



March 2021

Barcroft News

Vol 118, Issue 7

Native Grasses for Our Yards

From the Plant NOVA Natives Campaign

When we think of grass in our yards, the image that arises is likely to be that of turf grass. But there are many other places for grasses in our landscapes, and many other species available besides the European turf grass that is used for lawn. Grasses that are native to our region not only add beauty and texture in our gardens but also provide multiple environmental benefits.

This class of plants not only refers to true grasses (which tend to be sun-loving) but also to sedges (which are more often shade-loving) and rushes. Their size can range from tiny to gigantic. Clumps of taller grasses provide structural interest as well as

motion and sound as the wind rustles through them. Shorter ones work as ground-covers. Some are evergreen, and all provide winter interest and seeds for the birds.

In shady areas with minimal foot traffic, some native grasses can be used as a substitute for conventional lawns, though this would require planting a lot of little plants at 8-10 inch intervals and a good deal of attention during establishment, not just throwing down seed. Deep soil amendment is critical on a typical compacted former lawn area which lacks good nutrition and may have alkaline soil, and it can take a few years for such lawns to get established.

Continued on page 8

Next Meeting:

Thursday, March 4, 7:30 p.m., On Zoom

Topic: Charles Head, of ArlFiber, about establishing an Arlington County Broadband Authority



Send an email to zoom@bscl.org to request an invitation to the meeting.



Barcroft News

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Next Deadline: March 15, 2021

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President's Message

By Deborah Wood

Greetings! As we eagerly await the official arrival of Spring, the days are lengthening and clocks will soon be set forward. There are reasons to hope that the COVID-19 pandemic will loosen its grip. Residents of Arlington who are 65+ and those 16 to 64 with high risk medical conditions or disabilities are now eligible to register for vaccines. The County is working through the backlog of those pre-registered. All school employees are also eligible, and phased returns to the classroom are set to begin. Other essential workers are eligible, as well. By the time this newsletter is delivered, the statewide vaccine registration program will have been in effect for almost two weeks, and its website will most likely be the best place to check for current information on eligibility and how to register. If you need ADA accommodations or require assistance with vaccine pre-registration, call the County's COVID-19 Hotline at 703-228-7999.

The Barcroft School and Civic League is registered as a partner organization with the Arlington Complete Vaccination Committee (CVC). The CVC will send updates to the contacts for its partners to be disseminated. I serve as our contact and will forward updates to the BSCL chatlist and the Barcroft Neighborhood Residents

Continues on page 5

Barcroft Elementary School Update

By Beth Ragnauth

The past few years at Barcroft, we have held a friendship party near Valentine's Day to celebrate our connection as a community. While pandemic restrictions have caused the party to go on hiatus this year, we are still using this time to foster relationships. The PTA handed out valentine bags to each student with a few treats and some supplies to make a valentine or two for someone in their household. The tireless school staff also orchestrated a pandemic-modified valentine exchange for students who wanted to participate. Students dropped off valentines, and teachers and staff redistributed them so each child could pick up a bag of valentines from their classmates the following week.

As a new activity this year, Barcroft and Discovery Elementary School PTAs are together facilitating a student bookmark exchange. Students at each school are creating homemade bookmarks in February, which will be collected and traded so each Barcroft student will get a bookmark made by a Discovery student (and vice versa) in March. Discovery PTA has been working with us on some other efforts this year, especially food distribution, so we are excited to continue partnering with them in new ways.

Of course, the big news in February is that the school district announced that students who have selected the option to attend school in person (part time via the hybrid



(Left) Examples of bookmarks made by Barcroft students for the upcoming bookmark exchange with Discovery Elementary School.

(Below) Valentine's Day treat bags ready for Barcroft students.



Photos by Gretchen Odegard

model) will start transitioning back over the first half of March. You will notice more students and buses coming and going from Barcroft (and the other APS schools) very soon! •

Toronto's Mattie Leon at Acoustic Café March 9

The Arlington Acoustic Café has been presenting lunchtime shows via Zoom since the fall. Performers and listeners really enjoy these pleasant music breaks. The next one is on Tuesday, March 9. We are presenting Mattie Leon, a talented performer from Toronto, Canada.

The show is free. To receive the Zoom link to the live cast, send an email to: acousticcafe4@gmail.com.

About the Artist: Mattie Leon is a singer/songwriter hailing from the western reaches of Toronto. A craftsman with a guitar, Mattie refuses to leave the past behind. His sensibilities are informed by the songwriting of the sixties and seventies. His voice, whether soaring or soulful, is his own. The result is a fresh take on a classic form; famil-

iar but unmistakably new.

The Arlington Acoustic Café is a program of Arlington County's 55+ Program. The Cafe is Arlington's quiet place to play and listen to music. Thanks to the Arlington Alliance for Senior Programs for supporting our artists. People of all ages and from any locality are welcome to listen.

