



February 2019

Barcroft News

Vol 116, Issue 6

Neighborhood Conservation Project Updates

By Deborah Wood, Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee Representative

Arlington County has hired a contractor to carry out the 7th Street South entrance to the W&OD trail project. By February 1, members of the NC Planning team will have met with the contractor to work through the schedule and details of construction, and the project will be underway.

There has also been progress on the 9th Street South project. The Neighborhood Final Design Review meeting took place in January (but not by the newsletter deadline). At this meeting, residents of

the affected block and members of the 9th Street South community gardeners will have reviewed all parts of the project design with the NC planning team. These include:

- Street lights on the north side of the street;
- Storm water drainage improvements;
- Street milling and paving at impacted sections of the street;
- Completion of missing sidewalk, curb and gutter along the south side of the street;
- Newly paved trail connector between the street's dead end and the W&OD trail. •



Next Community Meeting

Thursday, February 7, 7:30, Barcroft Community House

Topic: Sparrow Pond Restoration, Lily Whitesell,

Stormwater Outreach Specialist with Arlington County



Barcroft News

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Next Deadline: February 15, 2019

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topher Hoh, Chris Kupczyk, Randy Swart *Alter-*
nates: Joseph Knarich, David Michelson, Mark
Wigfield

President's Message

By Chris Siple

I hope that Old Man Winter hasn't been too rough on you and yours. I'm writing this from New Zealand, where it's summer, and can only see the snow in Arlington in news stories. By the time this hits your doorstep, I'll be back home, though, and experiencing the same weather you are. I know Barcrofters are looking out for each other this winter, as they do every season. There's good news on the neighborhood project front, as you can read else-



Photo by Randy Swart

where in this newsletter. I hope the water main reconstructions in recent weeks went well and did not inconvenience you unduly. Please let me know about issues so I can report them to the County.

2019 will see the big new projects on Barcroft's stretch of the Pike approach completion, ultimately giving us hundreds of new neighbors and spurring further development along the Pike. For good or ill, the character of Barcroft is undergoing rapid change, so let's work through the BSCL to do what we can to make it for good. •

BSCL Carriers Celebrate!

By Theresa Schweser

The post-holiday lull in early January was enlivened by a gathering of the BSCL Newsletter Carriers. Hosted by Publishers Teresa Saunders and Theresa Schweser, more than a dozen of these Barcroft volunteers enjoyed an evening of fellowship and refreshment on Friday, January 4 at the Community House.

Stories of Barcroft, its changes over the years, and newsletter history were themes of the night. Attendees enjoyed a bit of trivia too: who has the largest delivery route? (Elaine Squeri at

48!); who is the youngest Barcroft carrier? (Sophia, age 8!); and, what year was the BSCL Newsletter first published? (1903). Don't forget that the Barcroft Carriers won a gold medal last year on Independence Day for best new group in the parade!

Thanks to all the BSCL Newsletter Carriers volunteers (listed below) who bring neighborhood news to your door every month. There are 29 routes reaching just

over 800 households in our neighborhood. Be sure to thank your 'local' carrier when next on delivery!



BSCL Newsletter Carriers:

Bruce Atkinson
Barry Becker
Georgina and Jeff Bramsen
Elizabeth Bull
Phil Cackley
James Casey
Barbara Clemens
Mary Dia
Kevin Donnelly
Ken Edwards

Elizabeth Wirick
Maureen Locke
Jennifer Lis
Chris Kupczyk
Michelle Newman
Michael and Laura Novak
Kirk and Gretchen Odegard
Janine Perfit
Anna Peterson
Lou Phelps

Brittany Canny
Alan Schweser
Rosemary Leffler
Elaine Squeri
Beth Swallow
Ann Wester
Mark Wigfield
Anne Witzig and Laird White
Heather and Scott Merritt •

Educational Classes from Virginia Hospital Center

The Virginia Hospital Center has announced the following free educational opportunities. To register, call 703-558-6859.

Brain Health Workshop. *Wednesday, February 13, 2019. 11 a.m. to 12 noon or 1 to 2 p.m. VHC's Carlin Springs Campus, 601 South Carlin Springs Road, Arlington .*

Feeling forgetful? Not as sharp as you used to be? Are you between 50 and 80 years old? Do you possess basic computer skills? Cogniciti and Baycrest Hospital, a world leading memory and aging institute who are hosting a workshop which will provide you

with a science-based answer to the question, "Is my memory normal?"

