If it didn't, our ponds would freeze from the bottom up and probably remain frozen all year round. Very little, if any life could survive in that environment. This is especially important for animals that spend the winter underwater.

Bull frogs and green frogs hibernate at

the bottom of the ponds, breathing through their skin. Frogs usually lie on the bottom rather than dig into the oxygen-poor mud because they maintain a relatively high (though still pretty slow) metabolism during hibernation. If they burrowed into the mud, they couldn't get enough oxygen to survive.

Painted, snapping, and other native aquatic turtles also breathe through their skin during hibernation, but maintain a much lower metabolism than frogs. Consequently, they need less oxygen and can afford to bury themselves in the mud.

In more northern latitudes, where ice can cover ponds and lakes for months and oxygen can be depleted, turtles have another trick up their shell. They can switch to anaerobic respiration, meaning respiration without oxygen. However, this trick can result in a lethal buildup of acid in their bodies. To counter this, turtles can use buffering agents in their bodies, including the calcium in their shells and bones to neutralize the acid. Turtles can survive for months this way with little or no oxygen!

Both frogs and turtles sometimes become active under the ice and can be seen moving slowly about. You might also get a glimpse of other winter-active pond life, including fish or aquatic insects such as water boatmen and predacious diving beetles. As cold as it is, the water under the ice is still warmer than the often subfreezing temperatures on land. ●

Happy New Year from Our Savior Lutheran School

By OSLS National Junior Honor Society

We wish you a Happy 2015 and hope that your Christmas and holiday season was safe and full of fun. We are enjoying these winter days and all of the students are keeping their fingers crossed for lots and lots of snow!

Our Savior Lutheran School is holding an Open House for all prospective students and their parents on Saturday, January 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At that time, applications will be accepted for the 2015-2016 school year from grades Pre K through 8. This is an opportunity to tour the school, meet the teachers, see the classrooms, and ask questions. OSLS was established in 1952 and has been providing an affordable, quality Christian education in Barcroft ever since. With small classes, our dedicated teachers are able to entirely devote themselves to our diverse stu-

dent body. We are fully accredited, licensed, and bonded and also offer before and after care. OSLS is non-discriminatory in enrollment and we welcome the chance to show you around our school if you are looking for a Christian education for your child. We are located at 825 South Taylor Street.

We went to remind the Barcroft neighborhood that the school acts as a Market Day pick-up site every month. Market Day is a ready-made meal company that delivers the frozen food directly to the school. Anyone from the community can place an order through www.MarketDay.com and pick it up on the monthly delivery day. Delivery to the school is usually the first Tuesday of the month, with the deadline to order being the previous Wednesday. Check out the website for more information or to order. •

Black History Month Honored at Woman's Club Meeting

By Sandy Newton

The Woman's Club of Arlington will honor black history month at their meeting Monday, February 2. Their guest speaker will be Audrey P. Davis. Ms. Davis is the Director of the Black History Museum of Alexandria, Virginia. She is the author of *African Americans in Alexandria: Beacons of Light in the 20th*

Century. She is one of the founders of *Virginia Africana: The Network of Museums, History and Preservation Progress*.

The program is open to the public and begins at 1 p.m. at the Woman's Clubhouse located at 700 South Buchanan Street, Arlington, Virginia. •

A Trail to Beauty and History

By Inge Nealis

Hiking the Billy Goat Trail is a great way to spend a day. This historical trail is about four miles long and located in Mary-



land. The Billy Goat Trail has lots of beautiful scenery that holds a lot of history. The rocks date back to millions of years ago and some of the rocks have come from different places.

I would recommend that you get a tour guide as you could easily get lost. Proper clothing and hiking boots suggested! There are a lot of rocks that have to be climbed but nothing that a 10 year old couldn't do. So spend a day at this beautiful park and learn some history!! If you are interested and would like to know more, visit <http://www.midatlantic.hikes.com/id163.html> •

New TreeStewards Class Accepting Applications

Applications now being accepted for the 2015 Class of TreeStewards .

