



May 2018

Barcroft News

Vol 115, Issue 9

Arlington Mill Farmers Market Opens May 5

By Steve Toloken

Barcrofters who like to shop in the neighborhood for their fruits, veggies and other staples will be able to indulge locally – truly locally – at the Arlington Mill Farmers Market, which will open May 5 and take place Saturday mornings through October.

The market – which had a short run in 2014 – is restarting with 10 to 12 vendors, including several who are also at the existing Sunday Pike Park market at Columbia Pike and Walter Reed Drive.

The regular hours of the Saturday market, which will be in the plaza of the Arlington Mill Community Center, will be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Opening day, which coincides with the Cinco De Mayo holiday, will include a performance by

the U.S. Army Band's Latin Ensemble from 10 a.m. to noon, and an appearance from the Arlington Art Truck.

Amy McWilliams, associate director of the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization, said the market will include two farms from Rappahannock County, Va. – Penn Farm and G. Flores Produce. Penn Farm is also at the Pike Park Market.

Other vendors include Arlington's Acme Pie Co., which is also a regular at the Pike Park market, and the first Arlington farmers market appearance for Washington area pickle maker DC Dills, McWilliams said. Additional vendors planned include a bakery, a handmade soap vendor, a seller of cooking oils and a specialty pepper grower,



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Next Community Meeting

Thursday, May 3, 7:30 p.m., Barcroft Community House

Topic: Power Outages with Dominion Energy



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

President's Message

By Chris Siple

In February, the BSCL authorized the formation of a committee to formulate a communications strategy to improve the way Barcrofters communicate with the BSCL and each other. The first fruits of that are to designate one "official" Facebook (FB) page ("Barcroft School and Civic League") and one FB group ("Barcroft Neighborhood Residents"). Joining the latter requires a request and approval by one of the administrators, to avoid spammers. I'll be sending the draft minutes out on the chat list from now on too. We'll be trying to increase the reach of the Barcroft News to apartment buildings as well.

For now, we're holding off on starting a Twitter account. You're invited to join the FB group and post to the FB page, and to make suggestions to increase all forms of civic engagement in Barcroft.

Of particular concern to me is the sparse attendance at BSCL meetings; despite having some really nice presentations and dealing with some substantive issues, we average just over 20 attendees, most of them the usual suspects. •

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editor@bscl.org or call her at 703-907-9318
for more information.

Art and Valentines at Barcroft Elementary

By Meg Neill, PTA

Barcroft Elementary has just finished up two weeks of its Spring Intersession, which followed Spring Break. Intersession is an optional period where students get additional academic enrichment along with fun classes like basketball and “Goop and Magical Solutions.”

On March 17, Barcroft Team DCD participated in Odyssey of the Mind, building a vehicle that could do curling, jousting and track and field! Congrats to the team and Coach Edgar Tolentino.

Tickets for the first ever Barcroft Spring Fling are now on sale! This adult-only fundraising party will be held on Saturday, April 28 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Barcroft Community House. Tickets are \$50 per person and will include two drink coupons, light fare, and music from amazing local acoustic musician Taylor Carson. Most importantly, you get to enjoy a night out with

other Barcroft parents! Tickets are limited, so buy them soon at <https://charityauction.bid/Barcroft2018SpringFling>. If you previously registered for the Barcroft online auction in December you should already be registered, so all you have to do is enter your credit card information. Please consider an additional donation to the PTA as well. If you have any questions, please feel free to email gretchen.odegard@gmail.com.

Events coming up in May include the spring concert on May 3; students who play

band and orchestra instruments or who sing in the chorus will perform. On May 5, Barcroft’s math dice team, the Exponential Eagles, will compete against teams from other Arlington elementary schools in the math dice tournament at Discovery Elementary.

On May 8, we’ll celebrate cultures around the world, many of which are represented at Barcroft, at International Night. ●



The Odyssey of the Mind competition was held March 17.

Neighborhood Conservation Update

By Deborah Wood

Barcroft NCAC Representative

NCAC Proposed Project Update

In Spring 2017, Barcroft submitted a Park and Environmental Improvement project as its first priority for future funding by the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Commission [NCAC]. The location is County parkland on the west side of South Pershing Drive between 4th and 6th Streets South. Here is the project description submitted by former BSCL president, Chris Kupczyk.

First, the county must require that Dominion Power carry out environmental clean-up at the site of the old Virginia Power substation to meet a residential standard appropriate for park land. Once the clean-up has occurred, the county can acquire the land and remove fencing from the contaminated site. Improvements can then be made to the broader site of the former substation and surrounding parkland, which are now a neighborhood eyesore, including removal of invasive plants, providing care for the existing trees, and adding naturalized plantings of native species. A small playground and benches are optional improvements to be considered with adjacent property owners and the community at-large during the design phase.

