



Barcroft News

January 2021

Vol 118, Issue 5

Barcroft Elementary: Outreach and Outdoor Activities

By Beth Ragnauth

The Barcroft PTA and the local community continue to work together in many ways to support our students.

With many thanks to all who donated and volunteered, we were able to hold a special Thanksgiving food distribution, provide coats to many students, and organize a toy drive to provide Barcroft families in need with holiday gifts for their children.

We have also continued efforts to improve our outdoor

space at Barcroft to support use of the school yard for a broader range of activities. A generous community member built four new picnic tables, and a couple Barcroft families added the finishing touch of a coat of Bar-



Two of the young helpers who painted outdoor picnic benches at Barcroft Elementary.

croft blue paint. A number of tree stumps were donated and have been added to the grounds; they will make great seats for a class, or a new recess activity. In the spring we plan to focus on the garden areas. Thanks to all who are supporting

Continued on page 3

No December Meeting

Thursday, January 7, 7:30 p.m., On Zoom
Topic: White Tailed Deer in Northern Virginia



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

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BSCL Officers

President: Deborah Wood, 703-892-1243
president@bscl.org

Vice President: Daniel Weir

Treasurer: Jennifer Lis
jenlis@comcast.net

Recording Secy.: Chris Siple

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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

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President's Message

By Deborah Wood

We have reached the end of a truly unique year. COVID-19 has changed our lives in ways we couldn't have imagined at the end of last year. One change that stands out when walking around the neighborhood, is the realization that school is going on in many of the homes. Meanwhile, it is eerily quiet around Barcroft Elementary.

The year has also been marked by a national uprising against the brutal killing of George Floyd by a police officer, and the systemic racism of which this is a symptom. I recently went to visit Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, who lives on South Taylor Street. Many of you are familiar with her part in the Civil Rights Movement as a teenager and young woman. She has given presentations at BSCL meetings and been present at showings of the documentary, "An Ordinary Hero," by her son, Loki Mulholland. I wanted to purchase some of the children's books Loki has written about his mother's role in the Civil Rights Movement. They are excellent, nicely illustrated, and written for different ages, if you are looking for children's gifts.

I took the opportunity to ask Joan about her life in Barcroft. She and her husband moved here in 1970, and started a family. In 1976, after the marriage ended,

Continues on page 4

Barcroft Elementary, continued

Continued from page 1

this effort!

In the spirit of resilience and persistence, Barcroft held its traditional end-of-year

sing-along virtually on the last day of school before the winter break. The PTA assembled and distributed hot cocoa and snack packets for students to enjoy a treat during the virtual



assembly. Everyone is now enjoying a well-earned break from an extraordinary school year, and looking forward to a well-rested return in 2021. ●



(Top left) Thanks to the support of the Barcroft community, Barcroft Elementary's PTA was able to provide food to 125 families during the week of Thanksgiving. (Bottom left) Neighbors bagging produce for Barcroft's Thanksgiving distribution.

Woman's Club Outreach is Active

By Sandy Newton

The Woman's Club has continued outreach to the community — some noticed, some not. Early in the summer and culminating in an overcrowded flea market, renting for outside events has been our go to.

Having our annual bazaar was successful and socially distanced. We have hosted outdoor acting groups, Balkan dancers, and the Bike Garden designed by Phoenix Bikes has been a huge hit. Our club partnered with

Barcroft Schools to distribute food monthly which serves 250 to 300. At our last distribution, we offered free scarves, hats, headbands, masks, to any who wished to take. This was part of our "Chase the Chill" program. These items were made by our members. We will hold another such event on January 14.

Even in this lock-down, we have added two new members. One member has been busy preparing our gardens for spring. Merry Christmas and healthy New Year to all. ●

It is Girl Scout Cookie Time

By Denise Hart

As you can imagine Girl Scouts are selling cookies in our neighborhood. If you don't have a Girl Scout in your life from whom to buy cookies, please visit www.gsnc.org for our cookie loca-



tor. This year more than ever we are focusing on giving girls the opportunity digitally or in person to be go-getters, innovators, risk-takers and leaders: G.I.R.L! Thank you for supporting the Girl Scout Cookie Sale! •

President's Message, continued

Continued from page 2

she and her five sons moved to the house on South Taylor Street, where she still lives. While raising her boys, she worked at Patrick Henry Elementary School. One of her lessons for second graders was a comparison of Nelson Mandela in South Africa and Martin Luther King, Jr., in the United States. She was also a volunteer at Barcroft Elementary School, which her sons attended. One time, she enlisted the music teacher, Ms. Lewis, to teach all the children in the school the song, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," known as the Negro National Anthem, which the whole school sang together.

Joan has had the conviction since childhood that equality for all is a basic right. If she sees a problem, she does what she can to solve it. She mentioned that one time in the late '70s, the Barcroft School and Civic League was considering whether it was necessary to revise the bylaws. After discovering that the old bylaws still restricted membership to Whites, she said the president at the time,

whose name she remembers as Jimmy Clark, realized "we better change them, and we did." Jimmy Clark was of Palestinian ancestry, which was not considered White when the restriction was made. I looked at the list of BSCL presidents on our website, and saw there was a Bob Clark (with a question mark) for 1978-79. Joan exemplifies what it means to be a good neighbor.

In closing, I want to express my condolences to those of you who have lost loved ones, suffered through serious illness, or had to be separated from family and friends at difficult times, due to the COVID epidemic. As vaccines are now starting to be administered, my sincerest hope for 2021 is that their effectiveness, coupled with continued mask wearing and social distancing, will result in a steady decline in the numbers of deaths and serious illnesses we must suffer as a nation.

Enjoy the winter school break, the Presidential Inauguration, and the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday. And please, stay safe! •



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Are you on the Chat List?

