



# Barcroft News

January 2019

Vol 116, Issue 5

## Amazon and Budgets on Civic Federation's Agenda

**By Christopher J. Hoh**

If you do not receive updates directly from the Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) or follow events online ([www.CivFed.org](http://www.CivFed.org)), here are headlines from recent months.

December's meeting presented information about Amazon's plans to locate offices in Arlington. For the renamed "National Landing" district of Crystal City and Pentagon City, the company plans to invest \$2.5 billion. That sum includes four to eight million square feet of energy efficient office space, mostly where vacant offices already exist. While the projected increase of 25,000 new jobs over 12 years is significant, it represents about 5 percent of our region's existing growth rate, an increase planners deem manageable. Arlington government plans to spend \$360 million on transportation upgrades, in addition to expenditures

by Alexandria and Virginia. The State went ahead with full plans to expand Virginia Tech and George Mason campuses as an engine for technology jobs beyond Amazon.

Updates from County Manager Mark Schwartz and School Superintendent Patrick Murphy focused on budget. Both noted that growing needs drive up costs, while projected revenue increases will not keep pace — boosts from Amazon and other commercial tax sources will not arrive for several years. The County is working to address a gap of \$25 – 35 million for next year, while the Schools shortfall is around \$43 million. Schwartz cited the decline in business presence in the county as the main problem, which shifts the burden onto residential taxes. On all these issues, look for public discussion and open hearings in the first quarter of the new year.

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### Next Community Meeting

Thursday, January 3, 7:30, Barcroft Community House



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**Next Deadline: January 15, 2019**

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Wigfield

## President's Message

**By Chris Siple**

I hope you and yours have had a joyous holiday season. (Of course, since I'm writing this in the middle of December, I don't even know what my holidays will be like. We live in hope.) Winter can be rough for everyone--commutes are snarled, snowstorms can leave us housebound, ice can be a real hazard, and the flu is lying in wait, though maybe viruses don't actually do that. We don't see our neighbors outside, so we can't know how they're bearing up unless we make an extra effort to keep in contact. They may appreciate an offer to bring something back from the store when you go, or enjoy some cookies you're proud of, or just like to exchange holiday greetings. Go for it!

I owe everybody the results of our task force on BSCL communication, and I'll send a link to that out on our Facebook page and the Barcroft listserv. There have been some actions taken, but others may be beneficial too. Please feel free to email me any time with suggestions on how we may best exchange information so as to improve our lives in Barcroft. My suggestion for every resident is to consider joining (see page 7) and participating occasionally in the monthly meetings at the Community House. ●

# Barcroft Elementary Update

**By Jennifer Weber, PTA President**

This has been a busy fall at Barcroft with field trips, music concerts and lots of workshops. Our students are working hard, getting smart and having fun!

Thank you to all our Barcroft neigh-



***The Snowball Stride 5K event was held on December 15 despite rain.***

bors who supported the Election Day Bake Sale. We love seeing you, hearing your Barcroft stories and having your support. Thanks to the funds raised by the bake sale and other fundraisers, the PTA was able to start a new staff mini-grant program. This fall, we

funded six mini-grants including a new rug for the art room, water coolers for the cafeteria, book bags for students, Apple TV for a classroom, games for the game lending library, and laminating supplies (our teachers love to laminate)!

Thank you also to all who braved the rain for the Snowball Stride 5K on December 15. We loved running with our staff, students and neighbors. ●

## Train to be a Master Naturalist

The Spring training to become a Master Naturalist will be held in the evenings, beginning February 26 through June 11, 2019 on Tuesdays, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center in Arlington. Four Saturday field trips (dates to be determined) will be scheduled at parks around the area.

Applications to join the class are due Friday, January 18, 2019. The Arlington Regional Master Naturalists (ARMN) will hold an open house for prospective trainees on Sunday, January 13, 2019 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at

Long Branch Nature Center. Applicants for the Spring 2019 basic training class are encouraged to attend.

ARMN is a volunteer service group dedicated to sustaining natural areas in our communities, provide environmental education and outreach, and engage in a wide range of citizen science activities. For more information and to complete an application, visit the Arlington Regional Master Naturalist website at [www.armn.org](http://www.armn.org). ●

## Civic Federation Report, continued

### *Continued from page 1*

In November ACCF heard from five of Arlington's seven state legislators. (Barcroft's Patrick Hope could not attend.) They reported progress on Medicaid expansion and renewable energy with cautious optimism about prospects to reduce gerrymandering of Congressional districts after the next census. This meeting elected two directors to fill vacant seats and initiated consideration of decriminalization of marijuana, public space planning, and Upton Park tree preservation.

