



# Barcroft News

November 2020

Vol 118, Issue 3

## Butterflies of Barcroft

*By Lisa Meacham and Evelyn McCabe*

We lay on the carpet with our faces inches from the clear window into the butterfly cage as the large monarch caterpillar hung from the top of the cage and wiggled. Her antennae were crinkled and drooping straight



*Evelyn McCabe with a recently eclosed Monarch butterfly.*

down like crepe paper the morning after a party. Suddenly, we could see a bright green bulge starting just behind her head, and as she spun and moved, her skin split and the green bulge grew larger. Within minutes her skin peeled slowly upward and became a thin black ring at the top of the stem where she was attached to the ceiling of the cage. Our caterpillar had become a chrysalis, and ten days later, she hatched out as a beautiful monarch butterfly.

We had been waiting all summer for the monarchs to come to Barcroft. We planted milkweed and went on butterfly walks, looking for the bright orange flash of wings. We saw lots of milkweed in gardens scattered across Barcroft, but we saw only a few monarchs through the long, hot months of May,

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## Next (Virtual) Community Meeting

Thursday, November 5, 7:30 p.m., On Zoom

Topic: Climate Conscious Gardening



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**Next Deadline: November 15, 2020**

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## President's Message

**By Deborah Wood**

Election day is almost here, and we are all anxious to have it done! Given the disaster that has been 2020, everyone, across the political spectrum, feels strongly about the outcome. One positive effect is that more people care about their right to vote, and want to be sure their vote counts.

With that in mind, the program for the November 5 BSCL meeting will be on a completely different topic, and a good distraction from politics. Elaine Mills, a Master Gardener and expert photographer, will give a presentation about Climate Conscious Gardening.

A nominee for the vacant seat on the Board of Directors has been found, Paula Levin Alcorn. She and husband, Bob, are 20 plus year residents of Barcroft. The vote to elect her to the Board will also take place at the November meeting. I hope you will respond to the Zoom invitation and join us. If you don't receive an invitation via email, please send a message to [zoom@bscl.org](mailto:zoom@bscl.org).

There is an Arlington County housing study underway called, "Missing Middle Housing Study." The study is one of several Land Use Tools that are being explored by County Planners through the Housing Arlington Initiative to meet housing needs for "an

*Continues on page 4*

# Halloween in Barcroft: 2020 Style

**By Maeve Ward**

Halloween, like everything else this year, will be a little different. But it will still be fun! Our neighborhood always shows up strong with its Halloween decorations. This year we are reviving an old Barcroft tradition, *Spooky Stoops*, and launching a new one, the *Not-so-Spooky Scavenger Hunt* for kids. Details for both are below.

## **NOT-SO-SPOOKY SCAVENGER HUNT**

Both the CDC and Arlington County recommend against traditional trick-or-treating this year. Instead, join the Not-so-Spooky Scavenger Hunt for kids and collect a "ghouly bag" of treats on Halloween!

1. Look for an email on the neighborhood listserv (or email [maevechward@gmail.com](mailto:maevechward@gmail.com)) for the scavenger hunt clues starting Monday, October 26.
2. Complete all items on the list while you admire your neighbors decorations during Halloween week.
3. Ghosts and goblins who complete the scavenger hunt will receive a "ghouly bag" of treats!
4. Bring your kids in costume to Barcroft Elementary on Halloween to collect their ghouly goodies! We'll be set up -



- and socially  
distanced -  
- from  
5 to 7  
p.m.



## **SPOOKY STOOPS**

1. Your neighbors have decorated their houses and entered the contest!
2. All neighbors can vote for their favorite Spooky Stoop starting on Monday, October 27.
3. Look for an email on the neighborhood listserv (or email [maevechward@gmail.com](mailto:maevechward@gmail.com)) for the list of houses and a link to voting.
4. Go for a walk! Admire your neighbors' creativity!
5. Cast your vote online (or email your choice directly) before midnight on Halloween.
6. Winners will be announced before the sugar rush wears off on November 1.

Please email or call (202-489-1095) Maeve Ward with any questions or to volunteer. We are gratefully accepting donations of candy to fill the ghouly bags. Drop off any time before Halloween at 4625 4th Street South.

