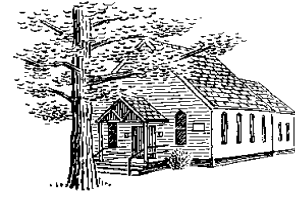


Barcroft School and Civic League
800 South Buchanan Street
Arlington, VA 22204



Barcroft News

January 2023

Vol 120, Issue 5

Barcroft Neighborhood Summer Camp Grows Up

By Jake and Brody Karton

My brother, Brody, and I have lived in Barcroft our entire lives and the summer camp we started 10 years ago has always been an important part of our connection to this incredible community. That's why we're excited to announce that Camp Sarraka is back for summer 2023.

From the time we were old enough to play, Brody and I loved running and exploring with other kids in the neighborhood. A few neighbors, Elaine and Christina, noticed we were always outside having fun and many younger kids were tagging along. They

asked us to create a week of "summer camp" and we loved the idea. Originally known as Camp SCAM (Sports, Crafts, And Memories), we started our camp in the summer 2013 when we were 13 and 11 years old. Best summer job ever.

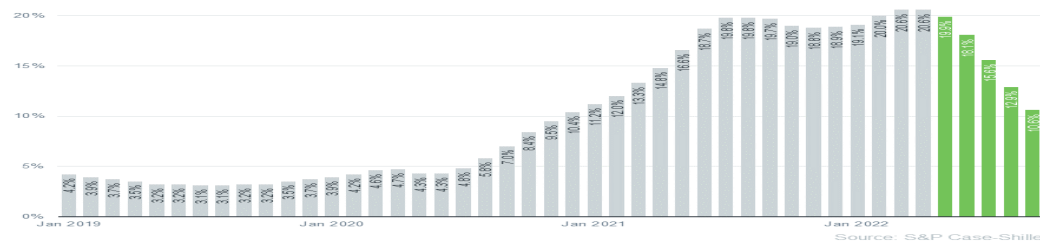
Growing exclusively through word of mouth, we have run our camp in the Barcroft community ever since. Many of the kids that started as campers have become CITs and counselors as the Camp Sarraka Family continues to grow. Every day is packed with sports (capture the flag, hotshots), art projects



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The graph below shows home price growth has moderated in recent months as buyer demand has slowed in response to higher mortgage rates. While home price growth is moderating month-over-month, the percent of appreciation year-over-year is still well above the home price change we saw during more normal years in the market. The bars for January 2019 through mid-2020 show home price appreciation around 3-4% a year was more typical (see bars for January 2019 through mid-2020). The latest data for this year shows prices have still climbed by roughly 10% over last year. Inventory is still low compared to more normal years. For a potential home seller, that means your house should still be in demand for potential buyers if you price it right.

Home Price Growth Since January 2019
Year-Over-Year Percent Change in Home Prices



Are you considering a new lifestyle? Put my 37 years of local Arlington market expertise to work for you and your largest financial investment! **Casey O'Neal, Compass Real Estate, 703-217-9090, www.caseyoneal.com. Free Notary!**

Next Meeting:

Thursday, January 5, 7:30 p.m., On Zoom

Topic: To Be Announced on the Chat List



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



Barcroft News

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President's Message

By Matthew Field

In preparing to write this message, I scrolled through previous January issues of the Barcroft News to see what I could steal from my predecessors. That exercise mostly showed me what an excellent job prior presidents have done (certainly when compared to my efforts), but it also provided perspective on current Barcroft events.

Chris Kupczyk's President's Message from January 2017 discussed several proposed changes to traffic control in the neighborhood. In particular, he noted that "the county determined that there is insufficient traffic at the intersection of 6th Street and Buchanan/Pershing to justify a three way stop." Instead of adding stop signs on Pershing, the county decided to relocate the maximum safe speed advisory sign to a more visible location in hopes of heightening "awareness of the horizontal curve and the turning traffic from and onto 6th Street South."

As those of you who follow the listserv know, the county changed its mind about this intersection at some point. A three-way stop was recently installed, surprising the majority of drivers on Buchanan, who largely ignored it for the first couple days. (I was nearly guilty of this dangerous error myself a couple of times). The county has since added some stop lines, and drivers

Continued on page 3

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.

