



# Barcroft News

October 2015

Vol 113, Issue 2

## Arlingtonians, Lend Us Your Ears (and Talents)

**By Andy Rosenberg**

Arlington is about to receive its first and only community-based, independent, non-commercial, FM radio station! In early December WERA 96.7 Radio Arlington will sign on the air with programming designed specifically for the interests of those who live, work, play in or commute through our county. What's more, most of the programs will be created by Arlingtonians.

For right now, WERA needs your help to give us suggestions as to what you'd like to

hear and do not get from the media giants in the region. We'd want to know if you would like to make programs for the station. Pass the word to friends and neighbors.



For more information visit the Arlington Independent Media website at: [arlingtonmedia.org](http://arlingtonmedia.org) and select "WERA 96.7" from the Projects pull-down menu at the top of the page or WERA.FM. Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/WERA96.7](http://www.facebook.com/WERA96.7) and Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RadioArlington>. •

## Putting "The Beast" Back in Barcroft

**By Bill Schweigart**

Ben thought he had the neighbor from hell. He didn't know how right he was....

In my upcoming novel, **The Beast of Barcroft**, I revive a bit of forgotten local lore to unleash upon Arlington. Ben McKelvie believes he's moving up in the world when he

*Continued on page 3*

## BSCL Association News

The next BSCL Meeting is Thursday, October 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the community house, with guest Arlington County Board Member Libby Garvey.

The Membership Form for 2015–2016 is inside on Page 11. Please take a few minutes to fill it out and return it to 811 S. Taylor Street, Arlington, VA 22204. •



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**Next Deadline: October 15**

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*Landscaping:* Scott Brinitzer, 703-892-0308

*Traffic Committee:* Heidi Wicker

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*Alternates:* Karen Darner, David Michelson, Elaine Squeri, Mark Wigfield

**Visit Us Online: [www.bscl.org](http://www.bscl.org)**

## Monthly Happenings

### ***President's Report by Chris Kupczyk***

I hope everyone is enjoying the break from this summer's heat and humidity.

We had a good turnout for our first fall meeting on September 10. At that meeting, we adopted a budget for the coming year. The budget included some additional funds for pressing maintenance needs on the community house, as well as an increase in our newsletter budget to print extra copies for distribution to the apartments located in Barcroft. Next, Dedra Curteman updated the group on the working group charged with selecting the location for a new elementary South Arlington elementary school, and we then heard from Jeremiah Severn, a Wakefield High School junior who will be working with Scott Brinitzer to build a flagstone path in the grilling area behind the community house for his Eagle Scout project. Finally, Jason Hardin of Capital Bike-share gave a presentation of the proposed station the county would like to install at South Taylor and the Pike. He anticipates that the installation would occur next summer and promised to keep us apprised.

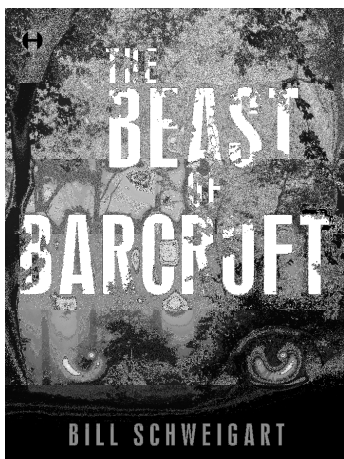
Don't miss next month's meeting on October 1, when our guest will be county board member Libby Garvey. We will follow the same general format we used when John Vihstadt visited us last winter, but we

***Continued on page 3***

# New Book Set in Barcroft, *continued*

## ***Continued from page 1***

buys a house in Barcroft. Instead, he's moving down—way down—thanks to Madeleine Roux, the crazy neighbor whose vermin-



infested property is a looming hazard to public health. First, Ben's fiancée leaves him; then, his dog dies, apparently killed by a predator drawn into the neighborhood by Madeleine's

noxious menagerie.

But the worst is yet to come for Ben, for he's not dealing with any ordinary wild animal. This killer is something much, much worse. Something that couldn't possibly exist—in this world. Now, as a devilish creature stalks the locals, Ben resolves to take action....

