



# Barcroft News

December 2017

Vol 115, Issue 4

*Please join us  
at the Community House  
for the annual  
**Barcroft Holiday Party**  
on Thursday, December 7,  
at 7 p.m. (30 minutes earlier  
than the usual BSCL meetings).  
We'll have food, music, singing,  
and a special guest  
from the North Pole  
(but only if you're good).*



## Barcroft News

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**Next Deadline: December 15**

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topher Hoh, Chris Kupczyk, Randy Swart *Alter-  
nates:* Joseph Knarich, David Michelson, Mark  
Wigfield

## President's Message

**By Chris Siple**

The cold weather finally arrived! I hope you got all your plants and produce indoors in time. Another mild winter would suit me just fine.

If you're traveling for Thanksgiving, drive carefully. Since we're all better than average drivers, it follows that most of the other people behind the wheel are more prone to error than we are.

Our next meeting, on December 7, is the holiday party. We'll resume regular meetings in January. •



### Save the Date

The January 4 community meeting will feature Sarah Archer, Arlington County Natural Resources Specialist, presenting a program on invasive species control in Arlington.



# Community House Fence Painted

**By Randy Swart**

An intrepid group of ten Barcrofters pitched in on a beautiful September 30 day to paint every picket of the Community House fence. Thanks go to Ken Edwards (who came twice), Hanna Foley, Andrew Hunter, Megan Mack, Michael Nazaretz, Eulalia Sarli (before and after soccer practice), Helene



Stebbins, Barbara Swart, Randy Swart and Opel Vincent for helping. They all enjoyed the glorious fall day, had fun chatting together and have a real sense of accomplishment. The result is awesome, as shown in our photo of Eulalia celebrating the finish.

If you missed out on all the fun, leaf raking season is approaching. •

A GOOD LIFE + A GOOD HOME  
- STRONG COMMUNITY



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

# Christmas Tree Sale

**By Karen Darner**

The Clarendon United Methodist Church (606 North Irving Street) is once again sponsoring a Christmas Tree sale to benefit various anti-hunger causes in our community. All trees are Frazier firs between four and eight feet, with a few 10 foot trees included. All are gorgeous! Pick out your own tree any weekend after Thanksgiving between noon and 5 p.m. or weekdays 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Contact Karen Darner in Barcroft at 703 271-5284 if you have questions. •



# Update from Barcroft Elementary

**By Jennifer Weber, PTA Co-President**

Thank you to all the Barcroft neighbors that supported the Barcroft PTA bake sale on Election Day. We loved seeing you! The funds raised at the bake sale support our new staff mini-grant program and school enrichment activities.

We hope some of you also enjoyed seeing the students and staff parading around the neighborhood on Halloween. We look forward to this becoming an annual tradition! Additional activities in the past month have included restaurant nights at District Taco and Silver Dinner (with teachers as servers!), movie night and family game night.

Please join us for the Snowball Stride 5K on December 2. This family friendly event starts at Barcroft Elementary School and runs out on the W&OD trail and back. The race will

have excitement, costumes, prizes and maybe a little snow! Registration is now open at <https://www.dcroadrunners.org/sign-up/barcroft-5k>. Registration is \$25 for adults and \$15 for kids.

Have you noticed the new Barcroft car magnets around the neighborhood? You too can show your Barcroft pride for only \$5. Car magnets are sold at school events or you can email [webermoore@gmail.com](mailto:webermoore@gmail.com). •



## Potomac Harmony Chorus Holiday Sing Along

The Potomac Harmony Chorus (PHC) would like to invite the community to the following a cappella performances. PHC is a women's barbershop ensemble based in Arlington. The audience is welcome to sing along or sit back and enjoy the festive music.

A Holiday Sing-Along Show will be held Saturday, December 16, at 3 p.m.



at Wakefield High School in Arlington.

A Holiday Sing-Along will be held at Springfield Town Center on Wednesday, December 20 at 7 p.m.

