



April 2022

# Barcroft News

Vol 119, Issue 8

## Celebrating Arbor Day and Trees in Barcroft

*By Suzanne Day*

With spring, we are reminded of one of our neighborhood’s biggest assets: our mature trees. Over the last decade, Barcroft has lost some beautiful trees. Who doesn’t mourn the magnificent magnolias and cedars lost to construction on the corner of South 4th and South Taylor streets or the oaks that died off in so many of our yards in recent years?

But Barcroft remains a neighborhood of lovely, large trees; many of which are designated “Notable” by Arlington County. The County recognizes nominated trees considering a

number of factors including their maturity (measured by size of trunk), historical attributes, and the uniqueness of the species. Trees must be non-invasive (sorry bamboo!). Designation does not (I would say unfortunately) provide any protection for the trees or limit owners rights. However, trees are granted a certificate and/or a plaque and are listed on the County’s register.

For Arbor Day 2022 (April 29) take a walk, enjoy the dappled light, huge canopies, and bright spring green leaves, and admire Barcrofts Notable trees. And if you run into any home-



**One of Arlington County’s “Notable Trees” located in Barcroft.**

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### Next Meeting:

**Thursday, April 7, 7:30 p.m., On Zoom**

**Topic: Grandma’s Creek Proposal and NCAC Update**



*Send an email to [zoom@bscl.org](mailto:zoom@bscl.org) to request an invitation to the meeting.*



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**Next Deadline: April 15, 2022**

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## President's Message

**By Deborah Wood**

Welcome to Spring in Barcroft! By now, the March 12 snowfall is a faint echo of winter. Spring break is coming up for students, but with the current gas prices, people may be staying closer to home. At least we have a lot of nice parks we can walk to, and flowering trees and plants to enjoy around the neighborhood.

Speaking of trees, by the time this newsletter is delivered, the Tree Canopy Fund will have announced the tree specimens available to request for planting next fall/winter. If you have room in your backyard for a large canopy tree, EcoAction Arlington will be happy to hear from you. The application is on-line, and will be due in June. The trees provided are large and healthy, and they are planted for you by professional arborists. Our neighborhood has lost many large trees recently; if we have any chance of improving stormwater retention and shade cover, more canopy trees need to be planted.

There is a magnificent Post Oak tree on the grounds of the Barcroft Community House. Consider renting the house for a spring or summer event, and enjoy the beautiful grounds, as well as the spacious house. Information about how to arrange

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# Planned Upgrades to Alcova Heights Park

**By Richard Dendy**

The county is gearing up to award a \$2.8 million contract to upgrade a number of facilities in the heavily used 13-acre park on South George Mason Drive, a few blocks north of Columbia Pike.

Over the course of the renovations, most amenities will be replaced, some new features built, site circulation improved and more greenery planted to address stormwater management.

These changes aim to address complaints residents had about the park back in 2018, including: poor drainage; unsafe crossing conditions at 8th Street South, which bisects the park; the lack of a bridge over Doctors Run, which flows through the park; and old picnic shelters and bathrooms.

The renovations — expected to begin this spring and take about one year — include:

- a new large picnic shelter and site furnishings
- an improved fire pit area
- a new sand volleyball court
- new stairway entrances to the park at the north and south ends from South George Mason Drive
- an improved sidewalk and pedestrian crossing at 8th Street South.
- a new lighted basketball court

- new restrooms
- tree and shrub plantings to improve drainage
- improvements to site circulation.

“The playground and diamond field are not part of the project and will remain open during construction,” a county report said.

These two park amenities will be replaced as part of a yet unfunded second phase, which will also see the construction of a pedestrian bridge.

Phase 2 will be considered in an upcoming Capital Improvement Plan, according to the county. A timeline for these upgrades has yet to be determined.

The county has budgeted \$4 million for all the renovations. •

## Barcroft News Needs a New Advertising Manager

Would you consider helping out your community with a role that requires limited time each month on a predictable schedule? This might be the job for you.

