



September 2015

Barcroft News

Vol 113, Issue 1

Continuing to Look at Energy Efficiency in Arlington

By Alexander G. Chamandy

In the second article of this series I discussed solar power, lighting as well as home maintenance and repairs to improve energy efficiency. In this final installment the focus is on a simple way to save a little more power and discuss some of the benefits of saving energy.

Unplug electronics to reduce wasted energy

It seems strange that we should need to do this, but unused electronics will consume power. Whether it's an idle phone charger, external hard drive, sleeping computers (that could be shut off), a game console or other electronic devices, these items will consume power even when they appear to

be shut off.

Most people I know in Arlington, including myself, have an abundance of electronics. Mobile phones, tablets, computers, home entertainment equipment. Much of the time these items remain connected to electricity. And it adds up!

Every single connection creates a draw on power that in combination can add monthly costs to your power bill for energy that was never properly utilized. This alone can add up to \$10 to \$30 per month to an average home's power bill. Consider connecting your devices to surge protectors and shutting off the surge protectors when they are not in

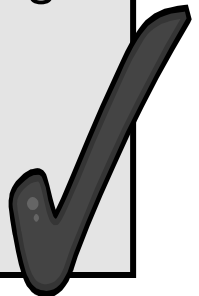
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Renew Your Barcroft Membership

The Membership Form for 2015–2016 is inside on Page 11. Please take a few minutes to fill it out and return it to Jennifer Lis. •

Next BSCL Meeting

The next BSCL Meeting is Thursday, September 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the community house. •



Barcroft News

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

Advertising: Jennifer Lis
jenlis@comcast.net

Publisher/Mailing: Christine Hopkins,
christine@bscl.org
703-350-2101

Next Deadline: September 15

BSCL Officers

President: Chris Kupczyk, chris@bscl.org

Vice President: Joe Knarich, joe@bscl.org

Treasurer: Jennifer Lis
jenlis@comcast.net

Recording Secy.: Christine Hopkins,
christine@bscl.org

Web: Randy Swart, 703-521-2080
randy@bscl.org

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

Board Members: Michael Behringer, Keith
Fred, Bryant Monroe,
Eric Parker

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: Chris Kupczyk
ckupczyk@verizon.net

Demeter House: Darlene Mickey

Parks: Shirley Gay

Signs: Glen Li

NCAC Rep.: Deborah Wood
wood_deborah@yahoo.com

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 Chris Kupczyk

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer. Our monthly BSCL meetings resume at the community house on Thursday, September 10, at 7:30 p.m. (We will meet a week later than normal since the community house floors are being refinished.) Vice President Joe Knarich has been busy lining up guests for the fall. In September, we will hear a presentation from Jason Hardin, a planner from Capital Bikeshare. The county is proposing to build a Capital Bikeshare station in Barcroft, at the corner of South Taylor Street and Columbia Pike. We also will vote on our 2015-2016 budget. In October, our guest will be county board member Libby Garvey.

Several BSCL officers and board members met on August 13 to discuss our goals for the coming year. Among them were updates to our bylaws where needed, a revamp of the BSCL web site, and ways we might increase the BSCL's outreach to our apartment-dwelling Barcroft residents. We welcome your ideas for and participation in any of these activities.

Finally, a reminder that we are still looking for volunteers for 1) our traffic committee, 2) Barcroft's secondary representative on the county's Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee, and 3) an ad-

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Improving Home Energy Efficiency (Part 3), *continued*

use.

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Energy efficiency is an investment that pays dividends

Much of our energy is wasted which is why efficiency of energy utilization is a critical subject to consider when investing in our home. Many energy efficiency projects will pay for themselves over time in saved energy costs as well as provide a higher quality of comfort by removing drafts, variations in

home temperature other issues.

Some energy efficiency projects may also qualify for Federal and/or State tax credits or grants. Check with your accountant for details.

Finally, any energy saved can reduce one's impact on the environment and its limited resources.

