



Barcroft News

May 2021

Vol 118, Issue 9

Happy Arbor Day

By Deborah Wood, Tree Steward

Arbor Day is April 30. Frequently, people celebrate by planting trees, but this year I would like to suggest a couple ways to give your trees some TLC.

Mature trees are able to withstand dry conditions, other than severe drought, but young trees need an inch of water each week to thrive. This can be accomplished by supplying the equivalent of 20 to 25 gallons of water with a tree bag, or watering several times, allowing the soil to dry out between waterings. Of course, rain water counts!

Young trees do well with mulching. However there is good mulching and there is bad or “volcano” mulching. For unknown reasons, some landscaping companies still pile mulch up around the trunks of trees. Tree bark above the root flare (where the roots meet the trunk) needs air and is not meant to be covered. If mulch covers the

bark, it holds moisture against it and encourages rot and insect penetration. Roots also need some air, so piling mulch on top of where they meet the tree smothers them, weakening the tree’s

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POOR MULCHING
(MULCH VOLCANO)



PROPER MULCHING
(TIDY MULCH CIRCLE)

Visible
Root Flare

Next Meeting:

Thursday, May 6, 7:30 p.m., On Zoom

Topic: To Be Announced



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



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: May 30, 2021

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

Membership Secy.: Linda Gaines, linda@bscl.org

Board Members: Paula Levin Alcorn, Susan
Cohen, Keith Fred, Eric Parker

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

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Arlington Civic Fed. Delegates: Eric Harold,
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Alternates: Gary Mason, Daniel Weir

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President's Message

By Deborah Wood

For many of us, May is a favorite time of year — temperatures are delightful, trees have leafed out, flowers are blooming, and animals are busy playing and mating. This year we will be witnessing a special event that occurs every 17 years, the emergence of Brood X cicadas. Brood X consists of three different species in the insect genus *Magicicada*. We will hear the unique chorus of males from each cicada species singing their loud songs to attract conspecific females, who respond with timed wing flicks.

Cicada nymphs emerge from the ground once the soil temperature reaches about 64 degrees, sometime in early to mid-May under normal conditions. They find something stable to attach themselves to, then shed their exoskeletons, becoming red eyed, two inch long, flying adults. After mating, female cicadas find a tree branch about the thickness of a pencil, where they lay their eggs by cutting a slit in the bark with their ovipositor. In about six to 10 weeks, the eggs hatch, and the newly emerged nymphs drop to the ground and burrow until they find a root to attach themselves to. They feed on the fluid flowing in the roots for 17 years, shedding their skins and gradually increasing in size until the next time Brood X hatches.

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Barcroft Elementary School Welcomes Students

By Beth Ragnauth

As Barcroft continues to support the needs of our families during this pandemic we have always appreciated the support of the community. Once again we are asking for food donations to support our "Barcroft Bags" weekly food program. Each week, we will circulate a list of four items that we will be collecting. We will post this list on the BSCL google group chat list each Friday, or you can email president@barcroftpta.org to learn more. We would ask ONLY for the items we are collecting each week. There will be a collection bin in front of the school each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., and the list of needed items for the week will be attached. If those times are not convenient, feel free to drop off food at 4200 7th Road South. In addition to four different pantry staples each week, we will ALWAYS be collecting the following items for

our snack bags: granola bars, individual fruit cups/applesauce, and snack size bags of goldfish, pretzels, Cheez-its, etc. As always, thank you so much for supporting your neighbors!

As we inch toward a more familiar way of life, a couple formerly common activities are again happening at Barcroft Elementary School. Just before spring break, both hybrid and distance-learning students and teachers participated in spirit week, including favorite theme days like pajama day and sports day. You may also notice some fifth graders are again serving as safety patrols a couple days a week to help arrival and dismissal go smoothly; they are eager to help, and we thank them for their service to the community. We are confident that as the fourth quarter of this memorable school year proceeds, we will be able to find ways to safely celebrate all the hard work of our students, teachers, and staff. ●

BSCL Annual Elections

Every year the Barcroft School and Civic League has elections for officers and board members at the May meeting. This year, all of the current officers are up for reelection. They are as follows:

- **President**, *Deborah Wood*
- **Vice President**, *Daniel Weir*
- **Membership Secretary**, *Linda Gaines*
- **Recording Secretary**, *Chris Siple*
- **Treasurer**, *Jennifer Lis*

At the November 2020 BSCL meeting, Paula Levin Alcorn was elected to fill out the remainder of Barbara Clemens' term on the Board of Directors. She is running for a full term position on the board.

