

Barcroft News

September 2017

Vol 115, Issue 1

New Development Rises in the Neighborhood

Editor's Note: *The following story was helpfully provided by Pillars Development about their current construction project on the corner of Buchanan and Columbia Pike.*

Trafalgar Flats, 78 brand new condominiums, is now under construction at the corner of Columbia Pike and South Buchanan Street. The community represents one of the first opportunities in years to own a brand new condominium along the Pike.



Artist's rendering of Trafalgar Flats seen from the corner of Buchanan and Columbia Pike.

With over 550 customers on the wait list, and counting, the community is quickly gaining interest from potential homebuyers drawn to its prime location and attractive pricing.

Trafalgar Flats' exterior features a mix of contemporary materials, while the homes themselves include super kitchens with quartz countertops, cabinetry with soft-close doors, stainless

Continued on page 3

Next Community Meeting

Thursday, September 7, 7:30 p.m., Barcroft Community House

Topic: Neighborhood Topic Discussion



Barcroft News

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Next Deadline: September 15

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Arlington Civic Fed. Delegates: Eric Harold, Chris-
topher Hoh, Chris Kupczyk, Randy Swart *Alter-*
nates: Joseph Knarich, David Michelson, Mark
Wigfield

President's Message

By Chris Siple

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer! My family certainly did. Our next BSCL meeting is September 7. Barbara Swart will propose a resolution from Barcroft to request the county board to commit to Ready for 100 (see a description of thjs project in the June/July issue of Barcroft News.) Barcrofters are always welcome. It will be the first meeting I will preside at, so there may be some unintentional comedic moments you won't want to miss.

The grounds of the Community House are a source of pride for Barcroft, and it takes some effort to plan and maintain them. Much of the burden has fallen on Scott Brinitzer, and he's done magnificently. Ideally, we'd like to share the maintenance work among a larger contingent. (Many hands make light work!) If you are interested in exploring whether your interests and capabilities match up with work that needs to be done, please email me. The BSCL Board will let you know the next step. I've seen so many lovely gardens in Barcroft that I'm sure there are plenty of avid gardeners who could make a beautiful community asset even more beautiful.

The construction on Columbia Pike and Buchanan is causing some confusion for Barcrofters and others, as traffic is being

Continued on page 3

New Development, continued

Continued from page 1

steel appliances and expansive windows al-



Artist's rendering of the building currently under construction looking south from Buchanan.

President's Message, continued

Continued from page 2

rerouted. The police have been enlisted to attempt to help with this, but there's a limit to what they can do.

In Virginia, every year is an election year. What happened in Charlottesville recently is a reminder that politics can get very ugly indeed. Let's recommit to keeping our disagreements civil, however important and deeply felt they are. •

lowing natural light to flood each home. The studio, one bedroom and two bedroom residences also boast ceramic tile bath flooring and individual washer/dryers.

Future homeowners will be able to enjoy a host of community amenities including a private lobby, clubroom, 24-hour fitness center, reserved indoor bike storage, and an outdoor plaza with urban fire pit and lounge seating. Every home at Trafalgar Flats comes with twin elevator access and a secure, underground parking space.

Additionally, over 8,000 square feet of ground floor retail will be filled with

retailers aimed at making life at Trafalgar Flats as easy as possible.

Sales of Trafalgar Flats are being managed by McWilliams | Ballard and will begin mid-September with homes from the mid \$200,000s to the low \$500,000s. It is anticipated that the first homes will be delivered in spring of 2018 with construction completed by late summer. More information on the property can be found at Trafalgarflats.com. •

Update from Barcroft Elementary

By Meg Neill, PTA

Barcroft students returned to school on August 1, and it's been a busy few weeks with a lot of great energy. (For those new to the neighborhood, Barcroft is on a modified year-round schedule, hence the early start date.) As reported in the last issue of Barcroft News, we have a new principal, Judy Apostolico-Buck (Ms. A-B to students), who was most recently principal at Ashlawn Elementary. We also welcomed a new assistant principal, Heidi Smith. Heidi had been a resource teacher at Barcroft and other APS schools,

and she's excited to be with us full time now.

Back to school night was August 10, and parents had the chance to meet classroom and specialist teachers. Fun Fridays, an August tradition, continued with popsicles and fun activities after school. The walking bus travels on Wednesday mornings, starting from the corner of 9th and Wakefield.

Join us on September 23 for the annual Chalk4Peace event. This is part of an internationally observed activity for all ages. Come to Barcroft Elementary and draw your vision of peace. •



Before



After



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Search for Affordable Housing

By Fred Millar

My friend Maria from Bolivia, a sober, non-smoker single mom and longtime hard-working house cleaner, has also been a neighbor for 16 years, the last six in affordable rooms. Because of the kindness of a nearby family, she has been living for six months in temporary housing in their very convenient and affordable basement rooms. Despite wide-ranging efforts to find new affordable housing, she has been unable to locate



any and now urgently needs to find alternative shared housing. Her older son is a rising senior at Wakefield High School, very quiet and polite, and she also has a one-year-old son. Do you know someone who sometimes rents a couple of rooms or a basement?

