



May 2020

Barcroft News

Vol 117, Issue 9

Connecting Children to Nature

By Ann Marie Douglass

The stores and restaurants are closed, but Barcroft's backyards are open and have micro and macro discoveries waiting for us. We have lost face-to-face connection with our friends and far away family but the trees and birds, deer, foxes and flowers and bees are whirling and thriving around us. From the strong plants coming through the cracks in our sidewalks to the notable trees which have been here prior to WWII, we are lucky to be part of such a nature-rich place during these unprecedented times.

Doctors are now prescribing hikes to help their patients heal from physical and emotional ailments, but access to nature serves as a

preventive measure as well. Kids are discovering new perspectives as they climb trees and their senses can be invigorated when they are given the time and space to get dirty, build forts, plant seeds, and play in the complex, growing out-of-doors.

To support this time of nature connection, Nature Club Kids (NCK), is an Arlington-based nature immersion program for all learners. NCK founder and Barcroft resident,

Ann Marie Douglass, will be posting eco and budget friendly reflections and activities for families every week-day on FaceBook. Let's cultivate earth stewardship right here where we are planted! Check out Nature Club Kids. ●



May Community Meeting:
CANCELLED

Due to COVID-19 Precautions

Barcroft News

Editor: Alyssa Ford Morel
703-907-9318,
editor@bscl.org

Advertising: Jack Mayer
jackmayer09@gmail.com

*Publishers/
Mailing:* Theresa Schweser and
Kirt Miller
publisher@bscl.org

Next Deadline: April 15, 2020

BSCL Officers

President: Gary Mason, gary@bscl.org

Vice President: Ken Simpson

Treasurer: Jennifer Lis
jenlis@comcast.net

Recording Secy.: Vacant

Membership Secy.: Joanne Rodewald
joanne@bscl.org

Board Members: Barbara Clemens, Keith
Fred, Eric Parker, Daniel Weir

Contacts and Committees

Community House Rental Manager:
Barbara Swart
barcrofthouserental
@yahoo.com

Web: Daniel Weir,
webmaster@bscl.org

Fundraising: Chris Ditta

Landscaping: Scott Brinitzer, 703-892-0308

Traffic Committee: Vacant

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

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President's Message

By Gary Mason

It must be spring! Not only are the azalea blooms about done and the oak trees have leafed out, but Arlington County's street maintenance operation (milling and paving) has been in full swing for the past couple of weeks on several of Barcroft's southern streets (those living north of 7th Street South and east of South Wakefield have undoubtedly noticed an increase in on-street parking as folks who normally park on the affected streets had to look elsewhere). But if past years are something of a guide, we should be enjoying the spring season for several more weeks before the first inklings of summer heat begin to make themselves known. It is usually such a beautiful time of the year in Barcroft (let's not talk about the incredibly wet late spring-early summer we had last year).

As you'll undoubtedly have noticed on the cover of this issue of Barcroft News, the next monthly BSCL meeting on May 7 is cancelled. Like the cancellation of the April monthly meeting, this one is also a measure to help limit the spread of the novel coronavirus 2019 responsible for the COVID-19 illness. Cancellation of the May meeting is both out of an abundance of caution to protect the health of our neighborhood's residents and to comply with Governor North-

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Lubber Run Farmers Market Adjusts to Coronavirus

By Rob Sweenes

The Lubber Run Farmers Market at the Barrett Elementary School began its third season the Saturday after Easter. The care-free, community-building atmosphere of the market in the past has been altered by the social adjustments required to overcome the coronavirus pandemic.

On the plus side, the market continues to offer residents the best in seasonal fruit and vegetables and other value-added food items. Many of the vendors have returned from last year. However, the ability of customers to walk freely around the market, try samples at the market tents, and chat with vendors and friends has been seriously reduced in order to meet Virginia's health orders relating to the virus. We have seen similar effects in every corner of Arlington.

The market has adopted a market safety code to ensure that customers and vendors remain safe and have a good experience. All customers should enter the market through the end close to North Henderson Road. A gatekeeper regulates how many customers can be within the market space at any time. The market recognizes the value of social distancing. Vendors are required to wear food-handling gloves and face masks, and customers are encouraged to do the same. Almost all food sold in the market this year is prepackaged to minimize the number

of times it is touched. People at the market cannot walk freely through the fruit and vegetable tents. Discussions with individual vendors should be arms length. Children should not be brought to market under these conditions. Indeed, having one adult come to the market to purchase for the family is ideal. Market customers will exit at the north end of the market near North Park Drive.

