



March 2015

Barcroft News

Vol 112, Issue 7

Annual Easter Egg Hunt Scheduled for April 4

By Dedra Curteman

Hop on over to the Barcroft Community House on Saturday, April 4 for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. The festivities begin at 9:30 a.m. with coffee, followed by an egg hunt for the youngest children



at 10 a.m., and for the older children, an egg hunt at 10:30 a.m. If you would like to volunteer for the event, please contact Dedra at dscurteman@gmail.com. Hope to see you there! •

Barcrofters Work to Create Arlington TEDx Event

By Joey Skoloda

A few Barcroft neighbors have been collaborating with others to bring an independently licensed and organized TED event to our Arlington community. An organizing group has met once and agreed to plan a premier community conversation around the working theme of “connectedness.” Send an email to TEDxArlington@gmail.com to ask questions, to receive an invite when tickets are available, or to suggest speakers and

help with planning.

TED is a nonprofit devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or less). TED began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment and Design converged, and today covers almost all topics — from science to business to global issues — in more than 100 languages. Meanwhile, independently run TEDx events (www.tedx.com) help share ideas in communities around the • world.

Next BSCL Meeting:

Thursday, March 5, 7:30 p.m. , Community House, Topic to be Announced



Barcroft News

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Arlington Civic Fed. Delegates: Eric Harold, Randy
Swart, Pat Williamson *Alternates:* Karen Darner,
David Michelson, Elaine Squeri, Mark Wigfield

Visit Us Online: www.bscl.org

Monthly Happenings

President's Report by Eric Harold

Oh the weather outside is frightful,
indeed. But it's March! So cheer up, Spring is
nearly here, right? Right?

I have been remiss in sending out
huge thanks to the Barcroft community for
supporting the annual Spaghetti Dinner. This
event truly takes a village and this year it
seems we had more and creative help for an
event that raised \$186 for the community
house fund! First, let's thank Michael Naz-
ertz and the great Spaghetti Tones! Great
music makes the food taste better and they
again provided great atmosphere.

The Sauce! It doesn't cook itself and
this year we had many hands, literally, that
made light work. Annie Harold shopped and
chopped and stirred. Helene Stebbins
chopped and stirred. Liza and Charlotte Har-
old, Luci and Julia Harris smashed tomatoes
(trust me, it doesn't work without smashed
tomatoes). We had great creative advertis-
ing courtesy of Liza, Adeline and Charlotte
Harold, Luci and Julia Harris, and Hannah
Foley. And we had great help in the kitchen
(Maureen Locke and others?? Sorry, it's
been too long!) Julie Rotherham and her
daughters Elizabeth and Susan (and Adeline
Harold) helped get tables set up. And spa-
ghetti cookers too numerous to mention.
And spaghetti eaters, so many.

I know I've left off a few, my humble
apologies. Thanks again to all that make this
happen. ●

Listserve Helps Barcrofters Keep in Touch

By Mark Wigfield, Moderator

Barcroft's listserv, BSCLchat, continued to grow last year, and now has 350 members conversing about topics ranging from finding the best plumber to post-mortems on the erstwhile streetcar. Here's a recent list of trending topics: Plumber and Electrician (12 Posts), FW: TJ Site & Questions re:... (7 Posts), No water (23 Posts), Roofer(10 Posts), Bancroft News deadline (7 Posts).

With growth in membership has come a growth in traffic, from 29 messages a month on average in 2007, to 120 in 2014. Biggest traffic month was May of 2014, with 174 messages, 54 of which were generated by a conversation to develop a neighborhood position on the county's proposed (and now delayed) yard waste recycling program. November was also a big month with 170 messages, many of which mulled the county board's decision to pull the plug on the streetcar. (Like any yahoo group, you can set your preferences to reduce inbox clutter).

Fortunately, most of Barcroft's conversations have been polite and respectful -- something that is often not true of listservs in general (or the streetcar debate in particular). Maybe this is due to the fact that we limit membership to neighborhood residents, and posters are mindful that they might run into someone in person? Whatever the reason, I thank everyone for their civility. Let's continue it.

But if anything characterizes traffic on the listserv, it is neighbor-to-neighbor recommendations, and offers of free or cheap household items, making it something of a cross between Freecycle and Angie's list. The list mem-

bership has overwhelmingly commented that it finds these offers and information valuable. (If you're interested in seeing traffic by month with links to conversations, use this link:<http://goo.gl/SVVFkr>.)

