



Barcroft News

April 2018

Vol 115, Issue 8

Civic Federation Endorses Renewable Electricity

By Christopher J. Hoh

Arlington Civic Federation Delegate

The Arlington County Civic Federation (ACF) unanimously called for our county to achieve 100 percent use of renewable electricity by 2035. The March ACF meeting considered a draft resolution like one that Barcroft adopted last fall and reviewed information presented by Ready for 100. That group seeks commitment from cities across the country to 100 percent clean energy. ACF heard from a panel with the Sierra Club, Dominion Energy, and County staff, in which all noted solar power is generally more cost-effective than fossil fuel generation.

In addition, School Board members reviewed their goals and discussed the Action Plan: <https://www.apsva.us/wp-content/>

uploads/2016/07/APS-Brochure-v5.2-FINAL.pdf. It includes the need to build and staff for thousands more students while compensating personnel fairly. To balance the budget, they opted for a modest increase in class size, cuts in central office staff, and reduced foreign language in elementary schools. Q&A centered on responsible use of electronic devices, socio-economic segregation, and boundary changes due to school construction.

In January, ACF met in the County Board Room and heard from its members on a range of issues. February's session focused on upcoming re-districting and the problems of gerrymandering. ACF called on the Virginia Assembly to amend the state constitution to

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Next Community Meeting

Thursday, April 5, 7:30 p.m., Barcroft Community House
Topic: Audubon at Home Wildlife Sanctuary Certification
and Neighborhood Conservation Plan Discussion



Barcroft News

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

Advertising: Jennifer Tomlinson
jaitomlinson@yahoo.com

*Publishers/
Mailing:* Teresa Saunders and Theresa
Schweser, publisher@bscl.org

Next Deadline: April 12

BSCL Officers

President: Chris Siple, chris@bscl.org

Vice President: Gary Mason, gary@bscl.org

Treasurer: Jennifer Lis
jenlis@comcast.net

Recording Secy.: Vacant

Membership Secy.: Joanne Rodewald
joanne@bscl.org

Board Members: Barbara Clemens, Keith
Fred, Eric Parker, Daniel Weir

Contacts and Committees

Community House Rental Manager:
Barbara Swart
barcrofthouserental
@yahoo.com

Web: Daniel Weir,
webmaster@bscl.org

Fundraising: Chris Ditta

Landscaping: Scott Brinitzer, 703-892-0308

Traffic Committee: Vacant

4th of July Parade: Heather Meade and Jim Moran

Columbia Pike: Keith Fred, Charlie Smiroldo

Demeter House: Darlene Mickey

Parks: Shirley Gay

Signs: Glen Li

NCAC Rep.: Deborah Wood
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

I hope the windstorms didn't cause much damage. Our trees are wonderful, but their misfortune can become ours if we, our houses, and our cars happen to be beneath them.

Those trees will be turning leafy (and pollen-y) soon, now that spring is here. Bulbs have been producing flowers for some time. Barcroft has some lovely gardens, including the Community House's grounds. I see more and more vegetable and herb gardens, too. I look forward to exchanging tips (and some plants) with neighbors as I try to make my little corner of Barcroft more productive and presentable. I sometimes get gardening ideas while walking around the neighborhood; if you see me looking admiringly at your flowers, I hope you let me know how you maintained them so well. •

Civic Federation, continued

Continued from Page 1

transfer redistricting authority to an impartial, independent commission. This commission should be insulated from politicians and should establish districts based on compactness, contiguity, community, public input, and proportional representation. Remember that www.civfed.org has more info, including minutes, documents, and video. •

Art and Valentines at Barcroft Elementary

By Meg Neill, PTA

Barcroft Elementary students have been enjoying fun activities lately.

BiBa Chat (the bilingual parents' group) and the PTA sponsored a fantastic Valentines' party, with a DJ, balloons, and delicious food. Based on ticket sales and the enthusiastic group we welcomed on February 16, it appears that more than 100 families were represented! It's great to support a community-building activity while also raising money for field trips, teacher training and other important things in support of the school.

On March 6, a number of 5th graders from Barcroft and other APS elementary schools were honored at an artists' reception at the Arlington Education Center on North Quincy. APS will display their art there until April 4.