At the April BSCL we had a discussion of this proposal. Everyone present supported keeping this project as our first priority. Dur-

ing the discussion the following changes were recommended. We will vote on these changes at the May meeting.

Remove the request for additional PCB cleanup on the Dominion Energy property, and remove the request for Arlington County to acquire the property. Both Departments of Parks and Recreation and Environmental Services staff see no likelihood of County support for acquiring this property, or for Dominion being willing to pay for additional PCB cleanup to a parkland standard, and then sell it.

Focus on improvements to the degraded County parkland bordering South Pershing Drive and extending down to Grandma's Creek. Restore a suitable mix of native plants and trees, once invasive plant species and debris have been removed. In the 2008 Barcroft Neighborhood Conservation Plan, mitigating erosion along the Grandma's Creek streambed, and installing bioretention areas where appropriate were included in the improvements recommended. These improvements will result in a permanent and sustainable addition to the tree canopy for our neighborhood.

Study options for and, if possible, create an unpaved footpath connecting the parkland at South Pershing Drive to Grandma's Creek. This recommendation was also part of the 2008 NCP.

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New Farmers Market, continued

Continued from Page 1

she said. A full list will be available on the CPRO website, www.columbia-pike.org.

McWilliams said the new market has support of a group of residents of the west end of Columbia Pike and a “substantial” marketing budget from CPRO.

The group hopes the new iteration of the market will have more staying power than the 2014 edition of the Arlington Mill market, which because of delays in getting permits from Arlington County was not able to start until August, not a good time of the year to try to launch a market, she said.

At the time, the county had changed its permitting process for new farmers markets, switching them from special event permits to special use permits, she said. As well, she noted that CPRO then went through a change in leadership in 2016.

CPRO said market goers can also take advantage of four hours of free parking in the garage at the Arlington Mill Community Center, at Columbia Pike and Dinwiddie Street.

Like the Pike Park market, the Arlington Mill market will accept purchases under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. •

Neighborhood Conservation Update, continued

Continued from Page 4

Remove the recommendation for a playground, but keep a couple benches in the parkland along South Pershing Drive as a potential improvement. There is not sufficient space for a playground without the Dominion Energy property. A couple of benches in a pleasant woodland edge park area would be a welcome addition to the neighborhood.

Organize neighborhood volunteers to assist with initial cleanup of invasive plants. As evidenced by the recent invasive plant removal near the 9th Street entrance to the W&OD trail, organized by Alyssa Morel with neighborhood volunteers, there are expertise and willingness within our community. If Barcroft sup-

ports a volunteer effort and someone agrees to coordinate, the County will assist with removal projects. The most immediate problem with this site is the bamboo encroaching on the sidewalk. Sarah Archer, who coordinates the invasive plant removal program for the County, is working on a plan to remove the bamboo stand. The removal could begin either this season or next. Once it starts, the process will take a couple seasons.

Please come to the BSCL meeting on May 3, 2018, to voice your opinions and vote on these recommended changes to our first priority project scope. Residents whose property is near the County parkland are particularly urged to attend. •

Dues News: May Edition

By Joanne Rodewald, Membership Secretary

April 17th is past and you've paid your taxes. Now you can shift your thoughts to the many advantages of living in our wonderful community. Thank you to everyone who has already become a member of the Barcroft School and Civic League. If you are not sure if you have paid your dues for this

year, check our roster at <http://www.bscl.org/membership> and if your name isn't listed, please send in your payment.

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. •

New Barcroft Tee-shirt Design is Announced

By Elaine Squeri

The BSCL Tee-shirt Committee is happy to present Anna Nazaretz Radjou's winning design for our new 2018 neighborhood Tee-shirt. Anna grew up in Barcroft and generously contributed three designs for this project. Her winning design will be available on red and also on blue Tee-shirts.

The Community House is an icon for Barcroft and Arlington, a symbol of community efforts and collaboration. Over 110 years ago, the idea arose for a Barcroft City Hall; it never was funded so never built. Our community house started as a Methodist Chapel in 1908, and later became a one-room schoolhouse. An added room is our current kitchen; the Barcroft website recounts more.

We still have this Arlington treasure thanks to the generosity and dedication of our



neighbors. Our dues and community projects like the Spaghetti Supper and the upcoming Tee-shirt sale contribute to the Barcroft Community House Fund. You will see the new Tee on May 3 at the BSCL monthly meeting. Watch for pre-purchasing details on the BSCL/Chat and in the BSCL Newsletter. •

Womans Club Meeting

On May 7 at 1 p.m. Bonnie Carroll of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) will speak about the organization. TAPS is a support system to those who have lost loved ones in the military. Bonnie has received the Medal of Freedom from President Obama. All are welcome. The Womans Club of Arlington is located at 700 South Buchanan Street. •

Help Shape the West End of Columbia Pike

By **Gary Mason, BSCL Vice-President**

A new, fledgling grassroots organization in Arlington County seeks to foster a healthy, diverse community with a high quality of life along the western portion of Columbia Pike and its adjacent neighborhoods. The West End Columbia Pike Coalition's focus is the Pike from South George Mason Drive west to the Arlington/Fairfax County Line. The Coalition looks forward to working with West End residents, businesses, and adjacent civic associations (including our BSCL), as well as Arlington County and collaborating with other organizations to bring renewed and long-term attention to the western stretch of Columbia Pike in Arlington County.

