



December 2021

Barcroft News

Vol 119, Issue 4

Apply for a Free Tree from the Tree Canopy Fund

By John Stewart and Deborah Wood

Climate change is in the news a lot these days. One of the ways we can help here in Barcroft is to increase the size of our tree canopy. Unfortunately, through oak decline, new home construction, and severe weather events, our tree population has been trending down. If you have lost a tree and realize you miss its shade, or have a space on your property where a tree would add beauty, then applying for a tree from the Tree Canopy Fund is an excellent opportunity. The deadline to apply for a tree that will be planted in the spring of 2022 is Friday, January 7, 2022.

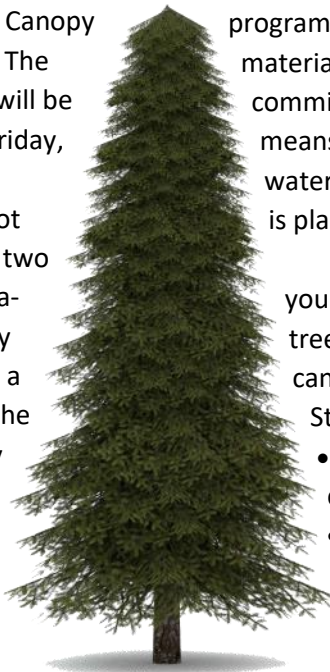
The trees provided are not saplings; their trunks are at least two inches in diameter. If your application is approved, the Tree Canopy Fund will have a contractor plant a tree of the species you select in the location you want. Trees are only allowed to be planted on private property. Medium and large sized tree species are available. As part of the application, you indicate where the tree is to be

located. You do not have to be present when the tree is planted.

The Tree Canopy Fund is administered by EcoAction Arlington, a non-profit, and the Arlington County Urban Forestry Commission, a volunteer citizen commission. To see guidelines on how to apply, a list of all the tree species available, and to fill out an application go to <https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/community-programs/trees/tcf-background-materials/>. Be aware that you do have to commit to taking care of the tree, which means making sure that it is regularly watered for the first two years after it is planted.

If you would like help with your application or to select the right tree species for your location, you can ask your local Barcroft Tree Stewards.

- John Stewart: 202 549 1754 cell; johnstewart5115@gmail.com
- Deborah Wood: 703 973-7424 cell; wooddeb52@gmail.com. •



Barcroft News

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Next Deadline: December 15, 2021

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Alternates: Gary Mason, Daniel Weir

Visit Us Online: www.bscl.org

President's Message

By Deborah Wood

I am pleased to announce that the BSCL Board of Directors has voted to reopen the Barcroft Community House for rentals. Much has changed since March 2020, when the Community House was closed due to the spread of COVID-19. We are now at a point where we have effective vaccines approved for people over the age of five, and a good understanding of basic protocols that help reduce virus transmissions. And as COVID-19 is not going to go away, we take this step with the caveat that renters continue to follow whatever safety protocols are in place according to the Virginia Governor's Office.

For information about renting the Community House and the rates, and to see a copy of the Rental Contract, go to www.bscl.org/rentals. To request a rental, fill out the form on the webpage, and you will be contacted by Barbara Swart, the Barcroft House Rentals Manager.

Ever since the Community House had to be closed, Randy Swart, the volunteer Community House Manager, has inspected inside the building each week, turning on faucets, flushing the toilet, checking the heating and cooling system, appliances, etc., etc. Barbara Swart, the Rentals Manager,

Continued on page 3

Barcroft Elementary School Update

By Kelly Miller, PTA Member

It's beginning to look a lot like ... Winter break! The Barcroft Eagles had a very full and fun Fall that included the Halloween Parade, trips to Jamestown and Yorktown for the 4th graders, and a Chick-fil-A PTA fundraiser. Thanks to the PTA, Eagle families, and Trader Joe's for the donations and funds that made all this possible.

Looking forward, the Eagles will enjoy Picture Day, the annual Book Fair in December, a fundraiser at Sloppy Mama's on Janu-

ary 26, and the always popular online auction. Bingo night will be held on January 29.

In the spirit of giving, Barcroft will be collecting gently used winter coats that will be distributed during the Thanksgiving food distribution.

The Barcroft Eagles will enjoy their time off for Thanksgiving and the Winter Holiday break and will return refreshed and ready to take on the world!

Don't forget the last PTA meeting of 2021 will be December 7 at 7 p.m. •

President's Message, continued

Continued from page 2

continued the contracted cleaning services, to maintain the building and have another set of eyes checking the interior, provide job continuity for the contractor, and to ensure the building would be in good condition when the point of reopening was reached. Randy recently recruited Eric Parker, a member of the BSCL Board of Directors, who has kindly stepped forward to provide additional support to meet whatever situations may arise as renters start using the Community House on a regular basis. Thank you to Randy and Barbara for your ongoing commitment to the Community House, and to Eric for joining the team to ensure that the

reopening will go smoothly.