If interested in learning more about and possibly filling this need, please send an email to [editor@bscl.org](mailto:editor@bscl.org) or call Alyssa Ford Morel at 703-907-9318. •

# Update on Barcroft's Proposal for Grandma's Creek

**By Deborah Wood, BSCL President**

Barcroft has had two projects completed through the Neighborhood Conservation Program in recent years: new and improved trails and landscaping for the 7th Street South and 9th Street South connectors to the W&OD trail, plus new sidewalk and street lights on the adjacent 9th Street South block. We also have another proposal for improvements to the Grandma's Creek section of Glencarlyn Park that has been in the queue for funding since 2018. That project is now being evaluated by Department of Environmental Services staff for possible funding.

If you are interested in the Grandma's Creek park area and want to join the discussion about the neighborhood's goals for improvements to the park, please register to attend the April BSCL meeting on Zoom. There will be a presentation about the history of the park and the issues that are affecting its sustainability: stormwater erosion, invasive plants, and how Dominion Energy maintains their lot that juts into the park along South Pershing Drive.

For those not familiar with this program, Arlington County has had a Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Commission since 1964. Participating civic associations propose projects and the commission votes on whether to recommend projects to the County Board for funding. If the Board approves a project, staff in the County's Department of Environment Service schedule a team to work with the neighborhood on the design and execution of the pro-

ject. Funds for the Neighborhood Conservation Program are included in the 10-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget. This unique from-the-bottom-up program allows neighborhoods to express their character, and address safety and flow issues that are important to them.

The NC program has recently undergone a review process, due to significant increases in costs for projects. These come from new requirements for high-cost stormwater containment improvements and general increases in construction costs. The program is now funded at half the rate that it used to be, which is affecting the scope and number of projects being done.

Given these constraints, Barcroft's project presents an opportunity to make a difference for the neighborhood, but on a more limited scale than envisioned in our proposal. We have an advantage, in that our "block captain" (person who coordinates between affected neighbors and the County), Bill Brougham, has been actively engaging with County Park staff to address the invasive bamboo in the park that's along the sidewalk on South Pershing Drive and the loss of trees in the park behind the Dominion Energy lot. We were able to have a preliminary meeting about our proposal at the park with three staff persons from Parks and Recreation and three from Environmental Services. The collaboration is an opportunity to bring in expertise (and potentially resources?)

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# Notable Trees, continued

## Continued from page 1

owners, or in this case tree-owners, thank them for taking care of these treasured trees enjoyed by all of us.

- Grandiflora Magnolia - 4301 8th Street South
- Black Gum – 624 South Wakefield Street and 4508 South 6th Street \*
- Sycamore – 628 South Wakefield Street
- White Oak – 4508 South 8th Street
- American Elm – 4708 South 8th Street
- Eastern Arborvitae – 4418 South 4th Street
- Willow Oak – 704 South George Mason Drive and 4418 South 4th Street
- Southern Red Oak – 928 South George Mason Drive



**A magnificent Magnolia on 8th Street.**

While you are out in our neighborhood, be sure to admire our many other beautiful and large trees: the stunning size and shape of the Cypress on South Pershing as you enter the neighborhood from the north; the pair of Sycamores on South Abingdon, the gnarled and thick Mulberry at the corner of South Wakefield and South 4th

streets, and so many others. Perhaps these are the next of Arlington’s Notable trees?

And finally, as we are all doing our spring planting, let’s plant young trees today. We have lived in Barcroft since 1992 and for

all those years until the last, enjoyed a wonderful huge oak planted decades before in our backyard; our now 26-year-old napped under it as a newborn fighting jaundice, generations of our dogs played chase around it, and squirrels foiled every measure we took to keep them out of our birdfeeders from its branches. Our tree died last year attacked by ambrosia beetles and weakened by age,

heavy rain, then heat and drought. Reflecting on our terrific old tree, we recently planted a young maple. We may not be here to see it, but we are hoping for a 2070 Notable tree designation! •

*\* The 6th Street Black Gum was taken down this past winter due to age and stress of climate change.*

# Update From Barcroft Elementary

**By Kelly Miller, Barcroft Elementary PTA**

Spring has sprung at Barcroft and the Eagles are loving it! Not only have the students enjoyed the warmer weather, they enjoyed some fun activities such as Science Night and the Step Afrika! assembly.