The biggest problem on the list is perhaps when members don't take private conversations offline. While most members seem to agree that the default "reply all" is appropriate for most discussions, please spare everyone the purely personal by clicking on "reply to sender" in the body of the message if something doesn't need to be shared with the group.

If you're not already a member and would like to join, there are a couple of ways to do so: Send an e-mail to bsclchat-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. **Please include your name and address in the e-mail so I can verify that you're a Barcroft resident.** Or, go to the neighborhood web site at www.bscl.org.

- Click on "chat list", which will take you to the Yahoo Groups signup page for BSCLchat,
- Click on +Join Group. If you go this route, you will need to create a Yahoo e-mail address or profile if you don't have one, or sign in through Google or Facebook.
- One advantage of this signup process is that it enables you to manage your chat group e-mail preferences.
- **Once again, include your name and address in the "comment to owner" field once you reach it.** If you don't include it, I will have to e-mail you separately for the information.

E-mail me if you have further questions at mark@bscl.org. We'll be looking for you on the listserv! •

Winter Highlights from Barcroft Elementary

By Jenny Ditta, Barcroft Elementary Liaison

Students continue to remain busy during these winter months at Barcroft Elementary. February highlights included the February PTA meeting on February 3, with a Q&A session conducted by School Board member Barbara Kanninen. Parents discussed overcrowding and academic performance, and weighed in on a variety of issues facing the School Board. On February 5, the School Board issued a statement on its next steps to find elementary seats in south Arlington, specifically noting the importance of considering academic achievement as part of this process. The Board committed to working with the Arlington County Board to explore options for elementary seats beyond expansions at Barcroft and Randolph. Moreover, they stated that the process will be inclusive, transparent and consensus driven. The Superintendent is charged with providing a status report by April 30, 2015.

Parent-Teacher conferences were held on February 4 to 6, with no school for students on February 5 to 6. On February 9, volunteers read stories during language arts classes to commemorate Black History Month. PTA after-school enrichment classes also began in chess, science, sports, hip hop, art, and Spanish Chorus. There was no school on February 16 for Presidents' Day. Students raised money for the American Heart Association during the annual Jump Rope for Heart

event held during P.E. classes from February 23 to 27. Finally, the PTA held its first Sweet-heart Dance for parents and children on February 27, complete with a live band, a photographer and a chocolate fountain!

Upcoming events in March include a special Celebration of Dr. Seuss's Birthday on March 2 where guests read Dr. Seuss books to students during language arts. Barcroft will be sending four student teams to the Odyssey of the Mind competition on Saturday, March 7. Good luck! The Third Quarter Leonardo da Vinci Learning Night Open House will be held on Monday, March 9, and will showcase student learning during the third quarter. Join us for this evening open house. A School Information Session will be held on Tuesday, March 10 from 12:45 to 2:15 p.m. for parents interested in learning more about Barcroft Elementary. All are welcome! Early Release for students is Wednesday, March 11. The Last Day of the Third Quarter is Thursday March 12, and there is No School on Friday, March 13 for Grade Preparation. Two weeks of Spring Intersession classes will be held from March 16 to 27, followed by Spring Break. The Intersession classes are held in the morning and afternoon, are consistent with the Virginia Standards of Learning, and introduce students to new learning experiences. Offerings this year include classes in Lego Robotics, Cooking with Scents, and Lewis and Clark • Adventures.

Flavors of the Season: Potatoes

By Kari Hickman,

Virtualgoodyplate.blogspot.com

March teeters on the brink between cold and warm weather - I remember last year it snowed on St. Patrick's Day! But then it does give us the Spring Equinox and, often, a sunny Easter. This salad, one of our family's favorites, does something similar. It offers the substance of meat and potatoes that we crave in the cold months, atop a bed of lightly dressed greens that speak of warmer days and lighter meals. One of my favorite things about this recipe is the clever way the potatoes are done. Cooked to tender in the microwave, then finished in the same pan the steak was cooked in, so they get that delicious golden-crispy-meaty crust potato-lovers adore. Enjoy and Happy Spring!