If anyone would like to nominate themselves or someone else to run, there will be an opportunity to do so at the May meeting. ●

Drones Flying Over Arlington to Count Deer

Arlington County has hired a contractor to perform a drone survey of heat signatures of the County's white-tailed deer population. The survey information will assist with the development of the County's Forestry and Natural Resources Plan. The survey will only collect heat signatures of deer and does not identify people.

"We've all seen deer in the County at one time or another," said Alonso Abugattas, the County's Natural Resource Manager. "We'd like more than just anecdotal evidence. We want to clearly see how many and where they are so we can mindfully steward our natural resources."

Thermal and infrared imagery has helped improve counting by relating animals' unique heat and visibility signatures to precisely count only deer. In one study, it was shown that Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), commonly referred to as drones, can be about 43 to 96 percent more accurate than ground or human observations in counting wildlife. Montgomery County, MD, has conducted UAV deer surveys in locations throughout Montgomery to determine carrying capacity.

The drones will be flying over Arlington beginning a half hour before sunrise April 5 (weather permitting) each day until 30 minutes after sunset, until the survey is completed. They will not be flying at night. The

survey could take up to two weeks but is weather dependent. Drones are not permitted to fly over Arlington except for very limited instances. Arlington has coordinated the project with US Department of Homeland Security, Federal Aviation Association (FAA), Transportation Security Administration, Ronald Reagan National Airport, and Arlington County Police Department (ACPD). In accordance with FAA guidelines, ACPD will be onsite monitoring the drone flights.



This will be the first accurate measure of Arlington's deer population. Only anecdotal data on Arlington currently exists. By 1900, white-tailed deer population had been destroyed in most of Virginia. Through the 1940's to 1980's with restocking efforts, laws protecting deer and favorable habitat, deer have rebounded at an exponential rate in Virginia.

Accurate data will determine Arlington's deer carrying capacity. Deer are important and a necessary aspect of wildlife with important wildlife functions when in balance with the surrounding habitat. Per the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, the carrying capacity for deer can vary widely between and within communities. Data from the surveys will help determine Arlington's carrying capacity. ●




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Equal Housing Opportunity

Arlington Home Show & Garden Expo Goes Virtual

Whether you are a resident looking to improve your home, an experienced contractor or a landlord managing rentals, the 2021 VIRTUAL Arlington Home Show & Garden Expo on May 22 and 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. offers a convenient one-stop shop to "Ask an Expert" and learn of new ways to update your home, and add value to your property. Remodeling, finishing, replacing, home automation, home security, "going green" and a new theme for this year: "Indoor Air Quality."

Learn about home projects from a variety of top-rated companies. In addition,

staff from Arlington County's Housing, Zoning and Inspection will be on hand to answer construction code and other technical questions.

A rich program of free virtual workshops awaits this year's visitors. Details can be found at: www.Arlingtonhomeshow.org. This free event is sponsored by Arlington County's Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development and the not-for-profit Resilient Virginia.

For more information, call the Housing Division at 703-228-3765, or email eventmgr@arlingtonhomeshow.org. •

Limited E-CARE Scheduled

A limited version of Arlington Environmental Collection and Recycling Event (E-CARE) will be held Saturday, May 22 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1425 North Quincy Street (across from Washington-Liberty High School). This is a biannual event at which residents can safely dispose of household hazardous materials (HHM), small metal items and other recyclable items.

As part of COVID-19 health precautions, residents should wear masks, stay in their vehicles and make unloading as simple

as possible from cleared trunks and similar easy access points.

In light of the pandemic, it is suggested that before coming to E-CARE, participants should talk to neighbors and combine items to save a trip to the collection site. Business and commercial wastes will not be accepted. Materials accepted include: automotive fluids, batteries, compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), corrosives (acids/caustics), fire extinguishers, flammable solvents, fluorescent tubes, fuels, garden chemical, paint and more. ●

President's Message, continued

Continued from page 2

Another side effect of cicadas is that they are tasty, protein rich snacks for a multitude of species, including cats and dogs. You won't have to worry about birds or squirrels eating your cherries or berries; they will be too busy eating cicadas!

