



Barcroft News

January 2016

Vol 113, Issue 5

Neighborhood Conservation Projects Old and New

By Deborah Wood

Barcroft NCAC Representative

Have you seen the new park on the north side of Columbia Pike, along the W&OD trail? It features a paved loop for children to learn bicycle and skateboarding skills, a rain garden, and wayside amenities for users of the W&OD trail.

The park is the result of a project funded through the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Commission (NCAC), which gives participating civic associations in Arlington County the opportunity to propose

neighborhood-initiated capital improvements for funding by the County Board, including sidewalks, street beautification, pedestrian safety projects, street lights and parks.

The February BSCL meeting will fea-

ture a discussion and vote to decide what will be our next first priority project to propose for NCAC capital improvement funding. Recommendations are made based upon Barcroft's most recent Neighborhood Conservation Plan, which was completed in 2008 (see <http://bscl.org/ncp2008.pdf>).

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A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the new park adjacent to the Barcroft neighborhood on Saturday, December 5.

Next BSCL Meeting

Thursday, January 7, 7:30 p.m. , Community House

Subject: New South Arlington School Site



Barcroft News

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4th of July Parade: Volunteer Needed

Columbia Pike: Chris Kupczyk
ckupczyk@verizon.net

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Parks: Shirley Gay

Signs: Glen Li

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

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Monthly Happenings

President's Report by Chris Kupczyk

Happy new year! I hope everyone enjoyed their holiday season. We had a great turnout for our party in December, including several new faces. Thanks to Kathy Zucca (my wife) for organizing this year's event, Alicia Cackley for leading the songs, Michael Nazaretz for coordinating the band, and Kevin Donnelly for arranging Santa's visit from the North Pole. I'd also like to recognize Barbara Swart, who stepped down after serving as the holiday party coordinator for many years (although she still played in the band this year).

I hope you've had or will have had a chance to visit the newest addition to Glen-carlyn Park at Columbia Pike and the W&OD Trail, which was formally dedicated on December 5. Building the park was a longtime goal of many in Barcroft. Its main feature, among others, is a "learner loop" for young children learning to ride a bike. Outgoing county board chair Mary Hynes was on hand for the event, and Barcrofter Kimberley Marchant, who helped shepherd Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee funding for the park, spoke during the dedication.

On January 7 at 7:30 p.m., we will resume our regular monthly meetings at the community house. Dedra Curteman will re-

Continued on page 3

Santa Visits Barcroft

By Gretchen Odengard

Santa paid the Community House a visit on a recent Saturday afternoon, joining the annual holiday gathering of neighbors from the Stafford/7th Road/Taylor Street area on December 5. In addition to enjoying plenty of delicious holiday treats and drinks, neighbors of all ages joined in singing the Twelve Days of Christmas and sharing gifts in a "white elephant" gift exchange.

While getting to share their Christmas wishes with Santa was clearly the highlight for the kids, they also enjoyed a craft table where they made their own Lego ornaments and even went on an outdoor scavenger hunt organized by some of our awesome parents. This year, we also collected diapers and baby wipes which will be donated to the Borromeo House, which is a shelter for teen moms and their babies located right here in



Barcroft. Our annual holiday party is just another reminder of how thankful we are to live in such a wonderful community! •

Monthly Happenings, *continued*

Continued from page 2

port on the work and results of the working group charged with identifying a site for a new elementary school in South Arlington. As most know, the group is recommending a site adjacent to the Thomas Jefferson Middle School,

which the county board is scheduled to take up as this goes to press. I'd like to thank Dedra and Katherine Novello for serving as Barcroft's representatives on this group and for keeping us informed as the work progressed.

See you on the 7th. •

Winter Greetings From Barcroft Elementary

By Jenny Ditta, Barcroft Elementary Liaison

Congratulations to our wonderful neighborhood school, Barcroft Elementary, and our teachers, students, and school community for your #14 ranking in the recent Niche.com ranking of 2016 Best Public Elementary Schools in Virginia. Barcroft Elementary is in excellent

company as 19 of the 20 most highly-ranked schools in the state are from the Arlington Public Schools (APS) district. Rankings were

based on state test scores, student-teacher ratio, student diversity, teacher quality, and the overall quality of the school district. Congratulations to our teachers as well for a #11 ranking in the 2016 Elementary Schools with the Best Teachers in Virginia designation. And congratulations to APS for being ranked as the #1 Best School District in Virginia. For more information, go to <https://k12.niche.com/rankings/public-elementary-schools/best-overall/s/virginia/>.