I hope that all the information shared with this article and the previous two have been useful. Feel free to e-mail me by writing to alex@chamandy.org if • you'd like some

Volunteer Opportunities at Thrift Shop

By Jane Duffy

The Hospice Thrift Shop at Seven Corners in the elbow-shaped shopping center on the north side of Route 50 is in dire need of

volunteers to staff their two shops there.

Perhaps some of you have shopped there on occasion.

All proceeds from the sale of our merchandise go toward medical expenses for terminally ill patients. If you would like to help the Hospice organization by receiving donations, putting them out in the store, 'manning' the cash register or other various tasks please contact Michael Murphy (Manager) at 703-532-5355; or visit us at 6172 Arlington Boulevard (formerly known as Culmore Shopping Center) at Seven Corners. Volunteers typically work three or four hour shifts, not all day.

Think about it. Come check it out. We really need help! Thanks. •

President's Message, *continued*

Continued from page 2

vertising manager for the BSCL newsletter. Please contact me or any of the officers if you are interested. Christine Hopkins, our recording secretary, has kindly offered to double as membership secretary for now to replace Fay Cheung, whom we are sad to lose this fall. I'd also like to recognize and thank Glen Li, who has offered to serve as our new signs manager.

Happy fall! •

What's Happening at Barcroft Elementary

By Jenny Ditta, Barcroft Elementary Liaison

Barcroft Elementary is excited about the 2015-2016 school year, which began for students in Grades Kindergarten to Grade 5 on Tuesday, August 4. Barcroft uses a Modified School Year (MSY) calendar. With MSY, the summer break is shorter so that students may take a multi-week break each quarter. Between October 5 to 16, students may enjoy vacation or take interesting Fall Intersession classes that extend their learning experiences.

In August, students enjoyed Fun Friday after school events on the Barcroft play-

ground. On August 14, 21, and 28, families played beach games, enjoyed a moon bounce, and ate popsicles with our Principal, Colette Bounet, and Assistant Principal, Nathan Reich. Back to School Night was held on August 26. Families toured classrooms, learned about classroom routines and learning strategies, and found out ways to support their students. Also in August, the Barcroft PTA held a delicious fundraiser at Menchie's on Columbia Pike.

We wish a warm welcome to our new PTA President, Tara McCabe. Tara is a long

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tinaseashore@gmail.com

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Special rate for Barcroft residents

School is Back in Session, *continued*

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time Barcroft neighborhood resident with children in Grades 1 and 4 at Barcroft Elementary. She would love to hear from you. Contact her at: tcsm04@gmail.com. We need your help to support student learning and to defray the cost of programs such as the Reading is Fundamental (RIF) book giveaway and field trip expenses.

A “free and easy” way to help is by linking your store cards to Barcroft Elementary. Contact Jody Manning at

Jody.manning@me.com for assistance:

Safeway: Link to Barcroft Elementary on-line at www.escrip.com for year-round rewards. Barcroft’s Group ID # is 6472509.

Harris Teeter: Link your VIC card to Barcroft Elementary as part of the Together in Education (TIE) program. Then purchase Harris Teeter brand products between August 2015 and May 2016. Barcroft’s code is: 4238. Link online at www.harristeeter.com or provide the last name of the VIC card holder along with the VIC card number or phone number to Jody Manning. You can support 5 schools!

Giant: Beginning September 14, link your Bonus card to Barcroft using code # 02199. The Giant A+ Rewards program runs from October 2015 to March 20, 2016. Link on-line at <http://giantfood.com/savings-and-rewards/rewards-program/aplus/>.

Target: Target’s Take Charge of Education

program permits shoppers to support Barcroft year-round by linking their Target RED credit or debit card to Barcroft. Barcroft’s ID # 103242. To link on-line, go to: <https://www-secure.target.com/redcard/tcoe/home> and click on “Enroll.”

The first PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8, at 6:30 p.m. The PTA will vote on its budget, and our Principal, Colette Bounet, will give a presentation on the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) results for Barcroft in Spring 2015. We invite our neighbors to attend our annual Chalk4Peace event on Saturday, September 12, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Create works of original art on the school’s sidewalks and blacktop. Chalk is provided – just bring your imagination and a box of cereal to donate to the Arlington Food Assistance Center. Later that weekend, stop by the school to see the wonderful art creations before the •

Searching for “Flavors”?

