



November 2015

Barcroft News

Vol 113, Issue 3

A Look Back at Barcroft Snow Days

By Hank Biddle

Back during the '30's there was no such thing as "Snow Days." If it snowed, my best friend Buddy and his dog Terry and I trudged through the thickest snow to school. Snow days occurred only on Saturdays and Sundays. Our mothers had bundled us up with four buckle boots, heavy coats, and Lindy hats. The Lindy hats had ear flaps that buckled under your chin and goggles that snapped down over your eyes.

On Saturdays or Sundays we would all race out into the snow. One favorite spot was the top of the 8th Street hill. We would gather up a big pile of sticks and block off the top of the hill for a big fire. Up and down the hill we would slide. After a while my sister would say "let's toast marshmallows." Everyone would get a stick. We put a marshmallow on the end and held it over the fire. They all burned to a crisp. What went wrong? We dared my cousin to eat one. She would never pass up a dare. She ate one and spit the ashes out. Someone said "just toast them lightly," and it worked.

After spending the day at the hill we were

all frozen stiff. We pulled off our outer clothes and gloves and our hands began to sting. It felt like we had put our hands in a bee hive. As we warmed up our mothers prepared Ovaltine for everyone to end a happy "Snow Day."

Editor's Note: *Hank Biddle was born in Washington D.C. and spent his early years in Arlington. After service during the Korean war and college he married, bought a house in Barcroft, raised a family, spending more than 50 years in the neighborhood. He is a retired mathematics teacher and coach and now lectures at Northern Virginia Community College. He hopes others enjoy his childhood stories of Barcroft.* •

Next BSCL Meeting

The next BSCL Meeting is Thursday, November 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the community house. The presentation will be on a pilot car sharing program. •



Barcroft News

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

Advertising: Jennifer Lis
jenlis@comcast.net

Publisher/Mailing: Christine Hopkins,
chopkins4149@gmail.com
703-350-2101

Next Deadline: November 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,
chopkins4149@gmail.com

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

Membership Secy.: Christine Hopkins,
chopkins4149@gmail.com

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 Darnier,
David Michelson, Elaine Squeri, Mark Wigfield

Visit Us Online: www.bscl.org

Monthly Happenings

President's Report by Chris Kupczyk

The fall colors have been delayed a little, but the cooler temperatures have finally arrived. That means our fall membership drive is still in full swing, so please be sure to complete your membership form and dues renewals.

At our next meeting (November 5, 7:30 p.m., at the community house), we will hear a presentation from county staff on a point-to-point car sharing pilot the county board approved earlier this year. The county is working with car2go as its provider. The initial rollout will focus mainly on transit corridors (including, as I understand it, Columbia Pike) and would function similarly to Capital Bikeshare, from whom we received a presentation at our October meeting.

Finally, I hope many of you had a chance to attend one of the 14 (!) county board candidate forums in recent weeks. Don't forget to vote on November 3. •

Barcroft News is looking for a new Advertising Manager. This prestigious volunteer position will bring you the proud feeling of community involvement with a limited time commitment each month — with a generous vacation policy of two months off each summer. Contact Editor Alyssa Ford Morel at editor@bscl.org if you think you might be the right candidate.

Local Event Supports Barcroft Child

By Tracy Granneman

On September 26, thirty of our younger Barcroft Residents (plus two dogs) raised over \$1,300 for the Tracy's Kids Art Therapy Program in honor of Joe Miller, age 5, a Barcroft resident. The kids ran a combined total of 221 laps of the Stafford-7th-Taylor-

6th loop in 45 minutes!! That means they ran over 66 miles. It was an incredible accomplishment and show of support for Joe who suffers from the rare disease ITP and is able to participate in Tracy's Kids program.