Holiday Performances will take place at the Willard InterContinental Hotel in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, December 23, from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. and 6:45 to 7:30 p.m. •

# Winter is Coming: Barcroft's Snow Brigade is Ready

The Barcroft Snow Brigade is preparing for this year's snow events. The Snow Brigade focuses on removing snow from walkways to make them safer for all of us. Sharon Tope connects neighbors requesting assistance with shoveling their walks with neighbors who are willing to lend a helping hand by doing the heavy lifting.

The Snow Brigade is a group of volunteers who help our neighbors meet the requirement to remove snow within 24 hours after the last snowflake has fallen. Since most volunteers have day jobs, the timing of shoveling snow is a fluid target. Benefits of shoveling snow include feeling good about helping neighbors, getting exercise, deep breathing, connecting with neighbors, and performing in the Fourth of July Parade.

In addition to rounding up our winter hats, gloves, boots, and polishing our shovels, we have applied for snow blowers from the County's loaner program. We have two snow blowers assigned to us, which are used mostly for deep snows. If a volunteer wants to borrow a snow blower, you will have to be trained in its use and sign a Hold Harmless agreement

required by the County.

Sharon maintains the list of Snow Brigade clients and volunteers and is updating it for this year. If you have limited ability to shovel snow, contact Sharon with your name, address, phone number, and email address if you have one, so she can add you to the list. If you would like to volunteer, provide Sharon with the same information and if you have specific clients you plan to help, let her know that as well. Sharon will update the list and distribute it by email periodically. If you know of someone on the list who no longer lives here, please let Sharon know.

In addition to volunteer services, some neighbors would like to hire someone

to remove snow and call Sharon for names of people willing to do so. She would like to start a list of people who want to hire out their snow shoveling skills, so if you're interested, let her know. You could also run a free ad in the Barcroft News. Sharon Tope's contact information is 703-920-2567 and [stope3@verizon.net](mailto:stope3@verizon.net). •



***Members of Barcroft's Snow Brigade in the Fourth of July Parade.***

# Wakefield High School Updates

**By Susan DuBois**

Two events are scheduled at Wakefield High School this month. The Wakefield



Players production of "The Sting" will start at 8 p.m. on December 1, 2, 8 and 9 at Wakefield High School. Tickets

are available at the box office before each performance; please come early — we sold out for "In the Heights!"

The Wakefield Fair Trade Holiday Shop will be held on December 9 from 11

a.m. to 3 p.m. This student-led Fair will feature fair trade crafts and gifts (including 10,000 Villages). All proceeds benefit student activities.

We will also be collecting winter coats, gifts for local teens in need and gently used sports gear, all part of the students' Senior Projects. Please join us to celebrate their initiative and desire to give back, and also to purchase some gifts for the holidays! We also hope to have pointsettias available in support of the music program.

Questions? Contact Susan DuBois at [Susan.dubois@mac.com](mailto:Susan.dubois@mac.com)

## Adam (RT) Tnaib

202-725-0055

[adamt@kw.com](mailto:adamt@kw.com)

2101 Wilson Blvd, #100, Arlington, VA

Your local realtor & neighbor in Arlington

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

# One-Stop Environmentalism: Plant a Native Tree

## *From the Plant NOVA Natives Campaign*

If you only have time to do one thing



to support wildlife in your yard, let it be to plant a native tree.

The benefits of trees in general are obvious: in addition to providing shade and year-round beauty, they cool the environment, soak up greenhouse gases, and

provide fruits and shelter for birds and other wildlife. But trees that are native to our area go far beyond that. Unlike trees from other continents, a tree that is native to Virginia can support astonishing numbers of Virginia native insects. And insects – especially caterpillars – are what songbirds feed their babies. No native plants, no caterpillars; no caterpillars, no baby birds. And no butterflies either, of course!