Thank you  
and HAPPY  
HALLOWEEN! •

# Annual Woman's Club Bazaar Scheduled

**By Pat Fisher, Woman's Club member**

The Woman's Club of Arlington will hold its annual Bazaar on Saturday, November 7, 2020, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at our clubhouse.

At least 15 vendors will be offering Christmas Crafts, wreaths, and wall hangings, plus jewelry, candles, organic spices and vinegar, natural dog treats and many handmade or sewn seasonal gifts. Margaret's Soul Food Truck will be on site featuring Southern entrees. Door prizes and raffles are available.

All proceeds will go to charity, including our yearly \$2,500 scholarship to a Wake-

field High School woman attending a Virginia college. **Face masks are required!** Vendors will be indoors. There will be plenty of free parking. The club is located at 700 South Buchanan Street. 703-553-5800. •

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## New NCAC Representative Needed

**By Deborah Wood**

Neal Martin, Barcroft's Representative for the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Commission is leaving Barcroft and moving back to D.C. He has been a good advocate and representative for our community, and great at sharing information to keep Barcroft up to date on the program. Thank you, Neal, for your service to the community, and for being a great neighbor! Best wishes for the future in D.C.

For anyone who is interested in the work of the NCAC, and possibly serving as Barcroft's Representative, please contact Deborah Wood or Randy Swart. •

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## President's Message, continued

*Continued from page 2*

equitable, stable, adaptive community." (From <https://housing.arlingtonva.us/housing-arlington/>). Are any Barcroft residents engaged in citizen evaluation groups of proposed ways to meet housing needs? This study will have a significant impact upon the future shape and size of housing types in the County, so if you are involved or interested in becoming involved, please email me at [president@bscl.org](mailto:president@bscl.org). I hope to find a way to keep our community informed, so we may have a hand in shaping future housing and zoning directions.

Please have a happy and safe Thanksgiving! •

## Lights on for Deliveries

**By Keith Fred**

As it gets darker earlier please have your porch lights on and make sure your house number is visible for the safety and benefit of the mail carriers and other delivery people. •



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be of help?

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# Barcroft Elementary PTA September Update

**By Beth Ragnauth**

As our young Barcroft learners have settled into their new distance-learning routines over the past month, discussions have turned to if, when, and how some in-person instruction will resume. Barcroft's principal and assistant principal have graciously hosted hour-long (or more) Zoom calls each week to answer parent questions and discuss the latest developments. You may notice students near the school during lunch hours, but that's not evidence of in-person school yet – just kids picking up lunch. Arlington Public Schools food service staff are serving hot lunches (plus grab-and-go breakfast and snack packages) for all students Monday, Wednesday, and Friday each week, free of charge. Many kids enjoy walking up to school for a bit of normalcy and routine.

To add more food support for our families, the PTA and Communities in Schools

have partnered to start a new Weekend Bags program. Barcroft students who sign up are able to pick up some food for the weekend on Fridays to help bridge the gap between school meal service days.



As the weather turns cooler, we are planning a winter coat drive. We will be collecting new and very gently used winter coats, plus accessories (hats, gloves, etc.). We will have more details soon, but please start setting aside items you may have to donate!

Lastly, we are sad to share that Barcroft PTA's famous Election Day bake sale is yet another casualty of the COVID-19 pandemic health precautions. In lieu of this popular event, we are hoping to host a few food trucks in front of the school on Election Day, and will post more details to the BSCL

chat list as plans are solidified.

As always, please reach out to the PTA at [president@barcroftpta.org](mailto:president@barcroftpta.org) with any questions about PTA happenings. ●

# Recruiting in Barcroft for Girl Scouts and Leaders

**By Denise Hart**

Join Girl Scouts!

We are recruiting girls and troop leaders in Barcroft to join this year. We have pivoted to a blended format with Zoom troop meetings and camp outings (with social distancing). We know that with school being vir-

tual many girls are experiencing higher levels of loneliness and anxiety — Girl Scouts is the answer! Please send an email to our Director of Membership, Kathryn Benison ([kbenison@gscnc.org](mailto:kbenison@gscnc.org)) and she can make it happen. We want you to belong to the Girl Scout family. You can also fill in the interest

indicator at <https://www.gscnc.org/en/about-girl-scouts/join.html>.