Healthy Aging Lecture. *Friday, February 15. 11 a.m. to 12 noon. "Backstage" with AGING MATTERS' Cheryl Beversdorf.*

Aging Matters is a radio and television program via Arlington Independent Media. Cheryl will describe details of producing this popular show, including identifying topics of interest to older adults, preparing guests for each broadcast, and sharing stories of favorite shows. •



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BSCL Meeting Time Survey Results

By Judith Desplechin

We asked residents of Barcroft to fill out an online survey as to whether they would prefer to have the Community Meetings start at 7 or 7:30 p.m. These are the results:

- 35 People Responded
- 11 voted for 7 p.m.
- 24 voted for 7:30 p.m.
- 2 voted that either time was good (their votes were split) but neither could attend on Thursdays.
- 1 person voted twice (second vote

not counted).

Response to the Survey came from:

- Barcroft Facebook Page – 1
- Barcroft News – 4
- Chat List - 30 •

Is one of your resolutions to be more connected with your community?
Be sure you are a member of the Barcroft Listserve. To sign up, go to <https://www.bscl.org/chat-list>.

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Dues News: February Update

By Joanne Rodewald, Membership Secretary

Show your love for our neighborhood and send in your annual dues this month. If you can't remember or are unsure if you have already joined, to avoid duplicate payment you may check the new membership roster at <https://www.bscl.org/membership>.



Dues are still only \$5 per individual or \$10 for a family membership. The revised application form is provided with this newsletter or online at our website. On behalf of the BSCL Officers and Board Members, I thank you for your support. •

Staging Your Home For Success!

In a world of real estate search engines, staging helps turn online browsing into promising foot traffic! Effective staging gives the appearance of a well-maintained home while enticing potential buyers to schedule a tour. This, in turn, reduces days on market and gets you the highest price for your home. Throughout the DC metro area, Trent & Co. is known for our eye-catching style. Let our team's experience and support take your listing to the next level!

Our staging process can be broken into three simple steps:

1. Repair what might discourage potential buyers. We're here to help you identify and remedy those situations *before* they cost you a sale or negotiating power.

2. "Neutralize" the color palette to make sure your home appeals to the highest number of potential buyers. We're experts in identifying the perfect on-trend shades for your home.

3. Add in furniture, textiles, and final touches to make your home STAND OUT in a sea of online listings. Whether we supplement your existing furniture or completely reinvent your home using our carefully-selected collection, potential buyers and agents alike will take note of what you have on the market.

To schedule an appointment and learn about the advantages of listing and staging with us, as well as a free market analysis, contact us today.

We love helping our Barcroft neighbors!

Rick & Ryan

To view our currently staged on-market listings, visit trentandco.com



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2019 BSCL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

You may check the current roster at <https://www.bscl.org/membership>. If you don't see your name listed please complete the entire form and return with dues to:

Barcroft School & Civic League, c/o Treasurer
811 South Taylor Street, Arlington, VA 22204

Check one: ☐ New Member Application ☐ Membership Renewal

☐ Individual Membership (\$ 5.00) \$ _____

☐ Couple/Family Membership (\$10.00) \$ _____

☐ Additional Tax Deductible Contribution to
the Community House Conservation Fund \$ _____

Total (Please make check payable to BSCL) \$ _____

Check Number _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Apt: _____

Home Phone: () _____ Cell Phone: () _____

Cell Phone: () _____

E-Mail Address (s): _____

I/we would like to volunteer to help with:

☐ Snow Removal for Elderly/Disabled ☐ Yard Work for Elderly/Disabled

☐ Barcroft Players ☐ Food Events (*Dinners, Cookouts, etc.*)

☐ Distribution (*Newsletters, Flyers, etc.*) ☐ 4th of July Parade and Picnic

☐ Grant Writing ☐ One-Time Efforts (*as they arise*)

☐ Serve on a Committee -- Specify which: _____

(*Crime Resistance, Parking, Traffic*)

☐ Other (*Please Specify*): _____

Garden Education Events in February

The Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia have announced public education events for February. These events are open to all, but space may be limited for several of them. To reserve a spot, please register online at <https://mgnv.org/public-education-events/vce-horticulture-programs-registration/>. All the events are free.