What is ITP? Immune Thrombocytopenia (also known as immune or idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura) is an autoimmune disease that targets platelets. They are marked as foreign by the immune system and eliminated in the spleen, the liver, and by other means. In addition to increased platelet destruction, some people with ITP also have impaired platelet production. For more infor-

mation, go to: <http://pdsa.org/>

What is Tracy's Kids? Tracy's Kids is a fabulous Art Therapy organization that focuses on young cancer patients or other non-cancer kids who receive treatments at various Cancer Centers. The program — which began at the Lombardi Cancer Center in 1991 —

employs Master's trained, Board Certified artists to work directly with physicians, nurses and other medical personnel and are integrated as members of each child's treatment team. For



Children who participated in the September 26 event gather in support of Tracy's Kids.

more information or to make a donation, go to: <http://www.tracyskids.org/>. Donations are still coming in in honor of Joe.

Awards from the event include: Most Spirited to Sienna Melinson and Soren Odegard; Biggest Fundraiser to Per David Midboe; and Best Art Project to Abby Bodner.

Thank you to all the neighbors who helped make this event happen. ●

Barcroft Elementary Falls News

By Jenny Ditta, Barcroft Elementary Liaison

October has been an exciting month for students at Barcroft Elementary. The Modified School Year (MSY) calendar that Barcroft Elementary follows permits a multi-week break from school. Fall Intersession began on October 5 and ran through October 16. Students had the option of taking time off from school during these two weeks or taking Intersession classes that provide additional learning opportunities. Over 60 percent of the students enrolled in Intersession, and enjoyed classes such as Learning to Cook and Exploring with Lewis and Clark. Students had October 19 off from school while teachers prepared first quarter grades. School resumed for all students on October 20.

Also in October, Barcroft Elementary hosted a Children's Coat Drive during the week of October 20 to 23. Barcroft families and neighbors were invited to drop off new or clean gently-used child-sized coats, hats and gloves for donation to needy Arlington children. The PTA hosted a "Foodtober" PTA meeting on October 20 at 6 p.m. The meeting included an APS Food Services presentation and food-related poems from students. On Thursday, October 22, Barcroft Elementary hosted a Bilingual Barcroft (BiBa) Chat. BiBa chats occur several times a month on Thursday mornings, and provide opportunities for parents to stay connected, exchange information and find ways to help their children at

home while hearing presentations provided by staff members and the Principal. Many students signed up to run in the Marine Corps Marathon One-Mile Fun Run held at the Pentagon parking lot on October 24. Students were looking forward to the PTA Pajama Party and Movie Night on October 30.

First Quarter Report Cards are scheduled to be sent home on Monday, November 2. The PTA Election Day Bake Sale will be held all day on Tuesday, November 3. Because Barcroft Elementary is a polling location, students will have that day off. Delicious home-baked goods and lots more will be available for purchase at the Bake Sale. Many items sell for \$1, and we have an extensive selection of breads and pies. The Barcroft PTA reminds you to vote early and eat often! The PTA monthly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10 at 6:30 p.m. It will be held at Arlington Mill Community Center. All are welcome to attend! To learn more about What's Happening at Barcroft Elementary, contact PTA President Tara McCabe at tcs04@gmail.com. •



Juliet's Housecleaning Service

Honest, more than 10 years experience
with Excellent Barcroft-area References

LOW RATES!

Weekly, biweekly, monthly, or one-time cleaning.

**Call anytime: 703-628-3434,
703-354-3225, or
571-236-3700**



September Fun Takes Over Barcroft Neighborhood

Three neighborhood block parties were held on Saturday, September 26. The first, on 7th Road and Stafford, included the fund raiser covered by Tracy Granneman on page three.

Eighth Road South and friends enjoyed the afternoon together at a block party, reports Amber Vincent. A pack of wild children were spotted riding bikes, bouncing in a bounce house and sneaking too many treats. Neighbors spent the hours eating delicious

specialty dishes including Andrew's chicken and Phil's imported sausages. The evening was cut short by rain but that didn't darken the mood of this happy occasion. Many neighbors were heard saying, "I wish we did this more often" as they bid each other good night.

