



September 2023

Barcroft News

Vol 121, Issue 1

Traffic Calming Committee Update

**By Rosemary Leffler and Carol Olander,
Barcroft Traffic Calming Committee**

The May Barcroft Newsletter reported on speeding issues on South Pershing Drive. 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 another Barcroft street.

The problem was dramatically demonstrated again on Sunday, August 13 when a drunk driver drove through a fence and smashed into a retaining wall in front of a house on the corner of 8th Road and Buchanan. Were it not for that wall, the aggressive

driver would have plowed into the living room. Neighbors directly across the street experienced the same incident several months ago with an aggressive driver smashing through their fence.

This sort of incident is all too common on South Buchanan and Pershing Drive. It is time for more of us in Barcroft to insist the County take action to reduce the very real threat this traffic situation creates for residents.

The Barcroft Traffic Committee has spoken with the County and submitted the recommended requests. However, it can take a year or more to get any action. Perhaps if more of us contacted the County our requests would be addressed in a timelier manner.

As we all know, our neighborhood is

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Next Meeting:

Thursday, September 7, 7:30 p.m., On Zoom

Topic: Traffic Calming and More

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



Barcroft News

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Next Deadline: September 15, 2023

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Randy Swart, Deborah Wood

Alternates: Gary Mason, Daniel Weir

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President's Message

By Matthew Field

Welcome back, Barcroft! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and took the opportunity to get out of town, get some sun, and stay up all night watching the Women's World Cup.

While the BSCL took a break from meetings this summer, there was still some work to do. BSCL was awarded a grant through Arlington's Historic Preservation fund to help support necessary maintenance on the Community House, and we've been working to hire contractors and get the paperwork in place to take advantage and preserve this unique community asset for years to come. Thanks to Barbara and Randy Swart and Jennifer Lis for spearheading this effort.

In less positive news, this summer saw several traffic incidents in the neighborhood, with South Buchanan Street experiencing some particularly harrowing ones. These aren't new problems. Residents have already been in touch with the County about potential solutions, and we'll discuss these issues further at the September meeting.

Speaking of meetings, as always, I hope to see some new faces at them over the next year. Everyone is welcome, even if you just plan to sit silently and take in information. No pop quizzes, I promise! ●

Rock-n-Recycle Open House

A family favorite returns for the fourth year as the Solid Waste Bureau opens its doors at the Trades Center in Shirlington on Saturday, September 16 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine.

Explore the world of recycling, trash-to-energy and other key environmental services provided in Arlington County. See the big work machines (The Rock Crusher! The Tub Grinder!) up close, sit in the driver's seat and meet the experts who keep Arlington clean and sustainable.

There will be dozens of hands-on learning stations, take-home art, environmentally friendly giveaways, music, and more.

The Arlington County Trades Center is located at 4300 29th Street South. Event website: arlingtonva.us/Rock-n-Recycle. •

Traffic Calming, continued

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changing. Wonderfully, a lot of young families are moving here, and we want Barcroft to be a place where everyone feels safe and our streets have marked crosswalks, stop signs, speed humps, and all of the traffic calming measures that are available for a safe neighborhood. •



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Managing Deer Damage in Gardens and Landscapes

From the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia

The white-tailed deer population has grown dramatically in Virginia in the last 100 years. Deer are Virginia's largest herbivore and they are voracious eaters, consuming six to eight pounds of food per day. Standing on hind legs, they can reach up to seven feet. Males grow new antlers each year, and from August to December may rub tree branches or trunks to remove the itchy velvet.

Since deer are an 'edge species,' they prefer areas where woodland meets expanding human habitat, which is typical of our suburban landscapes. Also, our gardens and

landscapes offer an abundance of food.

How do you know if you have deer browse damage? Deer lack upper incisors so they gnaw at vegetation, leaving ragged ends, unlike the damage from rabbits, woodchucks, or squirrels, which leave a clean cut. Deer are creatures of habit, so it is important to take preventative measures as soon as deer damage is identified, to disrupt feeding habits.

Virginia Cooperative Extension recommends an Integrated Pest Management approach:

- Accept the damage, if not too severe.
- Choose deer resistant plants. A list is available at <https://mgnv.org/plants/best-bets/deer-resistant/>
- Erect fences at least eight feet tall, use dual fencing, or use reflective material.
- Plant in pots, on a protected deck, or in a fenced patio.
- Sound or visual devices like lights, whistles, devices that make loud noises may deter deer, but since they learn quickly, this may be of limited effectiveness.
- Repellents can reduce damage. Use the right product for the plant, and repeat application according to directions.

To protect young, newly planted trees, consider the options above, or install tree tubes. Also, avoid feeding deer or encouraging them to approach, and discourage neighbors from doing this as well. •

First Thought Yoga Welcomes You

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"I am functioning, but I am not present. Yoga attempts to create a state in which we are always present—really present—in every action, in every moment." - T.K.V. Desikachar.

First Thought Yoga
4670 3rd St. South, Arlington, VA 22204
firstthoughtyoga.com, anna@firstthoughtyoga.com
571.214.8482

The Corporate World Embraces Native Plants

By the Plant NOVA Natives Campaign

Most corporate properties have pretty “standard” landscaping, meaning the plants do very little if anything to support the local ecosystem. More and more, though, we are seeing innovative landscape designs on commercial properties that demonstrate the potential for corporations to be leaders in the effort to save the natural world, starting on their own land. While they are at it, they are creating beautiful and welcoming spaces for their clients and employees.