The concert will be Tuesday, March 9, at 12 noon. Admission is free. To make a reservation, 55+ Members register at: <https://parks.arlingtonva.us/events/acoustic-cafe-11/>. The general public should send an email to: acousticcafe4@gmail.com. The livestream link will be sent to you before the show. Your email will not be used for any purpose other than sending you the link. •



Girl Scout Cookies Are Here!

By Denise Hart

Girl Scouts are in our neighborhood and are selling cookies. Use our zip code to search cookie finder <https://www.gscnc.org/en/cookies/find-cookies.html>. And don't forget you can buy cookies and send them to our troops. You can also order your cookies

through grubhub https://www.grubhub.com/food/girl_scouts/va-arlington. Please support our Girl Scouts and don't forget if you don't get yours now they will be gone for a year! (They keep for a long time in the freezer – if they make it that far!) •



You Could Design Arlington's New Logo

Arlington County is developing a brand-new logo and needs your help! Learn more about the process and submit your idea by March 14. From now until Friday, March 14, submit what you think is a good logo concept for Arlington. Visit the logo submission page at <https://www.arlingtonva.us/submit-logo/> to read submission



guidelines, next steps, and some ideas to get your creativity flowing.

This logo would replace the current seal and logo that currently depict Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial. The new logo aims to more accurately represent the values and aspirations that are held by the residents of Arlington. •

President's Message, continued

Continued from page 2

Facebook page.

February decided to make things interesting this year! I would like to give a shout out to the many neighborhood volunteers who deliver the Barcroft News or are members of the Snow Shovel Brigade. Thank you all for your service that keeps Barcroft informed and our sidewalks safe through snow, sleet, and freezing rain. Thank you to Sharon Tope, for organizing the Shovel Brigade, and to Theresa Schweser and Kirt Miller, the Publishers for the Barcroft News, who coordinate their dedicated team of News carriers.

As part of the Columbia Pike Multimodal Street Improvements Project, improvements on the section of the Pike between South Four Mile Run Drive and South Jefferson

Street are nearing completion. Undergrounding of utilities will soon begin at South Jefferson Street. And lest we get too comfortable driving west on Columbia Pike, at its January 23 meeting, the County Board approved the award of an approximately \$1 million contract to widen the pedestrian walkway on the north side of the Columbia Pike Bridge over Four Mile Run to 10 feet, install Carlyle style lighting, replace the existing guardrails with sturdier metal railings, and perform maintenance and minor repairs to the bridge deck. Work on the improvements is expected to start sometime this spring.

Please continue to adhere to CDC and Virginia COVID-19 prevention guidelines to keep yourselves and neighbors safe! •

BSCL Membership Reminder

Included in this month's newsletter is the membership form to join or renew membership in BSCL for 2021. Of the membership forms received so far, the majority have been via the website (bscl.org). You can also print out the membership form from the website if you wish to pay via check. Unless we hear that people really need the form in the newsletter, this will be the last month we run the form in the newsletter to save space. If you need a copy of the form or

have any questions about membership, please call me at 703-887-2449 or email me at linda@bscl.org. •



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Source: Bright MLS

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We love helping our Barcroft neighbors!



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



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2021 BSCL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL

January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

You may check the current roster at <https://www.bscl.org/membership>. If you don't see your name listed please complete the entire form and return with dues to:

Barcroft School & Civic League, c/o Treasurer
811 South Taylor Street, Arlington, VA 22204

Check one: New Member Application Membership Renewal

Individual Membership (\$ 5.00) \$ _____

Couple/Family Membership (\$10.00) \$ _____

Additional Tax Deductible Contribution to
the Community House Conservation Fund \$ _____

Total (Please make check payable to BSCL) \$ _____

Check Number _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Apt: _____

Home Phone: () _____ Cell Phone: () _____

Cell Phone: () _____

E-Mail Address (s): _____

I/we would like to volunteer to help with:

Snow Removal for Elderly/Disabled Yard Work for Elderly/Disabled

Barcroft Players Food Events (*Dinners, Cookouts, etc.*)

Distribution (*Newsletters, Flyers, etc.*) 4th of July Parade and Picnic

Grant Writing One-Time Efforts (*as they arise*)

Serve on a Committee -- Specify which: _____

(*Crime Resistance, Parking, Traffic*)

Other (*Please Specify*): _____

Native Grasses for Our Yards, continued

Continued from page 1

Native grasses play a critical role in the ecosystem, providing:

- Roots that are deeper than European turf grass and which do a better job at erosion control, breaking up hard soil and capturing stormwater.
- Carbon sequestration.
- Dense root structures that create a barrier to the spread of aggressive plants, creating pockets where more delicate plants can live.
- Host plants for numerous species of butterflies, skippers, moths and others.
- Food sources for birds



Pink Muhly Grass catching the light.

and other wildlife.

