



October 2023

# Barcroft News

Vol 121, Issue 2

## Arlington's Planetarium: An Out-of-the-World Treasure

*By Theresa Schweser*

Have you visited Arlington's Planetarium lately? Do you know it is the only free-standing planetarium in Northern Virginia? While students attending Arlington Public Schools visit the Planetarium during the school year as part of their science curriculum, there is a lot offered for families, including adults! Named for David M. Brown, an astronaut on the ill-fated Columbia Shuttle Mission who grew up in Arlington and attended local schools, this treasured facility offers programs to the general public on weekends during the year.

The Friends of Arlington's Planetarium is a community non-profit organization that supports the Planetarium and offers specially-designed weekend programs to the gen-

eral public once a month from September through June. You can view the 2023-24 schedule and get each month's programming details on the Friends website. Most of the programs are for ages 10 and up, but on Sunday one program is always geared towards a younger audience.

In addition to community programming, the Friends provide APS teacher grants for STEM-focused professional development, award the annual David M. Brown college scholarship to an APS senior, and support new programs and equipment for the planetarium facility.

Learn more about the Friends of the Planetarium on their website ([friendsoftheplanetarium.org](http://friendsoftheplanetarium.org)). We hope many Barcrofters will join us under the stars! •

### Next Meeting:

**Thursday, October 5, 7:30 p.m., On Zoom**

**Topic: To be Announced on the Chatlist**

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



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**Next Deadline: October 15, 2023**

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*4th of July Parade:* Heather Meade and Jim Moran

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*Demeter House:* Darlene Mickey

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*ArNAC Alternate:* Deborah Wood

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Eric Harold, Christopher Hoh,  
Randy Swart, Deborah Wood

*Alternates:* Gary Mason, Daniel Weir

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## President's Message

**By Matthew Field**

Five months ago I broke my foot. Since then my mobility's been limited first by a walking boot, then by subsequent surgery that has taken me off my feet entirely. As a result I've spent a fair bit of time on my front porch, jealously watching the rest of the neighborhood walk and bike by.

Barcroft's a great neighborhood for walking, and I miss it. According to Zillow, my house has a Walk Score of 70/100 (Very Walkable) and a Bike Score of 81/100 (Very Bikeable). But the scores don't reflect just how nice it is to walk around this neighborhood. There's visual interest in the varied house styles and beautiful gardens, and emotional comfort in the friendly neighbors (and dogs). The easy access to the W&OD and Four Mile Run trails is the icing on the cake.

Things could be better of course. There are sidewalks throughout the neighborhood that don't connect. While the Centro development is close, there are still limited grocery, dining, retail, and service options truly within walking distance for much of the neighborhood. And as we discussed at the last BSCL meeting, there are improvements that could create a safer pedestrian environment, particularly in high-traffic areas. I hope BSCL can tackle some of these issues in the coming year.

As for me, if all goes well, I'll be back

**Continued on page 4**

# Barcroft Elementary Back-to-School Update

## **Alice Tewell, Barcroft PTA President**

Barcroft Elementary has had a wonderful start to the year! Our K to 5 students started on August 28, and PreK and VPI students started on August 29. The PTA kicked off the school year with a staff breakfast catered by Ruthie's All Day. Due to the hot and unpredictable weather during the first weeks of school, our back to school picnic with a Kona Ice Truck, DJ and demonstration and mini-class from Evolve All has been pushed back to September 29 from 6:15 to 8 p.m.

We have a new PTA board this year. Together, we are thankful for the diversity, smaller class sizes, dedicated staff and teachers, and emphasis on skills like reading, math, and science, alongside the much needed lessons of being kind and a compassionate citizen. Our PTA Executive Board includes Alice Tewell, PTA President, Sara Arff, VP of Fundraising, Rachel Royster, VP of Membership, Laura Cooke, VP of Community, Lucy Tschetter, Secretary, and Angela Hill Reyes, Treasurer. We are grateful for the immediate past board including our immediate past President Carrie Lombardi. If you see us around, please say hello! Email Alice at [barcroftptapresident2024@gmail.com](mailto:barcroftptapresident2024@gmail.com). if you have something you need to talk about. PTA meetings are on the second Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Join the PTA at <https://barcroftmemberhub.com/store>.

You are also invited to link your Harris Teeter Card to support field trips, after school enrichment, classroom support, and staff support and encouragement. Relinking is required each year, and multiple schools can be added to the same account.

Link your Harris Teeter VIP Card to our school account and help us earn! It's easy and quick. There are three ways to link:

- Harris Teeter **WEBSITE**: <https://tie.harristeeter.com/together-in-education>, click "Link Your VIC Card", follow prompts, select school/Barcroft Elementary.
- Harris Teeter **APP** to link card: go to Rewards, select Together in Education, click "Link Your VIC Card," follow prompts, select school/Barcroft Elementary.
- Harris Teeter **CUSTOMER SERVICE DESK**: your card will be linked for you by a customer services representative.

