



# Barcroft News

April 2016

Vol 113, Issue 8

## What is Empatree?

*By Ann Marie Douglass  
Arlington Master Naturalist and  
Tree Steward*

Empatree is empathy for our trees. English Ivy is strangling trees all over our neighborhood and surrounding woods as it has no natural predators to balance its existence. It is an invasive plant. Once it reaches the canopy of the tree, the tree suffocates because its leaves cannot find the sun. This affects your backyard eco-system leading to loss of habitat and food sources for woodland birds, bats, bees, etc., thereby affecting humans. Trees are our children, and



aesthetically nourishing.

Did you know you can save a tree in under ten minutes without exposing yourself or the environment with chemical sprays? Saving one tree at a time, each of us can help preserve this precious tree canopy. We are truly blessed to live near so many beautiful trees and woods here in Barcroft.

Using clippers, snip ivy at shoulder height from the base of the tree and pull down the trunk and away from the base, three feet across the ground, to give the roots some air, and rain a chance to hydrate the tree. Continue clipping and pulling around the circumference of the tree. The remaining ivy above will wither away and your tree will survive.

My 11 year-old –son and his friends are happy to help you with the ivy. If you need help saving your tree, please call me at 571-839-8896. •

## Next BSCL Meeting

Thursday, April 7, 7:30 p.m., Community House  
Topic to be Announced



## Barcroft News

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

*Advertising:* Jennifer Tomlinson  
jaitomlinson@yahoo.com

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

**Next Deadline: April 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:* Alex Chamandy, alex@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 Brinitzer, 703-892-0308

*Traffic Committee:* Vacant

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

*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

*NCAC Alternate:* Neal Martin

*Arlington Civic Fed. Delegates:* Eric Harold, Chris-  
topher Hoh, Chris Kupczyk, Randy Swart  
*Alternates:* Joseph Knarich, David Michelson, Mark  
Wigfield

## A Great Place to Call Home

### *Editor's Thoughts by Alyssa Ford Morel*

I was returning from a morning walk recently, when I serendipitously bumped into former neighbor and **Barcroft News** Editor Elizabeth Kiker visiting her old stomping grounds. We caught up on happy family news, and she told me about life in Seattle. "It's not home yet, though," she said. "Barcroft is still home for me."

Barcroft's homey nature is a theme I've been hearing about a surprising amount recently. Warm spring weather finds me outside frequently, and I've had conversations with a number of people looking at the home next door to mine, which is on the market. Quite a few potential buyers have either lived in Barcroft previously or are acquainted with our neighborhood through friends or relatives. They all tell me they've been wanting to live here for a variety of reasons: proximity to the trail, easy transportation connections, neighborhood friendliness, and what one person described as "South Arlington's inclusiveness."

I heartily agree. I would add to that list proximity to excellent restaurants, community members who are willing to help out on all sorts of neighborhood needs and projects, and just plain niceness. It's a team effort to make a place a home, but I believe Barcroft has definitely achieved it. •

# NEWS NOTES

## Dance for Parkinson's

*By Cynthia Merrill*

The Bowen McCauley Dance for Parkinson's is a worthwhile exercise program for people who suffer from Parkinson's Disease. It is free of charge for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. Dances are held Thursdays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Kenmore Middle School at 200 South Carlin Springs Road in Arlington.

Bowen McCauley Dance is the only dance company in the Metropolitan D.C. area to provide free weekly dance classes for people with Parkinson's disease and their care partners. Through an engaging approach, students learn to enhance their aesthetic awareness and grace while addressing such PD-specific concerns as balance, flexibility, coordination and gait.

For more information, visit [www.BMDC.org](http://www.BMDC.org) or call 703/910-5175.

## Street Sweeping Begins

Street sweeping removes accumulated debris and pollutants such as sand, salt, metals, petroleum products and bacteria before they wash into streams, the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay. Arlington's 59 civic associations have been grouped into 11 street sweeping zones. Tips for residents:

Please move your cars from the street when your neighborhood is scheduled

to be swept. This ensures that the street sweepers can be more effective.

If you see a hanging tree limb by a curb and are able to safely remove it, please do so.

This helps the sweepers clean the curb.

View the street sweeping schedule online to see when your neighborhood will be swept.

## Spaghetti Supper

St. Johns' Episcopal Church in Glencarlyn is hosting a Spaghetti Supper open to everyone on Saturday, April 23, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person; children under 3 eat free. Come enjoy spaghetti with a variety of sauces, bread, salad and dessert and enjoy talking to old and new friends.

St John's is located at 415 S. Lexington Street. Enter through the doors on 5th street. For more information go to [www.stjohnsarlingtonva.org](http://www.stjohnsarlingtonva.org).

