



December 2015

# Barcroft News

Vol 113, Issue 4

Join us for the

## *Annual Barcroft Holiday Party*

**Thursday, December 3**



7 P.M.: PIZZA, MINGLING, CRAFTS FOR KIDS  
7:30 P.M.: HOLIDAY SING-A-LONG  
8 P.M.: DESSERT



*Please bring a dessert to share!*

BARCROFT COMMUNITY HOUSE ♦ 800 SOUTH BUCHANAN STREET

## In Time for Holidays: Barcroft Snowball Stride 5K

**By Jenny Ditta**

Want an excuse to keep in shape this holiday season, and spend quality time with neighbors and friends? Then please join us for the Barcroft Snowball Stride 5K Run/Walk, to be held on Saturday, December 12, 2015, at 9 a.m. at Barcroft Elementary School. Children 12 and under participate for free while those over 13 pay an entry fee of \$25 (the price rises to \$30 on December 10). All proceeds benefit the Barcroft Elementary PTA and support learning and enrichment opportunities for

students and their families. The course will start at Barcroft Elementary and end on the W&OD trail. Prizes will be awarded for those with the best winter holiday costume and for the fastest runners, both adults and children. In addition to the 5K event, several free outdoor fitness activities will take place at the school, all are welcome to participate. Additional details about the race and a registration form can be found on-line at <http://www.apsva.us/domain/422>. Or register online at <http://goo.gl/QVriRg>. •

## Barcroft News

*Editor:* Alyssa Ford Morel  
703-907-9318,  
editor@bscl.org

*Advertising:* Jennifer Lis  
jenlis@comcast.net

*Publisher/Mailing:* Christine Hopkins,  
chopkins4149@gmail.com  
703-350-2101

**Next Deadline: December 15**

## BSCL Officers

*President:* Chris Kupczyk, chris@bscl.org

*Vice President:* Joe Knarich, joe@bscl.org

*Treasurer:* Jennifer Lis  
jenlis@comcast.net

*Recording Secy.:* Christine Hopkins,  
chopkins4149@gmail.com

*Web:* Randy Swart, 703-521-2080  
randy@bscl.org

*Membership Secy.:* Christine Hopkins,  
chopkins4149@gmail.com

*Board Members:* Michael Behringer, Keith  
Fred, Bryant Monroe,  
Eric Parker

## Contacts and Committees

*Community House Rental Manager:*  
Barbara Swart  
barcrofthouserental  
@yahoo.com

*Fundraising:* Chris Ditta

*Landscaping:* Scott Brintzer, 703-892-0308

*Traffic Committee:* Heidi Wicker

*4th of July Parade:* Volunteer Needed

*Columbia Pike:* Chris Kupczyk  
ckupczyk@verizon.net

*Demeter House:* Darlene Mickey

*Parks:* Shirley Gay

*Signs:* Glen Li

*NCAC Rep.:* Deborah Wood  
wood\_deborah@yahoo.com

*Arlington Civic Fed. Delegates:* Eric Harold, Randy  
Swart, Pat Williamson *Alternates:* Karen Darner,  
David Michelson, Elaine Squeri, Mark Wigfield

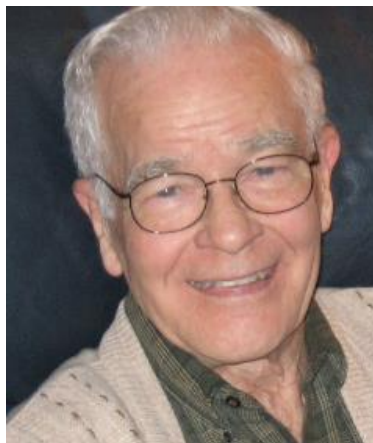
**Visit Us Online: [www.bscl.org](http://www.bscl.org)**

# Update on November Cover Article

**By Alyssa Ford Morel, Editor**

Last month the cover story for **Barcroft News** was the latest in a series of charming local reminiscences by Mr. Henry “Hank” Biddle. Mr. Biddle had submitted the article last March and graciously indicated that it could wait until the newsletter had extra space to fill. I was very happy to finally be able to run it last month.