The Coalition recently held a residents

meeting on March 22, 2018 at the Arlington Mill Community and Senior Center after publicizing it in advance through the neighboring civic association chat lists and the 22204 email listserv. Participants brainstormed on and prioritized the characteristics they would like to see for the future of the West End and worked in breakout groups to brainstorm ideas to help advance and one day achieve those priorities.

If you want to help influence the future of Columbia Pike adjoining the Barcroft neighborhood or the larger West End of the Pike, or know someone who might, come to the next Coalition meeting once it is scheduled. For more information on this organization, go to west.end.colum.pike.coalition@gmail.com. •

St. John's Spring Tea

Saturday, May 12 - 1 - 3 pm



Celebrate Mother's Day weekend with a friend, child or grandchild. There is a wide selection of fine teas and an impressive buffet of scones, sandwiches, and scrumptious desserts along with piano music. Adults will also be offered a glass of champagne. Adults \$20 - Children 12 and under \$10

Sat May 19 Family Game Night - Hot chocolate and popcorn provided - **Free** - 7 - 9 pm

All are welcome to all services and activities!

Sunday Worship Services
8 am and 10 am

Sunday Education
Adult Seminar 9 am — Youth 10 am

St. John's Episcopal Church



415 S. Lexington Street Arlington, VA 22204

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stjohnsarlingtonva.org

Spring Celebration and Plant Sale Scheduled for May 6

By Alyssa Ford Morel

The annual Plant Sale at Glencarlyn Library Community Garden being held on May 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. is expanding this year to include more nature-related products. Located at 300 South Kensington Street in Arlington, this Master Gardener demonstration garden will be offering a wide range of plants cultivated on site, as well as featuring native plants from Hill House Nursery and blooming plants and herbs from Country Gardens.

New this year will be logs inoculated with mushroom spores, compost tea, local honey, hand-crafted jewelry and T-shirts with

artwork featuring butterflies and host plants.

“We are offering just what you need to treat a case of spring fever,” says Wendy Mills, one of the co-coordinators at the garden. Those still searching for Mother’s Day gifts may find just the right thing at this sale.”

The sale also offers Master Gardeners on site to consult on garden-related questions and to help choose the right plant for the right place. The sale raises funds to keep the demonstration garden operating, and is free to the public. More information is available by emailing glencarlynlibrarygarden@gmail.com, calling 703-244-7309 or at www.mgnv.org. •

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May Greetings from OSLS

Our middle school looks forward to class trips early in May. The eighth grade travels to New York City, seventh grade heads into downtown Washington D.C. on a mission trip, and sixth grade journeys to Science Camp.

This coming May 24, our school choir along with our younger students will be celebrating the end of the school year with a spring concert. It will be held at Our Savior Lutheran Church, located across the parking lot from the school. Following the concert will be a book fair and a school art fair in the gymnasium. Please join us that evening to hear wonderful music and enjoy some fellowship. Contact the school office for further information, including time.

Our students are in the process of participating in St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Math-a-thon. During this time, stu-

Dog Park Clean-Up

By Keith Fred

The volunteer group that sponsors the Shirlington Dog Park will hold its Spring clean-up and fund raising the weekend of May 5 and 6. Come help support this valued dog park by participating in the clean-up starting at 10 a.m. both mornings. They will also be collecting contributions all day both days. More information can be found on their web site: www.ShirlingtonDogs.org. •

dents answer math questions and raise money for St. Jude's. It is a great way to practice math skills by working through a variety of grade level problems while raising money for a worthwhile cause. Supporting the work at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital has been a long standing tradition at Our Savior.

We hope everyone has a great Memorial Day weekend. We would like to thank all those who are in the armed forces for their service to our country and keeping us safe. Each one of you is a blessing to us and we thank you for all you do. •

Christine Hopkins

Real Estate Consultant
Your Barcroft Neighbor

ChristineHopkins.smarthomeprice.com
facebook.com/NoVaHouseHunter



Genevieve Concannon Broker

929 W Broad Street Falls Church Va 22046
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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.

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 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.

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

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!

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



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Barcroft School and Civic League
800 South Buchanan Street
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The Spring real estate market has arrived, and the supply of homes hasn't increased enough to satisfy demand as of this writing in April. 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 have held steady in April, 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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