



Barcroft News

April 2023

Vol 120, Issue 8

Time to Revive the BSCL Traffic Committee

By Carol Olander

You don't have to spend much time outside to witness the hazardous traffic in our neighborhood. Now that the COVID quarantine is behind us, traffic volume has picked up, as well. Whether doing yard work, riding a bike, pushing a stroller or walking the dog, it is likely that you've seen cars speed down residential streets, roll through stop signs, take the middle of the road to avoid the full effect of speed bumps, and take curves too fast.

For some unlucky Barcroft residents, recent consequences have been serious. Numerous households have had parked cars badly damaged. In at least one case, a new car was totaled by a speeding driver. In another instance, a

driver ended up on a neighbor's front lawn. A dog walker came close to being hit while crossing a Barcroft street.

Several years ago, the BSCL Traffic Committee took on the task of traffic calming. Their work resulted in some of the measures we see today, such as intersections with four-way stop signs and speed bumps. More recently, individuals were instrumental in having new stop signs installed on Buchanan at 6th Street.

Input on the BSCL chatlist and during the March Community Meeting confirmed that unsafe driving is a current problem on multiple streets. As a result, the decision was made to reconstitute the organization's Traffic Committee.



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Next Meeting:

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

Topic: Grandma's Creek and Green Streets



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



Barcroft News

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4th of July Parade: Heather Meade and Jim Moran

Columbia Pike: Katja Helbing, Charlie Smiroldo

Demeter House: Darlene Mickey

Parks & Enviro.: Don Bennett

Signs: Doug Mueller

ArNAC Rep.: Don Bennett

ArNAC Alternate: Deborah Wood

Arlington Civic Fed. Delegates:
Eric Harold, Christopher Hoh,
Randy Swart, Deborah Wood

Alternates: Gary Mason, Daniel Weir

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President's Message

By Matthew Field

By the time this newsletter goes to print, it might be Spring. I want to say something about the rhythm of the seasons, but frankly I can't tell if that applies anymore. Winter never really came, and it seems we've had seven different forecasts of peak cherry blossom blooms over the past month.

Some things seem to return right on schedule, though. Last April, the BSCL meeting featured an update on a project BSCL was working on with the Arlington Neighborhoods program to improve the parkland around Grandma's Creek. This April, we'll be returning to the topic of Grandma's Creek, but with a new project.

As you may be aware, Grandma's Creek, which flows through culverts under Third and Fourth Streets and then through Glencarlyn park into Four Mile Run, is severely eroded. This erosion is primarily a result of stormwater runoff, and it imperils the natural systems in the park. The stormwater runoff also brings phosphorous and other nutrients, contributing to the degradation of downstream habitats and water quality in Four Mile Run, the Potomac River, and the Chesapeake Bay.

Last year, Barcroft residents identified an opportunity to pursue funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Federation's Small Watershed Grants Program to construct bioretention systems that could potentially reduce runoff into Grandma's Creek. Arlington county engineers have preliminarily identified some

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President's Message, continued

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suitable locations for these facilities in the neighborhood, and the county intends to pursue the funding.

We'll have representatives from the county at our April meeting to provide an overview of the project and discuss how Barcroft can assist. While this is an excellent opportunity to improve the environment in Barcroft, we also need to make sure the final plans and implementation make sense and avoid unnecessary impacts to Barcroft residents. I encourage anyone interested to attend the meeting to learn more, provide feedback, and hear about opportunities to get involved.

While the seasons may be getting hard-

er to predict, we're lucky to have the opportunity here in Barcroft to look out our windows and see nature's changes in real time. With this effort and others we'll discuss throughout the year, we can do our part to help preserve that benefit. ●



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Equal Housing Opportunity

Spring E-CARE is April 15 at Wakefield High School

E-CARE, Arlington's twice annual environmentally friendly drop-off event, returns on Saturday, April 15, at Wakefield High School, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Residents can safely and quickly dispose of household hazardous materials (HHM) and old electronics. For more details and a list of what is accepted, visit the County website at <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Recycling-and-Trash/Household-Hazardous->

Materials-HHM/E-CARE.

The event is for Arlington residents only and no commercial waste will be accepted. Materials accepted include: automotive fluids, batteries, car care products, compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), corrosives (acids/caustics), fire extinguishers, flammable solvents, fluorescent tubes, fuels/petroleum products, household cleaners, lawn and garden chemicals, mercury, paint products (25-can limit), photographic chemicals, poisons (pesticides), printer ink/toner cartridges, propane gas cylinders (small hand-held or larger) and swimming pool chemicals. •

Woman's Club of Arlington Events

By Pat Fisher

Two events are offered at the Woman's Club of Arlington in April. There is a new date for the Prayer Breakfast: April 17, at 10 a.m. The speaker is Rev. Julie Bryant from St. John's Episcopal Church in Arlington and St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Falls Church. The cost is \$5. A full breakfast will be served with coffee, tea or juice. There is plenty of free parking. RSVP to Pat Fisher, 703-751-3442 by April 14. Men and visitors welcome!