It was with great shock and sadness that I learned that Mr. Biddle passed away a few months ago. His wife and daughter con-



tinue to live in Barcroft and were generous in their understanding of the *faux pas* in running the story without acknowledgment of

the change in circumstances. In fact, Mrs. Biddle has provided some additional stories written by her husband which I hope to run in future issues. With gratitude for his generosity in sharing his childhood memories and condolences to his family, I wish to salute the memory of Mr. Henry Biddle. •

# NEWS NOTES

## Wakefield High School Gear and Holiday Shop

*By Susan DuBois*

Wakefield spirit wear, car magnets and other items will be for sale in Wakefield Town Hall from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. the week of December 14 to 18. Several student groups will also be selling items for the holidays. Help support Wakefield and do some local shopping! Check the Boosters page for more details closer to the date: <http://www.apsva.us/domain/2114>.

## TEDxArlington Videos Are Released

*By Joey Skoloda*

We are so excited to announce the release of the TEDxArlington Videos. Eleven videos are available to view on a TEDx YouTube channel, and are also being embedded on the TEDxArlington website ([www.tedxarlington.com](http://www.tedxarlington.com)). The collection is a local and diverse sample, true to the TED concept of Ideas Worth Spreading. We invite you to discover these ideas and build new connections in the community.

Thank you to nearly a dozen Barcroft residents, in addition to others, who contributed their time, energy, and even opened

their homes to host planning meetings. A special thanks to Walter and the talented video team at Blue Land Media. Great to have neighbors who value a community focused activity.

## Invitation from Women's Club

*By Kathleen Harrison*

Ladies of Barcroft, come join us at our evening meetings of the Woman's Club of Arlington (WCA) on Monday, December 7 from 7 p.m. until about 8:30 p.m. If you are interested in civic affairs, doing projects to help those less fortunate than ourselves, networking and some comradery, this is the group for you! WCA meets on the first Monday of the month (except Monday holidays when we meet the second Monday). For questions, please contact Kathleen Harrison at 703-553-5800 or [womansclubarlington@gmail.com](mailto:womansclubarlington@gmail.com)

## Distribution Volunteers Always Needed

The volunteer position covering the Stafford/7th Road area has now been filled, but Publisher Christine Hopkins reports that she is always looking for new volunteers and substitutes. Contact her at 703-350-2101 or [chopkins4149@gmail.com](mailto:chopkins4149@gmail.com) if you can help. ●

# Barcroft Elementary Autumn Events

*By Jenny Ditta, Barcroft Elementary Liaison*

November was filled with busy activities for students at Barcroft Elementary. First Quarter Report Cards were sent home on November 2. The November 3 PTA Election Day Bake Sale was wildly successful, raising nearly \$1,500. Thank you, wonderful neighbors! Several grades visited the Planetarium during November field trips. The school's Chorus participated in the APS Pyramid Concert with other elementary, middle and high schools on November 4. The PTA monthly meeting was held on November 10 at Arlington Mill Community Center. The PTA collected 216 pounds of extra Halloween candy and homemade cards to donate to the Veteran's Hospital in D.C. to be used in a November celebration of Women Veterans. The Barcroft staff/faculty participated in a soccer match against the Kenmore Middle School staff/faculty on November 13, and it resulted in a 3-3 tie. Congratulations Barcroft and Kenmore for a wonderful, entertaining community event! On November 18, the PTA hosted a one-day Usborne Book Fair in time for holiday shopping. Thanksgiving Break was held from November 25 to 27.

Barcroft Elementary has two volunteer programs open to our neighbors. **Book Buddy Volunteers Needed:** to tutor first and second grade students at Barcroft Elementary. Volunteers meet twice a week with a student for 30 to 45 minutes to share an individually tailored lesson plan that includes: (1) reread-

ing familiar books at the student's current reading level; (2) playing games and activities to help the student see patterns in words; (3) writing; and (4) introducing new books. To volunteer, contact Kerri Martin at [kerri.martin@apsva.us](mailto:kerri.martin@apsva.us). Also, **Arlington Even Start Family Literacy Program Needs Volunteers for Their Pre-School Classroom:** Even Start, a family literacy program located at Barcroft Elementary, needs volunteers to assist the preschool teacher with the care and education of 2- and 3-year old students while their parents attend English classes. The program runs from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Monday through Friday. We are open to all levels of time commitments. Please contact Sara Mulrooney at [Sara.Mulrooney@apsva.us](mailto:Sara.Mulrooney@apsva.us).

