



June/July 2019

Barcroft News

Vol 116, Issue 6.10

Plan to Attend Barcroft's 30th 4th of July Parade

By Heather Meade

Mark your calendar for Barcroft's greatest annual neighborhood event. Come celebrate our Nation's 244th Birthday and the 30th Annual 4th of July Barcroft Parade. This year held on... drum roll...Thursday the 4th of July! Rain or shine.

The parade begins at 10 a.m. sharp. Anyone can join and we hope you will.

Marchers meet in the Women's Club parking lot at 9:45 a.m. across from the Barcroft community House at 800 South Buchanan Street.

The Parade includes: a Scout Color Guard, AFD Fire Engine and Arlington police, our very own Barcroft Marching Band, Uncle Sam and all of you in your most creative costumes and floats. Let's make this the zaniest year ever! Decorate those strollers and bikes, paint those faces and bellies or come dressed as your favorite super hero or surprise us.

Turn your bike into a helicopter, put wheels on your surfboard, make a fun float or banner. Win a coveted Barcroft Parade Medal.



Post- parade includes a show for kids of all ages that will take place after the parade in the Community House. This will be followed with an awards ceremony for best parade costumes and floats, face painting, a water balloon

toss, the company of your awesome neighbors and the singing of our National Anthem.

Neighborhood Potluck: After the parade, the Barcroft School and Civic League will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, watermelon, lemonade and cake. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Sample Volunteer Opportunities:

- National Anthem Soloist
- Set up / Clean Up
- Judge

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Barcroft News

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Alternates: Joseph Knarich, David Michelson, Mark Wigfield

President's Message

By Gary Mason

Barcroft is a great place to live! For those who may not know me I'm the newest BSCL President, having succeeded Chris Siple in May. This summer my wife Sara and I will mark twenty years among its residents and we've enjoyed every moment.

Summer in Northern Virginia is clearly upon us as of this writing, with afternoon temperatures in the 90s and humidity approaching the same. But the season also brings with it two weekly outdoor events on the Arlington Mill Community Center (AMCC) plaza just steps away from our neighborhood: Movie Nights (free, Friday evenings at dark beginning June 14; bring something to sit on) and the Arlington Mill Farmers Markets (Saturdays; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) The AMCC is located on Columbia Pike just across the Four Mile Run bridge from Barcroft; it is walkable, bikeable and drivable (up to 4 hours free parking in the AMCC parking facility off of South Arlington Mill Road).

Of course we're also on the countdown to our neighborhood's biggest annual event which is just a few weeks away: the annual Barcroft 4th of July Parade and Barbecue. Heading up its planning Heather Meade and Jim Moran and their team of other volunteers, will certainly put on another signature event that helps make Barcroft so special.

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Barcroft Elementary May Update

By Gretchen Odegard

Throughout May and June we continued to celebrate our school's leader, Ms. Apostolico-Buck (Ms. AB), who was recently named Principal of the Year for Arlington Public Schools. Barcroft 4th graders performed a rendition of "Stand By Me" in her honor at the county-wide APS Celebration of Excellence held in May, and Ms. AB was surprised by both staff and families at separate



Student artwork congratulating their principal on being named Principal of the Year for Arlington Public Schools.

school celebrations.

June has been filled with plenty of learning and fun leading up to the last day of school, June 20. After completing the required Virginia SOL testing in early June, students enjoyed end of the year field trips to the state capital in Richmond, the National Zoo, and local parks and nature centers.

A highlight of every year at Barcroft is the annual tradition of field day -- this year complete with a 40 foot inflatable obstacle course!

5th graders were celebrated at a promotion ceremony on June 19 and treated to a pool party to mark their final days in elementary school.

For those of you with rising kindergartners starting at Barcroft, please join us at summer play dates at the Barcroft playground. It's a great opportunity to meet other families and cool off with a popsicle. Play dates will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 18 and at 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 28.

Because Barcroft follows a modified school year calendar, our first day of school for 2019-2020 is Wednesday, August 7. Families will get a chance to meet the teachers and visit their students'

classrooms on Monday, August 5. Later that week, Barcroft will celebrate the start of the school year with a family picnic on the playground on Friday, August 9. You may see some food trucks at the school that evening and you are more than welcome to join us! Have a great summer! ●

4th of July Parade, continued

Continued from page 1

- Grill Master
- Games for kids and more

Come and join in the fun and see what makes our Barcroft neighborhood so special.

For more information or to volunteer to help call or email Heather Meade: heather.meade@gmail.com or (206) 817-5609.

To join the Marching Band contact Melissa Bishop at (703) 379-7537 or melissabishop@mac.com.



The Parade Route is: Start 800 South Buchanan (Barcroft Community House), Down 8th Road South, Left on South Wakefield, Turn at Barcroft Elementary, Right on 8th Street South, Left on South Buchanan Street, Finish 800 South Buchanan. •

President's Message, continued

Continued from page 2

Almost a month later, on August 2, please also join with your neighbors at the Barcroft Community House for an ice cream social on National Night Out.

And don't forget to vote on June 11 (Virginia Democratic primary).

Hope to meet and see you at our next BSCL monthly meeting on September 5. •

Meeting Notice

By Judith Desplechin

The next West End Columbia Pike Coalition Meeting will be held Thursday, July 18 at 7 p.m. at the Arlington Mill Community Center, Room 525. •

Call for Instrumentalists

Do you play an instrument? Musicians of all stripes and abilities are welcome and invited to join us in the annual Barcroft Marching Band for our neighborhood's Fourth of July parade. We'll re-



hearse briefly on Wednesday, July 3, from 6 to

7p.m. in the Community House.