## Plant Sale is May 1

The annual spring plant sale at Glencarlyn Library Community Garden at 300 South Kensington Street will be held Sunday, May 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A wide variety of locally cultivated plants including natives, herbs, vegetables, shrubs and small trees will be available for purchase. The sale raises funds to keep the all-volunteer garden running year-round. The historic Ball-Sellers Home just around the corner will be open for visiting at the same time. ●

# Spring Update From Barcroft Elementary

**By Jenny Ditta, Barcroft Elementary Liaison**

Before starting Spring Break, students made the most of the first three weeks of March. A Jump Rope 4 Heart event to benefit the American Heart Association was held during the week of February 29 to March 4. Participating students jumped rope that week during P.E. classes to raise money for charity.

On March 1, the PTA held its monthly meeting and several lead teachers discussed their work to revise the School Mission and Vision Statements. On March 2, the school distributed free books to students as part of the Reading is Fundamental program. That same day, the school also celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday with special guest readers and Seuss-inspired treats such as Truffala Tree Cupcakes. On March 3, Barcroft hosted a Children's Science Center Family Science Night. Numerous families attended and participated in hands-on activities related to science, technology, engineering and math.

On March 14, to mark the end of the Third Quarter, Barcroft hosted a Leonardo Learning and Math (Celebration of Pi) event. Grade 5 students visited local APS Middle Schools and Grade 3 students finished up their swimming lessons at Wakefield Pool as well on March 17 and 18.

Spring Break occurred on March 21-25. Spring Intersession classes will be held from March 28 to April 8. During Intersession, students may take time off from school or en-

roll in interesting Intersession classes.

## SAVE THE DATE EVENTS:

- April 12 is our monthly PTA meeting at 6:30 in the Barcroft Library. Our topic is SOL: how to work with them and your child!
- On April 14, Barcroft will be conducting the third of three School Information Sessions and Tours for interested incoming kindergarten families from 9:15 to 10:45 a.m. All are welcome to visit the school at this time to learn more.
- On April 19, Barcroft PTA has teamed up with Dogfish Head Alehouse, 6220 Leesburg Pike at Seven Corners. A percentage of sales go to the Barcroft PTA and is used for field trips, teacher and classroom resources, and enrichment activities for our school wide community.
- Barcroft's International Night celebration will be held on April 28.
- A Reading is Fundamental 5K Run and 1 Mile Fun Run will be held on April 30 at 8 a.m. at Burke Lake Park, Fairfax Station. Neighbors are welcome to participate. The registration fees will benefit the Reading is Fundamental program. To register, go to: <https://potomac.enmotive.com>.
- The Spring Concert will be held on Thursday, May 5 at 7 p.m.

We hope that you can join us for these events! To learn more, contact our PTA President Tara McCabe at [tcsm04@gmail.com](mailto:tcsm04@gmail.com). •

# Mulch and Fill Dirt from Arlington County

Arlington residents can obtain mulch made from recycled leaves from the County's fall leaf collection or from wood made from tree trimmings and tree removals in Arlington.

**Free Mulch Pickup:** Residents may pick up free leaf mulch, depending on availability, at the following sites: Earth Products Yard, Location: 4300 29th Street South. Hours: Mon.-Fri., 5 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sat., 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; 26th Street North and Yorktown Boulevard Location: 26th St N & Yorktown Blvd. Hours: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Mulch Delivery:** Prices include delivery. Deliveries are made Monday to Friday (except holidays), from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. It's not necessary to be home at the time of delivery. Provide a valid phone number and/or email address so that we may contact you with any questions regarding your mulch delivery request on the day of delivery. Should any issue arise and our staff is unable to contact you, the material will be delivered as requested or returned if there is any obstacle.

Delivered mulch fees will be applied to your next quarterly utility bill. If you don't have a utility account, call 703-228-6570.

**Delivery Location Options:** For curbside delivery you must have a minimum of 30 feet of open space away from parked cars and low-hanging wires for mulch delivery. Any mulch left on the roadway or sidewalk must be removed by the resident within 24 hours. Mulch left longer than 24 hours may be

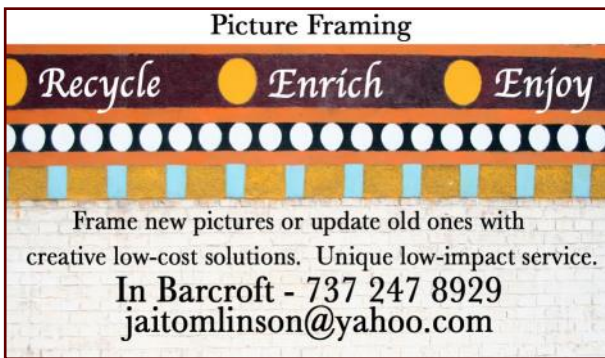
removed by the County with no refund. County vehicles can only deliver within 6 to 8 feet of the driveway apron.