Editor’s Note: Kari Hickman, who has authored the **Flavors of the Season** column for the past several years, is leaving the Barcroft Neighborhood for Chicago. We wish her well and extend a hearty “thank you” for sharing her time, talent and tasty treats with us. •

Arlington County Fair: Something for All

By Inge Nealis

The Arlington County Fair is always a fun event in the beginning of August at Thomas Jefferson Middle School. It is normally five days long and starts in the late morning and goes until late night. The outdoor events are open all five days and then the inside tables are set up in the gym three days.

Inside there are many tables serving many purposes. Some are set up to advertise products, some are to warn people about dangers, some to encourage volunteering, and many other reasons. Also inside, artwork and food are displayed, it's very interesting walking around and seeing what won prizes.

Outside there are many food vending trucks that serve a variety of different foods.

On the fair grounds near the back, they have racing piglet races that happen several times a day which attract a big crowd of

the younger children. Next to the racing piglets there are pony rides available at a cost. There is also a kids corner, where the Harlem Wizards put on a show which is a great performance. Also in the kids corner there is face painting and moon bounces which are free.

The rides like always are a lot of fun. It seemed there were new rides this year.

As always there are police watching over the fair grounds during the day and at night just to make sure that everything goes well! If you didn't get a chance to go to the fair this year, make sure you go next because it will be lots of fun! •

Help Paint Fence

By Jill Herndon

Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn are gathering volunteers for a day of painting the Community House fence, this Fall, date to be established. This will be a great way to reconnect with past acquaintances and their new loves, and new neighbors. (Third wedding in two weeks tomorrow!) Come create beauty. Contact the coordinator at jillherndon@aol.com. •



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Bess Beetle Families

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

Parental care isn't something that usually comes to mind when we think about insects, but some insects do care for their young in family groups. Bess beetles, also known as patent leather or passalid beetles, are such an insect and they are fairly common in wooded habitat in Arlington. Nonetheless, few people see them unless they happen to find them under, or much more rarely, on a log.

A Bess beetle is a pretty impressive insect, measuring about an inch and a half and sporting a shiny black exoskeleton. They have large jaws capable of chewing through rotted wood but rarely, if ever, bite. Their habitat consists of rotting logs on the forest floor, which are also their food source. While chewing through the wood, they create galleries that provide their living space.

A bacteria in their gut allows Bess beetles to digest cellulose in the wood. The larvae, however, don't hatch out of their eggs with this bacteria in their guts. Instead, Bess beetle larvae obtain the cellulose-digesting bacteria by eating the frass (the entomologist's term for insect poop) of the adults. That might seem disgusting to human eyes but it works just fine for Bess beetles.

Adult and larval Bess beetles can communicate by producing a repertoire of sounds. These sounds are produced by rubbing body parts together and this form of sound produc-

tion among insects is known as stridulation. Bess beetles stridulate with their wings and the larvae with their legs. Scientists have identified 17 distinct sounds made by Bess beetles.

When the larvae are ready to pupate, the developmental stage between larva and adult, the parents seal them in chambers using bits of wood and other detritus. This protects the pupae during a vulnerable period in their lives. When the young adults emerge from their pupal stage, they are a dull red color which then gradually darkens.

While still living with their parents, young adults will engage in care of younger siblings. When they are ready to start families of their own, the young adults make the one flight of their lives to disperse and find mates. Those that are successful will settle in new rotting logs to raise their own young and never fly again. ●

AutumnFest September 20

The annual AutumnFest celebration of the season will be held Sunday, September 20 at the Glencarlyn Library Community Garden from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Master Gardeners will be on hand to consult. Locally cultivated plants will be available for purchase. Talks on native plants, pollinators and edible landscaping will be held at 11 a.m., 12 noon and 2 p.m. respectively. Contact Alyssa Ford Morel at 703 -907-9318 for more information. ●

Greetings from Our Savior Lutheran School

By OSLS National Junior Honor Society

This year on August 31st, we opened our doors for the 63rd time in Barcroft. Our school theme this year is "Make a Joyful Noise" based off of the Bible passage from Psalm 100:1 "Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth."

