

June/July 2017

Barcroft News

Vol 114, Issue 10

Fourth of July Festivities in Barcroft

By Heather Meade

Mark your calendar for Barcroft's greatest neighborhood event. Come celebrate Our Nation's 241st Birthday and the 29th Annual 4th of July Barcroft Parade. This year on, hold on...drum roll...Tuesday the 4th of July! Rain or shine!

The parade begins at 10 a.m. sharp. Anyone can join and we hope you will! Marchers meet in the Women's Club parking lot at 9:45 a.m. across from the Barcroft community House.

This Year's Event features:

- A Scout Color Guard,
- AFD Fire Engine,
- Our very own Barcroft Marching Band,
- Uncle Sam, and
- All of you in your most creative costumes and floats.

Crikett, the Danger Clown will put on a show for kids of all ages after the parade in the Community House. This will be followed with an Award's Ceremony for

best parade costumes and floats, face painting, a pie eating contest, hamburgers, hot dogs, beverages and picnic fare and, of course, family and friends and the singing of our National Anthem.

Let's make this even more awesome than last year! Decorate your strollers and bikes, paint those faces and bellies or come dressed as your favorite super hero or surprise us! Turn your bike into a helicopter, put wheels on your surfboard, make a fun float or banner! Come and join in the fun and see what makes this neighborhood so special.

Please bring a food item to share pot-luck style. Also, we always need help with clean up and set up and a few items during the event so if you would like to volunteer email Heather Meade at heather-meade@gmail.com or (206) 817-5609.

We need your musical talents. To join the Barcroft Marching Band for the 4th of July contact: Melissa Bishop at melissadbishop@mac.com. •



Barcroft News

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President's Message

By Chris Siple

Thanks to all of you who have presented me with the opportunity, after 36 years of benefiting from the work of others, to do what I can for the Barcroft School and Civic League as an officer. I'll be relying on my colleagues and all the members to let me know when I'm not doing something that I should be doing (and vice versa). These are exciting times in Barcroft, particularly related to development along Columbia Pike, what with two massive projects underway that will have significant effects on the neighborhood and its residents.

Our membership meetings are on hiatus for the summer, but please follow the chat list for announcements on summer activities, like the Barcroft Ice Cream Social, the outdoor movie nights at Arlington Mill and Penrose Square, and the Columbia Pike Blues Festival. We got your culture right here!

I've frequently bragged to friends who are not fortunate enough to live in Barcroft about this community. Here's to all of you (you know who you are) who make Barcroft a great place to live: the neighbors who keep an eye on others' kids to keep them safe, the snow blower guy who clears everyone's sidewalks, everyone who makes an effort to keep in friendly contact with elderly or reclusive neighbors just to make sure they're OK, etc. Thanks! •

Barcroft Student Receives PTA Reflections Awards

By Jennifer Weber

Lena Sullivan, a rising second grader at Barcroft Elementary School, received numerous awards as part of the PTA Reflections Program. Lena's video, *Complete*, was awarded First Place in Arlington, First Place in Northern Virginia and Honorable Mention in the Commonwealth of Virginia in the Film and Video Primary Division.

PTA Reflections is a nationally acclaimed student recognition program to encourage artistic creativity in the classroom and at home. This year students explored the arts based on the 2016-2017 theme: What Is Your

Story? You can view Lena's video and learn her story at <https://youtu.be/sAeUUq9OEnI>. Congratulations Lena! •



*PTA Reflections winner
Lena Sullivan.*

Ready for 100 in Arlington

by Barbara Swart

Ready for 100 is a national campaign to encourage cities to commit to 100 percent clean energy. A program of the Sierra Club, the local chapter has started with the goal of mobilizing support for a commitment in Arlington to 100 percent renewable electricity by 2035.

Why is this campaign necessary?

The time for 100 percent renewable energy has come. Air and water pollution are putting our health at risk, undermining our quality of life and jeopardizing our children's future.

What cities are already participating?

Twenty five cities have either reached 100 percent or have made a commitment to do so. Cities such as Burlington, VT and Aspen, CO are already 100 percent renewable. San Francisco and San Diego will achieve the goal by 2020 and 2035 respectively.

Is Arlington participating?

Yes! People are banding together with various organizations to let our leaders know that a commitment to renewable electricity is important to Arlington's future.

How can it be possible to do this in Arlington?