The Eagles were ready for Spring Break but also looked forward to the Friendship Party where they boogied the night away with all their friends. Looking forward, the Eagles will enjoy celebrating the teachers in May and June end of

the year celebration. That's right, readers, I said end of the year celebrations.

Until next time, enjoy the Spring and all it brings! •

## BSCL Membership Reminder

**By Linda Gaines, Membership Secretary**

This is a friendly reminder that BSCL membership runs with the calendar year. For your convince, we are including the membership form in this month's issue. However, you can always download it off the website, or renew online via the website. This is the last month we will be running the form in the newsletter, so please save it if you wish to use it. •

## Happy New Year !

In 2021, not only was our team, Trent & Co at COMPASS Real Estate, named #1 in the DMV for Medium-Sized Teams in both Volume and Transactions by the Wall Street Journal's annual REAL Trends + Tom Ferry's The Thousand - but it was also our strongest year yet! We're ready to put our experience and expertise to work for you in 2022!

**\$258<sup>+</sup>MM**

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We cannot thank our clients enough for their continued support. We could not do this without you! 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!

Source: Team Records & Bright MLS

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## Glencarlyn Library Garden Spring Celebration and Plant Sale

Northern Virginians can celebrate the 150th anniversary of Arbor Day at the Spring Celebration and Plant Sale at the Glencarlyn Library Garden on Saturday, April 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. An educational tree walk will start at 1 p.m., featuring the beautiful native trees in and around the garden, and the Small Trees Make Big Canopies program of the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia (MGNV) will be giving away saplings during the event.

“The Spring Celebration and Plant Sale is a great chance to honor Arbor Day and Earth Day,” says Elaine Mills, one of the Library Garden coordinators. “Master Gardeners will be present to answer questions, as will members

of the Herb Society of America, Potomac Unit, and representatives from Arlington’s composting and recycling program. There will be children’s activities throughout the day.”

Other event offerings include native plants from Hill House Nursery, locally grown vegetable and fruit starts, and a variety of plants propagated at the Library Garden, local honey, hand-made pottery, T-shirts, recycled bags, and used books from the Friends of Arlington Libraries.

The Library Garden is located at 300 South Kensington Street and is a demonstration garden of MGNV. Proceeds from sales at this free event support the garden year-round. ●

## Proposal for Grandma’s Creek, continued

### ***Continued from page 4***

from both Urban Forestry and Environmental Services.

If the Neighborhood Conservation program interests you, please consider taking an active role, and volunteer to be Barcroft’s representative on the Advisory Commission. I was Barcroft’s representative from 2015 until I became president of the BSCL. At that point, Neal Martin, who was the alternate representative, agreed to take over, and I became the alternate. He has moved away, and Barcroft is in need of a new representative for the Commission. Please contact Deborah Wood at president@bscl.org or 703-892-1243 (home) if you

would like more information. The position involves attending one meeting a month (usually about eight or nine months out of the year), and sending a brief update to the BSCL president and vice president. Meetings are still virtual at this time. Tim McIntosh is the County coordinator for the commission. He does an excellent job of lining up presentations by various leaders from County departments and other local programs that play a part in neighborhood projects. You also get to find out about the projects going on around the County in other neighborhoods. I will continue serving as an alternate and will answer any questions as the new representative learns the ropes. ●



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# Mid-Winter Greetings from Our Savior Lutheran School

Every year, Lutheran schools around the country celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week. Our Savior Lutheran School celebrated this special week this past month from March 7 to 11. The theme for this year was “In All Things” from Colossians 1:15-20. Every day during the week, we dressed up in special spirit wear or crazy outfits and had fun activities, like a science assembly, teacher switch day, and student team competitions. To end the week, we had families join us for a bingo night. It was a great time had by all.