October's session concentrated on

the four bond referenda before the voters. These were \$74.5 million for Metro and transportation, \$29.3 million for parks and recreation, \$37 million for community infrastructure, and \$103 million for Arlington Public Schools. The meeting adopted a resolution endorsing the parks bond and rejected an amendment to endorse others. (All four projects passed with voters November 6.) A resolution on preventing police abuse of civil forfeiture received initial review. The various pending resolutions will likely return for further consideration early in 2019. •



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# Sustainable Landscape Services

If you are looking for a sustainable landscape designer or installer, consider hiring someone with the new Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional Certification (CBLP). This Certification is a new, voluntary credential system for professionals who design, install, and maintain sustainable landscapes. The credential training and examination are based on a core set of standards in sustainable landscaping emphasizing stormwater best practices and conservation landscaping with native plants to benefit the environment.

Do you hire a company to take care of your lawn? Landscaping companies registered

with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation as Green & Clean Landscapers agree to follow landscaping practices that will reduce the amount of fertilizer runoff into our streams and rivers. Such practices include testing the soil for nutrient content before applying any fertilizer, adhering to caps on the amount of nitrogen applied to grass throughout the year, sweeping up any fertilizer that lands on hard surfaces such as sidewalks and driveways, and recycling grass clippings back into the soil. See companies on the Green & Clean registry at <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/wqagree>. •

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# Dues News: December Update

**By Joanne Rodewald, Membership Secretary**

Wouldn't it be great to have an easy way to keep resolution for 2019? If you have not already sent in your BSCL dues for this year, join today. You'll feel a sense of accomplishment and will be supporting our vibrant and active community. Note: a number of families pre-paid their 2019 dues. If you can't remember or are unsure, to avoid duplicate payment you may check the new membership roster at <https://tinyurl.com/BSCL2019>. Dues are still only \$5 per individual or \$10 for

a family membership. The application form is provided with this newsletter or online at our website.

You may ask, "Why is it important that I become a dues paying member?" The many events happening in the neighborhood such as the festivities at the 4th of July picnic and Christmas party, and other activities including the publication of this newsletter, and maintenance of the Community House and grounds are supported by our dues. Wishing everyone peace, love and laughter in the new year. •



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We love helping our Barcroft neighbors!

**-Ricky & Ryan**



# I Haven't Gone Far: Farewell from Karen Darner

**By Karen Darner**

Thank you, Barcroft, for 28 extraordinary years filled with friendships and memories. This is Karen Darner, and I've lived on South Buchanan, near Columbia Pike since I returned to Arlington following a Peace Corps stint in 1990. Anne Noll and Tom and Tori Floyd welcomed me to the new part of Arlington, and I was right at home. I had just missed the Fourth of July parade, since the school year was about to start...my 17th year as a speech pathologist in the Arlington Public Schools.

I've moved to Shirlington now, just a bit down Four Mile Run and I have to say a big THANK YOU to all of you who have made my home in Barcroft a special place. Right after I moved in, Randy and Barbara Swart welcomed me too, and then I was in a special election to try and take the place of another Barcrofter, Warren Stambaugh, who had represented Arlington in the Virginia House of Delegates for 16 extraordinary years. His sudden death altered my life, but I had such solid support from so many, I

felt I'd lived in Barcroft forever. And, of course, our Community House was a familiar location for legislative meetings, and fundraisers – my pancake breakfast set a standard for starting each January legislative session.

Fast forward 11 years for me, and that support and help were much appreciated as I initially was redistricted out of Barcroft precinct, but then amended back in through my block when a number of Republican friends in the House lobbied for my reinstatement into my neighborhood precinct.

I soon found myself serving as the manager/contact for the Community House rentals, and it was a great way to experience the happenings there. The play-date time for preschoolers, theatrical productions and concerts by all ages, spaghetti dinners to help pay maintenance expenses of

the house, BSCL board and civic meetings, weddings, showers (wedding and baby), craft shows, dances and exercise classes for mind and body, workshops for everything, clean up

***Continued on page 9***



***Karen Darner and Midge at the 2017 Fourth of July Parade.***



## *I Haven't Gone Far... continued*

*Continued from page 8*

and paint/fixup days... And we worked in concert with the Woman's Club, too. Our building takes a village,...and what a plus to have Barbara now.