Our neighbors are welcome to join us for the following December events. The PTA will hold its monthly meeting on December 1. The Winter Concert will be held at 7 p.m. on December 8. There will be a 5K Snowball Stride 5K run/walk at 9 a.m. on December 12. (See article page 1.) The Second Quarter Leonardo Learning Night Celebration will be held on December 16. We hope that you can join us! Winter Break begins for students on December 21, and the first day of school in 2016 is January 5. We hope that you have a safe and happy holiday season! To learn more about What's Happening at Barcroft Elementary, contact our PTA President Tara McCabe at [tcs04@gmail.com](mailto:tcs04@gmail.com). •

# Seventh Street Halloween Party

By Randy Swart

Seventh Street blocked off the street and had a party for Halloween. Allison Fraser got the permit from the County and we had a big bonfire, food, drinks, socializing among neighbors and a ton of trick-or-treaters. Parker Parcels had the most memorable costume,



*This skeleton head cake was delicious!*

dressed as Mighty Wonderdog, Savior of the Entire World. It was a lively evening, the weather cooperated and we all had an awesome Halloween! •



## Juliet's Housecleaning Service

Honest, more than 10 years experience with Excellent Barcroft-area References

**LOW RATES!**

Weekly, biweekly, monthly, or one-time cleaning.

Call anytime: 703-628-3434,  
703-354-3225, or  
571-236-3700



## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Messiah Sing-Along in Alexandria

*Part 1 and Hallelujah Chorus*

Guest Soloists

Rachel Blaustein, soprano; Tammi Lee, alto; James Kil, tenor; Corbin Phillips, bass

**“YOU ARE THE CHORUS”**

**Johann Sebastian Bach** *Concerto for Oboe and Violin, BWV 1060R*

Wesley Nichols, oboe and Alexandra Mikhlin, violin with the Amadeus Orchestra  
Dr. Louise C. Wilson, Conductor

**Sunday, December 6, 2015 at 4:00pm**

Fairlington United Methodist Church, 3900 King St., Alexandria, VA 22302

**Info: 703-671-4057 [www.fairlingtonumc.org](http://www.fairlingtonumc.org) Free Admission & Parking**

*Bring your own Messiah score or purchase a G. Schirmer edition - \$9.00 at the door*

# Barcroft Voted

By **Randy Swart**

On November 3 more than 38 percent of Barcroft precinct's active voters turned out, far more than the County's 23 percent average. Our County Board voting was close to the County average, with 38 percent for Christian Dorsey, 35 percent for Katie Crystol, 16 percent for Michael McMenamen and 10 percent for Audrey Clement. We voted 79 percent for Reid Goldstein for School Board, 79 percent for Patrick Hope for House of Delegates and 75 percent for Barbara Favola for State Senate.

We election officials -- Mike Collier,

Susan Cohen, Bob Guisti, Barbara Swart, Randy Swart and Pat Williamson -- were pleased to have a steady stream of voters as 803 of you came through the polling place. Some voters missed having the machines to vote on, but we had minimal difficulties and almost no waiting at any stage with the paper ballots. Almost every voter filled in the blocks fully to make sure the scanner performed accurately. We should be able to process voters a lot faster in next year's big Presidential election than in the past.

The PTA bake sale was superb, highlighted by Heather Sheire's tasty Livin' the Pie Life pies. The weather was fine. All in all a good day.

We are looking forward to the next one, the Presidential Primary on March 1. •

Is your computer broken or your data in jeopardy?  
Or is your small business in need of IT support?



## Arlington Virginia Computer Repair

<http://avcr.us> | [help@avcr.us](mailto:help@avcr.us) | 703-486-0200

*Data recovery, computer repair and IT consulting with a personal touch*

- AVCR is a local alternative to big box stores and mail-in data recovery services.
- We live and work in Barcroft. Our family-owned and operated business has been serving Arlington since 1999.
- All work is given personal attention from our seasoned IT experts. We don't outsource your repair or data recovery.
- Our experts also serve local small businesses for IT support, business consulting, web design, one-on-one training and more.