The only harm cicadas can do results from egg laying on young trees. If you can, wait to plant small trees or woody shrubs until fall this year. Cicadas usually go for branches that are six or more feet off the ground, so trees under 6 feet tall are fine. Young trees can be protected by covering them with fine netting of less than one quarter inch squares. Cover the branches from the top, and gather the netting around the trunk just below the branches, then tie it in place. Avoid

using adhesive tape because it can damage the tree bark. If you don't get the covering done in time, no need to worry; there may be dieback of small branches, but more than likely the trees will be fine. Cicadas have a life cycle of about 5 or 6 weeks. After they leave, netting should be removed.

Not everyone finds cicadas charming, but I hope that knowing they are harmless will make them more tolerable. If you would like more information about cicadas, an interesting source is, "Fourteen Fun Facts about Cicadas," by Alex Fox, in Smithsonianmag.com, March 31, 2021. Someday we may be wearing raincoats made by mimicking the super-small structures on cicada wings that keep them free of bacteria and water repellent! ●

Used Bike Collection Event

Put your old bike to good use through Bikes for the World!

Donate your bikes and cycling accessories at Restoration Anglican Church, 1815 North Quincy Street, Arlington on Saturday, May 22, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bikes for the World is an award-winning local non-profit that to date has rescued and donated over 165,000 quality used bicycles providing skilled employment and access to work and school for thousands in low-income communities around the globe.

A suggested \$10 donation along with the bike helps us make this convenient drop off location possible. For more information contact: office@bikesfortheworld.org, 703-740-7856.

Note: For the convenience of the environmentally-minded Arlington community, this event will be held at the same hours and up the street from Arlington County's E-CARE Event. Combine errands and bring your bike and cycling accessories to Bikes for the World, then drop off at ECARE! •

Barcroft in Today's Housing Market

Everyone has been hearing about the historic housing market we're currently experiencing, and we wanted to give you a snapshot of where our Barcroft neighborhood stands in the Arlington market and how it compares to the same time in last year's equally-historic market. We compared numbers from January 1st to April 15th of each year.

Barcroft

	Total Number of Sales	Average Orig. List Price	Average Sale Price	Sold Price/ Orig. List Price	Average Days on Market
2020	8	\$730,275	\$735,163	0.67%	23
2021	10	\$842,339	\$876,990	4.11%	33

Arlington

	Total Number of Sales	Average Orig. List Price	Average Sale Price	Sold Price/ Orig. List Price	Average Days on Market
2020	628	\$823,740	\$817,731	0.79%	28
2021	802	\$745,669	\$739,272	-1.34%	39

To discuss what this market means for you or if you are interested in selling or buying, please reach out to your Barcroft neighbor, Rick.

We're invested in our community which means we're invested in you!



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



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



Ryan Isaacson
Barcroft Resident
Agent
904.309.2558
ryan@trentandco.com
@rforryan

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Arbor Day Care for Trees, continued

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support, and encouraging roots to start growing out from the mulch covered bark, where they can't help support the tree. Small branches, called suckers, will often start growing out of a tree trunk above a mulch volcano. They are a sign of distress that the tree is trying to make up for damaged roots and bark.

Mulch volcanoes can be removed by carefully pulling the mulch away from the tree trunk, until the root flare is uncovered. Trim off roots that have started growing out of the bark. Spread the mulch out to a depth of two to three inches, and keep it a minimum of three inches away from the tree trunk. Sometimes mulch is piled in a donut shape about two or three feet from a young tree trunk, to help retain moisture. Suckers growing out of the trunk right above a former



Invasive English Ivy can weigh trees down, limit essential light, and weaken trees over time, leading to early death.

mulch volcano should be cut off, as well.

Finally, trees are much happier without non-native vines growing up into them. English ivy is the most common culprit in yards. The roots from ivy grow into the bark, so pulling it off a tree trunk damages the bark. It can be safely removed by cutting all of the ivy vines near the base of the tree, and pulling it back away from the tree. Then cut all the vines again a short distance up the trunk. Carefully removing the small area of vines between the two cuts will help you make sure all of the vines are severed. The ivy left on the tree with no roots attached will wither and slowly fall off.