Private Drum Lessons in Barcroft: All ages/levels either In-Person or Virtual! Local musician offering instruction from Barcroft home studio on 3rd Street South. 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

Pet Sitting: Colin and Emmett (5th-6th 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. call (703)474-2691 and ask for Colin and Emmett or email Lauren.alyssa@gmail.com.

Dull knives? I'm home on winter break and ready to sharpen them! Dec 10 - Jan 10. My 4 years of experience means easier chopping for you! Cost is \$1.25/inch; \$1.75/ inch for serrated. Price of tools upon inspection. For more information or service contact Zach at 571-598-4760, or email zstech00@gmail.com

Barcrofter Loki Mulholland Books and Movies: His complete works available (save ship-

ping 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.



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703-354-3225, or
571-236-3700**



Barcroft Community House

Yoga and Stretch Class
Wednesday - 6:30 to 7:45 pm

Yoga for Osteoporosis – Bone Building
Tuesday - 4 - 5:15

Info@EDYoga.com or 703-975-3816
for more details and to enroll

Solar Panels vs. Trees, continued

Continued from page 5

owners. The first step should be to reduce energy consumption, by weatherizing and taking steps to reduce waste. Those ready to make a big investment can consider a heat pump or even a geothermal system for heating and air conditioning. As for solar panels, the cost of installation can be partially offset by a tax credit. Some utility companies including Dominion allow customers to choose a renewable energy option. It will take considerable effort and broad participation for our community to meet its climate goals, but not everyone has to do everything. Those with sunny roofs can contribute solar energy. Those with trees can take care of them.

Trees themselves are what are known as a “natural climate solution,” providing benefits

that mitigate the effect of climate change. Trees improve the energy efficiency of houses. In winter, they reduce heating costs by blocking the wind. In the summer, they reduce air conditioning costs, since roofs and walls in the shade are often twenty degrees cooler than those in the sun. In addition, trees improve air quality and sequester carbon dioxide. Their ability to capture stormwater is particularly important in flood-prone suburban and urban areas with their excess of impervious surfaces.

You can use the National Tree Benefit Calculator at <http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator/> to see what you save in monetary terms by preserving a few mature, strategically located trees. For the birds and other critters that depend on them, native trees are priceless. ●

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Beyond Rock Salt: Winter Deicing Alternatives

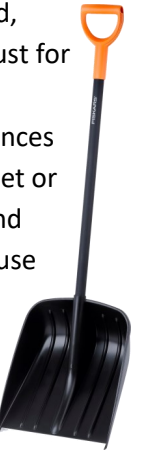
By the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia

With winter weather upon us, keeping our sidewalks and driveways free of ice is an important safety precaution. However, use of sodium chloride (rock salt), the most common deicer, and other chloride salts can cause serious problems for our environment. Salt can raise sodium levels in drinking water, harm fish, pets, plants and other wildlife, and corrode vehicles, roads bridges, and parking lots. Arlington, Alexandria, and other local jurisdictions participate in Virginia’s salt management strategy to reduce overall use of salt through applying brine, which has much less salt than rock salt, and other methods.

There are a number of actions home-

owners can take to keep their walkways and driveways safe while protecting their plants, reducing harmful runoff, and protecting pets:

- Shovel, scrape, and sweep snow early and often to prevent ice buildup;
- Use calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) instead of salt—it is just as effective but with fewer adverse impacts or use sand, non-clumping kitty litter, or sawdust for traction;
- Use salt, if at all, sparingly—12 ounces is enough to treat 1,000 square feet or about the 20 feet of driveway—and sweep up after ice is melted to reuse later and prevent runoff into rivers and streams. ●



President’s Message, continued

Continued from page 2

seem to be adjusting, though the visibility issues remain, and the existence of a speed hump immediately before the northbound stop sign on Buchanan sends mixed signals.

I don’t have much of an opinion on whether the changes to this intersection are good or bad. But the history highlights a couple of important points. One, there’s value in raising issues to the county, even if doing so doesn’t result in immediate relief. Two, solutions aren’t always perfect—it’s hard to predict how people will react, and further adjustments might be necessary to achieve intended

results. It’s important to have some humility about how things will play out and to maintain flexibility to change course as necessary. And three, it’s important for the neighborhood and county to maintain good communication.