We are continuing to accept applications for the 2015-2016 school year for grades PreK through 8th. The Pre-kindergarten class will continue to be in session Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. We offer both before and after care. Stop by or call our school office if you have any questions or would like a tour. Check out our school web-

site at osva.org.

Box Tops for Education is a unique way to raise money for schools and make a difference. Box Tops are those little pink coupons you see on box goods at the store. Once you start looking, you'll see them everywhere. At Our Savior, we challenge each grade every month to bring in the most box tops. If you are looking for a way to support our school, and have some box tops for education lying around, you can stop by our school office and drop them off.

We look forward to many activities throughout this new school year. Stay posted for upcoming events in which you can participate. ●

Women's Club Adds Evening Meetings

Ladies of Barcroft, come meet us at the first evening meeting of the Woman's Club of Arlington (WCA) on Monday, September 14 from 7 p.m. until about 8:30 p.m. We are interested in civic affairs, doing projects to help those less fortunate than ourselves, the abused, children and many other groups. In addition, we have an annual bazaar, a community shred with a Lions Club van for free eye tests, etc.

We are also a very nice bunch of ladies, but we also need you. Come meet some of our ladies, and discuss what your interests

are for our club – yes, that includes you!

WCA meets on the first Monday of the month (except Monday holidays when we meet the second Monday) at 10 a.m. Many of you work so cannot join us. It is time for that to change. From now on, we will meet both in the morning AND in the evening so more women may participate. Light refreshments will be served on the 14th.

WCA meets at our clubhouse located at 700 South Buchanan Street, Arlington. You may park in our parking lot when attending meetings. ●

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.

Halloween Help Wanted: Responsible teens (16+) to help set up, haunt a breezeway, and help take things down. Corner house South Pershing and First Place. Contact Jim at Metal-Clarinet@gmail.com or 703-521-0006.

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

Babysitting, Petsitting, and Dog Walking:

Emily Barton, very reliable 16-year-old. If you need a baby/pet sitter or walker please contact me. Phone: 703-629-5234 Email: emilykbarnton@gmail.com.

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.

Sophia Field: 7th Grader, available for pet sitting and afternoon walking. Lost Dog and Cat Rescue volunteer and experienced bunny owner/foster. Sophia.b.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. ●

Yoga in Barcroft

Sunrise Yoga: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:10 - 6:55 a.m.

Candlelight Yoga: Sundays, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Wellness Retreat: Saturday, October 24, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

For address and registration, please contact Anna
anna@firstthoughtyoga.com or 571-214-8482
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Competitive Bidding Strategies The Pre-Contract Home Inspection

With multiple offers being the norm in our current and recent real estate market, how do buyers compete? So far in 2015, I have been involved with 19 multiple offer scenarios and have observed some interesting trends from both a buyer's agent and listing agent's view. On several transactions, the winning bid waived all contingencies, financing, appraisal, and home inspection as well. I always advise any buyer client to have a home inspection, while some extremely motivated buyers will remove an inspection contingency to be considered. One option for the buyer is to have a pre-contract home inspection, done prior to making an offer. This trend has been prevalent in the District of Columbia, and we are now experiencing more pre-contract home inspections in Northern Virginia.

Inspecting a home before writing a contract is a matter of timing. When there is a contract deadline (another common trend), a buyer can plan on

having a few days to conduct an inspection prior to submitting an offer. This is the best way for a buyer to make a non-contingent, competitive offer.

Waiving appraisals and financing contingencies are also tricky and not an option for some buyers. Cash offers are hard to beat, which is why it is essential to work with a local, direct lender who can close a loan in 14 - 21 days, when a quick closing is important to the seller. We can help with advice on lenders and financing.

Are you considering buying or selling? Contact me for a consultation on creative strategies to maximize your efforts -before you enter the market.

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