Order sizes and prices are as follows:  
Leaf mulch – 2.5 cubic yards: \$40  
Leaf mulch – 5 cubic yards: \$50  
Wood mulch – 2.5 cubic yards: \$40  
Wood mulch – 5 cubic yards: \$50

Ordering mulch online is simple. Choose a delivery date from the online calendar and receive immediate confirmation of your scheduled delivery date. Read and agree to the delivery terms and conditions. Your online order form will automatically appear after you accept the terms and conditions.

**Fill Dirt:** Free fill dirt is available on a limited basis. The dirt consists of sandy, silty, clay material mixed with gravel or small asphalt particles. It contains little vegetative material and is not suitable as a topsoil application without enhancement. Check the availability of fill dirt by calling 703-228-6570.

More info: <http://recycling.arlingtonva.us/residential/mulch-dirt/>. •



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In Barcroft - 737 247 8929  
jaitomlinson@yahoo.com

# Paper Shredding, Inert Material and Yard Waste

Get rid of stuff on Saturday, April 2 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Earth Products Yard at 4300 29th Street, South, Arlington, VA 22206.

Paper shredding is for residents only



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

(sorry, businesses are not allowed). There is a limit of two boxes (no larger than 18 x 11 x 10 in.), or two paper bags per customer. Acceptable: paper (including staples, paper clips), checks/checkbooks. Unacceptable: magazines, catalogs, credit cards, three-ring binders 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 3 cubic yards of material can be accepted. Brush material is not accepted in the Inert Material Drop-Off Program.

**Yard waste collection** for curbside customers began on March 14, 2016. It will occur on your regular trash and recycling day.

We are working hard to deliver all green yard waste carts as soon as possible. Please only place yard waste in the cart, food waste (including vegetables and fruit from your fridge and garden) should go in your black trash cart. •



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# Greetings This Spring From OSLS

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

Our Savior will be hosting a school open house on Thursday, April 28 from 9 a.m. to 11a.m. and from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Please feel free to stop by our school during those times and visit. No appointment is necessary. We are currently accepting applications for the 2016-2017 school year.

At OSLS, we have weekly chapel services every Wednesday starting at 8:50 a.m. Please feel free to join us each week. During the month of February and March, the chapel offerings that we gathered went to Heifer International. Heifer International empowers families in villages around the world to turn hunger and poverty into hope and prosperity. Heifer links communities and helps bring sustainable agriculture and commerce to areas with a long history of poverty. Their animals provide partners with both food and reliable income, as agricultural products such as milk, eggs, and honey can be traded or sold at market.

We want to congratulate our 6th grade boys Triple Threat basketball team. They won the Arlington 6th grade boys basketball tournament. We are so proud of their teamwork this year.

Each month, our school enjoys Art Talks from one of our teachers, Mrs. Battaglia. This past month's artist was Joan Miro, a

Spanish artist often identified with the surrealist movement in art. Surrealist artists sought to make "images where the familiar meets the fantastic" (National Gallery of Art).

Miro lived in both Paris and Spain, but the influence of Catalonia, the Spanish region that Miro considered home, appears in his art throughout his long career. Students focused on *The Farm* painted in 1922. This painting represents the blending of realism and fantasy. Although now owned by the National Gallery of Art, it was originally purchased by Miro's friend, author Ernest Hemingway, as a birthday gift to his wife. ●



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**\*50% off 1st month for new customers**

**Cost: \$30 per month for one 5 gallon bins (serviced weekly)**

# Mosquito Control Begins With a Home Walk-Around

**By Kirsten Conrad Buhls**  
**Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension**  
**Agent, Virginia Cooperative Extension**

The Zika virus has raised awareness about the need for mosquito control. Protection from a wide range of mosquito-borne diseases starts at home with steps we all can take to eliminate mosquito breeding sites.

Diseases commonly carried by mosquitoes in Virginia include West Nile virus (WNV), Eastern Equine encephalitis (EEE), La Crosse encephalitis (LAC), and St. Louis encephalitis (SLE). According to the Virginia Department of Health, a few cases of imported mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria, dengue, or chikungunya are also reported each year.

Mosquitoes require as little as a tablespoon of water to lay eggs in. They can successfully breed in any area or container that has still, shallow standing water for more than three days. The number-one source of mosquito bites in our area is the Asian Tiger mosquito, which is a container breeder.

To eliminate breeding sites, conduct a neighborhood “dump the bucket” inspection and walk-around. Look for:

- Blocked gutters, downspouts and drain pipes. Make sure that water is flowing freely and consider replacing corrugated non-perforated pipes with smooth-walled pipes that flow freely.

