



March 2019

Barcroft News

Vol 116, Issue 7

Spaghetti Dinner Tradition Returns March 31

By Michael Bruno

Save the date for good sauce and good sounds: The 2019 Annual Barcroft Spaghetti Dinner will be Sunday, March 31, 5 to 7 p.m. at the Barcroft Community House.

Volunteers are welcome and are already lining up, but the more the merrier. Set up, clean up, help serving,... all are welcome. Please email me if available at michael.bruno@informa.com (new email).

Workers eat free!

- **When:** Sunday, March 31, 2019, from 5 to 7 p.m.

- **Where:** 800 South Buchanan Street (Barcroft Community House).
- **What:** Spaghetti with homemade meat sauce like your Nonni used to make, plus



salad and bread. Non-meat sauce too. Take-out available!

- Beer/wine available for a donation.
 - Live music by Barcroft's own Spaghetti Tones!
 - **Cost:** \$8 per person.
 - Kids under age 10 eat free.
- Any money raised goes to our neighborhood Community House fund. ●

Next Community Meeting

Thursday, March 7, 7:30, Barcroft Community House

Topic: (Tentative) County Representative about Amazon



Barcroft News

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Next Deadline: March 15, 2019

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wood_deborah@yahoo.com

NCAC Alternate: Neal Martin

Arlington Civic Fed. Delegates: Eric Harold, Christopher Hoh, Chris Kupczyk, Randy Swart
Alternates: Joseph Knarich, David Michelson, Mark Wigfield

President's Message

By Chris Siple

Ah, March,... can Spring be far behind? I will be watching the ten day forecasts for freeze warnings, hoping to spot an opportunity to bring out the plants I have placed in protective custody in the basement. I will kid myself that this is the year I turn much of my yard into a lovely (or at least respectable) garden. By April I will have bought several flats of annuals and some one-gallon pots containing perennials that as often as not don't last until August, and plopped them (and some seeds) around in the bare ground that winter has left, without any real plan but with plenty of hope. Wish me luck, and I'll return the favor.

An appreciation for the natural world in our own neighborhood is an unexpected benefit of my tenure as BSCL president. I admit that I did not go to many monthly meetings before I started presiding over them, but now that I am attending I have seen several fascinating presentations on native plants and animals, and heard discussions about the parkland in Barcroft. It has inspired us to get a bird feeder, and we get a big kick out of seeing our avian visitors through the seasons. I'm looking forward to the greater access to the bike path via 7th Street and am intrigued by the possibilities

Continued on page 4

Barcroft Elementary March Update

By Gretchen Odegard

With spring just around the corner (we hope!) Barcroft is beginning to look ahead to the new school year. For families with rising kindergartners your next chance to visit Barcroft will be on Tuesday, March 12 at 12:45 p.m. Don't miss this opportunity to see the Barcroft Eagles in action and learn more about your neighborhood school!

Also in March will be our next PTA restaurant fundraiser. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, March 13 and plan to order a pizza from Bricks! Our local pizza restaurant Bricks will donate a portion of the sales between 4 and 8 p.m. on March 13 to the Barcroft PTA. It's a great way to support a local business AND your neighborhood school! Just be sure to mention Barcroft when you order your pizza.

Many thanks to community members who bring their Box Tops donations to Barcroft. We are always collecting

them! Take a look around your pantry and you'll likely see lots of Box Tops that could be clipped and dropped off in the Box Tops collection container in the Barcroft front office. Every donated Box Top can be submitted for funds that help support our school. Keep the donations coming!

As you begin your spring cleaning please be planning for our spring clothing and household item donation drive. You may remember a big U-Haul truck in the Barcroft parking lot one night last spring packed full with school and neighborhood donations. Through the Savers program, the Barcroft PTA is reimbursed for all of those donations. It's a great way to teach our kids to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Watch this space for more details including a date for this year's event — most likely to be held in late April. PTA funds at Barcroft help support our students by providing field trips and enrichment programs as well as awarding teacher mini-grants for innovative approaches to learning. We appreciate your support! ●



Student artwork currently on display at Barcroft Elementary School.