Spring break is the week of March 26, followed by spring intersession. For this optional two weeks in the spring and fall, students may choose from varied offerings that enrich their

school experience with fun topics like art exploration, yoga, and cooking.

STEAM Family Learning Night is coming up on March 20. Join us for exciting games and activities in science, technology, engineering, art and math. In the fall, there was a great family game night, and there's now a game library with suggested age ranges, skills targeted, and guiding questions for parents to ask.

The PTA will sponsor an adults-only fundraiser at the Barcroft Community House the evening of April 28 where guests can enjoy food and drink while listening to live acoustic music. Stay tuned for ticket information, as details are being finalized. ●



Above, students with art teacher/Barcroft resident Marel Sitron in front of the Barcroft art panel, and (below) the Valentines' party sponsored by the PTA.

Signage Volunteer Needed

By Glen Li

For the last few years I've been putting up and taking down the BSCL monthly meeting signs. Unfortunately lately with job and daily daycare drop-off/pick-up, it's getting harder for me to do so in a timely matter.

I'm looking to pass on that role to somebody else. If you (or somebody you know) is interested, please let me know! The job entails putting up and taking down 10 BSCL meeting signs across Barcroft before and

after the monthly meetings (takes about 20 minutes in a car) It also includes putting up and taking down signs for annual Holiday Party and Spaghetti Dinner.

We have a few more meetings to go before the usual "summer break" (from the monthly meetings) so I can walk you through what to do. Feel free to ask if you have any questions. My phone number is 321-223-6997, and my email is glenli1@gmail.com. •

Neighborhood Conservation Update

By Deborah Wood

Barcroft NCAC Representative

The Arlington Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Commission (NCAC) is once again selecting project proposals to fund. Barcroft submitted a first priority project last year, to make improvements to the park land surrounding the fenced off former substation land owned by Dominion Energy. This area is on the right side of South Buchanan Street,

facing south, between South 4th and 6th Streets. Our project must be resubmitted to continue to be in the funding queue.

At the April BSCL meeting, 7:30 p.m. on April 5, we will review our goals for the project. There is a serious problem with invasive plant species in the surrounding parkland, which obstruct the sidewalk and are an eyesore. If you walk by this area, take a look, and come to the meeting prepared to discuss ideas for this year's proposal.

One of Barcroft's previously funded NCAC projects, to improve the South 7th Street entrance to the W&OD trail, is almost ready to begin. Final design plans were presented by County staff at the February BSCL meeting. A modification related to bicyclists was discussed and revisions are nearing completion. •



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Arlington Neighborhood Village Events for April

Join Arlington Neighborhood Village at one of its Coffee and Conversations. Open to all, bring your own coffee, learn about aging in place with Arlington Neighborhood Village, and hear one of the speakers listed below. No RSVP needed.

Location: Arlington Mill Community Center, 909 South Dinwiddie Street at the corner of Columbia Pike and Dinwiddie Street, room 411. Free parking is available in the garage underneath the center. The garage entrance is located behind the building on Dinwiddie Street.

April 4: Anthony Nunez will describe his latest invention: his personal assistant robot, Rudy, designed to help people age in place.

April 11: Steve Yaffe, Transportation Services Manager, Arlington County will provide an update on the County's transportation issues including the options for seniors residing in Arlington.

April 18: Cheryl Beversdorf, host of the local radio show, "Aging Matters" will discuss how she has combined her lifelong hobby as a radio announcer with her interest in providing Arlington residents with the information they need as they grow older.

April 25: Kathy Stokes, AARP Interim Lead, Fraud Watch Network and ANV Board member on "Top Scams and How to Protect Yourself." •

Bike Rodeo at Woman's Club

By Sandra Newton

The Woman's Club of Arlington will sponsor their Bike Rodeo with three bike groups: Kidical Mass, Bike Arlington and Phoenix Bikes. The event will be held on Saturday, April 14 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Woman's Club at 700 South Buchanan Street. Get your child's helmet checked, learn safety rules or donate a bike. •

Chalkapalooza at Arlington Mill Community Center

Chalkapalooza is set for Saturday, April 7 from 12 noon to 3 p.m. The event is free to the public and will feature live acoustic performers from Cafe Sazon's Open Mic Nights and Marble & Rye's former Open Mic Nights. The Little Miss Whoopie food truck will also be there.

