



April 2019

Barcroft News

Vol 116, Issue 8

7th Street Trail Connector Nearing Completion

By Deborah Wood, Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee Representative

The bike/pedestrian connector from the end of 7th Street South to the W&OD

trail has been constructed, and is ready for use in time for Spring. Funding for this project was approved through the Neighborhood Conservation Program in 2014.



Instead of hopping over an asphalt curb to a dirt path to get to the W&OD trail, there is now an eight foot paved trail. Improvements for stormwater runoff have been also been made. Groupings of boulders are situated near the trail to deter accidental vehicular traffic, and provide a play space.

The block captain for this project, Keith Fred, has

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Next Community Meeting

Thursday, April 4, 7:30, Barcroft Community House

Topic: Centro project (formerly Food Star) update from Orr Partners



Barcroft News

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Next Deadline: April 15, 2019

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topher Hoh, Chris Kupczyk, Randy Swart
Alternates: Joseph Knarich, David Michelson, Mark
Wigfield

President's Message

By Chris Siple

It's election time again! No, not for Congress, Governor, or some other inconsequential office, but for the BSCL officers and board. (Look at the column to the left for a list.) Traditionally, BSCL Presidents are term limited, serving two years. (If only Venezuela had been this farsighted.) The current VP, Gary Mason, will be running for President. All other officers, and Board member Eric Parker, are standing for re-election, as far as I know. The Vice President slot will be open. The VP has taken the lead on bringing in speakers to make our monthly meetings informative and entertaining. The VP often succeeds the President two years later.

I strongly encourage anyone who loves living in our wonderful neighborhood to consider running for one of the positions, particularly the open one. Until I was asked to stand for election two years ago, it never occurred to me to do so, but my time in office has been educational and enjoyable. I've gained an appreciation for the friendliness, intelligence, and work ethic of the corps of volunteers that does the heavy lifting without fancy titles, plus I got to act like a big shot at the monthly meetings. I have not regretted it and you won't either if you stand up now and nominate yourself for BSCL office. The election will be at our May meeting. If you do want to run, you can announce it at our April 4 meeting. ●

Barcroft Elementary March Update

By **Gretchen Odegard**

Students at Barcroft are looking forward to their upcoming spring break AND an awesome week of intersession classes. The intersession classes, which are offered twice a year, are optional, and are unique to Barcroft because of our modified school year calendar. This spring's intersession includes a half day of STEM-focused instruction along with a half day of fun enrichment activities related to athletics, art, cooking, and dance.

Highlights from March included a chilly overnight camping adventure at the outdoor lab for 5th graders, writing celebrations in several of the classrooms, and a unique opportunity for a group of

students to hear U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor speak at George Mason University. They even had their picture taken with Justice Sotomayor and Eva Longoria.

Students and their families enjoyed an amazing night of science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) activities at Barcroft's recent STEAM night. Activities included working with Ozobots, building marble mazes, creating art through color mixing, and the very popular "making goo." A huge thank you to the Barcroft staff for putting together such a fun night of learning.

Thanks to all the neighbors who ordered a pizza from Brick's during our recent Barcroft PTA fundraiser. We really appreciate your support! •



Fifth graders cook lunch at the outdoor lab (above) and student artwork promoting STEAM night (below).



Lubber Run Farmers Market Returns for Year Two

By Rob Swennes

“We are so happy to have a local weekend farmers market of our own.” Customers at the Lubber Run Farmers Market in Arlington said that repeatedly during the market’s first year of operation in 2018. This market on Saturday mornings brings together residents from surrounding neighborhoods in the western end of the county, including Barcroft. The market was conceived of by

Field to Table, Inc. <https://field2table.org/>, an Arlington-based nonprofit dedicated to building communities throughout Northern Virginia through the encouragement of healthy eating.

That concept fell on fertile ground when it was presented to members of the Arlington Forest and Buckingham Community civic associations. A local market committee was soon established with a plan to open the sum-



Apple samples at the market.

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7th Street Trail Connector, continued

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been diligent in monitoring during construction. He noticed damage done to the asphalt curb by construction equipment. After Water, Sewer, Streets County staff inspected the site, they decided to install new concrete curb and gutter in place of the asphalt. Keith has also been assured that missing or damaged No Parking and No Dumping signs will be replaced, in keeping with the original project scope.