Northern Virginia is blessed with numerous native trees, with choices for every landscaping need. Fall is a good time to plant many of them. Details on those trees and on the best planting methods are available at <http://www.plantnovanatives.org/trees.html> •

## Lecture on the Effects of Humans on Earth

“Living in the Anthropocene” will be presented on January 18, 2018, in the Fairlington Community Center, Room 118, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The Community Center is located at 3308 South Stafford Street.

Arlingtonians for a Cleaner Environment (ACE) is pleased to sponsor a talk by Smithsonian Museum of Natural History Curator and Research Botanist W. John Kress. He



will expand on ideas in his new book “Living in the Anthropocene: Earth in the Age of Humans.” The book explains the Anthropocene by presenting paleontological, historical, and contemporary views of various human effects on Earth and how societies are responding and adapting to these changes. Kress will offer a look toward the future of our environment and our own lives. •



## Celebrate the Birth of Christ With Us!

St. John's Episcopal Church is a vibrant congregation with a big heart. We are an inclusive and welcoming community of faith where everyone is supported in their spiritual growth and questions and discussion are always welcome.

- *The Reverend Ann Barker, Rector*

**Sunday Worship Services**  
8 am and 10 am

**Sunday Christian Education**  
Adults 9 am — Youth 9:30 am

**All are welcome to all services and activities!**



**December 14** 10 am Children's Christmas Pageant at the 10 am service

**December 21** 6 pm Join in Christmas caroling in the neighborhood

**December 24** 5 pm Christmas Eve Service - special music and a children's message  
11 pm Christmas Eve Service with carols

**December 25** 10 am Christmas Day Service with carols

**December 28** 10 am Hear the Christmas story in Bible lessons and carols

## *St. John's Episcopal Church*

415 S. Lexington Street Arlington, VA 22204 703-671-6834 stjohnsarlingtonva.org



## Secret Santa Program for Neighbors in Need

You can make the holiday season a little happier for some of Arlington's most vulnerable residents by taking part in the Department of Human Services' Secret Santa Program.

**How it works:** Donate gift cards from area stores — grocery stores, drug stores, clothing stores and Target — all work great -- and the Department of Human Services distributes them to more than 1,000 needy individuals in the community in the holiday season. You can also send a check made out to "Arlington County Treasurer - Secret Santa."

**Who it helps:** 1) Children in Foster Care, 2) People with Disabilities and Seniors

with Low Incomes, and 3) Families with Low Incomes. Gifts cards should not exceed \$25 each, but you can submit as many as you like. Donations are generally tax deductible.

Please send gifts by December 15 and include a return mail address or e-mail address so we can send you a thank you note and a tax receipt!

Mail or deliver gift cards/checks by December 15 to: Secret Santa Program c/o Kurt Larrick, Department of Human Services 2100 Washington Blvd., 4th Floor, Arlington, VA 22204. Questions? Contact Kurt Larrick at 703-228-1775.



# Virginia Hospital Center Lecture: Sleep

Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. Would you like to not stir all night? Join us with leading sleep expert Dr. Stein as he discusses the how, what, where and whys of sleep in his lecture: Sleep, A Fantastic Cure with Lawrence M Stein, MD, FACP, FCCP, FAA, Director Sleep Lab, Virginia Hospital Center.

This December 15 lecture, which is part of the Healthy Aging Series, will be at Virginia Hospital Center's Carlin Springs Campus, 601 South Carlin Springs

Road, Arlington (Urgent Care entrance). The lecture is from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Please RSVP at 703-558-6859 or by emailing [gbeck@virginiahospitalcenter.com](mailto:gbeck@virginiahospitalcenter.com). •



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# 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 residents willing to cat or dog sit**

while you are away -- overnight, a weekend or a week, just let us know your plans. Please contact tsaunders@hers.com or call 202-779-5604.

