



January 2018

Barcroft News

Vol 115, Issue 5

Taking Care of the Community House Together

By Randy Swart

On the morning of December 2 an energetic crew of Barcrofters raked the leaves at the Barcroft Community House, working fast to finish before the afternoon party renters arrived.

Thanks to Michael Nazaretz (arrived early), Barbara Swart (stayed and raked the whole morning), Shaun Ragnauth (energetic!), Chris Flanagan (wow, can he rake leaves!), his wife Meilan (another



Chris Flanagan at work.

champion leafmover) and their son Will (two years old), Chris Siple (our President and a good worker), Cliff Gay (powered us through the finish) and Randy Swart (final cleanup).

The leaves all fit in three big piles for the County to vacuum up.

If you missed the fun, don't fret. There will be another opportunity in the spring. •

Next Community Meeting

Thursday, January 4, 7:30 p.m., Barcroft Community House

Topic: Sarah Archer on Invasive Plants in Arlington



Barcroft News

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Next Deadline: January 15

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wood_deborah@yahoo.com

NCAC Alternate: Neal Martin

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

Happy New Year! Here's a very brief overview of the projects that will affect our quality of life in 2018 and beyond:

- The 7th Street connector to the W&OD trail will probably be done summer of 2018.
- Improvements to the area around the playground in Glencarlyn Park will be finished by Fall of 2018.
- Trafalgar Flats (Columbia Pike and Buchanan) will have residents by Fall of 2018.
- Construction will continue all year at Columbia Pike Village Center (at George Mason); the Harris-Teeter will open late 2019.
- Sidewalk and other improvements on 9th Street near the W&OD trail are not yet scheduled, but are in the plan.

I'm excited by the ongoing transformation of Barcroft's section of Columbia Pike. Let's work together to address issues that arise; you know there will be some. •

Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Sunday, January 28

5 to 7 p.m.

A Barcroft Tradition

See page 8 for more details.

Barcroft Elementary School Winter Update

Jennifer Weber, Barcroft PTA Co-President

It has been an amazing month at Barcroft Elementary School. December was off to a healthy start with the 3rd annual Barcroft Snowball Stride 5K run and walk. Over 100 students, staff, family and friends joined together for a run from the school, through the neighborhood and down and back on the W&OD trail. There was some especially impressive run times posted by the 5th graders!

We also held our first ever online auction – providing the opportunity to win tickets to sporting events and theaters, gym memberships and staff experiences. We are so appreciative of the many businesses and Barcroft staff that donated items, services and time for the auction. The funds raised will support teacher professional development, student enrichment and school-family engagement activities. Barcroft held the Winter Music Concert on December 5, featuring the

5th grade band, orchestra and choir. Two concerts are better than one and the 4th grade musicians will hold their concert in January.

Looking for some reading materials over the winter break? The Barcroft Little Library has a great collection of kid-friendly books! Please stop by!

Looking for a last minute stocking stuffer? Barcroft car magnets are available for only \$5. Email webermoore@gmail.com if interested. •



Left, at the starting line of the third annual Snowball Stride 5K run and walk.

Above, Barcroft Elementary School's Little Library.

Time for New Barcroft Tees

By Elaine Squeri

It's time for Thinking Caps and Sharpened Creativity for the Teeshirt Competition for Barcrofters.

The **purpose?** to know our neighborhood better, its history, symbols, residents, while having the fun of creating something that represents this neighborhood.



The **benefit?** The fun and the sales of each tee shirt that will help fill our Community

House Fund for Maintenance and Restoration while getting to know the folks around us.

The **schedule?** Designs must be submitted by February 1, 2018 to the Project Committee at 216 S. Abingdon Street or by email to elaineg.squeri639@gmail.com.

The **Prize?** The Designer of the winning entry will receive complimentary new tee shirts, with that unique design for each member of the immediate family. Sales will follow as soon as production is completed. •

Update on the 7th Street South Connector Project

By Deborah Wood

Barcroft NCAC Representative

Representatives of the Arlington County Dept. of Environmental Services have asked to be on the agenda for the BSCL meeting on February 1st to present the final design for the 7th Street South Connector Project. The project was approved for funding through the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Commission in 2014, and has now made its way to the implementation phase.

Here is a description of the project: Asphalt paving of an existing gravel trail, extended as-needed to maintain an 8'-0" width, while keeping disturbance within Glencarlynn Park to a minimum.

Some existing invasive plant species removal with tree replacement and enhance-

ment, as determined by County Landscape Architects and Foresters.

Stormwater drainage improvements at the 4800 block dead end of 7th Street South and adjacent to the trail.

