



Barcroft News

June/July 2023

Vol 120, Issue 10

Barcroft's Big Event: Fourth of July Festivities

By Heather Meade

Get ready for Barcroft's greatest annual neighborhood event. Come celebrate our nation's birthday and the Annual Fourth of July Barcroft Parade and Picnic. The parade begins at 10 a.m. sharp on Tuesday, July 4.

Anyone can join and we hope you will! Marchers meet in the Woman's Club parking lot at 9:45 a.m. across from the Barcroft Community House at 800 South Buchanan.

Volunteers: We are looking for volunteers to:

- ★ Organize children's games
- ★ Play in the band
- ★ Help with cooking or clean up
- ★ Serve as a judge
- ★ Provide a car or truck to drive Uncle Sam
- ★ Paint faces.

Sign up Here to Volunteer: <https://forms.gle/EJWzXZkhcBJEafxHA>

or email

heathermeade@gmail.com.

To join the marching band: email Doug Kramer at drkramerus@yahoo.com

All skill levels are welcome. There is one pre-march practice.

Don't forget: Thanks to everyone who lives on the parade route or near the Barcroft Community House for moving your cars on July 4 before that parade.

The Parade: A Scout Color Guard, AFD Fire Engine and Arlington police, our very own Barcroft Marching Band, Uncle Sam and all of you in your most creative costumes and



A marching band made up of Barcroft residents plays patriotic songs at the 2022 parade.

floats. Let's get out there and celebrate. Decorate those strollers and bikes, paint those faces and bellies or come dressed as your favorite superhero or surprise us! Turn your bike into a helicopter, put wheels on your surfboard, make a fun

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Barcroft News

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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

Visit Us Online: www.bscl.org

President's Message

By Matthew Field

The final BSCL meeting before the summer break was a successful one. We elected Shaun Ragnauth as our new Treasurer. Luckily, our retiring Treasurer, Jennifer Lis, has expertly shepherded BSCL's finances over the past dozen years, so Shaun is stepping into a solid situation. Thanks, Jennifer, for all your hard work, and welcome, Shaun!

We also had a lengthy but respectful discussion about the South George Mason Drive Multimodal Study (<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Transportation-Projects/S.-George-Mason-Drive-Multimodal-Transportation-Study>) and the County's interactions with Barcroft residents who could be impacted by the changes being studied. The county is studying ways to improve safety and multimodal access along George Mason Drive, including through the construction of a multi-modal trail along the east side of South George Mason Drive. The currently preferred concept would remove on-street parking on that side of the street. BSCL passed a resolution, which has since been transmitted to the County Board, expressing support for the goals of the project while asking the County to preserve parking for Barcroft residents on the west side of George Mason and to work closely with residents who will be affected by the changes as

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Arlington is Changing Stormwater Management Program

Arlington County is changing how the Stormwater Management Program is funded. Since 2008, the stormwater program has been funded by a sanitary district tax based on a property's real estate assessment. Beginning in 2024, the County will change to a Stormwater Utility fee based on the amount of impervious area on a property (hard surfaces like roofs and driveways that don't let rain runoff soak into the ground). Customers will receive the first real estate bill with the Stormwater Utility fee in May 2024.

On April 22, 2023, the Board approved a resolution stating their intent to adopt the new Stormwater Utility fee, which is based on

how much stormwater runoff each property generates. The County is making this change now because the rise in severe flooding in recent years requires increased investments in the stormwater system, and a utility is a fairer way to distribute the cost. These investments will help maintain, upgrade, and scale our stormwater infrastructure to better protect Arlington from future severe rainstorms.

More information about the planned changes as well as information about a credit program is available at <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Sustainability-and-Environment/Stormwater/Stormwater-Utility-Implementation>. ●



How may I be of help?
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Equal Housing Opportunity

Grandma's Creek Park Invasive Plants Cleanup

By Deborah Wood

Arlington County Dept of Parks and Recreation and the Tree Stewards organization have supported two invasive plant removal events in Grandma's Creek Park. The first time, on Earth Day 2023, our efforts were cut short by thunder and rain, but we still managed to remove the ivy growing up trees, and some garlic mustard on the west side of the park, near the end of 5th Street, South. The sec-



Garlic Mustard with seed pods.

ond time, on May 21, we made excellent progress on the garlic mustard invading the parkland along South Pershing.