We continue to be thankful for Barcroft's hardworking staff led by Principal Judy Apostolico-Buck, Principal. Dr. Judy Rivas, our previous Vice Principal let us know at the end of last school year that she was moving on to be in charge of the program for all elementary reading. We are excited for her leadership across Arlington. Our new Vice Principal is Mr. Marcelo Flores. We are excited to have him on the amazing Barcroft team as well. Thank you for supporting our students! •

# BSCL Awarded Grant from Historic Preservation Fund

*By Jennifer Lis*

In July 2023, BSCL was awarded a capital grant of up to \$23,027 from the Arlington County Historic Preservation Fund to support urgent maintenance needs on the Barcroft Community House. This grant will be matched 100 percent by the Barcroft Community House Fund, which consists of donations made by this generous community.

In the coming months, the community house roof will be replaced with the same iconic green color, and the entire exterior will be repainted. In addition to protecting the unique historical exterior, BSCL will host a series of community events to showcase the

exterior refresh, foster community partnerships, and bring attention to the importance of historic preservation. The overall goal of the project is to ensure that the Community House can continue to be used actively and safely by a diverse community that includes the Barcroft neighborhood and other Arlington County residents and community groups.

We encourage all community members to keep an eye out for these improvements and to join in the events, which will be announced in the newsletter and the chat list (to join the chat list, email: [main+subscribe@bsclchat.groups.io](mailto:main+subscribe@bsclchat.groups.io)). It's also never too late to renew your BSCL membership or to donate to the Barcroft Community House Fund using the membership form in this issue or online at <https://www.bscl.org/join-or-renew/joinandrenew>.

This project is supported in part by Arlington County Government through the Historic Preservation Program and received public funds from the Arlington County Historic Preservation Fund. <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Plans-Studies/Historic-Preservation/Historic-Preservation-Fund>. •

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## President's Message, *Continued*

*Continued from page 2*

out and about in time for my annual personal walking tour of Halloween decorations. Can't wait to see what everyone has in store this year, and hope to see you out there. •



### **DA Studio Salon**

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## Arlington Neighborhood Villages: Home for a Lifetime

Do you love where you live? Arlington is full of wonderful neighborhoods, and it is no surprise that as people age, most desire to stay in their own homes. Ninety percent of older adults want to age in place, but doing so often requires a bit of extra help.

Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV) is a local nonprofit that does just that—gives seniors the “extra help” they need to stay safe and independent in their own homes as they age. Friendly volunteers provide services like rides to medical appointments or the grocery store, errands, tech help, and walking buddies. Just as importantly, they provide companionship and opportunities for meaningful

connection. ANV is a village of neighbors helping neighbors—members and volunteers form bonds and lasting friendships. Family members have peace of mind knowing their loved ones are connected to a vibrant community.

If you, or someone you know or love, could use a little help to age in place, please reach out to the ANV office at 703-509-8057 or visit [www.ANVarlington.org](http://www.ANVarlington.org) to learn more. ANV does have a membership fee to help cover expenses, but it also offers a generous financial aid program for lower income individuals—no one has been turned away. You can also learn about rewarding volunteer opportunities at the 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](mailto: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](mailto:eddie3@gmail.com)!

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

**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](mailto:barcroftbabysitter@gmail.com) for contact.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:tdaniel7t8@hotmail.com) (dad Todd's email) for an estimate and availability.

**Local Barcroft Honey** for sale. Neighborhood beekeeper. Text Lee at 703-609-2670. •

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## Woman's Club Craft Fair

*By Pat Fisher*

The Woman's Club of Arlington will host the annual Craft Fair on Saturday, November 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the clubhouse at 700 South Buchanan Street. There is still room for more vendors if you are a crafter and want to sell your items. Tables/spaces are \$50 each. For an application or more information contact Maryann Mayhood at [maryannmayhood@gmail.com](mailto:maryannmayhood@gmail.com).

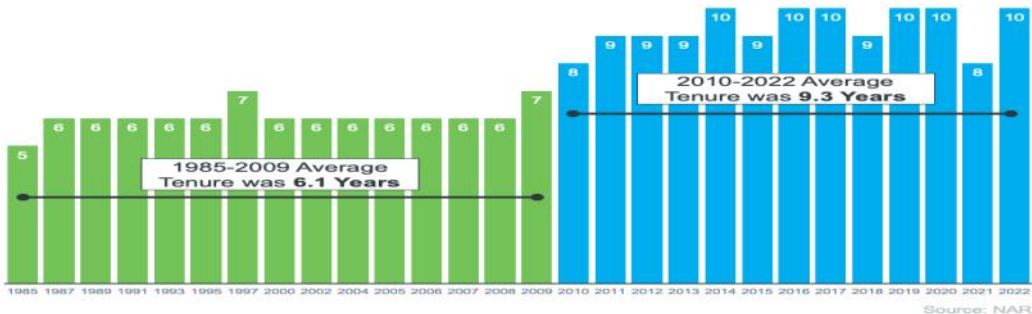
Come do your holiday shopping, enjoy some lunch or baked goods or take part in some of our raffles. Free admission. •



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

Housing inventory is low right now, and the tenure that people to stay in their home has increased. Supply is down roughly 10% compared to this time last year is almost 50% lower than 2019. Wondering if it still makes sense to sell your house? Yes, although circumstances apply!

### Today's Homeowners Are Staying in Their Houses for an Average of 9+ Years



If you have questions about the market and when might be the best time to plan for a move, 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](http://www.caseyoneal.com).**  
\*\*\* **Free Notary for Barcroft residents!** \*\*\*