One possible scenario of how to

Continued on page 5

Buchanan Community Garden Basics

By Kimberly Sumner, Head Gardener

The 9th Street South/Buchanan Community Garden has 30 plots. Our members are experts to novices; growing flowers, fruits and vegetables. We are one of the smallest community gardens in Arlington. We are located along the W&OD bike path where 9th Street South connects, just west of South Buchanan Street.

Arlington County currently has seven gardens. We run our garden by our individual association with our own set of bylaws — although County rules and regulations must be observed. The head gardener serves as the

point of contact with the County. Gardeners grow what they like, but we do not allow invasive or illegal plants. We hold events during the year to address common areas, and community events.

The annual rental County fee is \$60 for half plot the first year and \$50 thereafter. This is the usage fee for the public space we are gardening.

Each garden association assesses additional fees to cover such things as water and mulch; and a first-time gardener fee also applies. Applicants are informed of these fees at

Continued on page 10



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Barcroft Elementary June Update

By Jennifer Weber, PTA Secretary

June was an action packed month, with field trips, SOL testing, yard day, field day and 5th grade promotion. We sent our 5th graders and principal Colette Bounet off with well wishes and a reminder that you are always a Barcroft Eagle!

Judy Apostolico-Buck will start as Barcroft's Principal beginning on July 1. She has been with Arlington

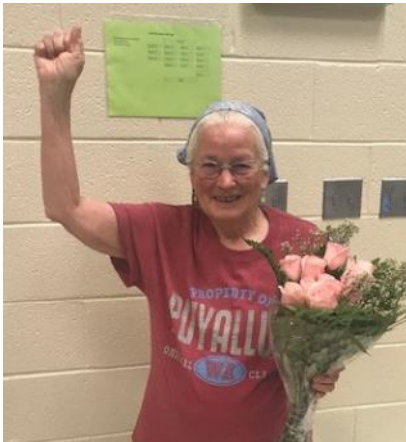
Public Schools for 30 years, starting as a student teacher at Abingdon Elementary. Ms. Apostolico-Buck has been a classroom teacher, resource teacher for the gifted, Early Childhood Supervisor, Assistant Principal and most recently Principal at Ashlawn Elementary. Please join us in welcoming Ms. A-B to the Barcroft family!

Is your child starting Kindergarten at Barcroft Elementary? Join other rising Kindergarten children and their families on the Barcroft playground on:

- Saturday, July 15 at 10 a.m.
- Wednesday, July 19 at 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, July 30 at 4 p.m.

Popsicles will be provided!

Mark your calendars for August 1 -- Barcroft's first day of school for the 2017-2018 school year. Enjoy your summer! •



Congratulations to Joan Mulholland, Barcroft Elementary's Volunteer of the Year. We are so thankful for you!

Ready for 100, continued

Continued from page 3

achieve 100 percent renewable electricity (mostly solar) was presented in a public forum last year entitled Arlington's Energy Future.

For those who missed the forum, can you tell me more?

Yes! I'll be bringing information to a

future BSCL monthly meeting. In the meantime, for more information on *Ready for 100* or to get involved, contact Taylor Bennett, *Ready For 100* Community Outreach Coordinator for the Sierra Club's Virginia Chapter, at taylor.bennett@sierraclub.org or at (304) 942-4269 •

Dues News: Your Dues Matter

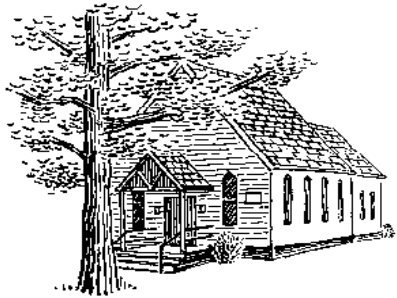
By Joanne Rodewald, Membership Secretary

Thank you to all the households who have already become members of the Barcroft School and Civic League this year.

For everyone else, what are you waiting for? Just because dues are modest (only \$5 per individual or \$10 for a family membership), do you think your contribution won't matter? It WILL make a difference. With everyone pitching in, these dues will enhance the many special

events that make Barcroft a unique place to live. Our newsletter, 4th of July Parade, Ice Cream Social, and maintenance of the Community House and grounds are just a few of the specific activities your dues and donations support.