Market traffic will flow through the market from south to north. That reduces the risk of people coming into close contact with one another. People may need to queue up to enter the market. They may also need to queue again when approaching particular vendor tents. Always follow the 6-foot social distancing rule. Use your time in line to decide what items you want to buy when you get to the front. Buying quickly and moving on is desired.

If driving to the market, figure out in advance where you want to park. Parking along North Park Drive will be best for many, especially if they have a lot of purchased food to bring home. If your household eats a lot, consider bringing a light shopping cart or a children's wagon to reduce the burden of carrying all.

State guidelines encourage customers and vendors to maximize preordering of food days in advance in order to reduce the time needed in market. Check with favored

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Silver Linings

By Mark Wigfield

As awful as the COVID crisis is, we have enjoyed the way South Buchanan has been transformed from a rush-hour car cut-through, to a bike and pedestrian route to the W&OD trail. From our dining room table, we can look out the window and see families on bikes, young couples jogging, seniors walking, dogs on leashes, skate boarders enjoying the bowl between 6th and 7th Streets, moms and



strollers, moms and bikes and strollers, moms and dads and bikes and strollers and dogs and scooters and trailers and skates... Well, you get the idea.

I wish there were a way to get rid of the virus AND keep the quiet street, but there are no simple solutions. So maybe the only thing to do is enjoy the temporary respite from car traffic, and when it returns, grudgingly greet it as a sign that things are returning to normal. Just don't speed... ●

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May Greetings from Our Savior Lutheran School

We at Our Savior pray that each and every one of our neighbors is doing well during this unique time in our world. You are in our thoughts.

Please feel welcome to join us on Facebook on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. for a live stream of our church service. We would love to have you worship with us. For services, please visit our Facebook page – Our Savior Lutheran Church Arlington VA or go to [Facebook.com/OurSaviorChurchVA/live//](https://www.facebook.com/OurSaviorChurchVA/live/)

We are currently accepting applica-

tions for the 2020-2021 school year for grades PreK through 8th. We offer both before and after care. Call our school office if you have any questions, or to find out more about our next coffee preview and school tour day via zoom at Our Savior on May 21.

We hope everyone has a great Memorial Day weekend. We would like to thank all those who are in the armed forces for their service in our country and keeping us safe. Each one of you is a blessing to us and we thank you for all you do. •

Real Estate & COVID-19

Many people have been asking us how the local real estate market is faring with everything that's going on, so we wanted to fill our neighbors in on what we're seeing.

At the time of this writing (April 14th) real estate is still considered essential, and agents are allowed to continue our work with certain restrictions and precautions in place.

While there has been a change in the way people are "looking" at homes – turning from heavily trafficked open houses to one on one showings or virtual live tours - serious buyers are still out there. There is also a dwindling inventory at the moment. With fewer homes coming on the market and buyers still looking to purchase, this is still proving to be a good time for many homeowners to consider selling.

Contracts are still being signed, and many closings are being shortened once contingencies are removed to help ease the minds of both buyers and sellers. Since January, our team has settled over 80 homes throughout the area, so you can rest assured that we are quickly adapting to this new world, and we are well-equipped to help you navigate your real estate transaction during this challenging time.

To discuss your personal situation and learn how we can help you with your home purchase or sale, reach out today or stop us if you see us walking - at a safe distance of course. We'd love to hear from you.

Stay well and be safe!

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Trent Heminger
Team Leader, Trent & Co
Executive VP, Compass



Rick Woler
Barcroft Resident
Agent
267.261.9932
rick@trantandco.com
@rickwoler



Ryan Isaacson
Barcroft Resident
Agent
904.309.2558
ryan@trantandco.com
@rforyan

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May Dues News: Goodbye/Hello

By Joanne Rodewald, Membership Secretary.