Barcroft has its own community-members-only email listserv that covers such items as official meetings and announcements, recommendations for local services, offers of items in the neighborhood that may be of interest and more. Keep in touch with your community by going to the Barcroft School and Civic League website and signing up.

<https://www.bscl.org/chat-list> •

BSCL 2001 Membership

By Linda Gaines

Happy New Year Barcroft neighbors! A friendly reminder that BSCL membership runs with the calendar year. Therefore membership renewals are now due. You can renew via the included form in the monthly newsletter (to the right), or you can renew online at <https://www.bscl.org>. Membership is \$5 for individuals and \$10 for families. Even if you are renewing, I encourage you to fill out all information on the form to make sure our membership records are current. Please contact me at linda@bscl.org with questions.

Thanks! •

Thank You for an Amazing 2020!

In 2019, we were ranked the #1 team of our size in the DMV and #19 nationally. Having served hundreds of clients across the DC metro area last year, 2020 was our strongest year yet.

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Barcroft Resident
Agent
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[@rickwoler](https://www.linkedin.com/in/rickwoler)



Ryan Isaacson
Barcroft Resident
Agent
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Bringing Dragonflies to Your Yard

By the Plant NOVA Natives Campaign

For anyone who enjoys watching birds at a feeder, there is another pastime available that is just as entertaining but less well known: watching the dragonflies and damselflies patrolling your yard. There are over

eighty species in Northern Virginia, a few of which are happy to frequent our gardens if we offer the right conditions. Some are hefty and like to land on walkways, making them hard to miss. Others, including most damselflies, are so wispy as to escape our notice if we aren't

paying attention.

Most dragonflies lay their eggs in fresh water ponds and streams, where they hatch and live as little aquatic predators for years before emerging as adults. We can provide a breeding area in our yards by installing a pond, which need not be large and can be a do-it-yourself project.

Frogs and salamanders will make it their home as well, and the sound and sight of moving water transforms any garden into a place to sit and watch the whole carnival.

All these pond inhabitants require

Continues on page 9

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Continued from page 8

more than just water. Dead leaves and algae are the basis for a pond's ecosystem, as the tiny organisms that use them for shelter and food are themselves eaten by larger ones. It is therefore important to treat a pond not as a chlorinated fountain but as a living thing, avoiding excess cleaning and protecting it from insecticides or other chemicals.

Once dragonflies become adults, they spend their time catching large numbers of mosquitoes and other insects and looking for opportunities to mate. The males will find a perch near the water and guard against rivals, waiting for a female to approach. If you are lucky, you may see a female ovipositing, bouncing up and down as she dips the tip of her abdomen into the water to lay her eggs.

Even without a pond, your yard is likely to be visited by dragonflies if it is providing other natural habitat, because that is where there will be a balance of prey and predatory insects. Besides avoiding chemicals, the key to building that kind of habitat is to plant a lot of native species, because most plant-eating insects can only eat the plants with which they evolved. There are hundreds of species of garden-worthy native plants available, including a

couple dozen species of native pond plants.

There is a three minute video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7OuZkxbLC3w&list=PLbQmut9isy7IBsRm71mv-C3ic7VU0Ltzp&index=9> about the ups and downs of owning a fancy ornamental pond. The gardener who made that video has since learned that disruptions to the pond critters can be minimized by only cleaning the pond once a year in mid winter, and by leaving most of the algae and leaves in place. Information about native pond plants



A male Ebony jewelwing damselfly on a Sensitive fern (Onoclea sensibilis).

and how to care for a pond as habitat can be found on the pond page of the Plant NOVA Natives website. It is very fun to learn to recognize the various species. A great resource for that is Bob Blakney's book *Northern Virginia Dragonflies and Damselflies*. ●

Happy New Year from Our Savior Lutheran School

We wish you a Happy 2020 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!

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.

Our Savior Lutheran School is holding a **Virtual Open House** for prospective students and their parents on Saturday, January 16. Our school staff will be present along with our Board of Education. Please visit our website at www.osvaschool.org to register for the open house. We offer grades Pre K through 8th, and also offer before and after school care during non-COVID times. OSLS was established in 1952 and has been providing an affordable, quality Christian education ever since. We are fully accredited and licensed. OSLS is non-discriminatory in enrollment. We are located at 825 South Taylor Street in Arlington. ●



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The advertisement features a photograph of a modern living room with a fireplace, large windows, and contemporary furniture. The text is presented in a clean, sans-serif font, with the company name and contact information prominently displayed.

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 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

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 rob-bets4@gmail.com to get on the list. Thanks for all your support!

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 gifts.

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

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



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Barcroft School and Civic League
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The housing market has seen record-breaking growth since June after being briefly put on hold during the outbreak of the pandemic this spring. Despite looming economic uncertainty, highly controversial elections, and the aggravated spread of the pandemic, home buyers continue to quickly snatch up the relatively few homes listed for sale. This time the housing market is largely being driven by two factors: a shortage of available housing inventory and extremely low-interest rates. Double-digit annual growth in both list and sale prices show an extreme lack of inventory and incredible demand — A sign of a hot seller's real estate market. Home sales have risen to a 14-year high. Speedy home sales continue in all regions of the country and the median sales price continues to have double-digit growth. November, which marks the traditional slow-down of the housing market, remained a hyperactive month. The flow of buyers and sellers remained abnormally high in the fall season.

Not only the housing demand but the supply of new listings has also reached the highest point since the onset of the pandemic. In the Northern VA region, this November's average price was at \$685,445 (up 9.52%) and sales were up 33.43% from last November. Arlington's average price was \$862,232 (up 18.61%) and sales were up 28.9%.

Have you considered making a move? If you are thinking of a new lifestyle, I'm glad to help with some strategic planning.

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