Microgreens: What Are They, Why Are They So Fabulous, and How to Grow Them.

Monday, February 4, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen Street, Alexandria 22314.

Microgreens – you’ve likely seen them, but what makes them so good for you? Join us to learn their many benefits, and some simple ways to grow these delicious, nutritious, and inexpensive baby plants and sprouts. Plus, we provide supplies for you to plant your own container, a custom “kit” to make your own microgreen garden at home.

Sustainable Landscaping: Water Conservation. *Wednesday, February 6, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Columbia Pike Branch Library, 816 South Walter Reed Drive, Arlington 22204.*

Water is our most precious resource. Learn how to capture and absorb storm water on your property to benefit your garden with the right landscaping techniques and plant choices. This is the third class in a series on

sustainable landscaping offered by Extension Master Gardeners to be held at Columbia Pike Branch Library in January/February 2019.

Sustainable Landscaping: Selecting Native Plants. *Wednesday, February 20, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Columbia Pike Branch Library, 816 South Walter Reed Drive, Arlington 22204.*

There’s a palette of plants that is just right for you and that will thrive in your site’s conditions. Learn how to select appropriate plants for your site, what is meant by a native plant versus a cultivar, and some best management practices for installation and maintenance of your planting bed designs.

This is the final class in a series on sustainable landscaping offered by Extension Master Gardeners to be held at Columbia Pike Branch Library in January/February 2019.

Urban Agriculture - Grow What You Eat: Starting Your Own Vegetable Garden. *Saturday, February 23, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road., Alexandria 22304, and Monday, February 25, or 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Westover Branch Library, 1644 N. McKinley Road, Arlington 22205.*

Learn easy-to-implement practices for selecting a site, and evaluating and improving your soil. Find out which plants grow best lo-

Continued on page 9



Master Gardener Education, continued

Continued from page 8

cally, which are best planted directly via seeds and which are typically transplanted as seedlings. Discover how to attract pollinators and other beneficial insects. Learn to identify and manage pests, weeds and diseases. Get free seeds and a vegetable garden calendar customized for our region. This is the third class in a series on urban agriculture offered by Extension Master Gardeners to be held at Burke and Westover Branch Libraries in Winter/Spring 2019.

Plot Against Hunger 6th Annual Spring Garden Kick-Off. *Saturday, March 2, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Arlington Central Library, 1015 North Quincy St., Arlington 22201.*

Come learn how to support our partner Arlington Food Assistance Center with fresh produce from your garden or community plot. There will be presentations on seed starting, composting, and lasagna and container gardening; exhibit tables on winter gardening and edible landscapes; and demonstrations of fruit tree pruning. Also free vegetable and herb seeds!

Note to All: The Extension Master Gardener Help Desk operates year-round. We welcome your garden-related questions, including those related to plant and insect identification. The help desk is open 9 a.m. to noon weekdays at the VCE office, 3308 South

Stafford St., Arlington 22206. Contact us at 703-228-6414 or mgarlalex@gmail.com, or drop by to speak with Help Desk volunteers.

Also check out the resources on our website, mgnv.org. You'll find a Quick Guide for Gardeners in Northern Virginia listing our hardiness zone and frost dates, a list of problem plants and better alternatives, and an extensive compilation of Tried and True Native Plants for the Mid-Atlantic Area, complete with great color pictures and descriptions. Our schedule of gardening programs is posted on this website, so be sure to check it often! •

Christine Hopkins

Real Estate Consultant
Your Barcroft Neighbor

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Genevieve Concannon Broker

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Holiday Greetings From OSLS

Thank you to everyone who stopped by at our open house in January. We are currently accepting applications for grades PreK through 8th. We offer before and after care.