If you are currently looking for a church home or would just like to visit, please join us in person or online for church on Sundays at Our Savior Lutheran. The early service is only in-person and begins at 8:15 a.m. The late service is both in-person and online at 11 a.m. You can find the online service on the Our Savior Lutheran Church Facebook page.

Please join us at Our Savior Lutheran Church for Holy Week worship services. We have a Maundy Thursday service on April 14

at 7 p.m., a Good Friday service on April 15 at 7 p.m., and Sunday Easter services on April 17 at 8:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. We would love to have you come and worship with us. ●

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## Women’s Club Hosts Stronger Memory Speaker

*By Pat Fisher*

On Monday, May 2, 2022, Jessica Fredericksen, Brain Health Manager at Goodwin House, Inc. will lead a program on Stronger Memory. We all know someone who has to deal with either dementia or Alzheimer’s. Come hear Jessica speak at the Woman’s Club of Arlington at 1 p.m. on Monday, May 2. If you cannot attend in person a ZOOM connection will be offered. Call our clubhouse or visit our web page at [Womansclubarlington@gmail.com](mailto:Womansclubarlington@gmail.com), the phone number is 703-553-5800. Drop-ins are welcome! ●

## *President’s Message, continued*

### *Continued from page 2*

the rental can be found on the bscl.org website. There is a link titled “Barcroft House” at the top of the main page. Rental rates are especially reasonable for members of the Barcroft School and Civic League.

You will find several opportunities to

volunteer mentioned in this newsletter. If any of these activities interest you, please consider taking on a role for the Barcroft community. You can learn a great deal about the neighborhood and the County, meet interesting people, and come to appreciate living here even more. ●

# 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](mailto:editor@bscl.org).*

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

**Pet Care at Your Door!** Barcroft resident, GWU graduate student with years of experience caring for all types of pets is available for pet sitting. Can do both daily visits or overnight stays, as needed. Mature, responsible and reliable; references available upon request. Call/text Martina at 541-602-7336 or email [martina.vega@soapcreekent.com](mailto:martina.vega@soapcreekent.com).

**Pet Sitting:** I live in Barcroft and I am a student at Radford University. I'll be home for the summer (May to August) and I would like to earn money for college. I love animals and I've taken care of dogs, cats and other pets for many years. I am available to do daily dog walks and/or housesitting for your pets. I am reliable and can provide references upon request. Please text/call me, Kian Chada, 703-785-3305 or email [kchada10@gmail.com](mailto:kchada10@gmail.com).

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Barcroft School and Civic League  
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Here's a critical tip when buying a home in today's competitive real estate market. **Submit your mortgage pre-approval from a reputable, local lender.** Your mortgage loan officer is a key player on your real estate team. A pre-approval from an out-of-town or big box lender, credit union or online mortgage company creates doubt in the mind of a seller and listing agent. We've seen sellers disregard offers from buyers who are pre-approved by an internet lender and some credit unions. Give your seller every reason to believe your pre-approval is solid by working with a reputable mortgage lender. You need a loan officer who knows the area and how to connect the pieces with the timeline of sale to get it to settlement on time. You want a lender who uses knowledgeable and local appraisers, and someone you can call that you have a relationship with. You don't typically get that with most banks, credit unions and online lenders.

When presenting an offer with short notice on the weekend or an evening, the **lender needs to be available** to speak with the listing agent who might be evaluating ten offers. If there is a hiccup in the transaction you need someone who is accessible and proactive in resolving the issue. If you, or someone you know is looking to get pre-approved, we have a list of trusted preferred lenders who can help you with your home purchase.

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