## Don't Miss This Helpful Presentation

The Climate Conscious Gardening talk offered November 5 at the Community Meeting by Elaine Mills, this year's Bill Thomas Parks Award recipient, Extension Master Gardener, and accomplished presenter, is a winner. She will present practical tips for things you can do in your own yard to help address the global climate crisis. •

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# Fall Greetings from Our Savior Lutheran School

## **By OSLS National Junior Honor Society**

Our Savior Lutheran School's October chapel offerings were designated for the Arlington Street People's Assistance Network (A-SPAN). A-SPAN provides life-sustaining services for Arlington's homeless. When COVID isn't happening, Our Savior partners with A-SPAN by preparing and packing 40 to 60 lunches on the fourth Monday of each month. Our Savior wasn't able to do this year, but we look forward to participating again in our October annual mini walk-a-thon to bring awareness to the problem of homelessness in Arlington.

The students at Our Savior are continuing to grow. Recently, our Kindergarten class spent time making homemade applesauce. They carefully sliced apple pieces, added some spices, waited for it to cook, and even had a chance to enjoy a taste. Yum! Our 1st and 3rd grades have been busy learning more about the life cycle of plants. They examined seeds, planted them, and patiently waited for them to sprout. Once they did, they learned how to carefully replant the seedlings into planter boxes. We can't wait to watch them as they continue to grow. Our 5th grade studied Vincent van Gogh and Claude Monet. They looked at their many works of Impressionism including *Starry Night* by van Gogh and *Water Lilies* by Monet. Then they had a chance to make their own creations of those works of art. How cool! And in 8th grade, our students just fin-

ished studying globalization in geography class. So amazing to understand how the world is really interconnected in so many ways.

Thank you to everyone who supports Our Savior Lutheran School through grocery store cards, such as Harris Teeter. 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. We truly appreciate your kindness in thinking of us. If you haven't, consider linking your grocery cards to any school by visiting the grocery store websites. •



## **Barcroft's local farmers market**

Barrett Elementary School  
4401 N. Henderson Road  
<https://lubberrunfarmersmarket.org/>  
Saturdays, April – November  
8 a.m. – 12 noon

***Buy Fresh • Buy Local  
Build a Healthy Community***



## Butterflies of Barcroft, continued

Continued from page 1

June and most of July. Finally, in late July, the monarchs began to arrive. We would stand far away as the females landed on a favorite milkweed in the front garden and laid eggs. Then we would dash over to retrieve an egg or two and bring them inside to hatch out as caterpillars. We didn't collect all the eggs, but the survival rate for monarch eggs and caterpillars in the wild (including Barcroft gardens) is less than 10 percent, while caterpillars raised inside are far more likely to survive to become butterflies. We felt that every egg saved was important.

The monarch population is declining, in good part due to a loss of habitat, so planting milkweed is the most important thing you can do to help them..

In the end, we raised twenty-three healthy monarchs from twenty-five eggs, and we released the butterflies to begin their leg of the 2,000 plus mile migration from Canada to Mexico. It was an amazing

experience, and we hope that our efforts will help these beautiful creatures survive as a species.

If you are interested in the butterflies of Barcroft, it's easy to help the monarchs and other butterflies by including Native Virginia native plants in your garden. While there are nearly a dozen types of milkweed locally native to Northern Virginia, three are the most common:

*Asclepias tuberosa* (Butterfly weed), *Asclepias incarnata* (Swamp milkweed), and *Asclepias syriaca* (Common milkweed). We had the best luck with the Swamp milkweed (with pink flowers) and Butterfly weed (with

orange flowers). One

plant was purchased at a local nursery, and one was grown from seeds ordered online. The monarchs were happy to lay eggs on both plants, and if you looked carefully, cat-

terpillars were munching away on the leaves for most of August and early September.

Hopefully, we will be less homebound next summer, but even so, we will be waiting for the monarchs to return and hoping to see the miracle of monarch transformations again. ●



## Arlington's Booming Housing Market

Arlington's housing market has continued to thrive. As one can see below, the number of homes sold in September was up by 39% and average home prices were up by 18% from September 2019.