Warm Steak and Potato Salad

(serves 4)

- 1 lb red potatoes, cut into small wedges
- 3 Tbs vegetable oil, divided
- 2 8-ounce steaks, 1 inch thick (we used sirloin)
- 1 recipe Bistro-Style Mustard vinaigrette (recipe follows)
- 1 head romaine lettuce, chopped
- 1/2 red onion, sliced
- Parmesan cheese

First, place potato wedges in a microwave-safe bowl. Toss potatoes with 2 Tbs of vegetable oil and cover tightly with plastic wrap. Microwave on high heat for about 8 minutes, or until potatoes are tender. Half way

through cooking, shake potatoes in the bowl, keeping the plastic wrap tight. In a large skillet, heat remaining 1 Tbs of oil until smoking. Add steaks (salt and peppered to taste) into the hot skillet and sear on first side for 6 minutes. Flip steaks over and continue to cook until they are cooked as desired. I cooked ours for an additional 7 minutes (medium-well).

Once steaks are cooked, remove them from the skillet and set them on a plate. Cover with foil and let rest for 5 minutes before slicing into strips. Take the hot potatoes and add them in the remaining steak fat and oil. Brown potatoes on all sides, about 5 minutes.

Toss lettuce, onion and dressing together in a large bowl and distribute amongst 4 plates. Top salad with steak, potatoes and Parmesan cheese. Serve immediately.

Bistro-Style Mustard Vinaigrette

- 3 Tbs red wine vinegar
- 3 Tbs whole-grain mustard
- 1 shallot, peeled
- 1 small garlic clove, peeled
- 2 tsp fresh thyme
- 3/4 cup olive oil

In a blender, process vinegar, mustard, shallot, garlic and thyme until the shallot and garlic are minced finely. With the blender running, slowly pour in oil until the dressing is emulsified.

Recipes from The Best 30-minute Recipe (Cook's Illustrated). ●

The Future of Columbia Pike Under Discussion

The future of Columbia Pike and its Neighborhoods Plan in light of cancellation of the streetcar project will be the topic of a public forum on Thursday, March 5, from 6 to 9 p.m., hosted by the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization (CPRO).

State and local officials will take part in a panel discussion moderated by Virginia State Delegate Alfonso Lopez whose district includes the Pike. Panelists will include Arlington County Board Member John Vihstadt, who opposed the development of the streetcar in favor of more examination, Nina Janopaul, president and CEO of Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing; David Peete, partner, B.M. Smith & Associates, a real estate investment and management company with extensive and long standing holdings on Columbia Pike, including Penrose Square; and Takis Karantonis, CPRO's executive director and CEO.

This will be the first in a series of ses-

sions hosted by CPRO to foster continued dialogue among all the stakeholders of the Neighborhoods Plan, which has been in place for a decade and continues to be implemented for the benefit the community.

The forum will be held in vacant retail space in the ground level of The Halstead building at the corner of Columbia Pike and South Walter Reed Drive, 1028 South Walter Reed Drive.

A social hour with food and beverages supplied by Columbia Pike restaurants and music by a local artist will precede the panel discussion.

The event is free. Residents and business owners around the Pike are urged to attend.

The goal of these sessions is to engage the community who live, work and play in the neighborhoods of Columbia Pike, and those who influence development in the commercial and residential areas. •

Cash Payment Option Introduced for Capital Bikeshare

Capital Bikeshare is the public transportation program that offers half-hour use of the bicycles you see in stands placed around Arlington. One membership covers unlimited half-hour trips by day, month or year. There are fees if you go over the half hour.

Capital Bikeshare is now offering a cash payment option for Arlington residents to use toward memberships and user fees.

This program is designed to expand Capital Bikeshare to Arlingtonians who are unbanked - those who don't have a credit or debit card - and is a demonstration program for one year.

No credit or debit card? No problem. Visit any of the five Commuter Store locations. For more on this program, check out the BikeArlington website. <http://www.bikearlington.com/pages/bikesharing/>. •

Turtle Tough

**By Cliff Fairweather
Natural Resources Specialist,
Long Branch Nature Center**

Turtles are no wimps, but then nothing with a 200 million year plus evolutionary history is likely to be a weakling. A key to their evolutionary success is their shell. Turtle shells consist of two main parts, an upper part called the carapace and a lower part called the plastron. These two parts are joined together at the sides between the front and back legs.

The carapace is formed over the backbone and ribs and is composed of up to fifty plates. The ribs and spine are fused to these plates and the plates join together along jagged edges that help lock them into place. The plastron is similarly composed of interlocking boney plates, though far fewer of them than the plastron.