**Bring this ad to receive a 10% discount  
on our labor rate for your first case!**

## Missing Mad Men?

Barcrofters who miss *Mad Men*, the television show about advertising executives (and Barcrofters who have never heard of it) can try their hand at the advertising game by volunteering as **Barcroft News'** own Advertising Manager. What an opportunity!

As Advertising Manager you will help your community with only a limited time commitment each month, and even get summers off. Questions? Call Editor Alyssa Ford Morel at 703-907-9318 to discuss your new volunteer career. •



# Would It Be the Fourth of July Without the Parade?

The parade must go on! Barcroft is looking for a parade coordinator to continue

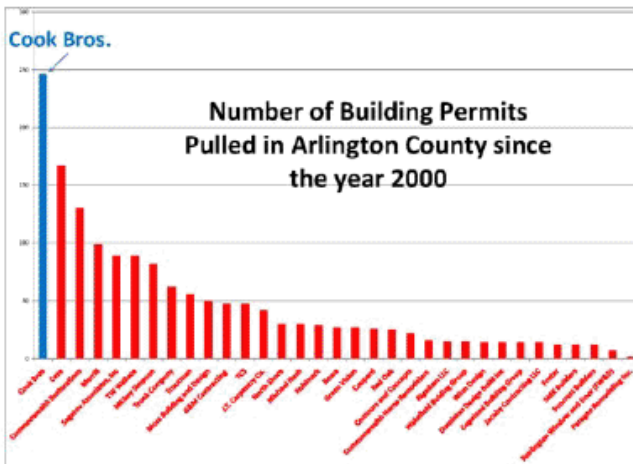
organizing the 4th of July parade. Retired parade coordinator Andrew Hunter is happy to guide you through the steps and timeline needed to make it happen, but he will no longer be involved. Please step up and ensure this wonderful neighborhood tradition continues. Contact Andrew if you are interested at 703-979-8247 or Andrew.hunter129@Verizon.net. ●



*A little rain at the 2015 Barcroft Fourth of July parade couldn't stop Uncle Sam from making an appearance.*

## You Don't Have to Interview the #1 Remodeler in Arlington... But...

### Why Wouldn't You?



For a larger Graph image and more information about the Graph, visit our website at

[www.CookBros.org/BarcroftGraph](http://www.CookBros.org/BarcroftGraph)



# Biking in Arlington

**By Markarius Nealis**

Arlington is a great place to bike and there are so many opportunities that are ready for you to use. One of the greatest is the Capital Bikeshare system. It allows you to take out a bike and ride it for as long as you want and then just return it to one of their many pit-stop stations. If the one that you would like to return it to is full, all you have to do is tell the machine that and it will give you a fifteen minute chip to then return it to the next nearest station. You do have to pay for a membership for one day, three days, a month, or a year. After you pay for the membership you only have to pay the hourly fee for the bike. You can also just take out a bike for half



an hour and then return it for no charge. If you can try and figure out your route prior to your trip, then you will not have to pay for any bike time as you just trade your bike out for a new one and have that one for half an hour.

Arlington also has many trails that can get you almost anywhere in the county. They also provide great scenic views of Arlington's forestry and parks. You can find a map of all the trails as well as on-road bike lanes at Arlington County's [bikearlington.com](http://bikearlington.com). You can also pickup a paper map at your local commuter or transit store. There is one at Shirlington and at the Ballston Metro.

Even when you have to bike on the

***Continued on page 9***

# Join Barcroft's Snow Brigade

**By Sharon Tope**

You can be part of Barcroft's Snow Brigade, clearing essential walkways in Barcroft. Most of our volunteers use their snow shovels, but we have two County snow blowers just for Barcroft. The County trains snow blower operators. Training should take no more than half an hour. All are welcome. Call Sharon Tope at 703-920-2567 or send her an email at [stope3@verizon.net](mailto:stope3@verizon.net) to volunteer.