Signage and striping at the 4800 block dead end of 7th Street South and before the W&OD Trail.

There is not yet a construction schedule for the project, but the Implementation Phase may begin as soon as March 2018, once the project has all the necessary approvals to move forward. Please plan to come to the meeting on February 1 to learn about planned improvements to the park entrance for pedestrians and cyclists, and to ask any questions you may have. •

Garden Planned at Arlington Mill: You Can Help

By Teresa Saunders

David Gray, a resident of Barcroft, is involved with Arlington Mill 55+ program. Plans are underway for a garden at Arlington Mill, and volunteers are needed. Start the new year off right by volunteering for your community. Here are the details:

- Attend one or two meetings a year, to learn what the overall plan is at the first meeting; and to delegate various responsibilities to various individuals at the second. We will be planting twice during the season, once in the spring (late March or early April) and once again in mid-summer (early July), with a mixture of annuals and perennials each time. All along, we will have to water these plants, at least every other day, and, in hot weather, daily. There may also be a little bit of weeding from time to time.
- Regarding planting, we will need someone to either donate or lend us some hand tools, and we will be asking every member of this group to bring his or her own. But we will also need a wheelbarrow or other cart. We will provide hoses for watering, likely the quick-rewind kind you see advertised on cable television.

As you can see, there are various levels of commitment needed, from planting and watering the flowers to serving on the organizing committee. If you are interested in flowers and gardening, look no

further. If you want to get more involved at Arlington Mill, here is an opportunity.

Please contact David Gray at davidgray916101@gmail.com or 703-920-0107. •



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Christine Hopkins
facebook.com/NoVaHouseHunter

Dues News: Time to Join or Renew Membership

By Joanne Rodewald, Membership Secretary

You have had a two month reprieve from my Dues News articles. Now that January is here, I will begin again to remind you to renew your BSCL membership --or join if you are not yet a member.

Have your kids participated in the Easter Egg Hunt? Did you share in the festivities at the 4th of July Picnic, Ice Cream Social, or Christmas Party? If you didn't know -- all those social events and other activities including the publication of this newsletter, and maintenance of the Community House are supported by our dues (still only \$5 per individual or \$10 for a family membership). Last

year 275 households were active members of our Civic League. The new application form is provided with this newsletter or online at our BSCL website (<http://www.bscl.org/membership>) If you enjoy being one of the approximately 1,250 families living in Barcroft and appreciate the vibrant and active community please join or renew your membership this year.

Note: a number of families pre-paid their 2018 dues. If you can't remember or are unsure, you may check the new membership roster on our website at <https://www.bscl.org/> to avoid duplicate payment of dues for this year. •

Adam (RT) Tnaib

202-725-0055

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.



2018 BSCL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

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

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership (\$ 5.00) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Couple/Family Membership (\$10.00) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Tax Deductible Contribution to the Community House Conservation Fund | \$ _____ |
| Total (Please make check payable to BSCL) | \$ _____ |
| Check Number _____ | |

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Apt: _____

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

Cell Phone: () _____

E-Mail Address (s): _____

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 (<i>Dinners, Cookouts, etc.</i>) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Distribution (<i>Newsletters, Flyers, etc.</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> 4th of July Parade and Picnic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Efforts (<i>as they arise</i>) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on a Committee -- Specify which: _____ | |

(Crime Resistance, Parking, Traffic)

Love Spaghetti? Here's Your Event

By Eric Harold

Come celebrate cold winters and warm neighbors at the Umpteenth Annual Barcroft Spaghetti Dinner. Come for the Spaghetti Tones, our wonderful musicians, and stay for the friendship and neighborhood comradery. If you're hungry, have some spaghetti as well.

When: Sunday January 28, 2018, 5 to 7 p.m.

Where: 800 South Buchanan Street



(Barcroft Community House).

What: Spaghetti (with homemade sauce)! And salad and bread! All you can eat! Veggie options available! Take-out available! Beer/wine available for a song (or a donation).

Live music by Barcroft's own Spaghetti Tones.

Cost: \$8 per person. Kids under age 10 eat free.

Any money raised goes to our neighborhood Community House fund. •

County and Schools Challenges and Accomplishments

By Christopher J. Hoh

December's meeting of the Arlington County Civic Federation (ACF) featured updates from County Manager Mark Schwartz and School Superintendent Patrick Murphy. Schwartz called population growth and pressure for parks "good problems to have," but noted the County Board faces hard choices in balancing competing interests, especially without raising taxes. He intends to propose options (not further specified) for program reduction.

