



November 2018

# Barcroft News

Vol 116, Issue 3

## Leave the Leaves

***By Justin Wheeler, Reprinted with permission of the Xerxies Society***

Besides providing the right plants, and protecting your garden from pesticides, one of the next most valuable things you can do to support pollinators and other invertebrates is to provide them with the winter cover they need in the form of fall leaves and standing dead plant material. Frequently however, this is the hardest pill for gardeners to swallow.

It may be habitual, a matter of social conditioning, or a holdover of outdated gardening practices from yesteryear – but for whatever reason, we just can't seem to help ourselves from wanting to tidy up the garden at the end of the season – raking, mowing, and blowing away a bit of nature that is essential to the survival of moths, butterflies, snails, spiders, and dozens of arthropods.

That's why this year – and every year – we are making the case for leaving the leaves and offering input on what to do with them. Read on!

### **Must Love Leaves**

While monarch migration is a well-known phenomenon, it's not the norm when it comes to butterflies. In fact, the vast majority of butterflies and moths overwinter in the landscape as an egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, or adult. In all but the warmest climates, these butterflies use leaf litter for winter cover. Great spangled fritillary and woolly bear caterpillars tuck themselves into a pile of leaves for protection from cold weather and predators. Red-banded hairstreaks lay their eggs on fallen oak leaves, which become the first food of the caterpillars when they emerge. Luna moths and swallowtail butterflies disguise

***Continued on page 8***

## Next Community Meeting

Thursday, November 8, 7:30, Barcroft Community House  
Community Conservation Program and Del. Patrick Hope



## Barcroft News

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**Next Deadline: November 15, 2018**

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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 string of 80+ degree days has been broken! Fall has finally arrived. The holiday season always brings home to me how great a community Barcroft is. We're a high value trick-or-treating neighborhood, which I interpret as a compliment. (I bought 900 pieces of candy last year, and I gave it all out--minus what I ate--at two to three pieces a kid.) On our street (4th), some of us move our firepits out front, the better to socialize with each other and engage the costumed beggars. Some neighbors (you know who you are) strike fear into the hearts of passing four-year-olds with their

scary displays.

Christ-  
mas is another  
occasion for  
decorating  
houses. (I con-  
fine myself to  
admiring the  
efforts of oth-  
ers. Thanks to



all whose holiday displays brighten Barcroft for residents and visitors.) I like to think that all this revelry and good cheer induces warm feelings towards neighbors as well as family and friends. BSCL will have its usual holiday party in December, a great time to exchange season's greetings. ●

# Volunteer Opportunity

**By Shirley Gay**

Come join us and help distribute free food from Food for Others, <http://www.foodforothers.org/index.html>, a Fairfax County Food Bank. Meet at The Fields, corner of South Dickerson and South 8th Roads at 6 p.m. on non-holiday Mondays. We also distribute at 6:30 p.m. at the back of the parking lot on Columbia Pike across from South Buchanan Street.

Get to know more of your nearby neighbors and help a team of four Barcrofters plus two from Fairfax. One from Fairfax usually picks up. Hopefully, you can help

once or twice per month. Ideally three people help each Monday.

If you're running low on food, you're welcome to receive food at either destination on Monday and/or Tuesday evenings.

The only question asked is "How many are in your family (household?)"

Volunteer or ask questions by contacting Shirley Gay, [shirleywg@icloud.com](mailto:shirleywg@icloud.com). Thanks. •



# Meeting Survey

**By Judith Desplechin**

Some of you requested that we reopen the Barcroft Survey : 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 7pm. Are you more likely to show up for the meeting if it is at: 7 or 7:30pm? Please take the survey at: <http://barcroftnotes.com/barcroftsurvey/survey.htm>. •

## Christine Hopkins

Real Estate Consultant  
Your Barcroft Neighbor

[ChristineHopkins.smarthomeprice.com](http://ChristineHopkins.smarthomeprice.com)  
[facebook.com/NoVaHouseHunter](https://facebook.com/NoVaHouseHunter)



Genevieve Concannon Broker

929 W Broad Street Falls Church Va 22046  
(703)663-7171

# Important Updates at Next Community Meeting

The November community meeting in FY 2020 will feature two presenters. Tim McIntosh, representing Arlington County, will provide an update on the Neighborhood Conservation Program's project funding in Barcroft and overall, including the potential ramifications of the broader forecast county revenue shortfall

During the second half of the program, Delegate Patrick Hope, representing the 47th District in the Virginia House of Delegates, will provide an update on legislative activities in Richmond with implications on Arlington County residents. •

## Become an Arlingtone!

The Arlingtones will begin rehearsing for the Holiday Season at the end of this month. The Arlingtones will perform in December at: civic associations, retirement communities and special events. Women, men and young adults are welcomed.

