



Barcroft News

October 2018

Vol 116, Issue 2

Candidates Speak to Civic Federation

By Christopher J. Hoh

The Arlington Civic Federation held a membership meeting September 4 and heard from candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives as well as the County Board and School Board. This traditional Arlington campaign kickoff saw a packed auditorium at Virginia Hospital Center's auditorium. Highlights follow. The general election is Tuesday, November 6.

For Virginia's 8th District in Congress, Democratic incumbent Don Beyer cited four major issues that argue for increasing his party's numbers in the House of Representatives: curbing climate change; fighting bigotry; preserving affordable health care; and promoting economic development. Republican challenger Thomas Oh criticized career politicians for failure to represent their constituents, noting that Federal health care provisions risk exces-

sive government spending. In Q&A, both candidates opposed separating children from their parents at the border. Oh called for increased legal immigration and reduced illegal, while Beyer advocated Congressional action for comprehensive reform like what was nearly adopted in past sessions. Beyer stressed the need for stable infrastructure funding, noting inflation had eroded the Federal gasoline tax used for this purpose. Oh argued taxes were going up and should instead be reduced to allow more economic growth.

The County Board seat on the ballot is held by John Vihstadt, running as an independent, who said he had delivered on his pledges — e.g. eliminating the planned Columbia Pike streetcar, establishing a County Auditor, getting Artspace into the tax base, cutting spending, and increasing

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Next Community Meeting

Thursday, October 4, 7:30, Barcroft Community House
Speaker to be announced



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Next Deadline: October 15, 2018

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4th of July Parade: Heather Meade and Jim Moran

Columbia Pike: Keith Fred, Charlie Smiroldo

Demeter House: Darlene Mickey

Parks: Shirley Gay

Signs: Doug Mueller

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

We had our BSCL officer elections at the last meeting, and you're stuck with me for another year. In other news, hurricane Florence is forecast to miss us entirely, which is a relief. But the Carolinas got hammered. We have family members from Wilmington, NC staying with us until Florence leaves their area. They're keeping up with events in their neighborhood online, just as we would in a similar situation via our Facebook group and the chat list.

The NCAC update we got at our last meeting informed us that the budget for that program's neighborhood improvements was reduced by more than half. While our approved projects are supposed to be completed eventually, new ones will have to be put off for a long time. It's a reminder that our votes make a difference at all levels of government. Wherever you stand on the issues, it's our responsibility as citizens to find out where the candidates stand and cast our ballots for the people whose positions we can best live with. ●

Desperately Seeking **AN ADVERTISING MANAGER**

This position requires an hour or two per month managing ads in **Barcroft News**. It's a great way to help your community. Questions about it? Contact Alyssa Ford Morel at editor@bscl.org or call 703-907-9318.

Barcroft Elementary Update

By Julie McDonald, PTA Member

Students at Barcroft continue to work hard, get smart, and have fun each day at school. On September 11, many classes recognized a day of unity and service by working around the schoolyard - planting milkweed, weeding garden beds, and picking up trash. Coming up on October 10, Barcroft families and friends will enjoy District Taco and raise funds for the school. Please help support us and make 10/10 a taco night.

On the afternoon of October 31, keep an eye out for children touring the neighborhood in costume during our annual Halloween Parade. Then on Election Day, November 6, please stop by our annual bake sale when you come to Barcroft to vote. Thanks neighbors for all your support.

You can connect with us at www.barcroftpta.org and @BarcroftEagles on both Twitter and Instagram. •

Woman's Club Hosts Two Events

By Deneise Boyd, President

The Woman's Club of Arlington will hold two events this month. The first is October 18 at 7 p.m., an evening with author Charlie Clark who will talk about his new book, "The Hidden History of Arlington County." Light refreshments will be served.

The second event is an annual bazaar on Saturday, October 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will feature 20 plus vendors offering crafts, jewelry, beauty products, unique gifts, and much more. Other events of the day will be White House ornaments sale, bake sale, Café, and raffles. Proceeds will go to local and international charities plus our Wakefield High School Scholarship Fund. Free Admission and parking.