These three individuals, plus Myrna Amaya, the cleaning contractor, and her husband, undertook steps to rid the fabric coverings on the Community House chairs of a mildew problem that developed while they were stacked together unused since March 2020. So far, that is the only problem that has been detected due to disuse. Barcroft is exceedingly fortunate to have these dedicated volunteers!

To everyone in the Barcroft community, I extend my best wishes for a peaceful and happy holiday season, and a fun school vacation time. Enjoy the start of winter and the last month of 2021! •

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Speaker Series from Arlington Neighborhood Villages

With the "Coffee and Conversation" speaker series, everyone is invited to join the conversation via Zoom. Bring your own coffee, learn interesting things about our community and hear from the speakers below. This series is held on Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m.

December 1: Taming your financial records. Christine Dolan will explain how organizing our financial lives can help reduce stress, improve efficiency, and give us more control.

December 8: Welcoming asylum seekers, Special Visa holders, and refugees in our area. Laura Thompson Osuri will describe how Homes Not Borders provides resettlement tools and the comforts of home for refugees.

December 15: Roving Naturalist for NOVA Parks, Matt Felperin shares public programs and services available across the three-county regional park system.

December 22: Community leader and activist, Tannia Talento will give an overview of community efforts and partnerships offered to the Hispanic and Latino community in Arlington.

Zoom link for Coffee and Conversation: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88948577106?pwd=eW0rN1RTTU5ITmJ5NnF2QXZINmdUQT09>. You also have the option to dial in by phone at 929-205-6099. The meeting ID is 889 4857 7106 and the Passcode: 872327. •



How may I be of help? *Proudly Serving Barcroft*

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Equal Housing Opportunity

Merry Christmas from Our Savior Lutheran School

The children of Our Savior Lutheran School are excited for Christmas! Even though our students are unable to give a Christmas program for the community this year, we are joyful that we can continue to celebrate the birth of Jesus with each other here at school and with our school families.

Each month, our school focuses on a character trait with our student body. The month of December is "Faithful." We often look at the coming holiday as a time of getting presents, but we also want to remind our children that we need to look at the generosity of giving. Use this month to talk with the children around you about the im-

portance of putting others first.

Mark your calendars. Our Savior Lutheran School is holding an Open House for all prospective students and their parents on Saturday, January 15 from 9 a.m. to noon. To attend the Open House, please visit our school website at osvaschool.org and register for one of three time slots.

Many of us purchase items on Amazon.com. Through 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. Thank you. •

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.

Virtual and In Person Private Drum Lessons in Barcroft: All ages/levels! Local musician offering instruction from Barcroft home studio on 3rd St. S. Unique, fully equipped studio with two full drum sets. Multiple styles--rock, jazz, classical, musical theatre. Lessons can be via Zoom, FaceTime, Google platforms, Skype. References provided. Contact: mitchbassmusic@gmail.com

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. Great for holiday gifts. Call and come by: Joan Mulholland, 501 South Taylor Street, 703-979-4719. Pay by cash, check, or Venmo. Great for gifts.

Pet Sitting: Colin and Emmett (4th-5th grades) are happy to pet sit for your cats or other small animals. Sorry, no dog sitting at this time. 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. •

Note From the Editor: We Need Your Stories!

Since you have made it to page 7 of *Barcroft News*, I think we are safe in saying that you are a *Barcroft News* reader. No, it's not the *Washington Post*, but it is your very own neighborhood newsletter and is likely to be as relevant to your everyday life as larger and more prestigious publications.

Barcroft News' staff is, well, you. We depend on community members to submit stories. Barcrofters who submit stories are far more likely to get published here than in any other publication. So please consider this your invitation to submit your story or photo by the 15th of each month to

editor@bscl.org. If you want to discuss your idea, send an email or call 703-907-9318.

Thank you for supporting your community newsletter, *Barcroft News*.

— *Alyssa Ford Morel, Editor* •



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Barcroft School and Civic League
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A new report from *CoreLogic* reveals home prices are up 18% since this time last year.

The **demand** for homes is significantly greater than the current **supply** that's available to buy, which is driving the increase. From Q2 2020 to Q2 2021, the average home appreciation was 17.4% nationwide. The supply of homes for sale will greatly affect where prices go in the coming months.

Experts forecast prices will continue to increase to only 5% in 2022. Buyers hoping to purchase in the future may see this as great news. Now a slight moderation of home prices does not mean values will depreciate or fall. Price increases may occur at a slower pace, but experts still expect them to rise.

This lack of homes for sale is creating a challenge for many buyers who are growing frustrated in their search.

On the other hand, this is a huge opportunity for sellers as low supply is driving up home values. According to CoreLogic, the average home has appreciated by more than \$50,000 over the past year. And for many homeowners, that's opening new doors as they re-think their needs and use their equity to move up or downsize.

Are you living in your ideal home now? Thinking of a new lifestyle? I'm here to help you discuss options. Put my 36 years of local Arlington market expertise to work for you and your largest financial investment!

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