The third Barcroft block party was rockin' thanks to live music by Gutterball Kingpin. Barcroft's own Rich Jordan is a member of the band. Neighbors enjoyed the live music, food, and great company. •

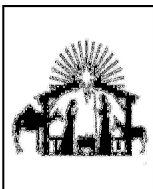
Make Your Yard More Sustainable

Learn the best management practices of sustainable landscaping including using native plants, making the most of available water, building soil health and reducing maintenance on Saturday, November 14, at "Designing the Sustainable Landscape," from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Fairlington Community

Center. Arlington County VCE Agent Kirsten Conrad Buhls and Master Gardeners of Arlington and Alexandria will cover the basics of sustainable landscapes and answer questions. Free and open to the public. Register at mgnv.org. Questions? Call 703-228-6414 or send an email to mgarlalex@gmail.com •

Arlington Forest United Methodist Church

"Where Love Changes People's Lives through Engaging Worship, Learning Together, and Serving Others"



4701 Arlington Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203, 703-525-0961
www.arlingtonforestumc.com and on Facebook

Godly Play & Sunday School 9:00 a.m., Worship 10:00

Community Christmas Dinner 12/13, 6pm
Children's Christmas Eve Service 12/24 4 pm
Candle-light Christmas Eve Service 7pm

"Your neighborhood church only a walk away"



New Band Director at Wakefield High School

By **Jamaal B. Carey**

The Wakefield High School Music Community would like to welcome Mr. Brian Fisher as the new Band Director. Mr. Fisher studied at West Chester University and earned his Master's Degree from Teachers College, Columbia University. For the past five years, he has served as the Band Director at Kenmore Middle School. He was also the assistant marching band director at Washington-Lee High School. Mr. Fisher first taught at West Milford High School in West Milford, New Jersey for seven years and went on to teach in D.C. public schools for a year.

Mr. Fisher's goals are for all students to experience the joy of playing a musical instrument, understand and value the role of music in our society, and to build an appreciation for all types of music through performance. Brian Fisher's students will experience how performing in an ensemble creates community and that together we must work toward a common goal of excellence. Mr. Fisher has hit the ground running with the Marching Warriors of Wakefield High School with their excellent halftime show, "We are Warriors." We are pleased to welcome Mr. Brian Fisher to the Wakefield High School Band Program. •

Is your computer broken or your data in jeopardy?
Or is your small business in need of IT support?



Arlington Virginia Computer Repair

<http://avcr.us> | help@avcr.us | 703-486-0200

Data recovery, computer repair and IT consulting with a personal touch

- AVCR is a local alternative to big box stores and mail-in data recovery services.
- We live and work in Barcroft. Our family-owned and operated business has been serving Arlington since 1999.
- All work is given personal attention from our seasoned IT experts. We don't outsource your repair or data recovery.
- Our experts also serve local small businesses for IT support, business consulting, web design, one-on-one training and more.

***Bring this ad to receive a 10% discount
on our labor rate for your first case!***

Is This You?

*A new volunteer is needed to
deliver Barcroft News in
the Stafford/7th Road area
to replace someone moving
out of the neighborhood.*

*Contact Publisher
Christine Hopkins at
703-350-2101 or
chopkins4149@gmail.com*

The Triumphant Turkey

**By Bobbi Farley , Park Naturalist,
Long Branch Nature Center**

Turkeys are an animal woven into the history of the United States. From Native American culture to Thanksgiving and a hunting season staple, the turkey has always been prevalent. Their range covers the eastern U.S., and parts of California and Mexico. Turkeys can occasionally be sighted in Arlington, especially in the fall when they form flocks. Their habitats are forests with plenty of ground cover and mature trees, also meadows and marshes for foraging. However, the turkey was at the brink of extinction in the early 1900's.

From colonial times, turkeys have suffered massive habitat loss and excessive hunting, with one of their last strongholds being the Appalachians. By the mid 1910's public concern lead to passage of the Robin Bill in Virginia which prohibited the sale of wild turkeys and other game birds in open markets. However, restrictions weren't enforced until legislation created the Virginia Game Commission which regulated and enforced hunting restrictions on turkeys and other wild birds. Later, from 1929 to 1955 restocking programs of farm raised and relocated wild turkeys helped to revive populations throughout the state.