The final part of the project to be completed sometime this Spring will be native

plant landscaping to provide screening and beautification for the trail, and help with erosion control. Holly trees and Sweetbay magnolias will be planted for screening, as both keep their leaves year round. Along the new curb on 7th Street South there will be flowering Viburnum shrubs, and in front of the guardrail some Little Henry Sweetspire shrubs. Keep an eye out for the final pieces of the Connector path project. If you are pleased with the results, please tell the County Board you appreciate the projects funded through the Neighborhood Conservation Program. •

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Dues News: February Update

By Joanne Rodewald, Membership Secretary

The month of April makes me think of rain showers and taxes. It also is a time of new beginnings as my spring flower bulbs start poking out of the ground.

Have you already become a member of the Barcroft School and Civic League this year? If you aren't sure, check our ros-



ter at <http://www.bscl.org/membership>. If you are not listed, please consider sending in your dues today. 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. •

Conquering the Competitive Spring Market

You don't need fancy software or analytics to tell you what's going on in our local real estate market - just talk to a local Realtor and mortgage lender, and you'll hear how hot the market is right now!

The problem with news articles is that they often discuss data points that are 1-3 months old. The activity we are seeing in housing right now rivals the strongest spring markets we've seen in over a decade. Pent up demand from last year is significantly tipping the scales to a sellers' market resulting in many multiple-offer situations.

Before selling, be sure to look at what else is on the market in your neighborhood. In order to stand out, you'll want an experienced team to guide you in how to get the highest value for your home.

Before starting your home search, focus on assembling a top area team (Realtor + Lender) as that is the true secret to winning in a sellers' market!

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

We love helping our Barcroft neighbors!

Rick & Ryan

To view our currently listed properties, visit trentandco.com



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Lubber Run Farmers Market, continued

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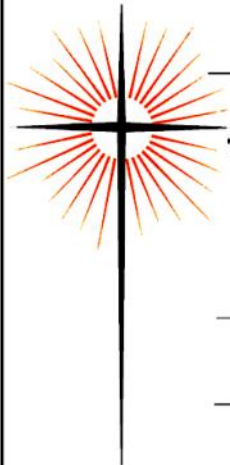
mer market at the Barrett Elementary School, which serves both of those communities. The elementary school is at 4401 North Henderson Road at the intersection of Henderson and North George Mason Drive.

The market opened on May 26 with twelve vendors. A local high school student on her own initiative took a lot of video shots that opening day and created an excellent short YouTube video that's posted on the farmers market's website -- <https://lubberrunfarmersmarket.org/>. Just scroll down

a bit on the website's home page to find it.

The 2019 Lubber Run Farmers Market will open on Saturday, April 27. Sixteen vendors are anticipated on opening day. What do they offer to customers? Four of the vendors are fruit and vegetable farms from the Northern Neck of Virginia, West Virginia, and southern Pennsylvania. Their geographic spread ensures that the seasonal fruits and vegetables in the market are available for more weeks each year. One vendor is a meat-and-egg producer with a large farm near Brandy Station, Virginia.

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Celebrate Holy Week and Easter with Us!

- Sun. Apr. 14** Holy Eucharist and Blessing of the Palms - 10 am
Thurs. Apr. 18 Loaves & Fishes Meal & Service - 6:30 - 8 pm
Fri. Apr. 19 Good Friday Services - 12 noon and 7 pm
Good Friday Vigil - Church open for prayer - 1 - 7 pm
Sun. Apr. 21 Easter Festive Holy Eucharist with children's message - 10 am
Easter Egg Hunt and reception after the 10 am service

Sunday Worship Services
8 am and 10 am

Sunday Christian Education
Adults 9 am - Youth 10 am

All are welcome to all services and activities!

See website for more information.

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Lubber Run Farmers Market, continued

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One is a goat cheese maker near Leesburg. The range of non-farm food providers is also extensive. A bakery in Sterling will offer French-style pastries and a variety of breads. Freshly made breakfast sandwiches are popular with many customers. A local coffee roaster provides freshly brewed coffee each morning in the market. Several providers of ethnic cuisine have developed passionate customers.