To capitalize on our progress, I am inviting Barcroft neighbors and Tree Stewards to a third effort on Saturday, June 24, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. We will be working on the east side again, along South Pershing Drive. If you would like to attend, please email Deborah

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Join the Barcroft Chat List

By Mark Wigfield

Barcroft has a neighborhood email chat list, which we use to discuss topics of interest, give away or sell items, get recommendations for services, and more. The list is limited to Barcroft residents, and is not ad-based, which means you won't get spammed with junk commercial emails if you join. The list is called BSCLchat; BSCL is the Barcroft School and Civic League, which is the neighborhood civic association, sponsor of the chat list, and owner of the Community House at 8th and Buchanan.

The list currently has about 500 members. Email traffic ranges from about 3 to 10 messages daily, typically in the lower range.

You can receive a daily digest to limit traffic, or you can forgo emails entirely and access the list from the web site, bsclchat.groups.io.

To join, send an e-mail to: main+subscribe@bsclchat.groups.io or click on the link at bsclchat.groups.io. You will then receive an email from the moderator (me) asking for your name and address, which we require to limit membership to Barcroft residents. Once you provide the information and I have verified it, I will approve your membership. Your first email will be moderated. Apologies in advance for any delay in this process, which is not automated.

Questions? E-mail me at mark.wigfield@gmail.com. •

Invasives Cleanup, continued

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at wooddeb52@gmail.com, or call at 703 973-7424. I will also be sending out a link to sign up for this event through the chat-list.

There's plenty of poison ivy, so please wear long sleeves and pants. Bring water and your favorite weeding tools. I promise it will be fun working with your neighbors, and you can take your aggression out on these unwanted invaders, which are choking out the plants that provide food for birds and insects. ●



The invasive plant cleanup area includes the area next to the former Dominion Power lot on Pershing Drive.



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Barcroft's Premier Event, continued

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float or banner or just come watch! Participants might even win a coveted Barcroft Parade Medal.

Parade Route:

- ★ Start 800 South Buchanan (Barcroft Community House),
- ★ Down South Buchanan Street,
- ★ Left on 8th Road South,
- ★ Left on South Wakefield,
- ★ Turn around at Barcroft Elementary,
- ★ Right on 8th Street South,
- ★ Finish 800 South Buchanan.



The Barcroft Snow Brigade marching team.

Post- parade: The parade will be followed by a neighborhood cookout! The Barcroft School and Civic League will provide hamburgers, hot dogs and watermelon.

👉 Please bring a side dish to share.

There will be a free magic show after the parade beginning at 10:40 a.m.

Come and join in the parade. We can't wait to see you!

For more information or to volunteer to help call or email Heather Meade: heathermeade@gmail.com or (206) 817-5609. ●



President's Message, continued

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the study and project move forward.

Finally, I had some time to reflect last weekend while riding the streetcar around Toronto. (Not to reopen old wounds, but that was a pretty nice way to get around the city!) I had no expectations about what the President's job would be when I was elected a year ago; I wasn't much involved in BSCL. But I've

learned over the past year what an excellent vehicle BSCL can be for improving our neighborhood. And more importantly, I've learned how many dedicated people there are in Barcroft working to make those things happen. I'm excited to keep working with you all next year to see what else we can do. Thanks for letting me be your President this term, and have a great summer. ●

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.

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.

Summer parent helper: Please contact me if you want a responsible parent helper! I am really creative, thinking of fun entertaining games for your child and keeping them busy and safe. Ages I am comfortable with are 3 to 6 y/o. I am a rising 5th grader and 10 years old. \$4/hr. Great references upon request, contact Lucy at eddie3@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.

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.

Kyle's Lawn Care: Mowing, trimming, mulching, gardening and other various lawn maintenance. Email kylepboll@gmail.com or call 571-255-9034. ●

New Editor Sought for Barcroft News

By Alyssa Ford Morel, Editor

After 10 years as editor of Barcroft News, I have decided that it is time to step down from that role and let someone else have a chance to have the fun of interacting with our Barcroft neighbors in this meaningful way. The last issue I will edit will be Decem-

ber, 2023, unless whoever replaces me would like to start before that date.

To formally volunteer for the role, send an email to president@bscl.org. If you are interested in finding out more about what the job entails, please contact me at editor@bscl.org. ●



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

With more buyers out there than there are homes for sale, showings have increased this year from Pre-Pandemic Levels. The chart shows the last 7 years of home showings in the month of March.

Showing Traffic Above Pre-Pandemic Levels

Showing Index for March over the Last 7 Years



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 Barcroft residents!