Woman's Club Prayer Breakfast

By Pat Fisher

The Woman's Club of Arlington invites you to our annual Prayer Breakfast on Monday, March 11 at 10 a.m. Our guest speakers this year are Xenobia Robelos, Pastor of El Jordan Church and her daughter Veronica Ramos. El Jordan Church rents our facility each Sunday for

worship and one additional day during the week. Xenobia and Veronica will share their unique community outreach programs. Cost is \$5 per person payable at the door. A full

breakfast is served. Please RSVP to Pat Fisher no later than March 8 at 703-751-3442 or 7fisherp@msn.com Everyone is welcome! •

President's Message, Continued

Continued from page 2

for the County land around Grandma's Creek. Barcroft is being developed on its Southern edge, but thankfully, trees and gardens will dominate the landscape and streetscape here for a long time. •

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The Alcova Heights Park Project

By Richard Dendy

This Capital Maintenance project will be completed in phases. Phase I includes design and construction of a renovated basketball court with lights and a renovated sand volleyball court. Also included is a renovated large picnic shelter, restroom improvements, site circulation, site furnishings, signage, fencing, drainage, stormwater management improvements, ADA accessibility improvements, and landscaping. Phase I is currently in design and construction is projected for the Third Quarter of 2020.

Phase II of the project will include design and construction of a renovated playground and diamond field, along with site circulation, site furnishings, signage, fencing, drainage, stormwater management improvements, ADA accessibility improvements, and landscaping. The start date for design and construction of Phase II is to be determined. •



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Dues News: February Update

By Joanne Rodewald, Membership Secretary

Thought you might find our membership statistics interesting, so I am sharing them here. As of mid-February we had 106 households that have sent in dues for 2019. That's where we were this time last year. It is encouraging to see seven are members that are new to the roster. We of course are pleased to see renewals, too. Of the 106 households, 30 "Individuals" joined the 76 "Families" that are currently registered.

This is a good start. We didn't make

my goal last year so I will renew it again. I would love to see us increase our dues

paying members to at least 300 this year. Please help us reach this modest milestone by joining or renewing your membership this month. The application form is included in this newsletter and available online at <http://www.bscl.org/membership>. If you have questions or concerns, contact me at joanne@bscl.org. ●



Staging Your Home For Success!

In a world of real estate search engines, staging helps turn online browsing into promising foot traffic! Effective staging gives the appearance of a well-maintained home while enticing potential buyers to schedule a tour. This, in turn, reduces days on market and gets you the highest price for your home. Throughout the DC metro area, Trent & Co. is known for our eye-catching style. Let our team's experience and support take your listing to the next level!

Our staging process can be broken into three simple steps:

1. Repair what might discourage potential buyers. We're here to help you identify and remedy those situations *before* they cost you a sale or negotiating power.

2. "Neutralize" the color palette to make sure your home appeals to the highest number of potential buyers. We're experts in identifying the perfect on-trend shades for your home.

3. Add in furniture, textiles, and final touches to make your home STAND OUT in a sea of online listings. Whether we supplement your existing furniture or completely reinvent your home using our carefully-selected collection, potential buyers and agents alike will take note of what you have on the market.

To schedule an appointment and learn about the advantages of listing and staging with us, as well as a free market analysis, contact us today.

We love helping our Barcroft neighbors!
Rick & Ryan

To view our currently staged on market listings, visit trentandco.com



Trent Heminger
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Executive VP, Compass



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Road Projects for Wildlife: Your Hedge as Sanctuary

By the Plant NOVA Natives Campaign

If you are the only turtle living in someone's yard, where are you going to find a mate? Asphalt and lawns are fine for moving people around, but they create barriers for wildlife. Fragmentation of our natural areas has a lot to do with why box turtle sightings are an increasingly rare occurrence in the suburbs.

Our parks, only some of which are large enough or undisturbed enough to nurture biodiversity, make up a small percentage of the land in Northern Virginia. It is up to us to connect those natural areas into wildlife corridors by using our own yards. By lining our properties with hedges, we can create pathways for turtles and other wildlife to navigate the landscape. Ideally such pathways would be uninterrupted, but even creating a series of islands is effective. Not only can native plants provide shelter, but the fruits, berries, and seeds they produce will attract songbirds to liven up our landscapes. Have you ever noticed that birds congregate on properties that have thickets?

Creating a hedge is very simple. Start



An Eastern Box Turtle traveling through a Barcroft back yard, surrounded by native wild ginger.

by planting two or three native shrubs where you now have lawn, allowing dead leaves to create a ground layer. Add more shrubs and trees as your time and energy allow – the wider the corridor, the better. Many suggestions for suitable plants of various heights can be found at the Plant NOVA Natives website. Hedges, which can look relaxed and natural like a hedge-row, or clipped and formal, provide the additional benefits of capturing stormwater and enhancing privacy.

For a little more inspiration, watch our two-minute video about the secret goings-on

within native plantings.

By the way: if you ever stop your car to help a turtle cross the road, be sure to deliver it to the side where it was heading, and no further. Box turtles are territorial and will not survive if you move them any distance. •

Communicate with your neighborhood via the Barcroft Listserve. To sign up, go to <https://www.bscl.org/chat-list>.

Sheriffs Offer Scholarships to Local Students

The Arlington County Sheriff's Office is helping the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute raise college scholarship funds for Virginia residents majoring in criminal justice.