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## **President's Message, *continued***

### ***Continued from page 2***

are planning to shorten the introductory remarks so we have more time for questions and discussion. We are collecting questions to ask her (but not share in advance); if you like, you may e-mail them to Joe Knarich or me between now and September 30. ●

The best part? It's inspired by true events. In 1974, something actually terrorized Barcroft. Pets were killed, wild screeching filled the night air, and the newspapers asked: "What is it that screams so, down there in the dark hollow of Four Mile Run?"

No spoilers here, but you can pre-order **The Beast of Barcroft** (On Sale 11/17/15) on Amazon right now!

And if you're reading this, you're invited to the beast of all book launch parties, right in our spooky little suburb! Please join your neighbors for drinks at the Woman's Club of Arlington on December 4, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

If you dare, that is. ●

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## **Annual Bazaar Scheduled**

### ***By Sandy Newton, Reservations Chair***

The annual Woman's Club of Arlington Bazaar will take place on October 17, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jewelry, wood working, Halloween and Christmas items and much more will be offered by vendors and the club members. Food items will be available for purchase on the lower level. Proceeds benefit many organizations in Arlington as well as the club's scholarship recipient. The clubhouse is located at 700 South Buchanan Street. For more information please phone the club at 703-553-5800. ●

# Autumn News from Barcroft Elementary

**By Jenny Ditta, Barcroft Elementary Liaison**

School is flying by for Barcroft Elementary students this school year. With school starting in early August, the final day of the first quarter is October 2. Students enjoyed many interesting events in September. Students came to school dressed to impress on September 10 for School Picture Day. Grade 3 students visited Arlington's Outdoor Lab in September to learn about simple machines. Grade 4 students held P.E. classes at Wakefield High School for a week and took swimming lessons. Grade 5 students enjoyed an overnight field trip to the Outdoor Lab, a long-standing tradition. Parent-Teacher conferences were held September 24 and 25. The school scheduled a conference for each student between homeroom teachers and parents. The PTA provided meals to teachers and staff on both days of the conferences. PTA after-school enrichment classes, including classes in LEGOS, art, basketball and soccer, began. The second Schoolwide Morning Meeting of the school year was held on September 24. A First Quarter Leonardo Learning Night event was held on September 29. Families visited student classrooms and viewed student demonstrations of first quarter learning.

October promises to be interesting as well. With the first quarter ending October 2, the Modified School Year (MSY) calendar that Barcroft Elementary follows permits a multi-week break from school. Fall Intersession be-

gins on October 5 and runs through October 16. Students will have the option of taking time off from school during these two weeks or taking Intersession classes that provide additional learning opportunities. Students will have October 19 off from school while teachers prepare grades for the first quarter. School resumes for all students on October 20 as the second quarter begins.

The PTA will hold its October meeting on Tuesday, October 20 at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend! Many students have signed up to run in the Marine Corps Marathon One-Mile Fun Run to be held at the Pentagon on October 24. Have fun, runners!

**SAVE THE DATE!** The PTA Election Day Bake Sale will be held on Tuesday, November 3. The Barcroft PTA reminds you to vote early and eat often! No matter what the political outcome, we promise you a day of deliciousness! To learn more about What's Happening at Barcroft Elementary, contact our PTA President Tara McCabe at [tcsm04@gmail.com](mailto:tcsm04@gmail.com).



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# Dealing with Mice in a Humane Manner

by Alexander Chamandy

Mice are often uninvited guests. Evidence of their presence may be found from unexplained gnawing on food packages, wires or sounds of scurrying around.

While their presence is a nuisance, it is possible to remove them without causing any harm.

There are a variety of humane mouse traps available, but the one that I've found to be the most effective is the Seabright Labs' Smart Mouse Trap. It is easy to use and can be used again.

Mice love bird seed. It can be placed in the trap and then the back sliding door can be set in place and the front door set open.

Set the trap in an area where activity has been recently observed. Clean the area so that no other sources of food are available. Check the trap a few times a day.

Once you have caught the mouse try to ensure they are kept calm. Too much noise, light, etc. can cause a panic or even a heart attack. A small cloth can be draped over the trap.