Contact 703-553-5800 or WomansClubArlington@gmail.com.

The Club house is located at 700 South Buchanan Street. •

BSCL Meeting Survey

By Judith Desplechin

Barcroft Community Meetings are held the first Thursday each month at 7:30 p.m. There has been some discussion about changing the meeting time to 7 p.m. Are you more likely to show up for the meeting if it is at 7 or 7:30 p.m.? Please take the survey at: <http://barcroftnotes.com/barcroftSurvey/survey.htm>. •

Plan Next Year's Staycation Now: Plant Native Plants!

By the Plant NOVA Natives Campaign

Why go on a safari when a safari could come to you? Imagine yourself sipping lemonade on your lawn chair while strange and marvelous creatures entertain you. This is



Caterpillar of the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail butterfly.

what you experience when you turn your yard into a wildlife sanctuary. Fall is the time to put

in the plants that will bring this parade to your door.

Most perennials and shrubs and some trees do best when planted in the fall. The cooler, wetter weather puts less stress on the plants while their roots continue to grow well into winter. If you want to enjoy butterflies and birds, choose native plants, as those are the ones that support our local wildlife.

In Northern Virginia, we are lucky to have three native-plant only nurseries, as well as several other commercial nurseries that are labeling their native plants. More information is available at the Plant NOVA Natives website. ●



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Volunteers Needed to Tutor Local Students

AHC, Inc. (formerly Arlington Housing Corporation) is recruiting volunteers to work with teens or elementary students. One hour a week can make a huge difference to a student's success.

Helping with homework is just part of why volunteers are so critical to the program. Volunteers also form valuable relationships with students and inspire and encourage them to succeed. Whatever your experience or your time frame, we welcome your support!

AHC's year-round program provides a comprehensive support system from elementary school through high school and during the summer when low-income children are particularly susceptible to learning loss. The educational programs encourage academic excellence and personal growth in a nurturing and stable environment. Because programs are located in the communities where families live, they are a stable and consistent part of the children's and their families' lives.

This strategy is working. ALL the high school seniors in the program have graduated from high school since tracking began in 2008. All graduating seniors are going to college this year. Elementary students' reading and math skills are improving consistently, too.

Volunteers are being sought in several areas. **Afterschool Volunteers:** Volunteers work one-on-one or work with a small group of elementary-aged students (k-5th grade) and help youth complete homework, study for tests, and also build literacy and math skills. Volunteer one day a week for an hour between 3 and 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday.



Teen Tutoring Volunteers: Volunteers work one-on-one with middle and high school students (6th – 12th grade) and help teens complete homework, study for exams, and improve in challenging subject areas. Onsite staff members provide vital support through mentoring and coaching. Volunteers are needed one hour once a week, from 6 to 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

College and Career Readiness: Help teens study for standardized tests, apply for financial aid and scholarships and write essays. Volunteers work one-on-one with a high school senior throughout the school year. Meeting times are flexible and arranged between the volunteer and student.

For more information or to volunteer, please email volunteer@ahcinc.org, call 703-486-0626 or go to <https://www.ahcinc.org/get-involved/volunteers/>. •

Seasonal Spirit – Are you a Member?

By Joanne Rodewald, Membership Secretary



Two hundred and ten of our neighbors have shown their community spirit by joining the Barcroft School and Civic League. If you have not 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://www.bscl.org/membership>. You can check

the membership roster on our website if you are not sure if you have already paid. Don't let the Halloween ghosts and goblins dampen your spirit.



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FALL IN LOVE WITH YOUR HOME

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As we enter into our favorite season, we want to share with you some of our favorite low-cost tips that will help turn your home into the warm, autumn retreat you deserve on the crisp evenings to come.

Cozy up! Layer your decor with rugs, pillows, and textured throws. Small textiles such as hand towels and cocktail napkins make all the difference! Don't be afraid to reach across the color wheel for inspiration. Have a blue couch? A splash of orange is the perfect fall accent! Dig out your down comforters and knits, give them a good wash, and relocate them for easy access on cold nights!