Rehearse with The Arlingtones on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m.: Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20, and 27. Please contact George Hobart at [geohobart@aol.com](mailto:geohobart@aol.com) to register. •



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1320 Old Chain Bridge Rd, McLean, VA 22101

## Fall E-CARE Event

Arlington County will hold its biannual Environmental Collection and Recycling Event (E-CARE) on Saturday, November 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 1425 North Quincy Street (directly across the street from Washington-Lee High School and the David M. Brown Planetarium). E-CARE is an event where residents can safely dispose of hazardous household materials (HHM), recycle bikes, small metal items and much more! For a full list of acceptable items, go to [www.arlingtonva.us](http://www.arlingtonva.us) and search "E-CARE." •

## Advertising Manager Sought

Barcroft News is still seeking an Advertising Manager to help coordinate advertising in this newsletter. The position does not require "cold calling" potential advertisers unless the Manager wishes to do so. Instead, it primarily consists of responding to advertiser inquiries by email, answering questions, and overseeing which ads appear in each issue. The estimated commitment is an hour or two per issue.

If this sounds interesting to you, please contact the Editor, Alyssa Ford Morel, at [editor@bscl.org](mailto:editor@bscl.org) or at 703-907-9318. •

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# What Are You Thankful For?

**By Joanne Rodewald, Membership Secretary**

Throughout the year I read about and observe numerous acts of kindness and generosity by our neighbors here in Barcroft. A list of the many volunteers who make this a vibrant community is too long to share in this article but I am thankful for each one of you. If you too enjoy this Newsletter, our website, participating in the many festive activities that happen in the neighbor-



hood, the Community House, or sharing information on the Barcroft chat, please show your appreciation by renewing your BSCL membership --or joining if you are not yet a member. Dues are still only \$5 per individual

or \$10 for a family membership. The application form is provided with this newsletter or online at <http://www.bscl.org/membership>.

On behalf of the BSCL Officers and Board Members, we thank you for your support. ●

## WINTER IS COMING

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As we get ready to hunker down in our homes for the winter months, we'd like to provide you with a quick checklist you can use to ensure that your home is ready for winter and maybe even save you a few bucks!

- Reverse your ceiling fans! Many come with a switch to run them in reverse. Warm air collected at the ceiling will be recirculated throughout the room.
- Schedule your chimney maintenance and cleaning now! Appointments will be filling up.
- Make sure furnaces and boilers are running, change filters, and get them inspected! While you're at it, have someone come out and winterize your sprinkler system.
- Turn down your water heater; many are set higher than needed, and reducing the tank temperature by 20 degrees can save you 6-10% in heating cost!
- Seal off those drafty areas by weatherstripping windows and doors.
- Clean out gutters. Autumn leaves and debris can collect water and take down your entire gutter system and even parts of your roof!
- Drain outdoor hoses. Full hoses can freeze and rupture.

**\*For a free market analysis or to see how we can help you get the best value for your home, whether selling or purchasing, contact us today. We love helping our Barcroft neighbors!**

-Ricky & Ryan



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# Leave the Leaves, continued

## Continued from page 1

their cocoons and chrysalis as dried leaves, blending in with the “real” leaves. There are many such examples.

Beyond butterflies, bumble bees also rely on leaf litter for protection. At the end of summer, mated queen bumble bees burrow only an inch or two into the earth to hibernate for winter. An extra thick layer of leaves is welcome protection from the elements. There are so many animals that live in leaves: spiders, snails, worms, beetles, millipedes, mites, and more – that support the chipmunks, turtles, birds, and amphibians that rely on these insects for food.

It’s easy to see how important leaves really are to sustaining the natural web of life.

## Leaves and Lawn

According to a 2005 NASA estimate, there are around 40 million acres of lawn in the continental United States – making turf grass the single largest “crop” we grow. This

disproportionate ratio of lawn to garden is the main reason we rake, mow, and blow. To mimic the natural ecosystem an animal needs, a layer of leaves needs to be at least a couple of inches thick. While this would be too much of a good thing for turf grass to handle – research has shown that lawns actually benefit from a thin layer of leaves, and the rest can be piled up around ornamental trees, shrubs, and perennials to no ill effect.

If you must keep your lawn clear of leaves – try opting for raking or using a leaf vacuum to capture whole leaves, rather than shredding them with a mower and make a leaf pile in a corner of your yard. More on that below.

Better still would be to reduce your overall lawn footprint, replacing it instead with wildlife supporting plantings that can be future repositories for fall leaves.

## To Shred or Not to Shred

*Continued on page 9*

### SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Saturday, November 3 6 - 7:30 pm

You will have a choice of sauces, salads, bread and desserts

Adult \$5 - kids 3 to 6 \$3 - under 3 free

BINGO				
12	18	41	47	61
7	26	39	54	70
4	27	35	49	63
5	23	35	58	73
3	30	32	52	75

### BINGO NIGHT

Saturday, November 17 7 - 9 pm

\$5 for a dessert, 2 cards and a raffle ticket.

Prizes will be awarded.

*St. John's Episcopal Church*

415 S. Lexington Street - Arlington, VA 22204

703-671-6834

Sunday Worship Services

8 am and 10 am

stjohnsarlingtonva.org





## Leave the Leaves, continued

### Continued from page 8

Many organic gardeners opt for shredding their fall leaves for use in compost piles. While this is certainly a more environmentally friendly practice than bagging leaves and sending them to the landfill – shredded leaves will not provide the same cover as leaving them whole, and you may be destroying eggs, caterpillars, and chrysalis along with the leaves. We suggest that leaves in garden beds and lawn edges be left whole. Where space allows, consider creating a leaf pile and allowing it to break down naturally, or add the leaves gradually to your compost pile over time. Such efforts will keep critters safe and allow you to benefit from the rich garden gift that falls from the trees above.