Attendees will be asked to register at the chalk table, and they will be assigned a square of space to draw "What Makes You Happy?"

Please use this link to the Facebook Event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1764325303627061/>. •

Dues News: April Update

By Joanne Rodewald, Membership Secretary

Spring is officially here and a time of new beginnings. If you have already become a member of the Barcroft School and Civic League this year, we thank you. If you aren't sure, check our roster at <http://www.bscl.org/membership>) and if you are

not listed please consider sending in your dues today. For only \$5 per individual or \$10 for a family membership you can show your support for our community and feel good about helping to sponsor the many special events that make Barcroft a unique place to live. •

BINGO NIGHT

Saturday, April 21 from 7 to 9 pm

BINGO			
12	18	41	61
7	26	39	54
4	27	49	63
5	23	35	58
3	30	32	52

Only \$5 for 2 cards.
Prizes will be awarded
Refreshments will be available.

EARTH DAY PARTY

Sunday, April 22 - 2:30 to 4 pm - **FREE!**

Fun activities, snacks and more!
All will get a surprise to take home!
Children under 8 need to be accompanied by an adult

St. John's Episcopal Church

415 S. Lexington Street - Arlington, VA 22204

703-671-6834

(see website for more info)

stjohnsarlingtonva.org



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

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(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: _____ (<i>Crime Resistance, Parking, Traffic</i>)	

Long Branch Nature Center April Events

The following events are available at the Long Branch Nature Center:

Northern Virginia Bird Club Walk.

On Wednesday, April 4, 8:30 to 11 a.m., join members of the Northern Virginia Bird Club for its monthly informal walk through Long Branch and Glencarlyn Parks in search of resident and migratory birds. Experienced and beginning birders welcome. Bring binoculars

and field guides if you have them. No registration required.

Animal Pajama Party.

On Friday, April 6, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., dress in your coziest pajamas and bring a stuffed animal to the nature center to listen to stories about wildlife at night. Ages 2-10. \$5 per person. Registration required. Register online or call 703-228-

Continued on Page 9

Arlington Home Show and Garden Expo 2018

Arlington's best remodeling event returns on Saturday, April 14, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Whether you are a resident looking to improve your home, an experienced contractor or a landlord managing rentals, the 2018 Arlington Home Show and Expo offers a convenient one-stop shop to "Ask an Expert" and learn of new ways to update your home, and add value to your property. The family-friendly event will be hosted at the Kenmore Middle School, 200 South Carlin Springs Road, Arlington, VA 22204.

Like all previous editions, a rich program of FREE classes awaits this year's visitors. From learning about how to do basic electrical and plumbing repairs to understanding condominium living, exploring ways to make your home a healthier place and mas-

tering Spring's gardening tasks there will be a great variety of information and hands-on instruction on offer at the Home Show. The Landlord Seminar is back. Only this class needs registration at <http://tiny.cc/LLS2018>.

Learn about remodeling kitchens and baths, finishing or waterproofing basements, replacing windows, doors, flooring, roofing and siding, security systems and more from a wide variety of top-rated companies. Find out about Arlington County zoning and permit rules you need to know before starting a home improvement project.

The Arlington Home Show & Garden Expo is sponsored by Resilient Virginia and the Arlington County Housing Division. For more information, call the Housing Division at 703-228-3765, or the Home Expo team at 202-599-0665 . •

Long Branch Nature Center April Events, continued

Continued from Page 8

4747, use code 632918-Y.

Spring Peeper Prowl. On Friday, April 6, 7 to 8 p.m., hop on over as we learn about and search for tiny tree frogs and other amphibians during this sunset hike. Ages 5+. \$5 per person. Registration required. Use activity code 632958-K.