The Brigade clears:

- Our Barcroft Community House walks, steps

and our handicapped access ramp.

- Walks of those who can't do it for themselves. We don't draw fine points about why someone can or can't, or inquire about their physical abilities. If somebody requests, we shovel. We also clear off cars and driveways, including one person with a Mercedes who could afford a commercial service. They are all neighbors and nobody really abuses the offer.
- Major routes to our neighborhood school and Metro bus service. •



## Biking, *continued*

*Continued from page 8*

road, always make sure that you use the provided bike lanes and always wear a helmet and use hand signals when turning. Be extra careful when biking on the sidewalk or street without bike lanes and remember that you have to share the road/sidewalk with other drivers and pedestrians. Also know that biking in bike lanes requires a car to give you at least three feet of space when passing you. Overall there are plenty of biking opportunities and you should take advantage of them while the weather still holds. •

*Alyssa's*  
**Simple Solutions**

Helping you save time and get things done

**Alyssa Ford Morel** (Barcroft Resident)  
*Domestic Concierge and Professional Organizer*

www.alyssassimplesolutions.com  
info@alyssassimplesolutions.com  
703/907-9318



*20 percent discount to Barcroft residents!*



### ***Celebrate the Birth of Christ With Us!***

St. John's Episcopal Church is a vibrant congregation with a big heart. We are an inclusive and welcoming community of faith where everyone is supported in their spiritual growth and questions and discussion are always welcome.

*- The Reverend Ann Barker, Rector*

**Sunday Worship Services**  
8 am and 10 am

**Sunday Christian Education**  
Adults 9 am — Youth 10 am

### **All are welcome to all services and activities!**

<b>December 13</b>	10 am	Children's Christmas Pageant at the 10 am service
<b>December 24</b>	5 pm 11 pm	Christmas Eve Service - special music and a children's message Christmas Eve Service with carols
<b>December 25</b>	10 am	Christmas Day Service with carols
<b>January 23</b>	7 pm	Family Game Night - Bring your family, your favorite board game and a box or can of food for AFAC.

***St. John's Episcopal Church***

415 S. Lexington Street Arlington, VA 22204 703-671-6834 stjohnsarlingtonva.org



# Free Paper Shredding & Inert Material Drop-Off

On December 5 the County will hold a free paper shredding event at the Earth Products Yard, 4300 29th Street, South (near Shirlington). From 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. you can drop off your paper to be shredded. Residents only, no businesses, limit two boxes 18x11x10 in. or two paper bags. Paper can include paper clips, staples, checks/checkbooks. No shredding of magazines, catalogs, credit cards, bind-

ers or phone book-sized material.

Inert materials include asphalt, ceramic tile, concrete, earth, masonry block, rock and sand. Only a small pickup truck load or three cubic yards of material can be accepted. Brush material is not accepted in the Inert Material Drop-Off Program.

These events are held on the first Saturday of each month. •

## Greetings from Our Savior Lutheran School

### ***By OSLS National Junior Honor Society***

A few weeks back, Our Savior students participated in our 6th annual A-SPAN walk to end homelessness in Arlington. We want to give a big thank you to all our neighbors and friends who supported us. We were able to raise over \$830 for A-SPAN just from our walk.

Our chapel offerings for the months of November and December will go to Doorways for Women and Families. Doorways provides immediate and long-term, safe housing for women and families fleeing domestic violence and homelessness. In addition, they also deliver holistic support services that teach individuals the skills and tools necessary to lead safe, independent lives. It is the mission of Doorways for Women and Families to create pathways out of domestic violence and homelessness leading to safe and stable lives. Please consider helping this wonderful organization in your own way. Visit their website at

[www.doorwaysva.org](http://www.doorwaysva.org) for more information.

The children of Our Savior Lutheran School invite the neighborhood to their annual Christmas program on Wednesday, December 16. The students have been working hard on learning songs and want to spread the love of Christmas through their angelic voices. The program, "Angels Aware" will be held at Our Savior Lutheran Church, located right across the parking lot from our school, with performances at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. The event is free and everyone is welcome to enjoy this Christmas tradition.