One of my resolutions this year is to work to make those lines of communication more robust. A surprise stop sign is a small thing, hardly worth the 300 or so words I’ve given it, but hopefully we can work to avoid bigger surprises in the future and help the county make decisions that work for Barcroft. ●

Neighborhood Summer Camp, continued

Continued from page 1

(decorating T-shirts, chalk murals), and creative activities (brain-teaser obstacle courses, lip-sync battles). The campers have so much fun they don't realize they're also learning about leadership, teamwork, and kindness.

Many of the camper's favorite counselors – Gabe, Jaylan, Troy – are lifelong friends, who grew up and went to school with us at Barcroft, Kenmore, and Wakefield. Over the years, our camp expanded to include other programs such as birthday parties, after-school programs, and a special Covid session, providing a much-needed outlet of activity and companionship for Barcroft kids and a much-needed break for parents and caregivers.

After graduating from the McIntire School of Commerce at the University of Virginia in 2021, I was accepted at Teach for America and am currently finishing my second year as a high school math teacher in rural South Carolina. Brody will graduate from Dartmouth College in June and taught last summer at Breakthrough Miami, an AmeriCorps-partnered nonprofit that provides aca-



democratic enrichment to underrepresented students. After 10 years, we've seen the impact that creativity and fun can have on a child's development, and that's what motivates us to take Camp Sarraka to the next level.

So, in August, we officially incorporated and changed the name from Camp SCAM to Camp Sarraka, a magical world filled with adventure and fun that Brody and I created as kids. We also got one of our best friends and Arlington-native, Ethan, to join the team.

Our philosophy remains the same: teach the important lessons we learned about sportsmanship, competition, and well-being – all while creating an environment where kids can explore, take chances, and thrive. For us, it's truly an honor to have the opportunity to give back to the Barcroft community that has given so much to us.

Hear directly from the Camp Sarraka parents in a video (QR code takes you to it) and learn more at campsarraka.com or please contact me directly (703-622-9210; jake@sarraka.com). ●



Solar Panels vs. Trees – How to Choose?

From the Plant NOVA Natives Campaign

Residents who are interested in installing solar panels may face a dilemma. Which is better for the environment, solar panels or shade trees? After all, climate change due to burning fossil fuels is threatening the very existence of trees, not to mention human beings, and the timeline for preventing catastrophic temperature rise is short. Before we get out the chainsaw, though, there are several other things to consider.

One of the main reasons to limit temperature rises is to prevent ecosystem collapse. The native trees in our yards are as much a part of that ecosystem as the ones in the Amazon, providing food, shelter and nesting places not only for birds and mammals but for a myriad of

invertebrates that are a critical part of the web of life. If we do not even protect the environment where we live, we can hardly expect people in the Amazon to take more of an interest.

Sunny rooftops are an ideal place to put solar panels, since that real estate is already built upon, and since decentralizing the grid builds resilience. The land use anticipated for solar farms and new transmission lines is so massive, and the willingness of companies to replace forests with them so counterproductive and disheartening, that the more we use our own rooftops, the better. But solar energy is neither the only way to reduce fossil fuel use nor the most efficient of the various options for home-

Continued on page 6

A black and white advertisement for Susan Tull O'Reilly, Realtor. The background is a dark, textured image of trees. On the left is a portrait of Susan Tull O'Reilly, a woman with dark hair, wearing a dark jacket over a light-colored collared shirt and a necklace. On the right, the text reads: "How may I be of help? Proudly Serving Barcroft" in a serif font. Below that, in a smaller font, is "Buying, Selling or just Friendly Advice". At the bottom right, it says "Susan Tull O'Reilly, Realtor®" followed by "NVAR Lifetime Top Producer, Over 25 Years Experience", "703.509.7222 | soreilly@mceneaney.com | SusanTullOReilly.com", and "1320 Old Chain Bridge Road, McLean, VA 22101 | 703.790.9090". In the top right corner is the logo for "McEneaney ASSOCIATES REALTORS®". At the bottom right, it says "Equal Housing Opportunity".