Murphy's presentation touted accomplishments of Arlington schools, including placement in the top three percent of systems nationally and a more accessible web presence. In addition, the meeting adopted

resolutions to improve juvenile justice. One recommended a higher threshold for felonies (from \$200 to \$1000); the other would limit driver's license revocation to cases of incompetence to drive rather than issues like failure to pay fines.

The session also marked the first live-stream of a meeting with a Q&A format to facilitate discussion. In November, ACF heard a review of Arlington's community energy plan, where progress has been mixed. That meeting also discussed changes the County Board was about to adopt to promote accessory dwellings, e.g. detached rentals and caregiver suites, on single family home properties. Minutes, documents, video and other info is available via www.civfed.org. •

Christmas Tree Recycling

During the first two full weeks in January, Christmas trees in Arlington are collected curbside for residential homes with trash and recycling service. Residents are reminded to place the tree on the curb no later than 6 a.m. on your regular trash collection day and to remove all decorations, nails, stands and plastic bags. The trees are later ground into wood mulch for garden use.

After Jan. 12, please prepare the tree for yard waste collection on your regular trash collection day. •



**Keep watching the pot.
If she boils, I'm cooked.**

By Harvey Lee, Barcroft Neighbor

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How to Recycle Home Delivery Packages

The growing popularity of online shopping and meal delivery programs is also leading to a growing sustainability problem what to do with all the packaging. It's not uncommon to have more packaging than the actual product you ordered. Follow these tips to properly dispose of common packaging materials:

- Cardboard box - The outer cardboard box can be recycled. Just flatten the box and place in or beside the recycle cart.
- Invoices - As long as invoices and receipts don't have a stickered backing you can re-

cycle them. Anything printed on a sticker must go in the trash.

- Plastic air pillows and bubble wrap - Like plastic bags and films, these should be collected and taken back to drop-off locations at grocery and big-box stores.
- Packing peanuts - Because these are made from polystyrene (Styrofoam), packing peanuts cannot be disposed in your curbside recycling cart. Place them in the trash or reuse them. Your local UPS or shipping store may also take them back for reuse. •

Happy New Year from OSLS

We wish you a Happy 2018 and hope that your Christmas and holiday season was safe and full of fun. We are enjoying these winter days and all of the students are keeping their fingers crossed for lots and lots of snow!

This month in January, Our Savior will be holding a Geography Bee for our 4th-8th graders. Students right now are preparing and getting excited. We can't wait to see who knows their Geography the best.

Many of us purchase items on Amazon.com. Did you know that if you go to Amazon.smile, you can purchase the same items and a small portion will be designated back to Our Savior Lutheran School? Just list Our Savior Lutheran School as your designated

charity when you sign on to Amazon.smile. Every time after that Amazon.smile will automatically contribute a portion of your purchase to our school. It's super easy.

Our Savior Lutheran School is holding an Open House for prospective students and their parents on Saturday, January 27, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. At that time, applications will be accepted for the 2018-2019 school year from grades Pre K through 8th. This is an opportunity to tour the school, meet the teachers, and ask questions. We are fully accredited, licensed, and bonded and offer before and after school care. OSLS is non-discriminatory and we welcome the chance to show you around if you are looking for a Christian education for your child. •

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 thedoggiedaddy@yahoo.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 or 202-779-5604.

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.

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.

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.

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

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. ●



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

Home prices in Northern Virginia continue to rise as low inventory levels and high demand have driven the median sales price to its new peak. The local real estate market was vibrant in the fourth quarter of 2017 compared to prior years, and is expected to continue the pace in 2018.

In the month of November, the Northern Virginia Region saw a median increase of 6.46% in price from last November, while Arlington County realized a 9.52% increase. In Barcroft, the median sold price in 2017 was \$743,950 compared to \$692,250 in 2016. The average sold price in 2017 was \$799,707, and \$762,752 in 2016. Single family homes are appreciating the most, and affordable housing is a challenge for many buyers seeking to buy in Arlington County.

Good news on with mortgages: Conventional and FHA loan amounts have increased - the 2018 baseline conforming loan limit is \$453,100 a \$29,000 increase from the \$424,100 limit in 2017. High bal-

ance loans are \$679,650, up \$43,500 from \$636,150. *With home prices on the rise, the conforming loan limit increase opens up opportunities and helps keep home loans more affordable for more home buyers.* As of this writing in mid-December, conforming fixed rates are at 3.875%, high balance and jumbo loans are at 4.125%. FHA & VA loans are at 3.75%.

Planning a move? I'll provide advice on how to optimize your situation!

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Casey O'Neal, Associate Broker
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