- Buckets, pet water dishes, plant pot saucers, watering cans and bird baths. Do not allow water to stand undisturbed for more than three days and clean regularly.
- Old tires, car parts, unused toys and gardening equipment. Remove these and similar items that may collect water.
- Tarps over boats, firewood, cars, patio furniture and other items. Tighten them down and make sure that they do not trap water or allow it to puddle.

Water in standing drains like sumps and rain barrels can be treated with a natural larval control that will not harm other insects or animals. Virginia Cooperative Extension’s Pest Management Guide for Home Grounds and Animals Publication 456-018 is accessible online and can answer questions about control options for mosquito larvae and adults that are effective and rated for homeowner use.

The Arlington County VCE Horticulture Help Desk deals with questions and concerns about insects, plant identification, pesticides, plant disease, plant selection, household insects, ticks and mosquitoes and attracting and deterring wildlife. Located at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 South Stafford Street, it is staffed from 9 a.m. to noon weekdays by VCE Master Gardener volunteers. The phone number is 703-228-6414 and email address is mgarlalex@gmail.com. ●



# Free Tax Assistance Available for Schedule C Filers

Enterprise Development Group (EDG) provides free tax assistance to people needing help with their state and federal income taxes, including those filing Schedule Cs as small business owners.

There are two options for the free assistance. One coaches people to file their own taxes electronically, providing hands-on assistance to each client as they need it. This option is available on Tuesday evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Income eligibility is \$31,000 or EITC eligible.

The second option is to have a volunteer do the tax filing for you, while explaining

the process so that you will understand how to do it in the future. This option is available every Friday evening from 6 to 9 p.m. and every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Income eligibility for this program is \$53,000 and below.

If you are not income eligible for these programs, you can use: <http://turbotax.intuit.com/taxfreedom/index.jsp?vitaSiteId=S28098130>.

All sessions are held at EDG's office at 901 South Highland Street, one block off Columbia Pike and near the Arlington Career Center. Contact Roman Corpuz at 703-685-0510 x257 or [rcorpuz@ecdcus.org](mailto:rcorpuz@ecdcus.org). •



## Our Savior Lutheran School

### Open House

Pre-K (age 4 by September 30<sup>th</sup>) through 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
**Thursday, April 28, 2016**  
9 - 11 am and 6 - 8 pm

- Small class sizes, diverse student body
- Fully accredited and licensed
- Christian education, traditional skill building
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- We start each day with The Pledge of Allegiance and My Country 'Tis of Thee

**825 South Taylor Street, Arlington, VA 22204**  
**(703) 892-4846    [www.osva.org](http://www.osva.org)**



# Neighbor to Neighbor Listings, *continued*

*Continued from page 10*

**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.

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

**Barcroft neighborhood teenager** seeks lawn mowing (\$15 per hour), dog walking (\$10 per walk) and or house sitting opportunities (tbd) during the spring and summer months. If interested, please email ethanavalencia@gmail.com.

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

**Babysitting and Petsitting:** Tyler LaPointe, responsible 11th grader, experienced pet/babysitter. Will also water plants and take out trash. Email tylerchanlapointe@gmail.com or call 571-244-7555.

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

**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.

**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 to chrisclaire99@gmail.com or call 571-623-1133.

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

**Boutaina Marhrim:** Female, age 17 (almost 18). Caring, trustworthy, responsible high school senior with lots of experience with sitting. Available after 3:30 on weekdays and on weekends to babysit, dog or cat sit. If you're looking for a sitter, I'm the one for you! Phone number: 703-472-8718, Email: boutainam7@gmail.com. ●



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

### **Secrets of a Successful Home Inspection**

For home buyers and sellers, the road from initial offer to closing can seem like an endless series of hurdles. One of the most formidable of these hurdles is the home inspection, which seeks to determine the condition of the home's major systems and uncover any potential safety issues. A thorough inspection is critical so that buyers can make an informed decision about the final price that they agree to pay. Home inspectors are hired by the buyer, they are not parties to the sales transaction and should remain impartial. The inspection is visual with the major focus on the condition of essential components, including the roof, foundation, electrical and plumbing and HVAC systems. The inspector generates a report detailing their findings, making recommendations for future maintenance. If the inspection report reveals multiple and significant problems, the buyer may demand that the seller fix them, insist upon a lower selling price, or even walk away from the deal. It is in the seller's best interest to prepare for the home inspection, examining all areas

of the home, including the attic, basement, garage, and crawl spaces, and attending to anything that needs to be repaired.

**To help home sellers deal with this issue before their home is listed for sale we have compiled a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection."** If not identified and dealt with, any of these items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home to prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones. Call or email for a free copy!

*With our **Certified Pre-Owned Home Program**, a pre-sale home inspection is part of the package. Contact me for details on this program!*

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