One example of this approach is the work done at the recently-opened Kaiser Permanente medical centers in Springfield and

Woodbridge (Caton Hill). Both properties are richly landscaped with trees, shrubs, grasses and perennials that are almost entirely native to Northern Virginia. (The few exceptions are non-invasive.)

According to Alton Millwood, director of Planning, Design and Construction at Kaiser Permanente Mid-Atlantic, “The landscape design at Caton Hill Medical Center focused on allowing the natural environment to be a part of the community’s wellness plan. There is an abundance of research showing that exposure to nature can lower our heart rate, alleviate mental distress, speed recovery rates, and

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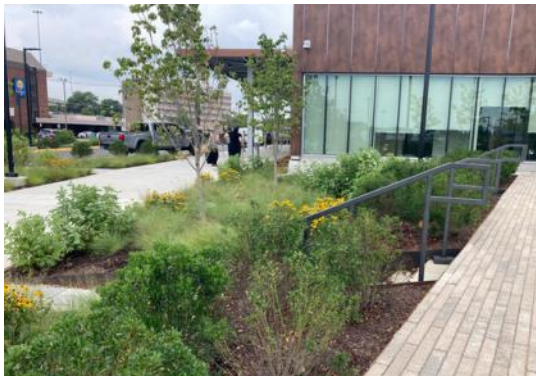
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The Corporate World Embraces Native Plants, continued

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even alleviate symptoms of mental disorders. This is why Kaiser Permanente felt it was important to keep natural woodland areas on the project site and invite people into those space with trails and areas to sit and relax. Additionally, the native plants used on the site help to create a healthier environment by providing food and habitat for birds and other wildlife, conserving water, and reducing noise and pollution associated with mowing. It only made sense that if we were going to involve the natural environment for our own health that we would do what we could to improve the health of the environment.”

Another goal of the project was to help the Northern Virginia region meet its storm-water goals to protect the local streams and the Chesapeake Bay. The planting beds and the rooftop meadow decrease the amount of runoff from impervious surfaces. Design considerations included using a variety of native plant species to provide four-season interest, using low-maintenance plants that will not require long-term watering, and choosing species that will grow to the appropriate size for their locations so that important sight lines remain open and safe.



The reaction of employees and patients alike has been extremely positive. “Many members and staff have taken advantage of the outside seating, walked through the Gardens and Health Park to immerse themselves in nature and its healing benefits, and observed the rooftop meadow flowers in full bloom, with birds and pollinators busy at their tasks.”

Asked what would be his advice to other corporations, Alton replied, “Using sustainable design practices such as planting native plants is good for people and the environment – it is a win-win. For corporations, sustainable design can impact their bottom line, too. Native plants are more likely to live long and thrive in our environment. They require less maintenance, less fertilizer and pesticides, and less water. All this adds up to savings for the owner. Hiring a like-minded design professional can help you create places like Caton Hill Medical Center that help benefit our community and the local ecosystem.”

More photos of this and other corporate or small business landscaping projects can be found on the Commercial Landscaping page on the Plant NOVA Natives website. •

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.

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 (6th-7th grades) are happy to pet sit for your cats or other small animals. We have experience with fostering and pet sitting. Call (703)474-2691 and ask for Colin and Emmett or Email Lauren.alyssa@gmail.com .

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

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.

Yard Work: Experienced, hard-working kids (11 and 9) available for jobs, including lawn mowing and weeding, leaf removal and snow shoveling. Text or email Will and Owen at tdaniel7t8@hotmail.com (dad Todd's email) for an estimate and availability.

Looking for a babysitter? Responsible, athletic 14-year old rising freshman is seeking summer babysitting opportunities. Good with kids, and is CPR/First Aid/Babysitter Training Certified through the Red Cross. Email barcroftbabysitter@gmail.com for contact. •



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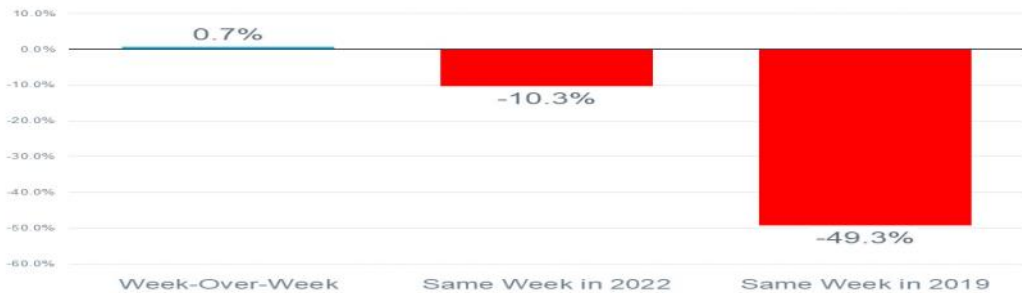


Barcroft School and Civic League
800 South Buchanan Street
Arlington, VA 22204

You may have heard housing inventory is low right now, but you may not fully realize just how low or why that's a perk when you go to sell your house. Compared to the same week last year, supply is down roughly 10% – and it was already considered low at that time. Supply is 50% lower than 2019. Wondering if it still makes sense to sell your house right now? The short answer is, yes.

Inventory Is Still Historically Low

As of August 7, 2023



Source: Calculated Risk

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.**
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