2+ bedroom, detached ("single family"), and fee-simple (non-condo/coop) homes showed a disproportionately high increase of 55%+. This suggests that with the pandemic on everyone's minds, people are looking for homes with more space, especially private outdoor space such as decks, patios, and yards.

What does this mean for buyers? In an aggressive market with many buyers seeking the same type of home, it is more important than ever to partner with a strong agent who knows how to not only negotiate a deal, but also how to strategically build a winning offer in a competitive situation. Our expertise and creativity make us powerful allies when you find yourself in a multiple-offer situation, whether as a buyer or a seller.

**Arlington's September Home Sales  
2019 vs 2020**

Market Overview			
Year	Homes Sold	Avg. Sold Price	Avg. Days on Market
2019	197	\$700,270	25
2020	274	\$825,654	22
% Change	39%	18%	-12%
Type of Home			
	Fee Simple	2+ Bedrooms	Detached Homes
2019	88	139	72
2020	138	216	113
% Change	57%	55%	57%

Numbers based on Bright MLS data

To receive our monthly newsletter email with local happenings and market updates, email [Rick@trentandco.com](mailto:Rick@trentandco.com)



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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).*

**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](mailto:Robbets4@gmail.com) to keep Rob Severn in shape!

**Art Card:** Want an original personalized card (acrylic, pen and ink, watercolor) for a birthday, anniversary, graduation, retirement or other event? Art major graduate can do that! Cards priced at \$7.50 to \$10. Includes envelope. Also open to painting or drawing commissions. Contact Alex at [amrosenberg13@yahoo.com](mailto:amrosenberg13@yahoo.com)

**Got Projects?** Due to COVID canceling college, I will be around intermittently this fall for jobs that you just need someone to help get it done! Text Jeremiah at 571-357-9313 or email [jwsevern@gmail.com](mailto:jwsevern@gmail.com).

**Barcroft T-shirts:** Just a few BSCL T-shirts left. Some blue, some red, but not all sizes. Clearance sale time, \$5 each. Call me and come by: Joan Mulholland, 501 South Taylor Street, 703-979-4719.

**Barcrofter Loki Mulholland Books and Movies:** His complete works available (save shipping costs!) and timely, especially the movies dealing with voting and institutional racism. Several kids books too. Call and come by: Joan Mulholland, 501 South Taylor Street, 703-979-4719. Pay by cash, check, or Venmo. Great for now or gifts later.

**Knives Sharpened?** Hold them until Thanksgiving and I will be happy to sharpen them when I am back from college! Contact my mom, Betsy, at 703-380-6227, or [robbets4@gmail.com](mailto:robbets4@gmail.com) to get on the list. Thanks for all your support!

**Virtual Private Drum Lessons in Barcroft:** All ages/ levels welcome. Local professional giving instruction from Barcroft home studio on 3rd Street South. Multiple styles--rock, jazz, classical, musical theatre. Lessons are now virtual via Zoom, Duo, FaceTime, Google Meet, etc. References provided. Email Mitchell at [mitchbassmusic@gmail.com](mailto:mitchbassmusic@gmail.com). •



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**Did you know that the Summer surge continued into September for Northern Virginia Home Sales?** The Northern Virginia real estate market produced yet another strong sales month for September, with the pace of sales continuing to eclipse activity during the same time period in 2019. A total of 2,166 homes sold in September 2020, a 38% increase above September 2019 home sales of 1,578. September activity was a continuation of the strengthening market Northern Virginia has witnessed since June. Active listings decreased in September compared with 2019. Listings were down 5.62% below last year, with 2,469 active listings in September, compared with 2,616 homes available in September 2019. The average days on market for homes in September 2020 fell by 38.71% to 19 days – compared to 31 days on market for homes in September 2019.

Decreased inventory levels of homes for sale, coupled with increased buyer demand and low interest rates, has created a true seller's market where prices are increasing and the number of days a home stays on the market is dropping. The average home price for Northern VA was \$690,981, up 15.09% from 2019. Arlington's average was \$826,675, up 17.09% from last year.

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