

Barcroft News

November 2021

Vol 119, Issue 3

Celebrate Fall Color!

By the Plant NOVA Native Campaign

As Northern Virginia continues to celebrate trees to mark the start of the five year regional native tree campaign, autumn colors move to center stage. We may not get New

England's sudden (and brief) burst of color from the dominance of sugar maples, but our region makes up for it with the more gradual unfolding of a warm and lingering fall.



Most deciduous trees are best planted in the autumn, which conveniently coincides with the best time to choose a tree for its fall foliage. Trees are like people: within one species, there is plenty of variability, so if fall color is a high priority for you, this is the

time to go shopping.

If your attention is drawn to a particular tree on a forested slope in Virginia, chances are you have spotted a Black Gum tree, whose red leaves positively glow in the sun. Other native trees with markedly red foliage include the Red Maples and the Scarlet and Shumard oaks. All these trees are eminently suitable for planting in a yard. Hickory trees have bright yellow foliage and tend to have planted themselves, as they are harder to find in nurseries because their deep tap roots makes it hard to dig them up. The muted red leaves of the Flowering Dogwood, Virginia's state tree, provide a background for scarlet berries that are an important food source for

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Next Meeting:

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

Topic: Topic to be announced on the Chatlist*



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

* Not on the Barcroft Chatlist? You can join at <https://www.bscl.org/chat-list>



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Next Deadline: November 15, 2021

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President's Message

By Deborah Wood

There are a few more brown leaves on the ground and the days are shorter, but otherwise, today seems much like it was in mid-September, and August... Autumn has become so brief!

I hope by now, those of you who wanted to vote by mail or early in-person have done so successfully. For those who are waiting to vote at our polling place, Barcroft Elementary School, please make voting your top priority on November 2. At our October BSCL meeting, Barcrofter Rebecca Hunter provided a great explanation of the projects that will be covered by the funds in the school bond referendum.

Monthly meetings of the Barcroft School and Civic League continue to be held via Zoom. The December BSCL meeting is usually a child-friendly holiday party, which doesn't translate well on Zoom. Although we won't be able to hold indoor festivities at the Community House this year, as vaccines are not yet available for children under 12, maybe we could do something, either on the Community House grounds or around the neighborhood. We are in a better place than we were last year, given that many of us are vaccinated. If you feel inspired to propose some type of community festivity to occur on the evening of December 2, please contact me at president@bscl.org with the details.

I expect a near return to normal for Halloween this year, the holiday where masks are traditional. Enjoy happy and safe Trick or Treating! And best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving as well. ●

Barcroft Elementary School Update

By Kelly Miller, PTA Member

The Barcroft Eagles have enjoyed the first months of school and are ready for fall. October 29 was the annual Barcroft Halloween Parade where the Eagles dressed up in fun, spooky costumes for all to see. Election Day will bring food trucks to Barcroft, so

don't forget to bring your votes and your money for some tasty treats!

The Eagles look forward to more fun and learning this fall with trips to the Outdoor Lab for the Third through Fifth graders. Lastly, don't forget the PTA meeting on November 8. •

Art Show Focuses on Words That Matter

Gallery Underground's Focus Gallery presents in November **Words Matter**, a two-person solo show of fused glass pieces by Steena Fullmer and acrylic abstracts by Sandi Parker, focusing on the power of words.

Fullmer's fused glass enclosed in nicho boxes are portable shrines to the words of feminists from around the world. Each nicho box represents an idea or message meant to inspire women and girls and counter negative messages. Fullmer, an ardent feminist, treats

these poignant messages with seriousness, humor, and a touch of snark.

Parker's acrylic abstracts contain uplifting quotes from modern-day icons including Michelle Obama, Leonard Cohen and Malala Yousafzai. Says Parker: "As an eternal optimist who sees the glass not half-empty but overflowing with champagne, I am a great believer in the power of inspirational words."

Gallery Underground is located in the Crystal City Shops at 2100 Crystal Drive, Arlington. More information is available at <https://www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org/gallery-underground>. •

Annual Craft Fair at Woman's Club

The Woman's Club of Arlington will have their annual craft fair on Saturday, November 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Margaret's Food truck will be on site. New vendors and lots of pre-Christmas gifts will be available. Pottery, jewelry, stuffed animals, make up and wooden items will be on offer. The club is located at 700 South Buchanan. •



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Celebrate Fall Color, continued

Continued from page 1

migrating birds.

This brings up two related subjects. The first is that it is important to choose native trees, as it is only plants that evolved within our local ecosystem that support that ecosystem. The second is that fall color is not just about foliage. The berries of many native plants, especially shrubs, ripen in fall and make a bright display that attracts birds to

your yard. Many of those shrubs, such as blueberries, chokeberries, sumacs and native viburnums, also have brilliant fall foliage in their own right.

Fall is also the time for the many species of the aptly named goldenrod and for the purples, blues, pinks, whites and even yellows of asters. Goldenrods and asters are the host plants for more species of caterpillars than any other perennials. But it is trees that support the most wildlife of all. If you only have the time and energy to plant one plant, let it be a native tree.