Supplies for release:

- 1: Food (seeds, nuts, berries).
- 2: Bedding (paper towel or cardboard from a paper towel roll is good for example).
- 3: Water.

Find a wooded location that's about three to five miles away (or more) where the mouse can readily sustain themselves.

The mouse will need the supplies you've gathered. Please be sure to set them close to where they are released. Chances are they will come back to gather them and build a nest. Finally, release the mouse in a quiet off-the-path area. ●



	<h2><i>St. John's Episcopal Church</i></h2>		
	<b>Sunday Worship Services</b> 8 am and 10 am	<b>Sunday Christian Education</b> Adults 9 am - Youth 10:00 am	
	<b>Sunday, October 4 - Blessing of the Animals 5 pm</b> Bring your pets (or a picture) to the side yard (indoors if raining)		
	<b>Children's Education</b> - Programs of education with activities for children ages three through high school every Sunday at 10 am		
415 S. Lexington Street - Arlington, VA 22204    703-671-6834 <a href="http://stjohnsarlingtonva.org">stjohnsarlingtonva.org</a>			

# Local Teen's Perspective on Immigration Issue

**By Markarius Nealis**

America is called the land of opportunity and there is a system that allows everyone to get an equal share of that opportunity. However there are some people that come to America, but do not go through the system. These illegal immigrants come without waiting their turn. The place where the problem is the largest is along the America -Mexico border.

Immigration is the process of moving to another country that you are not native to. There are many reasons why people immigrate. One is that there are many people in

South and Central America that live in areas controlled by gangs and drug cartels. These people leave their homes in hopes of finding a better life. They hire guides known as coyotes to get them into America. Unfortunately, sometimes the coyotes take their money and leave them to find their own way. If they do make it to the border, they wait until the patrols have passed and cross into America.

Once they arrive they often work with companies that illegally hire them. There is a benefit to this. Even though they get paid very low wages, they fill a job void that most people don't want to do.

Another issue is that illegal immigrants give birth to children in America. The 14th Amendment states that a child born on American soil is an American citizen. This is regardless of their parents' status of citizenship. Controversy arises because some people argue that it is unfair that the child of an illegal immigrant is a citizen. The resulting financial burden has made many Americans wonder what we should do with illegal immigrants. An estimated 300,000 children are born of illegal immigrants each year. The country is divided in opinion on the validity of their citizenship. Some people believe these children should not be citizens. Others believe that they should be citizens and have access to America's better education, health care system, and employment opportunities.

What do you think? ●

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# My Favorite Snakes

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

Garter, Rough Green, Water, Corn, Black Racers, Eastern Rats, even Copperheads; those are a few of my favorite snakes. While many people have an instinctive fear of them, the fact is 80 percent of snakes are small (3 feet long or less) and harmless. If they're grabbed or poked with a stick they'll react defensively out of fear because snakes are prey animals. Plus, a paper cut is worse than a bite from a small nonvenomous snake.

In the wild, snakes are closer to the bottom of the food chain than the top, and are often eaten by hawks, crows, raccoons, opossum, skunks, coyotes, foxes, etc. It's their instinct to defend themselves by hissing, snapping, and biting. Nine times out of ten they just slither away as fast as they can. Snakes are instinctive about protecting their heads, so lunging forward toward something they think is out to kill them is a last resort. Essentially, they don't want to bite unless they think they have to in order to save their lives. Their instinct is to remain still when they sense a predator, because movement can reveal their presence. Also, their natural colors and patterns help to effectively camouflage them. So, when you're taking a hike and get surprised by the snake slithering under your feet, please remember you surprised it too, and it thinks it's scrambling for its life.

Now for venomous snakes. The Cop-

perhead is the only venomous snake in the Arlington area and are found only in the northern part of the county, mostly along or near the Potomac. Like most snakes they spend up to 90 percent of their time hiding someplace dark and safe, like under logs, bark, rocks, and any crevice that suits them. In a glance it's hard to tell the difference between venomous and non-venomous snakes, but most venomous snakes have heart-shaped heads, narrow pupils, and very wide bodies for their length. Still, they can be difficult to distinguish and it's best to leave any snake alone for your safety and its. Local nature centers will be happy to assist you with identifying snakes you have seen and suggest resources for learning more about these fascinating animals.