Any suggestions would be appreciated. My contact info: Fred Millar, 915 South Buchanan Street, No. 29, Arlington, 703-979-9191, fmillarfoe@gmail.com. •

Woman's Club of Arlington Kicks-off a New Year

The Woman's Club of Arlington will be having their first club meeting of the year on September 11 at 11:30 a.m. The program will be an award given by the Virginia Assembly to the club. All are invited.

The evening meeting will be September 14 at 7 p.m. Toby McIntosh will be speaking on his book and the murals in the Central Post office that were done by Auriel Bessemer in the 1940s. •

Celebrate All Things Fall at AutumnFest

AutumnFest at the Glencarlyn Library Community Garden returns on Sunday, September 17 this year, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Three mini-seminars will be offered. At 11 a.m. a tour and discussion of native specimen plants is offered. Noon brings "Tool Talk" about the care of garden tools. Guests are invited to bring pruners to sharpen. At 1 p.m. invasive plants, why they are a problem and how to control them will be discussed.

AutumnFest also features a plant and pumpkin sale with Master Gardeners on hand to answer questions, face painting, herb-based treats, sachet-making and a naturalist.

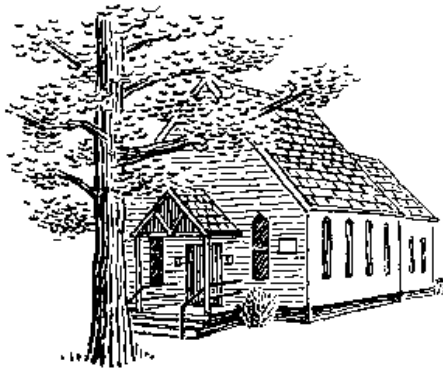
The event is free. Plant sales support the Glencarlyn Library Garden, a Master Gardeners demonstration garden. The address is 300 South Kensington Street. For more information call 703-907-9138. •



Dues News: Still Time to Join This Year

By Joanne Rodewald, Membership Secretary

Do you recall last February our Barcroft School and Civic league bylaws were revised and adopted to change the timing of collection of annual dues to align with the calendar year? I have two pieces of good news. The first ... individuals or families who have sent in dues payments since September 2016 are active members through December 2017. The second ... if



you haven't already become a member this year you still have time. Dues are only \$5 per individual or \$10 for a family membership. The application form is available in this newsletter and online at our website at [http://](http://www.bscl.org/membership)

www.bscl.org/membership. Check the membership roster on our website and if you don't see your name, please send in your membership application today to show your civic pride in our great neighborhood. •

Adam (RT) Tnaib

202-725-0055

adamt@kw.com

2101 Wilson Blvd, #100, Arlington, VA

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If you are thinking about selling this spring, now is the perfect time to start getting your home ready. Please contact me for a free/no obligation consultation to learn about simple things you can do to improve the value of your home. I look forward to working with you.



kw
KELLER WILLIAMS



BSCL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL

September 2016 - December 2017

Please complete the entire form and return with dues

To: Barcroft School & Civic League
c/o Treasurer
811 South Taylor Street
Arlington, VA 22204

Check One:

New Member Application
 Membership Renewal

Individual Membership (\$ 5.00) \$ _____
 Couple/Family Membership (\$10.00) \$ _____
Additional Tax Deductible Contribution to
the Community House Conservation Fund \$ _____
Total (Please make check payable to BSCL) \$ _____
Check Number _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ Apt: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ Cell Phone(s): (_____) _____

E-Mail Address(es): _____

I/we would like to volunteer to help with:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snow Removal for Elderly/Disabled | <input type="checkbox"/> Yard Work for Elderly/Disabled |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barcroft Players | <input type="checkbox"/> Food Events (Dinners, Cook-outs, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Distribution (Newsletters, Flyers, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> 4th of July Parade & Picnic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Efforts (as they arise) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on a Committee -- Specify which: _____
(<i>Crime Resistance, Parking, Traffic</i>) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ | |

Beat the Deer While Living on the Edge

From the Plant NOVA Natives Campaign

However cute we may find Bambi, he and his relatives are responsible for large-scale degradation of the environment in Northern Virginia. You might suppose that human habitations are crowding out the poor things, but actually the opposite is true. The deep woods that made up so much of our area used to support only a limited number of deer, which do best in edge habitat. Our roads and housing developments have turned Northern Virginia into one huge edge! The problem is compounded by the fact that chopping up forests into pieces allows invasive plants to encroach from all directions – think Kudzu and other vines blanketing the trees along the Beltway.