The nature of the market changes from week to week as the seasons change. Asparagus gives way to strawberries, gives way to corn, gives way to cantaloupe, gives way to peaches, gives way to apples. That only scratches the surface of what is offered by local mid-Atlantic region farms. For a more complete list of the fruit and vegetable offerings at various times of the season by our vendors, see <https://lubberrunfarmersmarket.org/produce-calendar/>.

And the music! Local musicians are invited in to provide good music for market customers. A little open-air “cafe” is set up near the middle of the market. If you can’t find a seat, bring your own folding chair to sit and enjoy! For families with young chil-

dren, the elementary school’s adjacent playgrounds beckon. It’s difficult to imagine a better way to spend a morning!

If driving to the market, the most available parking for Barcroft residents is along North Park Street between the elementary school and the Lubber Run Community Center (now under reconstruction). Just walk down to North George Mason Drive, turn right, and you’ll see the northern entrance to the market. Or if you have children, walk them across the Barrett School property and playgrounds till you see the colorful tent tops of the market vendors.

Would you like to serve on the Lubber Run Farmers Market Committee? Do you have skills that could help strengthen the



market and its outreach? Willing to volunteer in the market? Send an email to info@field2table.org. Please put Lubber Run Farmers Market in the heading. ●

Spring Greetings from OSLS

By OSLS National Junior Honor Society

Our Savior Lutheran School will be hosting a Coffee Preview Day on Tuesday, April 9 from 9 to 10 a.m. Please feel free to stop by our school, have a cup of coffee, meet school leaders, and get a glimpse of OSLS in action. We would love to tell you more about our PreK through 8th grade school. RSVP to office@osva.org or 703-892-4846. We are currently accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year.

We want to congratulate the new members of our National Junior Honor Society that were inducted on Wednesday, March 27. We also want to congratulate our 6th-8th grade boy's Triple Threat basketball team. The boys had a great season. We are so proud of the hard work they put in this year.

At OSLS, we have weekly chapel services every Wednesday starting at 8:40 a.m. Please feel free to join us each week. During the month of March, the chapel offerings that we gathered went to Orphan Grain Train. In keeping with the 27 year record of Orphan Grain Train, virtually every cent goes to the actual humanitarian work. Orphan Grain Train, Inc. spends only 1.7 percent of its revenue for administration or marketing, with 98.3 percent directed toward the mission of Christian humanitarian relief. Last fiscal year, nearly 4.5 million meals were

shipped to starving people around the world, and more than \$47 million worth of humanitarian aid and food was shipped to people in need in the US and around the world. For more information on Orphan Grain Train and how you can help, visit <https://www.ogt.org/>.

Please join us at Our Savior Lutheran Church for Holy Week worship services. We have a Maundy Thursday service on April 18 at 7:30 p.m., a Good Friday service on April 19 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday Easter services on April 21st at 8:15 and 11 a.m. We would love to have you come and worship with us. ●

Christine Hopkins

Your Barcroft Neighbor &
Real property Adviser
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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.

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.

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.

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's local farmers market

Barrett Elementary School
4401 N. Henderson Road

<https://lubberrunfarmersmarket.org/>

Saturdays, April – November

8 a.m. – 12 noon

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Barcroft School and Civic League
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How's the Market?

The "Hype Wave" started last November.

Contract activity in Arlington was up 20% in December 2018 from 2017. The Amazon announcement created a perfect storm – it fueled demand precisely at a time when inventory is seasonally low. In December 2018, inventory was about 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. We were then in a time of year where few listings come on the market, and 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 under \$1,000,000 was 100%. Detached homes & condos under \$1,000,000 had absorption rates north of 70% - that created momentum!

So far in mid-March the inventory level of homes

remains lower than past years. Homes under \$800,000 are attracting multiple offers since there are more buyers in affordable price ranges. Prices are trending up, and competition is fierce in Arlington & surrounding Northern Virginia communities. Homes in turn-key condition sell quickly, and all homes will sell when priced properly for their location, size and condition. In the last few weeks there have been a few more listings hit the market which is a good sign. With prices rising, many buyers have an opportunity to buy with mortgage rates below 4.5% for a 30-yr fixed mortgage before rates rise in the future.

Let's talk strategy if you are curious about how to optimize your real estate goals in 2019!

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