- Nesting material and cover.

Most of the plant material in a meadow consists of grasses, with colorful flowers tucked in between.

Several of the native grasses that are used as ornamentals are widely available in conventional nurseries, including the spectacular Pink Muhly Grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*), pictured here. (Be careful where you plant it, though - it needs good drainage!) Others can be purchased at one of the nurseries that specialize in native plants. For details, check out the Plant NOVA Natives website. •

EcoAction Meeting to Feature Natural Resources Manager

EcoAction Arlington's 43rd annual meeting will feature Alonso Abugattas, Arlington County's Natural Resources Manager on Wednesday, March 10, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. His presentation will focus on the special elements of the living world in Arlington, the County's protection efforts, and how individuals can contribute to these efforts. The event

will also include welcoming remarks by Matt de Ferranti, Arlington County Board Chair, election of the board of directors, and an overview of EcoAction Arlington's 2021 programs.

The public is invited to attend via Zoom by registering at: <https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/registration-43rd-annual-meeting/>. •

Signature Theater Streams “Simply Sondheim”

Signature Theater’s presentation of musical revue “Simply Sondheim” is streaming everyday thru March 26. Tickets are \$35.

Critically acclaimed by the Washington Post, New York Times, and many more, “Simply Sondheim” features over 30 songs from Stephen Sondheim’s canon. The quintessential “Finishing the Hat,” “Another Hundred People,” “Losing My Mind” and “The Worst Pies in London” meet lesser known gems including “Country House,” “Saturday Night” and “Goodbye for Now” and are fused with new orchestrations by longtime Sondheim

collaborator Jonathan Tunick.

With a lush 16-piece orchestra leading the way for 12 phenomenal singers, including Broadway’s Norm Lewis (Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert, Sondheim on Sondheim), Solea Pfeiffer (Hamilton, Signature’s Gun & Powder), and Conrad Ricamora (How to Get Away with Murder, The King and I), this exclusive event satisfies every Sondheim craving.

For more information, go to <https://www.sigtheatre.org/events/202021/simply-sondheim/>. •

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Winter Greetings from Our Savior Lutheran School

Every year, Lutheran schools around the country celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week. Our Savior Lutheran School will celebrate this special week from March 1 to 5. The theme for this year is Sent to Serve. Every day during the week, we dress up in special spirit wear or crazy outfits and have fun activities. This year will look a little different in how we observe this special week, but we are looking forward to celebrating our Lutheran Schools across the nation.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital has a special place in the hearts of the stu-

dents at our school and we are happy to yearly contribute to this wonderful hospital. St. Jude is a pediatric and research facility which treats children with cancer and other catastrophic diseases. For more information on the wonderful work at St. Jude and how you can help them, please visit their website at stjude.org.

We are currently accepting applications for the 2020-2021 school year for grades PreK through 8th. Stop by or call the school office if you have any questions. We would love to tell you more about our school. •



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Equal Housing Opportunity

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.

Babysitting: I am an experienced babysitter who loves spending time with kids, playing sports, and especially having fun! I am a sophomore at Wakefield High School and member of AFC swim club. I am looking for a steady babysitting job this summer and am available now on the weekends! Contact me, Lucia Jacobsen, at 703-915-0530 or luciajjacobsen@gmail.com

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

Pet Sitting: Colin (10) and Emmett (9) are happy to pet sit for your cats or other small animals. We have experience with fostering and pet sitting animals. Email Lauren.alyssa@gmail.com or call (703)474-2691 and ask for Colin and Emmett.

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.

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! ●



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

Demand for single-family homes and town-homes is intensifying and competition among buyers has reached a fever pitch, causing buyers to make aggressive offers to compete for those homes. In contrast, the supply of condos for sale in our area has been growing for the last several months, especially with high-rise and luxury condos. The hurried level of sales seen at the end of 2020 continued into January, with sales volume increasing by more than 30% across the NOVA region versus January of 2020. The strong sellers' market saw median sales prices increase 6%, while the median time on market for listings dropped 31% to 13 days. Typically, January is slow, although buyers last month experienced double-digit competing offers, price escalation and waived contingencies, and those conditions are continuing into February.

Buying in today's real estate market will likely see your purchase contract compete with other motivated buyers. Based my experience as a

buyer's agent and seller's agent in multiple offer scenarios, I've written a guide called "**13 Ways to Write a Winning Offer**" to make your offer stand out from the competition and be the one that gets accepted. [Download a Free copy from our website.](#)

With me as your advisor, I can help you sell your home faster and at a higher price. Compass fronts the cost of the services to enhance your home's value before the sale. Visit our web site for details on Concierge.

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Casey O'Neal, Associate Broker

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