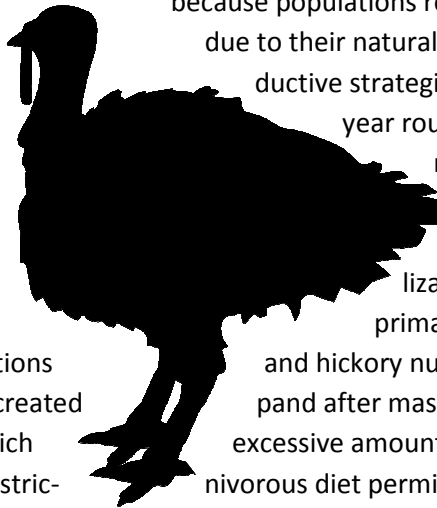
In the 1960's, following the turkey's

successful revival, several experimental management programs were implemented in Virginia and West Virginia to examine the effects of various lengths of hunting seasons. From these programs, appropriate-length spring and fall hunting seasons, which vary by county, were implemented to help sustain robust turkey populations. These regulations also help ensure sufficient turkey numbers to sustain their predators, such as coyotes and raccoons. Poaching, however, remains a major problem for managing turkey populations.

Today, turkeys are considered a species of least concern and are widely hunted because populations remain relatively high due to their natural hardiness and reproductive strategies. Turkeys are active year round and omnivorous, meaning they eat both plants and small animals such as rodents, lizards and snakes. Their primary diet is acorns, hazel, and hickory nuts, and populations expand after mast years when trees drop excessive amounts of seeds. Their omnivorous diet permits large numbers of turkeys to survive in small areas since they don't exhaust any one food source.

Another factor contributing to their success is their young. In the spring, female turkeys lay clutches of 10 to 14 eggs in ground

Continued on page 9



Book Club Meets

The St. John's Episcopal Church Book Club will meet Tuesday, November 3 at 7:30 pm to discuss "Mrs. Dalloway", by Virginia Woolf. Since this is part social occasion, you are invited to come even if you haven't read the book. The December selection is "H is for Hawk" by Helen MacDonald. St. John's is located at 415 S. Lexington St., Arlington, VA 22204 (enter from the 5th St. door). •

Turkey Talk, *continued*

Continued from page 8

nests which hatch a month later. The babies, called poults, are precocial, meaning that at hatching they are fully feathered in a soft down, able to walk, their eyes and ears are open, and they are able to eat independently. They are also able to leave the nest after only one day. However, only one to two poults per clutch survive to adulthood.

Turkeys have stood the test of time, can withstand both human and natural predation, and have shown great adaptability in an increasingly urbanized environment. The next time you and your family happen upon a flock of turkeys, take a moment to observe this hardy bird that was once nominated by Benjamin Franklin to be the national symbol of the United •

Alyssa's Simple Solutions

Helping you save time and get things done

Alyssa Ford Morel (Barcroft Resident)
Domestic Concierge and Professional Organizer

www.alyssassimplesolutions.com
info@alyssassimplesolutions.com
703/907-9318



20 percent discount to Barcroft residents!

NOVA Ultimutt Pet Care

We will bring your pup back tired and happy!

Tina Seashore

703-200-1908



- Doggy daycare
- Dog walking
- Overnight boarding (pick up and drop off available)
- 12 year Barcroft resident

tinaseashore@gmail.com

Dogsrulecatsarecool.com

Special rate for Barcroft residents

Neighbor to Neighbor Listings

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

Babysitter: Experienced, Red Cross certified 9th grader. Call Liza Harold at 703-868-3518.

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.

Continued on page 11

Greetings from Our Savior Lutheran School

By OSLS National Junior Honor Society

Our October chapel offerings were designated for the Arlington Street People's Assistance Network (ASPAN). A-SPAN provides life-sustaining services for Arlington's homeless. Our Savior partners with A-SPAN by preparing and packing 80 lunches on the fourth Monday of each month. On October 29, Our Savior School participated in its 6th Annual mini-walk-a-thon to bring awareness to the problem of homelessness in Arlington and raise funds that will be used by A-SPAN.