What we see on the outside of a turtle's shell is not bone but horny plates called scutes. They are made of keratin, which is the same material that forms our hair, toenails, and fingernails and the scales on reptiles. In some turtles, the scutes are highly patterned and provide camouflage. The scutes also provide an additional layer of protection, but it's the underlying bone that makes turtle shells so tough.



Turning the shell over reveals the backbone and part of the ribs fused to the boney plates.

Many turtles can't close their shells but they can pull in their head and block the openings at the front and back with their tough, scaly legs. Others can close their shells to varying degrees with hinges on their plastron. Our local eastern box turtle can shut its shell completely, making it invulnerable to most predators, at least as an adult.

As tough as they are, though, turtles are no match for a car or a lawn mower. We receive dozens of injured and sick turtles at Long Branch Nature Center every year. We are able to treat most of these to the point where they are able to return to the wild.

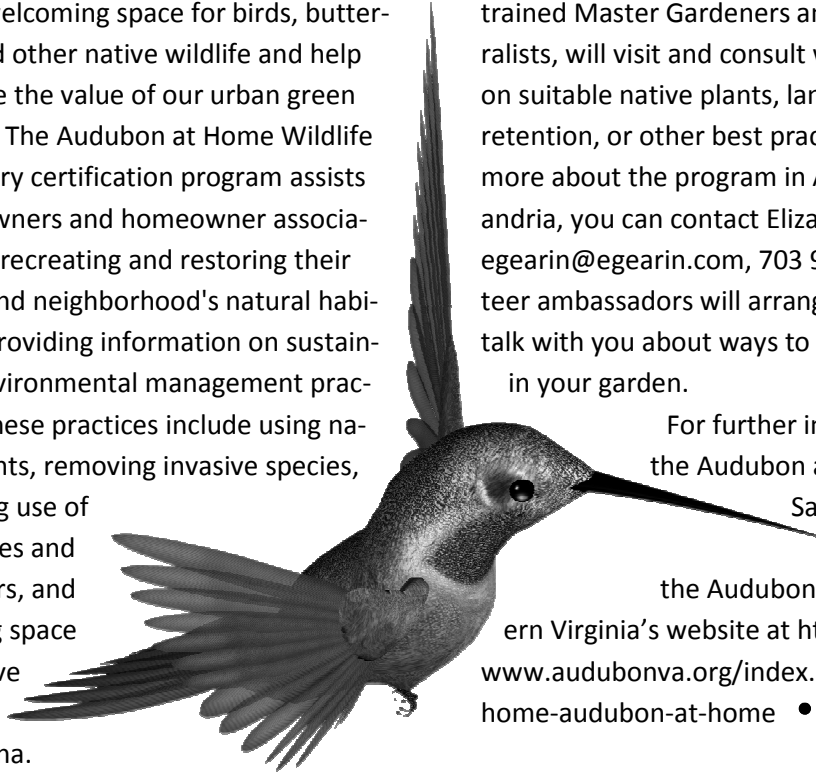
But we need your help. We have to pay for medicine and other supplies to treat and feed the turtles in our care. You can help us with these expenses and have fun at the same time by participating in the 2015 Turtle Trot 5K.

The Turtle Trot 5K is chip-timed run on a certified course right here in Arlington and attracts both serious and casual runners. This year's Turtle Trot is on Saturday, May 16 and starts at 10 a.m. To register, go to Active.com and you can call us at 703-228-6535 for more information.

Join us for the 2015 Turtle Trot and see if you are Turtle Tough! •

Audubon Certification Offered in Barcroft

Would you like to turn your garden into a welcoming space for birds, butterflies and other native wildlife and help enhance the value of our urban green spaces? The Audubon at Home Wildlife Sanctuary certification program assists homeowners and homeowner associations in recreating and restoring their home and neighborhood's natural habitat by providing information on sustainable environmental management practices. These practices include using native plants, removing invasive species, reducing use of pesticides and fertilizers, and creating space for native flora and fauna.



Audubon at Home ambassadors, trained Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists, will visit and consult with homeowners on suitable native plants, landscaping, water retention, or other best practices. To learn more about the program in Arlington or Alexandria, you can contact Elizabeth Gearin, egearin@egearin.com, 703 980-2258. Volunteer ambassadors will arrange a site visit and talk with you about ways to enhance habitat in your garden.