Let it bloom! Seasonal floral arrangements are an excellent way to bring the allure of autumn into your home. Dahlias, chrysanthemums, wheat stalks, and even fall foliage from the backyard are excellent options. This is also a great time to double down on your fall produce. Apples, pears, and pomegranates make excellent additions to a floral centerpiece as well as delicious on-the-go snacks! For one of our favorite DIYs, grab a pumpkin and turn your trendy succulents into a seasonal masterpiece*.

Freshen the scent! Our sense of smell is one of the most important when it comes to creating ambiance and making memories! It's time to stock up on your favorite fall candles or essential oils. Cinnamon, clove, cedar, and sweet orange are a few of ours.

Tend to the porch! Create stunning curb appeal and a welcoming sight to come home to with container gardens, pumpkins, and squash. Ornamental cabbages are often overlooked but come in an astonishing array of autumn colors that are sure to draw your neighbor's eye!

-Ricky & Ryan

*Pumpkin Succulent Harvest Decoration:
<https://www.simplyhappstance.com/pumpkin-succulent-harvest-decoration/>



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Candidates Speak to Civic Federation, continued

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governmental openness. He emphasized economic development through increasing commercial occupancy and streamlining permits. Democratic candidate Matt de Ferranti outlined priorities of schools, energy/environment, and affordable housing. Specifically, he endorsed plans to educate every child, achieve 100 percent renewable energy by 2035, and support housing for county workers like teachers and first responders and for seniors. In Q&A, he named technology, medicine, clean energy and cyber security as sectors to help grow the local economy, while stressing his commitment to Democratic Party ideals like education and upward mobility. Vihstadt explained that he'd switched from the Republican Party to Independent status to counter hyperpartisanship. Both responded that voting accessibility and security need improvement. De Ferranti criticized the commercial vacancy rate, arguing it was shifting

the County's funding burden onto real estate taxes. Vihstadt argued for checks and balances in County government, preferring a clash of ideas to one-party control of the Board.

Barbara Kanninen, current School Board chair, is up for re-election, opposed by Audrey Clement. Both are listed as party-independent. Kanninen called for supporting the "whole child," e.g. health in addition to pure education, emphasizing student skills, fair pay for teachers and staff, and capital improvements to address growth. Clement criticized shortages in the quantity and quality of school facilities and the lack of transparency in decision-making, e.g. renaming Washington-Lee school. Questions raised the issue of greenery, with Kanninen proclaiming trees were "in my blood" and noting plans to build schools up rather than out to preserve green space. Clement, however, argued that the school system in the County's biggest culprit

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St. John's Episcopal Church

Blessing of the Animals Sunday, October 7 - two times at two locations.

Everyone is invited to bring your pet(s) to be individually blessed at either location.

1:30 pm in the Shirlington Dog Park or 5 pm at St. John's - see the website for specifics.

Spaghetti Supper - Saturday, November 3 6 - 7:30 pm

All are welcome to join in a hearty meal and great conversation. You will have a choice of sauces to top off the pasta; there will be several salads, bread and a large selection of desserts.

The cost is only \$5 - kids 3 to 6 \$3 - under 3 free and a maximum of \$15 for a family.

Sunday Worship Services

8 am and 10 am

Sunday Christian Education

Adults 9 am - Youth 10 am

415 S. Lexington Street Arlington, VA 22204

703-671-6834

stjohnsarlingtonva.org



Candidates Speak to Civic Federation, continued

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in the alarming canopy loss. She also criticized Arlington schools' high construction costs and low test scores compared to Alexandria and Fairfax, lauding their use of repurposed office buildings. Kanninen responded that the Board has commissioned an audit to drill down on costs, but has in fact pursued economical construction while developing fine, purpose-built facilities, adding that some double as community centers and parks. Regarding diversity and boundaries, Kanninen argued that a majority of Arlington's schools are ethnically

mixed, but acknowledged that demographics and geography create complex problems that, she implied, the Board should not address through busing. Clement argued that minority students in Arlington tend to do poorly in all its schools regardless of location; she felt better pedagogy and technology would address this problem.