"Bike Skills for Kids" will be offered on April 29 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, co-sponsored by the Woman's Club of Arlington, Bike Arlington, and Phoenix Bikes. The event is free for children ages preschool and up. Safe biking skills will be taught, and safety checks made for bicycles and helmets. Participants can practice new skills on a safe course in the parking lot at 700 South Buchanan Street. •

Traffic Committee, continued

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The order of business would be to assess the scope of the problem, identify alternative remedies, and take steps to implement the most appropriate. Coordination with Arlington County Emergency Services and Environmental Services/Traffic Operations is part of this process.

This is a call to indicate your interest in serving on the BSCL Traffic Committee. Five or six persons are needed, including a committee chair. Although I am unable to chair the committee, I will coordinate the logistics of a first meeting. Please indicate your interest by sending an e-mail (cjoyolander@gmail.com) or leaving a voice mail (703-685-5385) no later than Tuesday, April 4. •

Cure for Spring Fever Available at Spring Celebration

The itch to acquire beautiful plants and nature-related products can be met at the annual Spring Celebration and Plant Sale at Glencarlyn Library Community Garden on April 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Located at 300 South Kensington Street in Arlington, this Master Gardener demonstration garden will be offering a wide range of plants cultivated on site, as well as native plants from Hill House Nursery, vegetable and herb starts from local grower Walter Rissmiller, mushroom-growing kits, local honey, hand-made pottery and more.

“Some of these items are just right for Mother’s Day,” says Elaine Mills, one of the co

-coordinators at the garden. “Come and find a beautiful plant or treat for yourself or a special woman in your life for Mother’s Day.”

The oldest house in Arlington, the Ball -Sellers House, will be open for tours, Tree Stewards will be available for questions, and tree saplings will be given away for free.

The sale also offers Master Gardeners on site to consult on garden-related questions and to help choose the right plant for the right place. The sale raises funds to keep the demonstration garden operating, and is free to the public. More information is available by emailing glencarlynlibrarygarden@gmail.com, calling 703-244-7309 or at www.mgnav.org. •

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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.

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.

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. ●

Notes from the Editor

Passing of Linda Webb

The first Barcroft News issue I edited was May 2013, and I needed some hand-holding. The Publisher was Linda Webb, and she saved me from some major mistakes without making me feel bad. Her job was to proof each issue, then to collect it from the printer and get it to the volunteer distributors. We became email friends, and I relied on her eagle eye to catch errors. A few years later, she and her husband, Rosey, moved to Santa Fe, and when the new Publisher did not want to proof, Linda said she would be delighted to do so remotely, since it would allow her to keep up to date with her beloved Barcroft neighborhood.

Sadly, a few years ago, Linda was diagnosed with a rare form of lung cancer. She fought it with energy, dignity and lots of research. Her husband posted on the Barcroft listserv that Linda passed away on March 14. I join many other Barcrofters in mourning the loss of this talented and generous woman who gave us all so much.

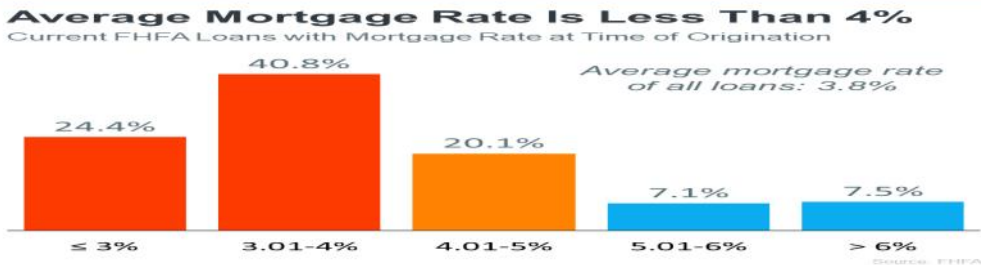
Two Newsletter Volunteer Opportunities.

With Linda's passing, we now need someone who will proof each month. Also, the Advertising Manager position is open again. Please give me a call or send an email at editor@bscl.org or 703-907-9318 if you would like to know more about either position . ●



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

The biggest challenge the housing market's facing is how few homes there are for sale. According to the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), the average interest rate for current homeowners with mortgages is less than 4% (see graph below). The current mortgage rate is over 6%. Many homeowners are opting to stay put instead of moving to another home with a higher borrowing cost. This is a situation known as being rate locked. When so many homeowners are reluctant to sell, it's a challenge for a housing market that needs more supply. However, experts project mortgage rates will gradually fall this year, and more people may be willing to move as that happens. For any potential home seller, today's market is a sweet spot that can work to your advantage.



If you have questions about home prices or how much equity you have in your current home, let's connect so you have a professional's advice. Put my 38 years of local market expertise to work for you and those you care about! **Casey O'Neal, Compass Real Estate, 703-217- 9090, www.caseyoneal.com Free Notary for Barcrofters!**