For further information about the Audubon at Home Wildlife Sanctuary program, you can visit

the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia's website at [http://](http://www.audubonva.org/index.php/audubon-at-home-audubon-at-home)

www.audubonva.org/index.php/audubon-at-home-audubon-at-home •

Career Center Classes Offer a Look at Many Fields

By Markarius Nealis

This past month I have been taking an engineering enrichment course at the Career Center every Saturday morning. I am really enjoying it and have learned a lot so far. The Career Center provides a great opportunity to experience what you can expect working in a certain field. They offer a wide range of classes from animal science to cosmetology. The enrichment courses provide a very useful

insight to see if you would want to take that course in high school. As a result of taking this course, I have decided to take an engineering class next school year.

Another advantage of taking courses at the career center while in high school is that you can earn up to four college credits. These classes are a great experience that can help guide your career choices in life. •

One Student's Opinion: Languages, Not Technology



By Inge Nealis

I think that it is fascinating that we can afford to give out iPads and MacBook Airs but can't afford to invest in a few more language teachers for Chinese, Arabic, German, etc. This school year over 1,300 sixth graders received iPad Air tablets, and over 1,500 ninth graders received Macbook Air laptops. The distribution of these electronics will continue throughout the years until all grades receive them. Superintendent Patrick Murphy also wanted to give the second graders iPads but fortunately the school board didn't approve that request. The schoolboard also didn't approve to give the fourth graders iPads but Murphy found a way around it!

If and when these devices are lost/broken, parents are not liable and the devices are replaced. I find it interesting that they can give out these electronic devices to thousands of Arlington County students but can't "afford" to get teachers for languages such as German, Chinese, Arabic, etc.

The argument against getting a teacher for languages such as German, Chinese, Arabic, etc., is that there are not enough kids who want to take these languages. Last year when I started taking German, there were quite a few kids but once they realized that the class was online almost half of them dropped the course. These languages are taught through Distance Learning, which is an online program. Unfortunately it is not that

great of a program because there is little to no interaction with another human. In my opinion if we can't afford to get language teachers then we can at least afford to get a better distance learning program. I think that these languages are important because we live in a global environment and these languages would help us understand these global issues and world conflicts. Arlington county likes to promote multicultural diversity but can't afford to support multicultural leaning by hiring teachers for these languages. ●



Open House

Thursday, April 23rd 9 - 11 am and 6 - 8 pm

Our Savior Lutheran School

Pre-K (age 4 by September 30th) through 8th grade

- Extended day program available
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825 South Taylor Street, Arlington, VA 22204
(703) 892-4846 www.osva.org

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 tylerchala-pointe@gmail.com or call 571-244-7555.

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.

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

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


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.

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 jennylclare@gmail.com or call 703-998-5338.

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

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.

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



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(except 1st Thursday of the month)

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

We Can Help You Buy or Sell Anywhere!

Here's a quick note to let you know how I can help you—or anyone you feel comfortable introducing me to who wants to move locally, anywhere in the US, or outside the country. Between our RE/MAX global network (97,000 agents in 95 countries) <http://global.remax.com/> and my professional agent network, I can help connect you with a competent real estate agent in just about any market.

Recently I helped some clients sell their home in Arlington who were being transferred to Dallas TX. Aaron and Gina had a timeline and wanted to plan a smooth relocation. We met to discuss their situation and what needed to happen to get their home ready for the market and sold, along with their preferences for a new home. I found a realtor in Dallas to help educate them on market trends. They went house hunting to check out a few areas and followed the local market along with the Dallas market. Once we got their home under contract they made an offer on a property in Dallas. I negotiated a rent back so

Aaron and Gina could close on their existing home first and then settle on the new home in Texas without an interim move. If you or someone you know is thinking about relocating, contact me for a consultation to help plan the move. Ask for a copy of my report, ***How Sellers Price Their Homes.***

Looking 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 on finding the best mortgage lenders to use in the DC area and ask for my **FREE** report **“The 10 Dumbest Mistakes Smart People Make when Buying or Selling a Home...and How to Avoid Them”**.

FREE Notary for Barcroft Residents!
Casey O’Neal, Associate Broker
RE/MAX Allegiance 703-217-9090
www.CaseyOneal.com www.NovaHomeValue.com
www.NovaHomeListings.com