Each month, our school enjoys Art Talks from one of our teachers, Mrs. Battaglia. During Art Talks, we learn about an artist and their works. This past month's artist was Eyvind Earle. Earle was born in New York City in 1916. He began painting at the age of ten when his father challenged him to either paint a picture a day or read fifty pages a day. He did both. After extensive travels with his father, Earle had his first

exhibition in France at age 14. When Earle was 21, he embarked on a 45-day bike trip across the United States. He painted 42 watercolors and wrote a 10,000-word diary along the way. Shortly after, the Metropolitan Museum of Art purchased one of his watercolors for their permanent collection. Earle continued to paint producing more than 2000 works of art. Students were particularly interested in his work with Disney Studios. He was the background artist on several Disney films including Peter Pan, Sleeping Beauty, and Lady and the Tramp. Eyvind Earle died at the age of 84 in Carmel, California in 2000.

Box Tops for Education is a unique way to raise money for schools and make a difference. Box Tops are those little pink coupons you see on box goods at the store. Once you start looking, you'll see them everywhere. At Our Savior, we challenge each grade every month to bring in the most box tops. If you are looking for a way to support our school, and have some box tops for education lying around, you can stop by our school office and drop them off. Thank you in advance for your support.

We are looking forward to our annual celebration of Lutheran Schools Week in early March. ●



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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.

Private Drum Lessons: Local musician offers instruction in your home or in his Barcroft home studio. All ages/levels, multiple styles-- rock, jazz, classical, as well as high school marching band, concert band and audition/ performance skills. Complimentary 30-minute lesson/consultation. Local references provided. Also available: drum set tuning, used drum sets, consults for equipment purchase. Contact 202-409-4370, Mitchbassmusic@gmail.com. Booking now for winter!

Barcroft Resident Dog Walker: I have space available for new clients. I have 14 years experience running my own dog walking/pet sitting business in Washington, and am excited to be in Arlington. Any and all pet services can be provided. Contact David McCreight at 202-413-9179 or thedoggiedaddy@yahoo.com

Bikes and 3D Printers: What do they have in common? You want your bike ready to ride and I want to earn money for a 3D printer! Offering a Quick Tune-up for \$30, Bike fitting for \$20 or Cleaning for \$20. Call or email me for more details or other services. Zach 703-380-6227 or robbets4@gmail.com.

Neighborhood Graduate Student: Available for pet sitting and dog walking, babysitting, odd jobs, housework, etc. Abby Fram, 703-477-7550; email: abbyfram94@aol.com.

Morning Mows with Ethan Valencia: need a trim? Text Ethan Valencia at 703-254-9551 or email EthanAValencia@gmail.com. Also available for cat care.

Do you need pet care? Are you planning a weekend getaway or work trip? I have three children that love animals and enjoy watching, walking, feeding, and caring for pets. We've had pets stay with us, or dropped in to help feed a pet while a family is away for the weekend. It's a great opportunity for our kids to learn responsibility under their parents supervision. As pet owners ourselves, we have the experience and we enjoy animals of all types. Please consider us next time you need pet sitting services. Ben, Amy, Eli, Max, and Lucy Maule: 202.280.8598. •



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

Home Renovations: Return on Investment

When upgrading, you can focus on maximizing resale value or personal preference. Getting value out of a remodel project isn't always about price and resale. You can buy a brand name at Lowes or Home Depot or make a personal choice for a higher end appliance, which might not recoup as much of the cost at resale. To help prioritize, think about how long you'll live in the home after the renovation. If it's less than 5 years, resale should be a higher priority. If you'll be there for 12+ years, personalization can make more sense.

Remodeling.com conducts annual studies on resale values of various renovation projects, with findings that show returns of 50-80% of their value upon resale (contrary to what HGTV might suggest). According to the Remodeling 2018 Cost vs. Value Report (www.costvsvalue.com), a high performer in the DC area is a wood deck addition, a 99.5% return on an \$11,254 investment, where a composite deck yields 75%, a cost of \$18,266.

Another popular project is the minor kitchen remodel at 86% return (I have obtained much higher

numbers in some cases) on a cost of \$22,180 vs. a \$64,514 major kitchen remodel with a 64% gain.

Remodeling strictly for resale focuses on congruency along with timing and your budget. Part of my consultation with any prospective seller is to discuss goals and timelines with the right upgrades. A recent client earned \$40,000 more on their home sale thanks to the right renovations. They wanted to know whether to sell "as-is" or put money into improvements. We recommended minor updates and turned their \$15,000 investment into a \$40K profit.

Call me for an analysis of your home. *Discover how you can save time & money.*

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www.ArlingtonVAHouseValue.com