Please join us at Our Savior Lutheran Church for Christmas worship services. We have Christmas Eve services on December 24 at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. There will also be a Christmas Day service on December 25 at 10 a.m. We would love to have you come and worship with us as we celebrate and rejoice in our Lord's birth. •

# Neighbor to Neighbor Listings

*These listings are free to BSCL members, and run on a space-available basis. The listings run for three months unless removal or update is requested. Email listings to editor@bscl.org.*

**Babysitter:** Experienced, Red Cross certified 9th grader. Call Liza Harold at 703-868-3518.

**Babysitting, Petsitting, and Dog Walking:**

Emily Barton, very reliable 16-year-old. If you need a baby/pet sitter or walker please contact me. Phone: 703-629-5234 Email: emilykbarnton@gmail.com.

**Babysitter, house/pet sitter:** Carmen Dunlap, responsible 17 year old. Available weekends and weeknights. Dunlap.carmen@ymail.com.

**August's Pet Sitting:** Responsible high school freshmen available to care for pets. 703-892-6712.

**Kevin's Media:** Will convert VHS tapes, TC30 tapes, Laserdiscs and 35mm photograph slides to DVD. Professional packaging/artwork included upon prior request. Please inquire for rates. Email kevinmedia118@gmail.com or text/call 703-919-7605.

**Sophia Field:** 7th Grader, available for pet sitting and afternoon walking. Lost Dog and Cat Rescue volunteer and experienced bunny owner/foster. Sophia.b.field@gmail.com.

**Rebecca Bean Babysitter:** 11th grader available nights and weekends. Call 571-344-4134 or email: Rebeccahbean@gmail.com.

**Petsitter:** Responsible 10th grader. Can house sit, water plants, pet sit bring in mail, etc. Email at chrisclaire99@gmail.com or call 571-623-1133.

**Babysitter/nanny/petsitter:** Jenny Claire, responsible 18 year old available for babysitting, and petsitting! Contact Jenny at 571-484-6445 or jennyklaire@gmail.com.

**Math Tutor:** VA licensed teacher with over 25 years experience. I work primarily with Algebra 1, Pre-Algebra, Geometry, SAT prep, GED, basic math skills. I will work with the student to find the way that best helps him/her to learn. Email: lairdkw@gmail.com.

**Drum Lessons:** All ages/levels welcome. Wakefield alum with a BA in music offers instruction in Barcroft home. Multiple styles -- rock, jazz, classical, musical theatre. Performed in school ensembles -- concert band, marching band, drum line, jazz band, and orchestra. References upon request. Contact: Mitchellbassmusica@gmail.com.

**Help with Yard Work:** Responsible young person needed for yard work on 3rd Street South; flexible hours, pays \$15 an hour. Contact Mike at mkiernan.media@gmail.com. ●



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

## MARKET UPDATE

In Arlington, Virginia for the month of October the median sold price for detached properties was \$845,000, up 12.3% from 9/15 and 7.4% from 10/14. The average days on market for units sold in October was 56 days, 16% above the 5-year October average of 48 days. Contract activity resulted in a Contract Ratio of 0.41 pendings per active listing, down from 0.42 in 9/15 and a decrease from 0.53 in 10/14. The Contract Ratio is 19% lower than the 5-year October average of 0.50. A higher Contract Ratio signifies a relative increase in contract activity compared to supply, and indicates the market is moving in the seller's favor. A lower Contract Ratio signifies a relative decrease in contract activity compared to supply, and indicates the market is moving in the buyer's favor. Buyers have a historical advantage typically in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter with less competition and more housing choices in most sectors of

the local market. So, if you are ready, consider getting in the market to buy now instead of early spring. You will have more choices and less competition, and you can lock in today's rates rather than risk rates increasing, which can impact monthly cash flow and one's ability to qualify. It's worth exploring your options now!

*Contact me for advice on finding the best mortgage lenders and title companies to work with. Both are extremely important components for all purchase contracts now with new rules in effect.*

**FREE Notary for Barcroft Residents!**  
**Casey O'Neal, Associate Broker**  
**RE/MAX Allegiance 703-217-9090**  
**www.CaseyOneal.com**  
**Curious about your home's value? Visit**  
**www.NovaHomeListings.com**