It is with mixed emotions I write my last Dues News Article as BSCL Membership Secretary. In some respects, the time has passed quickly since I took over this position from Christine Hopkins in May 2016. It has been a rewarding four-year experience, but as my computer and software become decrepit and my eyesight challenged when working on spreadsheets, the passing of years is apparent. I thought it was best to retire while everything is still

functioning. We are so lucky that Linda Gaines has volunteered to take over for me. I want to publically thank her for allowing me to pass on this important function with full confidence that she will do a fabulous job.


Goodbye!

As I write this article in April, we are still doing battle with the coronavirus. Everyone is hunkering down, and, understandably, our membership applications have slowed to a trickle. But we got off to a great start this year with 169 new/renewal memberships.

Let's keep that momentum going and take the opportunity now to become a dues paying member and/or make a donation to the Barcroft Community House. I'll remind everyone that in addition to sending in a hard copy of the membership form with a cash or check payment, you can join or renew your membership online on our website at <https://www.bscl.org/membership>. Click on the "Join and Renew Online" link in the Membership Resources menu on the right of the page to complete the process there. You may still join the traditional way by completing the 2020 application form included in this issue of the newsletter and sending it and your payment to our treasurer. Dues are still only \$5 per individual or \$10 for a family membership.

Best wishes to all. •


IF YOU ARE SICK...




PLEASE STAY HOME
Contact your healthcare provider by phone before going to their office.

CALL YOUR DOCTOR
Follow your healthcare provider's instructions.

COVID-19 TESTING
Contact your healthcare provider. Testing is not currently available from the Arlington County Health District.

 COVID-19 questions?
Call 1-877-ASK-VDH3 (1-877-275-8343)

 Updates and Information online:
<https://health.arlingtonva.us/covid-19-coronavirus-updates/>

President's Message, continued

Continued from page 2

am's earlier Executive Order which seeks residents to stay at home and prohibits gatherings of more than ten people (an order that extends until June 10, 2020, as of this writing). (Similarly, use of the Barcroft Community House by renters continues to be suspended until health authorities determine whether such uses can safely resume.) Also, look for the newest COVID-19 graphic on page 6 of this issue of Barcroft News.

Many of you will recall that the May monthly BSCL meeting is when, as a non-stock

corporation in Virginia, it normally holds its "annual meeting," as required by the State Corporation Commission. The annual meeting includes the election of officers and one of the Board of Directors positions. With the May meeting cancelled BSCL is looking into alternative approaches to holding this election so the continuity of its organizational functions can transition seamlessly to the successors. So watch for information in the next issue of Barcroft News on the upcoming election and the procedure we will use in this age of COVID-19

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The advertisement features a photograph of a modern living room with a dark brown sofa, a fireplace, and large windows. The room has a coffered ceiling and a small round table with a plant in the foreground.

President's Message, continued

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to accomplish it. Randy Swart, with and as chair of the Nominating Committee, is putting together a slate of candidates for these offices and the vacant Board position. (If you are interested in any of them there's still time — please contact Randy ASAP!)

As disruptive as the COVID-19 illness and measures to reduce its spread have become to the regular routines and activities in our work and personal lives in Barcroft, this too shall pass at some point even if some practices need to persist for a number of weeks or even months to come. Meantime,

our thoughts and wishes go out to those who may have become seriously ill with COVID-19 or suffered the loss of a family member or friend, as well as to all the physicians, other healthcare workers, and the first responders who knowingly place themselves at personal risk while caring for us. The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 will change us; some things we may have taken for granted will become precious, we'll remember neighbors helping neighbors, and perhaps we will even set aside our cultural, religious, racial, and political differences and come to value our humanity even more. ●




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My New Normal?

By Kathleen Harrison

Flowers are blooming, birds are chirping and Spring has sprung! Then a “new normal” begins. It is 7 a.m. on Wednesday and I am enjoying my morning cup of Assam tea. A loud metallic banging begins vibrating throughout the house. What the heck? I cautiously investigate and quickly find the source. It is in my fireplace. I shine a flashlight up the chimney and see nothing. More hammering. Using my detective skills, I open the chimney cap and see light but nothing else. OK. Nothing is caught in the chimney.