The VSI Scholarship program was established to provide an opportunity for residents across Virginia to study law enforcement or criminal justice. The scholarships are only available to students in jurisdictions where sheriffs participate in scholarship fundraising efforts, as they do in Arlington.

Students who are permanent residents of Arlington and are planning to attend or are currently attending a Virginia college or university are eligible to apply for the 2019-20 school year. Only majors in the criminal justice field will be considered; students majoring in pre-law or pursuing a career as a lawyer are not eligible.

Students 18 and older must be registered Virginia voters. Students under the age of 18 are required to provide a copy of a government issued picture ID with their home address, providing proof of residency.

Although the amount of the awards has not yet been determined, in 2018, selected students were awarded \$500 to \$1,000 each.

Details about the program and application requirements, which include a letter of recommendation from a Virginia sheriff, an

essay, and transcripts, can be found on VSI's website. Applications must be submitted via the VSI website's online portal by May 1, 2019. ●



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Mid-Winter Greetings from OSLS

By OSLS National Junior Honor Society

Every year, Lutheran schools around the country celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week. Our school will celebrate this special week from March 3 to 8. Our theme for this year is Real Present God. Every day during the week, we dress up in special spirit wear or crazy outfits and have fun activities, like a school trip to art museums in D.C., a visit from the Reptile Man, and student team competitions. On Sunday, March 3, we will have a special church service at 11 a.m. at Our Savior Lutheran Church, located right across the parking lot from our school. Please feel welcome to join us for this wonderful service celebrating our Lutheran Schools across the nation.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Math-a-thon has been an annual event for some time at OSLS and we are happy to contribute to this worthwhile cause. St. Jude is a pediatric and research facility which treats children with cancer and other catastrophic diseases. Each year, our students help St. Jude by solving math problems and along the way raising money for the hospital. It's a great way to teach children that they too can make a difference in the world no matter their age. For more information on the wonderful work at St. Jude and how you can help them, please visit their website at stjude.org.

Box Tops for Education is a unique

way to raise money for schools and make a difference. Box Tops are those little pink coupons you see on box goods at the store. Once you start looking, you'll see them everywhere. At Our Savior, we challenge each grade every month to bring in the most box tops. If you are looking for a way to support our school, and have some box tops for education lying around, you can stop by our school office and drop them off.

We are currently accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year for grades PreK through 8th. We offer both before and after care. •



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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: 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. 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

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.

Treadmill for Sale: The Theradyne TM 940 treadmill has a base width of 27 inches with a running track of 20 inches. The unit was purchased new in 2003 and is in excellent condition. The original purchase price was \$1770, asking \$200.00. Proceeds will go to the BSCL Community House. Please note that the unit is very heavy, and will require at least two people to transport and setup. Call Ron at 703- 920-7014.

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

Do you need pet care? Are you planning a weekend getaway or work trip? I have three children that love animals and enjoy watching, walking, feeding and caring for pets. We've had pets stay with us, or dropped in to help feed a pet while a family is away for the weekend. It's a great opportunity for our kids to learn responsibility under their parents supervision. As pet owners ourselves, we have the experience and we enjoy animals of all types. Please consider us next time you need pet sitting services. Ben, Amy, Eli, Max, and Lucy Maule: 202-280-8598. ●



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

How's the Market?

Compared to the previous December, contract activity in Arlington was up 20% in December 2018. The Amazon announcement created a perfect storm – it fueled demand precisely at a time when inventory is seasonally low. In December 2018, inventory was 40% lower than it was in September 2018 in Arlington. As expected, inventory was already headed down before the Amazon announcement, so when contract activity increased in the last six weeks of the year in Arlington there was already less inventory to fight over. Since we were then in a time of year where few listings come on the market, buyers were grabbing whatever was there.

And that squeeze resulted in absorption rates rarely seen. In Arlington, there were only 9 townhomes on the market at the end of December and there were 28 that went under contract – the absorption rate for townhomes priced under \$1,000,000 was 100%. Detached homes and condos under \$1,000,000 had absorption rates north of 70%!

Predictions are that these meteoric rates will not

continue to rise. The inventory level of homes is lower than past years. Homes priced up to \$800,000 are attracting multiple offers since there are more buyers in those price ranges. Over the last three months, prices are up, and competition is fierce in Arlington and the close-in surrounding Northern Virginia communities. Homes in turn-key condition get the most attention and sell quickly. In reality, all homes will sell when priced properly for their location, size and condition. So far this February we have some new listings hit the market which is a good sign for buyers. Rates are below 4.5% for a 30-yr fixed mortgage and could start going up again anytime. Call me, and *Discover how you can save time & money.*

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