The application form is available in previous newsletters and online at our website at <http://www.bscl.org/membership>. Please check the current membership roster and if you haven't already done so, please join today. •



Adam (RT) Tnaib

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kw
KELLER WILLIAMS

Rats Seeking New Homes

By a Barcroft Resident

By the time of publication, demolition of the Food Star shopping center may already have begun. To those of you who live near the Food Star, you may already be aware of the rodent problem there. If not, here is the problem in brief. There's a certain amount of land behind the shopping center that slopes sharply up from behind the center up to Taylor Street. That area was never built on, and the previous longtime owner of the property never, in thirty years, did any maintenance, clearing, landscaping or tending of any kind, allowing it to become overgrown with a very substantial tangle of trees, shrubs, weeds, English ivy, poison ivy, trash, debris, and rat burrows.

When demolition begins, and the hill is cleared, it's logical that the rats will scatter and establish new colonies wherever they can

find food sources and shelter. Rats require very little shelter and even a small patch of ivy is sufficient. As for food sources, they'll eat anything, but are especially fond of bird seed, pet food, and pet feces.

Please help keep our neighborhood safe from a potential rat infestation by picking up your pet's waste. For those bird lovers in the neighborhood, of which there are many, you may consider a temporary break and keep the exterior of your homes free of bird feed until the Fall. If you have any overgrown ivy or shrubbery near your house, you may wish to clear it. Finally, if you don't live on or near Taylor Street, please don't be complacent. This has the potential to affect all of us!

For additional information and tips, please see <https://health.arlingtonva.us/environmental-health/rats-mice/>. •

Rescheduled Women's Club Shred Event

Although the rain washed the Women's Club Shred Event away for May, we have rescheduled the shred truck and Lion's Van for Saturday, July 8. The times are the same -- yard sale from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, shred truck and Lion's Van from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. This event will be held in our parking lot at 700 South Buchanan. If it rains again, we will move inside our clubhouse for the yard sale.

This event is to raise money for our

scholarship programs and we ask for a donation, but it is not required. As an added feature, our club has been collecting diapers, wipes, infant formula, etc. to donate to the D.C. Diaper bank which supplies those in need in Virginia, Maryland, and D.C. So far, our club has donated over 600 items for this project. Feminine and senior products are also accepted. For more information email womansclubarlington@gmail.com. •

Summer Greetings From Our Savior Lutheran School

By OSLS National Junior Honor Society

May and early June were great months at Our Savior. Our middle school students headed out on class trips in early May. The 6th graders joined our Washington Area Lutheran Schools for three days of outdoor education in Pennsylvania. The 7th grade class went into Downtown D.C. on a three day mission trip with the help of Rehoboth Baptist Church, and the 8th grade headed north for a three-day trip to New York City. The 5th grade also had some exciting moments as they watched baby chicks hatch in the classroom. We preformed a great spring musical, Johnny Appleseed, with lots of songs about apples, and we also celebrated our annual Field Day, which was an endless day of fun activities.

This past month, Our Savior students also raised almost \$1,700 through Math-a-thon and a Penny Wars Competition for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. We are excited to help other children at St. Jude's. We can't wait to do it again next year.

We are currently accepting applications for the 2017-2018 school year for grades PreK through 8th. Next year's pre-kindergarten class will meet on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. We also offer both before and after care. Stop by or call our school office if you

have any questions. Check out our school website at osva.org. School starts again on Tuesday, August 29. •



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Vacation Bible School

Theme - Hero Central

July 24 - 28 5:30 - 8:00 pm



Join us for another fantastic week of Vacation Bible School. Each day our teams meet heroes from the Bible and discover how they can be heroes in God through story, games, music, activities and crafts.

For Preschool through rising 5th Graders!

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Community Garden Basics, continued

Continued from page 4

the time a plot assignment is made.

High demand means waiting lists for most gardens. Accordingly, half plots are assigned to new gardeners. If your name is on a waiting list, you don't have to reapply each year and you will be contacted as soon as a plot becomes available for you. The limit is one plot per family.

To apply for a plot, review the community garden rules, then complete the online Application Form or print the Application Form and return it to: Community Gardens Program, 2700 South Taylor Street, Arlington, VA 22206.

County staff will put your name on the wait lists. You'll be contacted only when a plot becomes available in a community garden in which you express interest. These popular gardens have long waiting lists. You don't need to reapply each year. However, should your contact information change, remember to let the program office know.