Next I go outside in my fuzzy bathrobe and look up at the chimney. There’s the culprit! A woodpecker and not even a pretty red headed one. He looks around and begins hammering again. No, no this won’t do. I throw a small rock at him. He doesn’t budge. Actually I am not surprised because the rock was closer to hitting my window than the woodpecker. More hammering. Now what? I am not going to climb up there. More hammering. I revert back to my military training. When someone is annoying, you speak from your diaphragm so that this sound is felt as well as heard. “Hey,” I project toward the woodpecker and off he goes!

Case solved until 7 a.m. the next morning. My feathered friend returns and commences hammering. Instead of going outside, I raise and lower the chimney cap. That

will scare him off. But it doesn’t. Out I go in my fuzzy bathrobe and glare at the woodpecker. He hammers some more. I inhale and then “Hey.” He flies away!

This same routine continues on Friday. I read up on woodpeckers to figure out if there is another deterrent I can employ. Apparently, this loud hammering tells all the lady woodpeckers what an attractive catch he is. It looks like I am stuck with this “new normal” until he finds a mate.

Saturday and Sunday are blissfully quiet. Then at 7:45 Monday morning, the hammering starts up again. Guess the little charmer got lucky for the weekend and came back hungover. Thus begins another week of my “new normal”. The fuzzy bathrobed lady yells “Hey” at the woodpecker and he flies away. Tuesday he starts back to his regular 7 a.m. schedule. Seriously! He hammers, I yell, then it is over. Wednesday is the same schedule. Thursday starts the same, but when I yell at him, he doesn’t budge. So I yell, “Hey get out!” He flies off.

The long Easter holiday weekend of Friday to Monday, no woodpecker shows up. Wow, I guess he got religion or he found a mate. Regardless, it is April 15 and I haven’t seen the fellow. So the lesson is, just because your neighbor is yelling at the roof, doesn’t mean she’s crazy. ●

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.

Get it dug! – My husband hates gyms but realized digging is a great workout! Have something you have always wanted dug up but never get to? He is happy to come by and give you a price. Small to semi-large projects without strict deadlines are the best. Call 703-380-6227 or email Robbets4@gmail.com for Betsy, his scheduling secretary.

The 7th street trail entrance is ready! Is your bike? 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 robbets4@gmail.com or 703-380-6227.

Dull knives? Affordable kitchen knife sharpening: With my three years of sharpening experience and good rates, razor sharp knives and tools could be yours without leaving home! Cost is one dollar per inch. (\$5 pick-up/delivery will be added for fewer than 4 knives/tools). \$35 deal for 8-knife set. Knives accepted: stand-ard kitchen knives, serrated knives, and blender blades. (Please no Japanese, or particularly expensive knives.) Tools included are: scissors, hand planes, chisels, axes, and pocket knives. For information or service contact Zach at 703-380-6227, or email at robbets4@gmail.com. •



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Farmer's Market, continued

Continued from page 3

vendors in the market to see if they have pre-order or online ordering capability. On-the-spot sales by vendors are still available.

Shopping in the farmers market on Saturday mornings still retains the joy of being out of doors in the clear air, no longer house-bound for the moment or shopping in a con-

finied space. And bringing home locally-grown seasonal produce ties us once again to our time and place in life.

**4401 North Henderson Road,
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Barcroft School and Civic League
800 South Buchanan Street
Arlington, VA 22204

I hope you and your families are well and finding some creative ways to remain safely at home. It's great to see the Arlington community supporting many of our local businesses, helping them stay afloat, especially the carryout and delivery at local restaurants.

Regionally and locally we're seeing a slowdown with buyer traffic. New listing inventory is low as well. Demand remains strongest for single family homes in the \$600K - \$900K range. As of this writing, Arlington has about 1.5 months of inventory, about double from February but still way below the national average. Dual-income households are feeling more financially secure than single-income buyers. Buyers with kids are more motivated and have fewer choices than somebody buying a 1- or 2-bedroom condo who can easily find a rental apartment until things improve. Rates have dropped again to the low to mid 3% range, and lenders are busy with refinances

and purchase loans. That's a motivating factor for buyers.

We are changing the way we do business and have become more virtual these days. Many of our consultations are done on Zoom or Facetime. With no more public open houses, I did my first Virtual Open House on Facebook live recently. A few days later the home was under contract.

Curious about real estate? I'm glad to conduct a consultation over the phone, on Zoom, or in person (using safe protocols).

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