Thank you, too, for your concern when I was away for almost six years to help my parents when they were ill. When I slipped back into town for a respite, you were there to encourage me, particularly my immediate neighbors, Alberta, Cynthia, Mary Kate, and Steve and Jenny. Together we learned about many county programs and rules, and phone numbers!

I just want you to know now that walking my pooch, Midge, many times daily in Barcroft has been a pleasure, and she and I have loved those walks, meeting more and more of you. Midge's introduction to Arlington has been through those walks, and we especially loved the solace of Scott's garden work at the Community House. Sorry for her anxious barked greetings to many of the dogs. All of the kids at bus stops, or walking

to and from school have petted Midge for "good luck" and given Ms. Mulrooney messages from me. I've learned a little more Spanish from them, too, thank goodness. The almost life-time parade organizers, The Hunters, were patient, too, when I was gone and my baked beans disappeared from the Fourth of July picnic. I definitely plan to return with a big pan of baked beans whenever you give the word.

Barcroft School and Civic League, and you, the human beings, played a humongous part in my life in Arlington, and I'm still nearby. Thank you all. •

**Is one of your resolutions to be more connected with your community?  
Be sure you are a member of the Barcroft Listserve. To sign up, go to <https://www.bscl.org/chat-list>.**

### **Christine Hopkins**

Real Estate Consultant  
Your Barcroft Neighbor

**ChristineHopkins.smarthomeprice.com**  
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# Holiday Greetings From OSLS

We wish you a Happy 2019 and hope that your Christmas and holiday season was safe and full of fun. We are enjoying these winter days and all 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 through 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. Thank you to everyone who supports us.

Our Savior Lutheran School is holding an Open House for all prospective students and their parents on Saturday, January 26, from 9 a.m. to noon. Your children are welcome to accompany you to the Open House. Applications and enrollment information will be available for the 2019-2020 school year. We offer grades Pre K(4) through 8th, and also offer before and after school care. This is an opportunity to tour the school, meet the teachers, see the classrooms, and ask questions. OSLS was established in 1952 and has been providing an affordable, quality Christian education in Barcroft ever since. With small classes, our dedicated teachers are able to entirely devote themselves to our diverse student body. We are fully accredited and licensed. OSLS is non-discriminatory in enrollment and we welcome the chance to show you around our school if you are looking for a Christian education for your child. We are located at 825 South Taylor Street in Arlington. •



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

**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 202-409-4370, [Mitchbassmusic@gmail.com](mailto:Mitchbassmusic@gmail.com). Booking now for winter!

**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)

**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.

**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).

**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).

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## **“The Amazon Effect” on our local area market.**

With signs of a nationwide real estate market softening in many areas of the country, the Northern Virginia territory has been active, with November pending sales up 11.5% from last year. New pending sales were up 46% in Arlington and 27% in Alexandria compared to 2017. A major contributing factor is “The Amazon effect,” which created a huge buzz and surge of interest from investors and speculators. The NOVA area market transitioned from a seller’s market this spring to a softer buyer’s market this fall, especially in the upper bracket price ranges. A lack of affordable inventory, stock market gyrations, and mortgage rates creeping up slightly caused some buyer concern. For all home styles (single family, condos and townhouses), the average home sale price in the NOVA region fell to \$577,476 compared to \$580,733 in November 2017. Arlington County was up 1.34% with an average of \$653,270. Last months’ announcement from Amazon about HQ2 move to Crystal City created a frenzy of condo buying in the surrounding areas. Interest rates dropped in late November and

many buyers jumped to lock in lower rates before the anticipated rise next year. While Amazon is bringing only 400 jobs to Crystal City next year, the “Hype” has put the newly branded National Landing on the radar screen and we have seen a ripple effect in close in areas. Those home owners who list their homes early in 2019 will be well positioned to take advantage of current momentum. Arlington County, Alexandria City, Fairfax County will benefit from the gradual Phase 1 delivery of 25,000 jobs over a 12-year period.

Are you curious about current home values? I’m here to help, so give me a call!

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