One of the fun things about our drawn-out autumn is watching the colors evolve over time. Certain patterns emerge. Sycamores start to fade well before summer's end, with Dogwoods starting to turn rust red soon afterwards and Sassafras either red or gold. The brighter reds and yellows of canopy trees follow, with oaks being late to turn. Once those are shed, what is left is the light brown leaves of oaks and beeches that hold onto their leaves well into winter. The trees do not march in lock step, though, and there is plenty of variation from year to year,

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Leave the Leaves

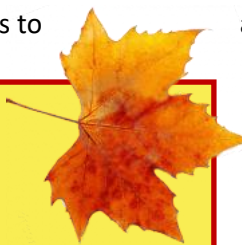
Leave it be or let it be?

Grammar's conundrum goes well beyond me! Leaves from trees that fall in fall, Them I relate to, leaf-mold and all.

Experts remind us to let the leaves lie;
Leave them alone breaking down by and by.
Nature's own mulch saves on funds and on toil;
Leaves decomposing aids plants and their soil.

Now those leaf-blowers with noise and foul fumes,
Leave them off; let peace resume.
May these small scribblings help us to see —
Autumn leaves, just let them be. •

Contributed by a leaf-loving Barcroft resident

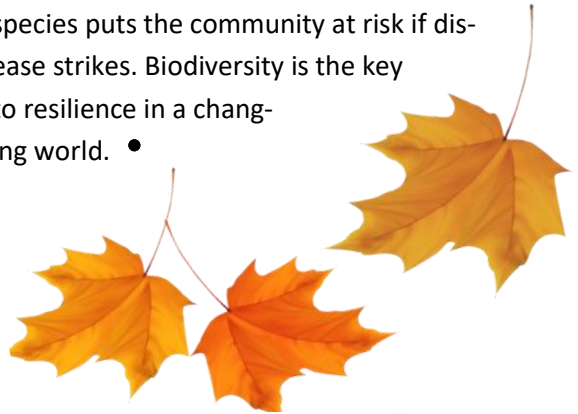


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tree to tree, and even from branch to branch on the same tree. The Plant NOVA Trees website includes photos as well as a practical guide to choosing and planting native trees.

You might be thinking that when choosing a native tree, it might as well be one with bright red foliage. But consider that it is not a sea of red that makes autumn so beautiful but the quilt of contrasting red, gold, green and brown provided by the diversity of our woodland species. There are over fifty native species of trees to choose between in North-

ern Virginia, each of which plays its own important role in the beauty and the ecosystem of our region. Not only would it look odd to see only red trees, planting too many of one species puts the community at risk if disease strikes. Biodiversity is the key to resilience in a changing world. •



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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!

By Transaction

#1 In the DMV

#57 Nationally



Trent Heminger
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Fall Season Greetings from Our Savior Lutheran School

The Our Savior Lutheran School October chapel offerings were designated for Path Forward, previously known as the Arlington Street People's Assistance Network (A-SPAN). Path Forward provides life-sustaining services for Arlington's homeless. Our Savior partners with Path Forward by preparing and packing 40 to 60 bagged meals on the fourth Monday of each month. We also look forward to participating again in our October annual mini walk-a-thon to bring awareness to the problem of homelessness in Arlington.

Students at Our Savior are continuing to grow. Recently, the Kindergarten through Third grade classes celebrated International Dot Day. This day was established to celebrate creativity, courage, and collaboration and was inspired by the picture book *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds. In addition to reading the story, students also

created their own dots which were combined into one collaborative artwork. Our Fifth grade recently learned about the first written language, Cuneiform, which was developed in Mesopotamia. They even had a chance to practice writing it on their own clay tablets. Eighth grade students just finished studying globalization in geography class. It is so amazing to understand how the world is really interconnected in 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 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 School and Civic League
800 South Buchanan Street
Arlington, VA 22204

All over North America we are seeing a shift in the real estate market, and over the course of the summer we saw an adjustment. Now it's not a correction or a slowdown since change in the real estate market happens gradually. We are seeing an increase in the number of homes available for buyers and noticing that price reductions are on the rise. In some areas there are more homes coming on the market that are outpacing the number of homes that are selling. Days on market for homes in the recent weeks have slightly increased from 6 or 7 days to 13 to 14 days, (a 50% increase). September and October saw more activity than July and August. There is great momentum with buyer activity and sales, and it's still competitive in favor of the seller.

So, what does this mean for you as a potential buyer or seller? Let's put things in perspective – from April 2020 to April 2021 we saw a 16.8% increase in home prices, which is unprecedented nationally. There are certain markets that realized 20% or more, which is unsustainable. Experts project a 7 to 8% appreciation in 2022, which is well

above a normal market of 3%. Days on market are still well below what a normal market is.

Prices aren't going backward, it's just the level of appreciation that will slow down. It's still a fast market and remains competitive, it's just a little bit slower than earlier this year.

Here's a factor to consider – interest rates are predicted to increase towards the end of this year and the beginning of next year. Every buyer needs to know that for every 1% in a rate increase, they lose 10% of their purchasing power. For an entry level home priced at \$400K, a 1% rate increase would mean affordability at a \$360K price.

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