**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.

*Continued on Page 11*

# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from OSLS

The children of Our Savior Lutheran School (OSLS) invite the neighborhood to their annual Christmas program on Wednesday, December 20. The students have been working hard on learning songs and want to spread the love of Christmas through their angelic voices. The program – ***Journey to the Center of Christmas*** will be held at Our Savior Lutheran Church, located across the parking lot from our school, with performances at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. The event is free and everyone is welcome.

Please join us at Our Savior Lutheran Church for Christmas worship services. We have Christmas Eve services on December 24 at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. There will also be a Christmas Day service on December 25 at 10 a.m.

Mark your calendars. Our Savior Lutheran School is holding an Open House for all prospective students and their parents on Saturday, January 27, from 9 a.m. to Noon. At that time, applications will be accepted for the 2018-2019 school year from grades Pre K through 8<sup>th</sup>. This is an opportunity tour the school, meet the teachers, see the classrooms, and ask questions. OSLS was established in 1952 and has a diverse student body. We are fully accredited, licensed, and bonded and also offer before and after school care. OSLS is non-discriminatory in enrollment and we welcome the chance to show you around our school if you are looking for a Christian education for your child. We are located at 825 South Taylor Street. •

# Neighbor to Neighbor Listings, continued

*Continued from Page 10*

**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](mailto:mitchbassmusic@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](mailto:abbyfram94@aol.com).

**Need help with anything up high, dirty or just need some strength to get it done?**

My name is Jeremiah and I am a tall, strong college student home on break from December 15th to January 4th looking to earn some cash to help with school. I will do most any job (with parent approval) that you may want done. Text 703-380-6227 or email [robbets4@gmail.com](mailto:robbets4@gmail.com).

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

**Lost glasses, Halloween night.** We found a pair of blue rimmed glasses on our walkway on 1st Street South after trick or treating was over on Halloween night. Let us know if yours! Ellen 703-835-2008 or [ellen.eiseman@gmail.com](mailto:ellen.eiseman@gmail.com).

**Retired teacher available for occasional daytime babysitting.** Need to go to the doctor, have lunch with a friend, or run errands? I can stay with your infant or youngster while you accomplish these things unencumbered. Please contact me [tsaunders@hers.com](mailto:tsaunders@hers.com) or 202-779-5604.

**Bikes and 3D Printers:** What do they have in common? You want your bike ready for fall 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](mailto:robbets4@gmail.com).

**Are you an aspiring journalist?** Realize your dreams of being published by submitting an article or photo to **Barcroft News**, an exciting local publication with a distribution of 950! The editor will work with you if you have questions. Call her at 703-907-9318. She is very friendly. The next deadline is December 15, 2017. Don't miss out on this opportunity! ●



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

### **When is the right time to buy a home?**

Market factors are influencing consumer purchasing choices; some buyers delay buying a home due to increasing rates and high prices, while others want to lock in low rates and buy now. The current local housing market is more balanced and 30 year fixed rates are at 4%. In the 4th quarter, buyers have less competition compared to mid-January when increased buyer activity starts. Single-family and townhouses have each appreciated in price nearly 30%, at 2.8% annually, since their low in 2009, while the condo sector grew 18%, at 1.8%. Condo values have stalled significantly in the past four years. Since June 2013, condo values have decreased about 3% or 0.8% annually on average. Local home prices have certainly risen faster than income and wage growth. Eventually prices may reach a point where many won't buy, slowing down price growth. Homebuyers may choose to live in regions offering job opportunities with a cheaper cost of living. Domestic

outmigration: Each year since 2011, more domestic residents are leaving the NVAR region than moving in from elsewhere in the US; resulting in a net decrease of about 25,000 people domestically. While a slowdown in price growth benefits the affordability of the real estate market, residents avoiding the region is not ideal for the overall local economy. If you are in the market to buy or sell a home, get an expert on your side who can walk you through the entire process from start to finish—we can help!

***FREE Notary for Barcroft Residents!***  
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