If you would like to observe snakes in our area, mid spring and early fall are the best times to see them. That is when they're either waking from or going into brumation, which is reptile hibernation, and they are on the move into or out of their winter dens. Your family can take a walk through a forest to see garter snakes and rats snakes, or along wetlands to see basking northern water snakes, look around wood piles for milk snakes, and in meadows for beautiful lime-colored rough green snakes. I promise you if you take five minutes to watch a snake gracefully slither through the grass, across rocks or in the water, it will be a most peaceful and memorable moment for you and your family. ●



# Greetings from Our Savior Lutheran School

## **By OSLS National Junior Honor Society**

Our Savior has weekly chapel services every Wednesday starting at 8:50 a.m. During September, chapel offerings went to support Missionary Nurse Gloria Sauck, who serves as a missionary nurse in Kenya. She encourages Kenyan medical professionals to form and send their own short-term medical mission teams to the unreached areas of Kenya.

She also helps Kenyan mission societies enhance their medical mission outreaches.

On Friday, October 30, Our Savior will be having a Fall Carnival. Stop by with your children and enjoy a fun evening of games. Please contact our school office for more information about times and tickets.

The last week of October, we will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week, a time set

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## **ECARE Recycling Event**

The fall Environmental Collection and Recycling Event (ECARE) will be held on Saturday, October 3, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, 125 South Old Glebe Road. Talk to your neighbors and combine items to save a trip.

Sponsored by Arlington County, this multi-commodity recycling event offers Arlington residents the opportunity to safely recycle household hazardous waste, computers & electronics, and small metal scrap items. Details at <http://recycling.arlingtonva.us/household-hazmat/e-care/>. •

aside to say no to drugs. During the week, our school will also focus on helping Arlington Street People's Association Network (A-SPAN). Each year we have a walk-a-thon around the Barcroft neighborhood., carrying signs with messages to say no to homelessness in Arlington and support A-SPAN. Please check out A-SPAN's website at [www.a-span.org](http://www.a-span.org).

We still have room in our classes for students from 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. Check out our

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*Special rate for Barcroft residents*

# 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.

**Petsitter:** Responsible 10th grader. Can house sit, water plants, pet sit bring in mail, etc. Email at chrisclaire99@gmail.com or call 571-623-1133.

**Babysitter/nanny/petsitter:** Jenny Claire, responsible 18 year old available for babysitting, and petsitting! Contact Jenny at 571-484-6445 or jennyklaire@gmail.com.

**Bulbs and Plants:** "Magic Lily" bulbs available for free, and also Solomon's Seal, a perennial which blooms in the Spring. Solomon's Seal does well in shade or part shade, and is easy to transplant. Located at 4509 South 8th Street. Please call 703-521-8210 before coming over. ●





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

## Big Changes Coming for Real Estate Transactions

Beginning October 3, 2015, lenders will be required to use new documents for any loan applications received. The new Loan Estimate Document replaces the Good Faith Estimate (GFE) and initial Truth-in-Lending (initial TIL) disclosure. The new forms are designed to provide clearer information for consumers to understand the loan terms and estimates of loan and closing costs. The Loan Estimate must be provided to consumers within 3 business days after loan application.

New Closing Disclosure Document created, replaces and combines the HUD-1 and final Truth-in-Lending disclosures (final TIL and, together with the initial TIL, the Truth-in-Lending forms). The new forms offer more details about loan charges for consumers to really understand the transaction costs.

Any significant changes made after the Closing Disclosure is provided will require that a new form be provided to the borrower and an additional 3-day waiting period. Examples of these changes are: APR variance exceeds 0.125% or a change in the loan product.

As Realtors we want to educate clients and set proper expectations so they understand the new timing requirements, such as evidencing an intent to proceed with the loan estimate, are critical to the timing. It is projected that the new CFPB rule changes will add 15 days to the transaction timeline.

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