December was an exciting time for the school. The Winter Concert was held on December 8 and featured musical performances by the 4th and 5th Grade Chorus. Over 200 runners joined together with community members and volunteers on a sultry Saturday



The first Snowball Stride was held December 12.

morning to run the first ever 5K Snowball Stride on December 12. Several Barcroft roads were closed for a short time while runners started from Barcroft Elementary and completed the certified 5K race on the W&OD Trail. Elves, Santas, reindeer, pajama-clad runners and even a juggling Ovechkin Santa finished the

course. Post-race, attendees enjoyed the bake sale, dancing and fitness events, and an award ceremony. The PTA raised

over \$2,500 to be used to fund student field trips and other worthy causes! Thank you for your support!

The Second Quarter Leonardo Learning Night Celebration was held on December 16. That evening, students spent time in their classrooms demonstrating Second Quarter learning to family members. Also featured was a musical celebration by 5th Grade singers, a “Dancing with the Stars” P.E. dance demo, and crab soccer. Students and faculty came together once more during the monthly School Wide Morning meeting on Thursday, December 17. Congratulations to Barcroft Teacher of the Year, Ms. Kristin Shymoniak, and Barcroft Support Employee of the Year, Mr. Cesar

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Annual Spaghetti Dinner Returns January 31

By Eric Harold

Come for the Spaghetti Tones. Stay for the spaghetti. Please join friends and neighbors at the Community House for the lively spaghetti dinner Sunday, January 31.

Continuing the tradition started by former Barcroft neighbor Tom Palance (and unabashedly stealing Gramma Palance's Secret Spaghetti Sauce recipe), this winter event is a great time to get out of the cold and break bread with friends and neighbors. And it's worth the price if only to hear the lovely music provided by the great Spaghetti Tones. We ask only that you bring a healthy appetite and a dessert to share. Vegetarian and take out are available.

Where: Community House (800 South Buchanan Street.)

When: Sunday, January 31 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Cost: \$6 per person, children under 10 eat free. Donation requested for beer and wine.

What can you do? We always accept help setting up tables and chairs. Setup begins at the Community House around 3 p.m. We always need help with take down and clean up after. We can use a few hands in the kitchen during the event, to make sure everything runs smoothly, trays are full of spaghetti and salad, and bread is cut and available.

Anyone interested in helping out, please contact me at eric@bscl.org. ●

Barcroft Elementary, *continued*

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Celis. Ms. Shymoniak and Mr. Celis were voted by staff as Barcroft Elementary's nominees for the Arlington Public Schools' Teacher and Support Employee of the Year awards. Letters in support of their nominations can be e-mailed to Assistant Principal Mr. Nathan Reich at nathan.reich@apsva.us anytime prior to Sunday, January 3.

Winter Break began for students on Monday, December 21, and the first day of school in 2016 is January 5. We hope that you have a safe and happy holiday season! Join us on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 for our PTA

meeting. To learn more about What's Happening at Barcroft Elementary, contact our PTA President Tara McCabe at tscm04@gmail.com. ●



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New Homes Coming to 9th Street

By Susan Saltos

Construction is underway at Belmonte Pointe, an enclave of five luxury homes with a new South Utah Street address. The new cul-de-sac and homes take up the lots on South 9th Street that are across from the Holy Martyrs of Viet Nam Church. Each prairie-style home will have three finished levels and a two-car garage with 4,200-4,900 square feet of living space. Currently, the site has been cleared and construction will continue over the next few months, which will include building the new road.