The rest of the Civic Federation agenda included ideas for strategic planning and routine business. The whole evening is available for video viewing online at www.CivFed.org. •

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Greetings This New School Year From OSLS

At Our Savior, we have weekly chapel services every Wednesday starting at 8:40 a.m. Our chapel offering for the month of September went to Lutheran Braille Workers, a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church. Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) reaches people who are blind or visually impaired with the story of Jesus Christ as savior. For 75 years, LBW has been providing Braille and specialized large print Bibles and other Christian materials in over 30 languages. These are distributed in 120 countries, always free to the recipient. For more information on a way to help, visit <https://www.lbwinc.org/>

On Friday, October 26, Our Savior will be having a Fall Carnival. Stop by with your children and enjoy a fun evening of games. Please contact our school office for more information about times and tickets.

The last full week of October, we will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week at Our Savior. Red Ribbon Week is a week that is set aside to say no to drugs. During the week, our school will also be focusing on helping A-SPAN, which stands for Arlington Street People's Association Network. Each year we try to bring awareness of A-SPAN by having a walk-a-thon around the Barcroft neighborhood. We carry signs with messages to say no to homelessness in Arlington and to help

support A-SPAN. Please check out A-SPAN's website at www.a-span.org to see how you can help A-SPAN fight homelessness in our neighborhoods.

We still have room in our classes for students from grades PreK through 8th. The Pre-kindergarten class will continue to be in session Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays. We offer both before and after care for our full week students. 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. •

Christine Hopkins

Real Estate Consultant
Your Barcroft Neighbor

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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.

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.

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.

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: I 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 be in Arlington. Any and all pet services can be provided. Contact David McCreight at 202-413-9179 or thedoggiedaddy@yahoo.com.

Want to get that nagging project done? I am available to help with anything up high, dirty or that just needs some strength to get done. My name is Jeremiah and I am a tall, strong college student home on summer break 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.

Marble Table Top for Sale: Black marble slab for table top with interesting veining, 34 x 48 inches, 3/4 inch thick. \$140. Email for picture or to come over and see it. flamingophoto@usa.net

Private Drum Lessons in Your Arlington/Alexandria/Falls Church Home or Mine: All ages/levels. Local musician offers instruction in Barcroft home studio on 3rd St. S. Unique, fully equipped studio with two full drum sets for more efficient use of lesson time. Multiple styles--rock, jazz, classical, musical theatre, as well as high school marching band, concert band auditions/performance skills. Complimentary 30-minute lesson/consultation. 30-, 45-, 60-minute lessons (\$25-\$45). References provided. In-home drum-tuning and purchase consult available. Call or text: 202-409-4370. Contact: mitchbassmusic@gmail.com •



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

Softening Home Prices in the Near Future?

According to Zillow, home price appreciation is slowing in nearly half of the country's 35 largest metropolitan areas. The slowdown doesn't appear to be due merely to a limited number of homes on the market, instead it seems to be driven by dissident demand from homebuyers, not just a low supply of homes for sale. As home prices have increased faster than wages for 70 straight months, some buyers in high cost markets have finally had enough, at least for now.

Until incomes start to rise, we may not see as much appreciation. However, barring another financial crisis, experts don't expect a repeat of last decade's housing crash. We're seeing the first indications that price appreciation may be slowing, but the underlying fundamental housing market conditions support a natural moderation of house prices rather than a sharp decline. The supply of existing homes for sale remains near its lowest levels in decades, and *every real estate market has its own hyper-local trends.*

Some areas of the country have a larger gap between wage growth and price increases, which could shrink with more housing supply and a growing economy as wages are pushed upwards. Even in markets where appreciation has slowed, prices remain high and sellers still have the upper hand, according to Zillow. Our local market is still very active, with continual low supply compared to demand in most sectors. The luxury market has slowed.

Considering a move soon? Let's talk, and I'll be glad to share my expertise on local real estate market trends and help you understand the best time to sell or buy with your unique situation. Put my 33 years of experience and knowledge to work for you!

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