### Free Mulch!

Another reason to leave the leaves is for the many benefits they provide to your landscape. Leaves provide valuable organic matter and build up healthy soil. Fallen leaves have the same weed suppression and moisture retention properties of shredded wood mulch – and they're free! Where mulch is desired as a decorative element, what could be more seasonally appropriate than a pile of brightly colored fall leaves?

In the past, gardeners may have worried that fall leaves, matted down by snow or rain, would have a negative impact on their perennials. In reality, a thick layer

of leaves provides additional insulation against bitter cold weather, and can protect newly planted perennials when frost-heave may expose tender roots. Anyone who has spotted fragile spring ephemerals popping up in the woods knows that all but the frailest of plants will burst through the leaf litter in spring without trouble.

### The Bottom Line

You gave them flowers and a place to nest. You tended your garden and avoided pesticides. Don't carry all of that hard work out to the curb. Simply put, when we treat leaves like trash – we're tossing out the beautiful moths and butterflies that we'll surely miss and work so very hard to attract.

While the idea is to "leave the leaves" permanently – for all of the benefits mentioned above – if you do decide you need to cleanup the garden and remove the leaves in spring, make sure you wait until late in the season so as not to destroy all the life you've worked to protect. •



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# Greetings This Fall Season From OSLS

Our October chapel offerings were designated for the Arlington Street People's Assistance Network (ASPAN). A-SPAN provides life-sustaining services for Arlington's homeless. Our Savior partners with A-SPAN by preparing and packing 40 to 60 lunches on the fourth Monday of each month. On October 25, Our Savior School participated in its 9th Annual mini walk-a-thon to bring awareness to the problem of homelessness in Arlington and to raise funds that will be used by A-SPAN.

Our chapel offerings for the month of November will go to MOST Ministries.



## **DEAN LOB**

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Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST Ministries) is a Christian non-profit organization that connects, trains, and sends short-term mission teams throughout the world, in response to requests from missionaries and church bodies. Teams serve in rural and urban settings and locations ranging from coastal plains to mountainous regions, from Detroit to Mongolia. Teams minister to physical and spiritual needs. Projects include: Agricultural Education, Clean Water Outreach, Construction, Dental Clinics, Eyeglass Clinics, Health Education, Hospice Care Training, Medical Clinics, Senior Care Training, and Vacation Bible School, as well as others.

Thank you to everyone who supports Our Savior Lutheran School through Giant, Safeway, and Harris Teeter grocery cards. We receive a check from each of these stores at the end of the school year thanks to your naming our school through their programs. If you haven't, consider linking your grocery cards to any school by visiting the grocery store websites.

As we are about to celebrate Veteran's Day, we would like to thank our U.S. veterans for their service and their dedication to keeping us safe.

Please join us at Our Savior Lutheran Church for a Thanksgiving Eve worship service on Wednesday, November 21 at 7 p.m. •

# 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](mailto:editor@bscl.org).*

**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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:flamingophoto@usa.net)

**Private Drum Lessons:** Local musician offers instruction in your home or in his Barcroft home studio. All ages/levels, multiple styles--rock, jazz, classical, as well as high school marching band, concert band and audition/performance skills. Complimentary 30-minute lesson/consultation. Local references provided. Also available: drum set tuning, used drum sets, consults for equipment purchase. Contact [mitchbassmusic@gmail.com](mailto:mitchbassmusic@gmail.com), 202-409-4370. Booking now for fall/winter! •





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

### **National & Local Housing Trends**

Home-buying trends are shifting thanks to generational differences, a strong economy, student-loan encumbrances and a growing housing-affordability gap. Changing buyer characteristics and desires are altering the market. Only one half of American adults are married, versus more than 70% in the 1970s, and more unmarried couples are looking for homes. First-time home buyers have historically averaged at 32 years although the average age of buyers purchasing a home for the second time has risen steeply from 36 in 1981 to 54 in the 2017.

Buyers, many of them young, also carry a median loan debt of \$41,200 and median income of \$38,800 nationwide. Those with loans can delay home purchases by 7 years.

In the Metro DC there is more transition and higher income, which means more relocation (Corporate, Govt, State Dept and Military) along with more frequent local moves.

Locally, higher end homes are lingering on the market and price reductions are common.

It's the same case with upper end prices in other US markets as well. Abundant supply and record prices are

causing some buyers to pause. Many US markets are seeing a shift from seller's to buyer's market. Lower priced homes are still in short supply, and buyers are snatching up what's available.

Arlington's fall real estate market in the low to mid-price points is still robust. The upper end market is showing some shifting with more price reductions and longer days on market.

As of this writing (10/14/18), rates jumped to their highest levels in seven years with the predominant rate for 30-yr fixed at 4.875% and some major lenders are at 5%.

*What questions do you have for me? I'm here to help with advice for your situation!*

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