Belmonte Pointe is being built by Ur-

banVibe Developers, a local firm known for creating high-end residences throughout the metropolitan area. They are proud of their high construction standards. Additionally, the firm exercises a conscientious approach to sustainable building with green building initiatives and recycling efforts. Examples of UrbanVibe's past projects can be seen at www.urbanvibedevelopers.com

Listing prices will start at 1.2 Million and are scheduled for completion in the Spring of 2016. For more information, please visit www.BelmontePointe.com or contact Eric Hernandez at 703-200-3858. •

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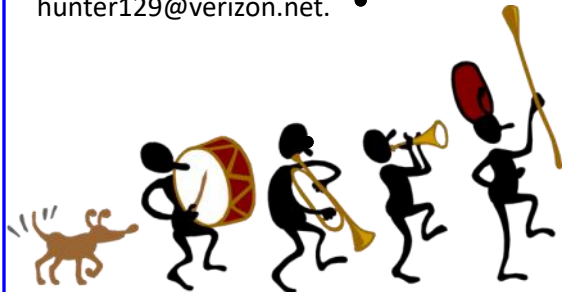
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- AVCR is a local alternative to big box stores and mail-in data recovery services.
- We live and work in Barcroft. Our family-owned and operated business has been serving Arlington since 1999.
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Will There Be a Parade?

An update on last month's story asking for a volunteer to take over Barcroft's annual 4th of July Parade: No one has stepped forward at this point. Long-time organizer Andrew Hunter is happy to speak with potential leaders and answer questions and give advice. He is available at 703-979-8247 or Andrew.hunter129@verizon.net. •



Silent Wings in the Night

**By Bobbi Farley, Park Naturalist
Long Branch Nature Center**

Owls have long been an animal of renown in folklore and popular culture, often representing wisdom and insight. With their piercing eyes, elusive nature, and haunting calls in the night, owls have quietly secured their place in the ecosystem and our thoughts. Yet how the owl survives using its specialized adaptations alone would be a source of admiration.

The most obvious feature of owl survival is its ability to hunt at night. Several species, however, are active during daylight hours, including the Barred Owl during chick-raising season. This gives the Barred Owl more opportunities to hunt with less competition while avoiding its most dangerous predator, the Great Horned Owl, one of the biggest species in North America. Like most other owls the Great Horned is nocturnal, being active at night and resting during the day perched high up in the trees and out of sight with feathers that mimic the texture of tree bark to the point of invisibility. During the night, Great Horned Owls will patrol fields using their sharp eyes to find prey such as rabbits, small mammals, frogs, fish, other birds and insects, while smaller owls hunt in forests.

Hunting nocturnal prey, which have heightened senses of hearing and smell to compensate for reduced visibility, presents a challenge for predators. Owls, however, are a step ahead with their own adaptations for hunting at night. In order to hunt ever-wary prey such as rabbits and mice, owls have soft feathers to enable silent flight for ambushing prey.

Owls also have a specialized sense of hearing to better pinpoint the location of prey in the dark. The ears of an owl are offset; the right ear is higher to focus on sounds coming from above while the left is lower for sounds from below.

The foremost sense people associate with owls is their incredible sight. An owl's eyes are able to see far better in darkness than humans due to their reflective retina, the sheet of tissue inside the back of the eyes which collects and bounces light within the eyeball. Additionally, they have enlarged eyes to permit more light to enter. Bigger eyes, however,

come at the expense of eye muscles, leaving them unable to move their eyes in their sockets. As compensation for restricted eye movement, owls have fourteen neck bones which makes it appear as though they can turn their heads completely around. In truth, they can turn their heads 270 degrees, compared to 70 to 80 degrees the seven neck bones provide hu-



mans.

As elusive as these birds are, they can be seen during the early evening or very early morning hours, and can also be heard hooting in the distance. Or, to see various local owl species up close the Long Branch Nature Center is hosting the Raptor Conservancy for their Owls of Virginia program which is a free family event being held on Sunday, January 24 from 3 to 4 p.m.

Biking, *continued*

Continued from page 1

Several of the outstanding recommendations relate to issues of pedestrian safety, sidewalk, and bus stop improvements for the intersection of Arlington Boulevard with South Abingdon and South Pershing Streets. Frequent users of this intersection,



your participation is needed at the meeting to help identify problems and prioritize goals. As the only direct ac-

cess point into and out of Barcroft from Route 50, all of us have occasion to use this intersection, so a good turnout at the meeting will be important to make a strong case.

Barcroft also has two other projects moving forward through the NCAC funding process. At the December meeting, NCAC voted to recommend that the County Board provide capital improvement funds for sidewalk and lighting improvements on South 9th Street in the block adjacent to the W&OD trail. A project to provide similar improvements on the South 7th Street block adjacent to the W&OD trail was approved in 2014, and work is expected to start in 2016.