Lichens 101. On Saturday, April 7, 10 a.m. to noon, join lichenologist Manuela Dal Forno, a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Biology, as she reveals the inner workings of lichens. Starts in-

doors with a short intro, then hike to ID local lichens. Bring hand lenses. Teens ages 16 and up are welcome, but must be accompanied by a registered adult. \$10 per person, Registration required. Use activity code 632948-E.

Secrets of Squirrels. On Saturday, April 7, 2-3:30 p.m., learn about squirrels who are busy in the fall hiding nuts. How do they find them later? Where do they raise babies? We'll learn the answers in our classroom and on a nature hike. Ages 5+. Register children and adults; children must be accompanied by registered adult. Free; use code 632958-L. ●

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Spring Greetings from OSLS

At OSLS, we have weekly chapel services every Wednesday starting at 8:40 a.m. Please feel free to join us each week. During the months of January through March, the chapel offerings that we gathered went to Rise Against Hunger. We raised over \$3,000 between our church and school and were able to host a meal packaging event at the end of March where we made over ten thousand nutritious meals that will be distributed to those around the world who are hungry due to both natural and man-made crises.

We want to congratulate the new members of our National Junior Honor Society that were inducted on Wednesday, March

Earth Fest at Arlington Mill

Earth Fest will be held on Monday, April 9, from 10 a.m. to noon at Arlington Mill Community Center. Enjoy this special Earth Day Festival! Learn about compost, recycling, energy efficiency, and much more. Play recycling games, learn how to compost, and create upcycled art. Stations include representa-

tives from AIRE, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Environmental Services, Arlington Freecycle, Creative Arts, Fitness, and more. Free; no registration required. ●



21. We also want to congratulate our 7th and 8th grade boy's basketball Triple Threat basketball team. The boys won an extremely exciting championship game at the end of their season. We are so proud of the hard work they put in this year.

Our Savior will be hosting a school open house on Thursday, April 26 from 9 to 11 a.m. and from 6 to 8 p.m. Please feel free to stop by our school during those times and visit. We would love to show you around and tell you more about our PreK through 8th grade school. We are currently accepting applications for the 2018-2019 school year. ●

Christine Hopkins

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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.

Bikes and 3D Printers: What do they have in common? You want your bike ready for winter 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.

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.

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

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.

My name is Sasha, and I'm a 7th grader at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, an older brother, and the owner of a 9 month old, energetic puppy. I would like to offer some weekend services to my fellow neighbors in Barcroft such as: Lawn work (Planting grass seeds, weeding, raking, etc); Baking freshly made goods (Banana bread, cookies, pumpkin bread, chocolate cake); Dog walking & pet-sitting. If you are interested, please contact me at truewieb@gmail.com for prices and further discussion. Thank you for your attention! •

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for more information.



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

The Spring real estate market has arrived, and the supply of homes is increasing so far in March and so is buyer activity, with an absorption rate of 1.5 months. It's a seller's market for sure and bidding wars do happen, although not at the pace they did a few years ago. Sellers have options on pricing strategies and most will view initial realistic positioning in a value range as the best strategy to attract educated buyers, who have easy access to available market data. Days on market impacts how buyers approach an offer. They don't have much leverage in the first few weeks and won't present low offers on a fresh listing. Mortgage rates increased in early March, with current fixed rates averaging 4.5%. According to Freddie Mac, the average mortgage rate from the 1970s-2000 was about 7%, the average rate from 2000-2008 was 6% and since 2008 they've been between 3.5 to 4%. Freddie Mac currently predicts that rates will reach about 5% by the end of 2018. About 1/3rd of recent purchases in the area were made with less than 20% down payment. Conventional loans are available at 3%, 5%, 10% and 15% down. Some local lenders

have special programs with 3% to 5% down using conventional financing and eliminate the monthly mortgage insurance payment. Other options are to avoid PMI (private mortgage insurance) are 80/20 (zero down), 80/15/5 (5% down) and 80/10/10 (10% down).

With low home inventory and strong buyer demand, the reputation of the mortgage lender is a critical component of any transaction. A pre-approval letter from a strong local lender is a key factor for winning a competitive bid. Some lenders can close a loan in 2 to 3 weeks, which is attractive to sellers. Need some advice on mortgage lenders and how to compete? Let's talk!

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