The hugely bloated deer population has decimated the tree seedlings as well as all the other native plants which are the basis of the entire ecosystem. What is left tends to be small, impoverished parcels of woods consisting only of adult trees and little else to support the wildlife.

But all is not lost! We have the power to turn this situation around and make Northern Virginia a place where butterflies and songbirds can thrive alongside their human neighbors. All it takes is to plant and protect native plants in our own yards (and even on our own balconies). Two strategies are needed when you live in deer country:

- Protect the plants. Small fences around

shrubs and trees until they grow are very effective for taller plants. Various sprays and other strategies for shorter plants can be effective if you are conscientious about using them. And where a deer fence around a whole section of yard is practical, gardening becomes nirvana!

- Where protective measures are impractical, choose plants that are relatively unpalatable to deer. Many plants that are native to Northern Virginia fill this need. Check out the list (as well as other strategies) at <http://www.plantnovanatives.org/deer---native-plants.html>. •

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Christine Hopkins

[facebook.com/NoVaHouseHunter](https://www.facebook.com/NoVaHouseHunter)



Harry Potter Hogwarts Back to School Party!

Sunday, September 24 from 2:30 - 4:00 pm

It's back to school time and Harry Potter and his friends at Hogwarts are having a party. All kids and families are invited to join in a fun-filled afternoon of games, readings, movie clips, and refreshments. Costumes are not required, but you are welcome to come dressed as your favorite character. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. **Free for all families and kids.**



Sunday School 10 am - Starting September 10

If you are looking for engaging Bible based education about the Christian faith for your child our experienced teacher fosters learning while incorporating active fun for children in kindergarten to 8th grade. We also provide a professionally staffed child care facility for younger children.



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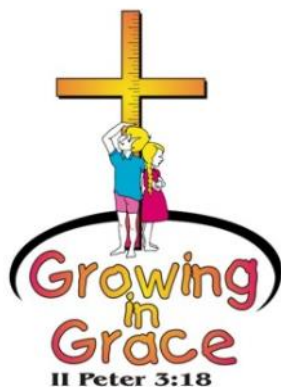
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Greetings This New School Year From OSLS

This year on August 29, Our Savior Lutheran School (OSLS) opened our doors for the 65th time in Barcroft. Our school theme this year is “Growing in Grace” based off of



the Bible passage from 2 Peter 3:18 – “But grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen.”

We are continuing to accept applications for the 2017-18 school year

for grades PreK through 8. 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 website 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 appreciate your help.

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

Share Your Input on Public Engagement

The County wants to hear from you about enhancing its engagement efforts, particularly on capital projects such as transportation, maintenance, park improvements, and development of new County government-owned facilities. Share your feedback by September 13 on a draft Public Engagement Action Plan. (Link: <https://topics.arlingtonva.us/community-engagement-form>). •



Wednesday evenings at Barcroft Community House
Yoga for All Levels, Gentle, and Privates Sessions
Visit EDYoga.com, email at Info@EDYoga.com,
or call 703-975-3816

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.

Barcroft Resident Dog Walker: Hello neighbors! I have recently moved to Barcroft and have space available for new clients. I have 14 years experience running my own dog walking/pet sitting business in Washington, and am excited to begin in Arlington. Any and all pet services can be provided. Contact David McCreight at 202-413-9179 or thedoggedaddy@yahoo.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.

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

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.

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 riding 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. •



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

Housing Inventory Hits 30-Year Low

Spring is traditionally the busiest season for real estate. Buyers, experiencing cabin fever all winter, emerge in mass searching for their dream home. Homeowners, in preparation for the increased demand, are enticed to list their house for sale and move on to the home that better fits their needs. New data from CoreLogic shows that even though buyers came out in force, as predicted, homeowners did not make the jump to list their home in the second quarter of this year. The growth in sales is slowing down, and this is not due to lack of affordability, but rather a lack of inventory. As of Q2 2017, the unsold inventory as a share of all households is 1.9%, which is the lowest Q2 reading in over 30 years.

While low mortgage rates are keeping the market affordable from a monthly payment perspective, affordability will likely become a much bigger challenge in the years ahead until the housing supply

challenge is resolved. Overall inventory across the country is down for the 25th consecutive month, with a 4.3-month supply. Local and national conditions in the starter and trade-up home markets are brisk while conditions in the luxury markets are following an opposite path with ample inventory to suggest a buyer's market. As of this writing, 235 single family homes are for sale in Arlington, and only 108 homes are priced under 1 million. Considering selling your starter or trade-up home and moving up this year? Contact me for advice on optimizing the current market!

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