FYI, Barcroft needs an alternate NCAC



representative, as back-up for our representative, Deborah Wood. If you are interested in participating, please contact BSCL president Chris Kupczyk or Deborah. Reps and/or alternates attend NCAC meetings and serve as neighborhood liaisons to County Department of Environmental Services staff for plans and projects. It is a great way to learn about projects in neighborhoods across Arlington. ●

The new park on the W&OD Trail includes a play area (top.) Arlington County Board Chair Mary Hynes (above, third from left) and Barcroft Parks Committee Chair Kimberley Marchant (second from left) spoke during the ribbon-cutting ceremonies. They are joined by (left) Randy Swart and Shirley Gay (right), who were also involved in the park's development.

St. John's Episcopal Church January Events

St. John's Family Vision Board Party Sunday, January 10 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Join in a fun experience in which parents and children create their family's board that is a visual representation of what they hope to achieve together in the upcoming year. They will use magazine cutouts, stickers and drawings. This not only helps families gain a visual picture of what they would like to see happen in the New Year, but it also fosters care and accountability within the family unit. For more information or to sign your family up call the office at 703-671-8364 or email familypro-

grams@stjohnsarlingtonva.org.

Family Game Night on Saturday, January 23 from 7 to 9 p.m. Bring a board, strategy or kid's game that you would like to play with old friends, neighbors, or new friends. We'll supply the hot chocolate and popcorn. You are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item (can or box of food) to donate to AFAC, the Arlington Food Assistance Center.

St. John's Episcopal Church is located at 415 South Lexington Street, 1 block off of Carlin Springs Road. The website is stjohnsarlingtonva.org and phone number is 703-671-8364. ●

Happy New Year from Our Savior Lutheran School

By OSLS National Junior Honor Society

We wish you a Happy 2016 and hope that your Christmas and holiday season was safe and full of fun. We are enjoying these winter days and all of the students are keeping their fingers crossed for lots and lots of snow!

We are excited to open our doors for the OSLS Book Sale on Friday, January 22. Please stop by from 6 to 8 p.m. to find some treasures. The proceeds will benefit our school. The book sale will be in the gymnasium across the parking lot from our school. Come enjoy finding a new book.

Our Savior Lutheran School is holding an Open House for all prospective students and their parents on Saturday, January 30,

from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. At that time, applications will be accepted for the 2016-2017 school year from grades Pre K through 8. This is an opportunity to tour the school, meet the teachers, see the classrooms, and ask questions. OSLS was established in 1952 and has been providing an affordable, quality Christian education in Barcroft ever since. With small classes, our dedicated teachers are able to entirely devote themselves to our diverse student body. We are fully accredited, licensed, and bonded and also offer before and after school care. OSLS is non-discriminatory in enrollment and we welcome the chance to show you around our school if you are looking for a Christian education for your child. We are located at 825 South Taylor Street. ●

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 jennylclaire@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

Simple Renovations to Transform Any Home

If you make changes that are popular with today's buyers, your renovation won't just provide you with a nicer home to live in—it will make the home easier to sell. Here a few pro tips: **Remove interior walls in the main living space.** Today's buyers like open floor plans with good sight lines. Ripping out some of the walls that separate the kitchen, dining area and living room make an old, cramped home seem significantly more modern and spacious.

Combine two bedrooms of modest size into a master bedroom suite. An impressive master bedroom suite featuring a big bedroom, spacious closets and a roomy master bath helps sell a home these days—more so than a large number of bedrooms.

Add built-in storage. Americans don't like stowing their stuff in dank basements or hard-to-access attics. Many home buyers consider extensive built-in storage a big plus.

Add windows, skylights or solar light tubes to bring more natural light into dark rooms. Older homes often have less sunlight than today's buyers like. **Replace your kitchen countertop.** It's the single kitchen element most likely to influence a buyer's opinion of the room. Granite and quartz countertops convey a sense of high-end quality.

Replace old bathroom vanities. The single most cost-effective way to make a bathroom seem more upscale is to install a vanity that has a granite or quartz top and dark-wood cabinets.

Before you place your home on the market -

I can share quick and easy tips to either make your house show like a model or sell it "as-is."

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