Thank you to everyone who supports Our Savior Lutheran School through Giant, Safeway, and Harris Teeter grocery cards. We receive a check from each of these stores at the end of the school year thanks to supporters who name our school through their programs. In order to contribute, you must re-link your card or cards to our school every year. Visit our website for information on how to proceed and use the links provided.

Please join us at Our Savior Lutheran Church for a Thanksgiving Eve worship service

on Wednesday, November 25 at 7 p.m.

Each month, our school enjoys Art Talks from one of our teachers, Mrs. Battaglia. During Art Talks, we learn about an artist. This past month's artist was Dale Chihuly, who was born in 1941 in Tacoma, Washington. He was the first member of his family to attend college, graduating in 1965. Chihuly set up an art studio in his basement and melted some stained glass and used a metal pipe to blow his first glass bubble. He loved the way light passed through glass and reflected colors.

He enrolled at the University of Wisconsin and later established the glass program at the Rhode Island School of Design. Eventually he cofounded the Pilchuck Glass School in Washington State. Chihuly's art has been displayed in over 200 museums worldwide. In 2012, Chihuly Gardens and Glass opened next to the Space Needle in Seattle. He has also established programs to help teenagers stay out of trouble and to learn to work together in the community. ●

Neighbor to Neighbor Listings, *continued*

Continued from page 10

Babysitter, house/pet sitter: Carmen Dunlap, responsible 17 year old. Available weekends and weeknights. Dunlap.carmen@ymail.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: Rebeccahbean@gmail.com or call 571-344-4134.

Leaf Raking Wanted: Two teens wanted to help with leaf raking during week of Thanksgiving or week after. Several hours work at \$20 per worker per hour. Email : rtesler@verizon.net>rtesler@verizon.net.

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 jennyclaire@gmail.com.

Math Tutor: VA licensed teacher with over 25 years experience. I work primarily with Algebra 1, Pre-Algebra, Geometry, SAT prep, GED, basic math skills. I will work with the student to find the way that best helps him/her to learn. Email: lairdkw@gmail.com.

Drum Lessons: All ages/levels welcome. Wakefield alum with a BA in music offers instruction in Barcroft home. Multiple styles -- rock, jazz, classical, musical theatre. Performed in school ensembles -- concert band, marching band, drum line, jazz band, and orchestra. References upon request. Contact: Mitchellbassmusica@gmail.com.

Help with Yard Work: Responsible young person needed for yard work on 3rd Street South; flexible hours, pays \$15 an hour. Contact Mike at mkiernan.media@gmail.com. •



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

MARKET UPDATE

All of the numbers in 2015 year-to-date have been better than 2014 in Northern Virginia. Sales contracts have been up 8% this year compared to 2014, although this year so far is only ranked the 4th best out of the past 7 years.

Northern Virginia's market slowed at summer's end and is picking up a little so far this fall. Prices are almost back to what they were at the peak (2005). In some areas prices have surpassed their peak this year.

NOVA's inventory has risen 11.1% so far in 2015 compared with the same period in 2014 and as of the end of August there was a 3.7 months supply of homes.

A balanced market has approximately a six-month supply of homes, so inventory is still tight. More inventory is coming on the market but we're also seeing more demand.

In Nova, the largest number of single family homes sold was in \$600K to \$800K price range.

Sales are more active in the \$300 - \$500 K range. The market has definitely cooled in the upper brackets above \$1.5 million.

As of 10/10/15 per MRIS data, there have been 23 homes closed at an average price of \$669,915 in Barcroft, compared to 18 homes during the same period in 2014 at an average price of \$668,117.

As of 10/10/15, 30 year fixed rate quotes are between 3.625% - 3.875% for Conforming and Jumbo loans.

Contact me for advice on finding the best mortgage lenders and title companies to work with. Both are extremely important components for all purchase contracts now with these new rules in effect.

FREE Notary for Barcroft Residents!
Casey O'Neal, Associate Broker
RE/MAX Allegiance 703-217-9090

www.CaseyOneal.com

Curious about your home's value? Visit
www.NovaHomeListings.com