Plot assignments are made on a first come first served basis. Plots are approximately 8 by 17 feet. To help accommodate the long wait lists, half plots are being offered

to new gardeners. This is plenty of space for most urban gardeners.

Plots are assigned to new applicants after all renewals have been received from current gardeners in good standing. You must renew by paying dues no later than March 15, so gardens may be assigned in a timely fashion. Gardens need to be cleared and gardening started no later than May 15.

Applicants are contacted in spring by phone or email to discuss a plot assignment and the garden fees and rules.

Community Garden Do's and Don'ts

- **Do** ask us about about the garden and what we are growing, we love to discuss gardening.
- **Do** apply and get on the waiting list if you are interested in a plot. (average wait time is 15-24 months).
- **Do** call the police if you see someone jumping the fence or taking leaf or wood mulch.
- **Don't** jump the fence to look at the gardens.
- **Don't** take mulch, flowers, veggies or fruits. Community means we garden together, not free food for the taking. •



Neighbor to Neighbor Listings

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

Neighborhood Graduate Student: Available for pet sitting and dog walking, babysitting, odd jobs, housework, etc. Abby Fram, 703-477-7550; email: abbyfram94@aol.com.

Kyle and Ted Lawn Mowing: Hardworking and reliable freshman in college who will mow and edge your lawn as well as various other yard work you need done for an affordable price. Contact us at kpboll333@gmail.com.

Private Drum Lessons in Barcroft: All ages/levels. Local musician offers instruction in Barcroft home studio on 3rd Street South. Unique, fully equipped studio with two full drum sets. Multiple styles--rock, jazz, classical, musical theatre. Complimentary 30-minute lesson/consultation. References provided. Email Mitchell at mitchbassmusic@gmail.com.

Bikes and 3D Printers: What do they have in common? You want your bike ready for summer and I want to earn money for a 3D printer! Offering a Quick Tune-up for \$30, Bike fitting for \$20 or Cleaning for \$20. Call or email me for more details or other services. Zach 703-380-6227 or robbets4@gmail.com.

Looking for a different decoration for your party? I will carve your design into a watermelon for an edible decoration. \$20 plus cost of watermelon (Offer dependent on supply). Contact Zach at robbets4@gmail.com or 703-380-6227.

Morning Mows with Ethan Valencia: need a trim? Text Ethan Valencia at 703-254-9551 or email EthanAValencia@gmail.com. Also available for cat care.

Maria and Two Sons Need Transitional Housing...After a kind Barcroft family allowed them to stay some months in their very affordable basement rooms. Despite wide-ranging efforts to find new affordable housing, Maria Esther Veizaga, a non-smoker, quiet, straight-arrow single mom and longtime hardworking house cleaner, has been unable to locate it and needs to find alternative housing in next few weeks. One son is a junior at Wakefield High School, the other a one-year-old. Anyone with rooms or a basement to rent? Contact neighbor Fred Millar at 703-979-9191 or fmillar-foe@gmail.com.

Life is a Beach: Dewey Beach, DE, 126 miles. Cool Pines B & B Cottages. Two 2-bedroom, maximum five people each. Modern, second block from the ocean, dog heaven, cable TV, wireless internet, with beds made, towels, kitchen ready and breakfast supplies. Park in front of screened porch. Weekly, long weekends. 302-228-3842. ●



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

Arlington Market Update

Arlington got the biggest increase in inventory for the year this first week in May with 95 new listings. Buyers quickly ratified 90 contracts the same week, many of those transactions with multiple offers. The DOM (days on market) dropped significantly to just 22 days, the lowest this year. Seven homes in Barcroft listed this year have sold with an average of seven DOM.

In a hot market, planning is the most important thing buyers can do to position themselves to get a contract on the home they want (see last month's article on making a winning offer). Desirable properties move fast in Arlington, so if you're in the market you need to prepare to act fast when the right home hits the market. For sellers, they can always optimize their price with small, yet meaningful improvements. AS-IS sales are also an option and pricing right is important to draw in the right buyer.

If you're considering the sale of your home and/

or a home purchase, and would like to discuss the best ways to prepare, feel free to reach out to set up a meeting with me.

Before you place your home on the market — I can help you be as ready as possible. Contact me for a Room by Room Review and I can share quick and easy tips to either make your house show like a model or sell it "as-is."

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