The TreeStewards of Arlington and Alexandria are volunteers dedicated to improving the health of our urban trees through

educational programs, tree planting and care, demonstrations and tree maintenance throughout the community. New volunteer training will be held on Tuesday evenings, starting February 3 through April 2015, with some Saturday mornings. Fun and interactive training is provided by recognized experts in tree care and citizen advocates. Join us and learn how to care for trees on the streets, in parks, at schools, churches, temples, and in your neighborhood.

For more information and to complete an application, visit the TreeSteward website at www.TreeStewards.org or email info@TreeStewards.org. •

***Barcroft News* Volunteers Needed**

A Distribution Volunteer is needed for the 4604-4670 block of 3rd Street, South.
Contact Publisher Christine Hopkins at christinehopkins@kw.com or 703-350-2101.

A new Advertising Manager is needed.
Contact Editor Alyssa Ford Morel at editor@bscl.org or 703-907-9318.

Neighbor to Neighbor Listings

These ads are free to BSCL members, and run on a space-available basis. The listings run for three months unless removal or update is requested.

Babysitter, Pet Sitter, Vacation Help: Responsible 9th grader. Will water plants, bring in mail, etc. Email Tyler at tylerchalapointe@gmail.com or call 571-244-7555.

August's Pet Sitting: Responsible high school freshmen available to care for pets. 703-892-6712.

Looking for In-home Child Care or a Nanny Share: My husband and I are new to Barcroft and expecting our first child in March and are looking for in-home child care or a nanny share starting in June. We would love to hear from you. Jaime and Girair. Email: Jaimeuss@hotmail.com.

Babysitter/Pet Sitter: Neighborhood Wakefield Senior, 18, available for most evenings and weekends. Has her own car; can help with drop off and pick up for evening activities as well. mia.e.field@gmail.com.

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 kevinmedia118@gmail.com or text/

call 703-919-7605.

Jenny's Babysitting, Pet Sitting and Vacation Care: Sixteen-year-old available weekends and some weeknights. Can water plants, bring in mail, etc., while you travel. Contact jenny-lclare@gmail.com or call 703-998-5338.

Babysitter: Experienced, Red Cross certified 8th grader. Call Liza Harold at 703-868-3518.

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

Babysitter, house/pet sitter: Carmen Dunlap, responsible 17 year old. Available weekends and weeknights. Dunlap.carmen@ymail.com.

UHC Computer Repair: Please see website for a list of services/prices: www.uhccomputer-repair.com. Cell: 571-733-3401, office: 703-825-3862. If you bring your computer to my Bailey's Crossroads office your first diagnosis will be free. Call before coming. I charge \$60/hour for house calls.

Rebecca Bean Babysitter: 10th grader available nights and weekends. Email: rebeccaahbean@gmail.com or call 571-344-4134.

Furniture for Sale: Blue wing chair — \$25 or best offer; electric organ with bench and one broken key — \$100 or ● best offer. Contact



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

Thinking about selling your home in the spring or early summer? Consider some statistical studies suggesting that Winter can be a surprisingly advantageous time to list, shop, negotiate and buy.

A recent study examining sales trends reviewed home listing, sales price and time-on-market data. It concluded that if you want to sell for more than your asking price, listing in December, January, February and March gives you a better chance, on average, than if you list any time after June through November. While the advantages of listing in winter compared with other seasons are not huge, winter produces at least competitive or better results by some measures should encourage some potential sellers to get into the game sooner rather than later. Obviously houses “that are priced right and show well” can sell any time of the year. One thing to realize is that shoppers who are active during the winter months are “serious buyers” and wouldn’t be trudging through the bad weather if they didn’t have a pressing need to purchase a house.

Some sellers also pull their unsold houses off the market during the winter, hoping for better results in the spring. By doing so, they leave a smaller inventory of active listings — lessening the competition for sellers who list in winter, ahead of the pack. Winter-season buyers may find some sellers more flexible about negotiations over prices and terms than they would during the middle of the spring.

Looking for to get the best results when buying or selling? Put my 30 years of local market experience and knowledge to work! Contact me for advice and ask for my FREE report “The 10 Dumbest Mistakes Smart People Make when Buying or Selling a Home...and How to Avoid Them”.

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