Your trees will thank you for your care, and give you shade and beauty in return. ●

Bike to Work Day

Bike to Work Day is back! You can celebrate its 20th anniversary on Friday, May 21. Whether you are working at home or bike commuting to the office, you can register to participate and stop by one of the convenient Pit Stops to pick up your free t-shirt. See the BikeArlington site to register: <https://www.bikearlington.com/bike-to-work-day/> ●

Great Plants Available at Annual Glencarlyn Sale

By Alyssa Ford Morel

Gardeners looking for plants for their garden should mark Sunday, May 16 on their calendar as the date of the annual Spring Celebration and Plant Sale at the Glencarlyn Library Community Garden at 300 South Kensington Street in Arlington. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. a broad selection of native plants from Hill House Nursery, along with herbs, vegetables, perennials, and plants propagated at the Glencarlyn Library Garden will be available as a fund raiser to support the demonstration garden, which is maintained by the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia.

Other nature-related items including local honey, compost services, handmade

plant pots, and T-shirts will also be available. New this year, Master Gardeners will be giving away tree saplings.

"People have been taking up gardening with gusto during the pandemic," says Elaine Mills, an Extension Master Gardener who is helping organize the event. "There has also been an explosion of interest in using native plants. Although this event is slightly scaled back from previous years, there will be a range of choices that will do well locally."

Masks and distancing will be in place to keep the event safe and will be held rain or shine. For more information call Elaine Mills at 703-244-7309 or email glencarlynlbrarygarden@gmail.com. •

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Spring 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.

We are currently accepting new applications for the 2021-2022 school year. If you know someone who would be interested in quality Christ-centered education please tell them about us or let us know so we can send some information. We offer school tours upon request and are always happy to show and tell others about OSLS. We currently have openings in Pre-K and in grades 4, 5, 7 and 8 for the 2021-2022 school year.

Our chapel offering for the month of April will go to Lutheran Braille Workers, a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church. LBW started in 1943 in response to a shortage of Braille Bibles for blind pastors in Germany. Now, for 77 years, LBW has been providing Braille and specialized large print Bibles, audio-digital formats, and

other Christian materials in almost 40 languages. These are distributed to people with visual impairments in 164 countries and always free to the recipient. LBW is also committed to equipping congregations to reach out with the Gospel to people who are visually impaired in their community.

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. ●

Doggie Etiquette

By Loiuise Shutler

We have all enjoyed meeting the new (and older) pups in the neighborhood – they certainly have brightened the last year in a big way! The only problem is...they need a little training in choosing the correct spot to pee and poop. That's where their parents come in.

The grass strip or their own backyard is much more polite than a neighbor's front grass or plantings. The yellow patches in the yards will show up soon to show where the dogs have been. Help your dog practice neighborly-ness and use the grass strip (called purgatory, did you know?) ●





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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.

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

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.

Dull knives? Affordable kitchen knife sharpening: With my four years of knife and tool sharpening experience and competitive rates, razor sharp knives and tools could be yours! Cost is \$1/inch. Serrated knives \$1.50/inch. Price of tools upon inspection. For more information or service contact Zach at 571-598-4760 or email at robbets4@gmail.com.

Barcroft T-shirts: Just two BSCL T-shirts left — both red, women’s sizes L and XL. Just \$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! •

Keep on top of neighborhood events and conversations through the **Barcroft Chat List** Sign up at <https://www.bscl.org/chat-list>



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

More housing inventory came on the market in March, yet those listings were snapped up quickly; there are simply more buyers than available homes for sale. The average March sales price increased 7% across Northern Virginia compared to last year as prospective buyers often found themselves in multiple offer competitions, pushing the limits of what they can afford.

Buyers competed vigorously for new listings that came on the market, particularly single family, detached homes. Single family and townhouses continue to sell on average above the listed price, with an average sold price to original list price ratio of 101.4% in March. Barcroft's average sold price to original list price ratio year to date is 107.56%, with one property selling for nearly 20% over asking price!

In Arlington County in March, there were 292 condos listed for sale in Arlington, compared with 76 in March of 2020, pushing the year-over-year increase in total active listings to 102%.

Check out my 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 and project manager, 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.

Considering a new lifestyle? I'm glad to help with strategic planning.

Who you hire matters - put my 36 years of local market expertise to work for you!

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