Want more information? Email Melissa Bishop at melissadbishop@mac.com or call/text 703-509-0836. •

Status of Recent and Current Barcroft Projects

By Gary Mason

The month of May hosted the last BSCL monthly meeting before our Summer “recess” and the resumption of meetings in September. Since activities in and around Barcroft don’t necessarily take a similar hiatus this summary seeks to update BSCL members on many of the, arguably, more significant activities in and adjacent to Barcroft that may involve, affect or benefit our neighborhood.

7th Street South Trail Connector through Glencarlyn Park to the W&OD Trail

Status: Project completed, except for a few punch list items. Connector is open to public use.

Columbia Pike Multimodal Project – Four Mile Run to Fairfax County Line

Status: In progress; look for continuing intermittent lane closures and overnight work through the Summer. Originally a single project it has been essentially split into two due to existing buried utility location issues (not a County responsibility) between Four Mile Run and South Greenbrier Street. From Four Mile Run to South Greenbrier Street: Washington Gas has completed its gas main relocation and the County is currently completing its water and sewer relocations as well as storm drain improvements. Next will come excavation and installation of the dry conduits for subsequent use by the electric, telephone and fiber optic cable utilities. West of South Greenbrier Street the storm drain improve-

ments are nearing completion and the dry utility conduits are already installed. Estimated completion of this work is the end of 2020.

Columbia Pike Multimodal Project – South Wakefield Street to South Oakland Street

Status: In progress; look for continuing intermittent lane closures and overnight work through the Summer. Washington Gas is currently engaged in relocating its gas main with this work largely completed between South George Mason Drive and South Oakland Street, and is underway between South George Mason Drive and South Wakefield Street. Gas line work in the Columbia Pike/South George Mason Drive intersection is pending. The County contract for its work on this project is projected to go to bid this Fall with work expected to begin in 2020. Note: The Four Mile Run to South Wakefield Street portion of this multimodal project was previously completed.

Centro Arlington (Former Food Star site in NW corner of Columbia Pike and South George Mason Drive)

Status: In progress; look for continuing construction traffic to/from the site, sidewalk and lane closures, workers parking on residential streets and overnight roadwork on South George Mason Drive as the median is reconstructed. Model apartments currently being outfitted with rentals projected to begin

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Barcroft Projects, continued

as early as September 2019. The Harris Teeter store on the ground floor is being built out and projected to open in October 2019. Note: BSCL is working with Orr Partners in an effort to arrange a building tour, perhaps in September. More information on this opportunity will be provided as it becomes available.

Sparrow Pond Renovation (on the W&OD Trail below the end of South Abingdon Street)

Status: Planning phase in progress; 30 percent design completed March 2019 and 60 percent design anticipated this Summer with a public meeting to gather comments. Date of this meeting TBD (check <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/sparrow-pond-restoration/> on scheduling of this meeting).

Alcova Heights Park Renovations - Phase I

Status: Planning phase nearing completion; Phase 1 Final Design currently available online for public comment. To view the design and provide comments go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CJV6XFM>

Invasive Bamboo Control at South Buchanan/Pershing Streets and 6th Street South

Status: Active management of the dense stands of invasive bamboo with the assistance of Arlington County began at the end of April 2019. Additional checking and treatment of these stands should be expected over the course of the Summer.

Arlington County's Residential Permit Parking Program (RPPP)

Status: Review process continues. The 2017 County moratorium on designating new residential permit parking zones continues in effect to allow time for a comprehensive review of the program, including clarifying its purpose and effectiveness. A survey of random County residents has just been completed (results not yet available). Further public involvement anticipated this Fall once the County Board provides further direction on the review this Summer. Note: Nearly one-third of Barcroft's residential streets are covered by the RPPP (all in proximity to the Federal facilities at Arlington Hall) so the next steps in this ongoing review will likely be of interest to many Barcroft residents. To check for updates on this review go to: <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/residential-permit-parking-rpp-review/>

Metro Bus Transformation Project

Status: Planning in progress. This WMATA (Metro) multijurisdictional planning effort is in response to the decline in bus speeds (due to increasing traffic congestion and other causes), decreasing ridership, and increasing operating expenses. These factors have reportedly contributed to the delay in upgrades to the Metro bus service on Columbia Pike and other principle Metrobus routes in the region. The project seeks to develop a regional approach to the future of bus transportation public open house on the project will be held on May 20 in Arlington. For more information go to: <https://bustransformationproject.com/get-involved/#events>

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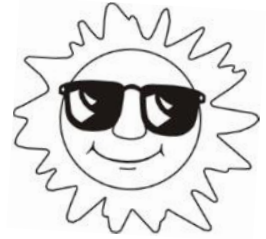
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Dues News: June/July Update

By Joanne Rodewald, Membership Secretary

If you have already paid your BSCL dues for 2019, thank you for your support and you may stop reading. OK, now it is just ME talking to our MANY NEIGHBORS who haven't yet gotten around to joining our Civic League this year. I hope this sunny face and sunglasses will remind more of you to become a part of the team with your financial support before we all become distracted by our vacation plans and other summer pleasures. By the time you read this article, we will be about half way through our membership year. It is only \$5 per individual or \$10 for a family membership to join/renew. Your par-

ticipation does make a difference! With everyone pitching in, these dues will enhance the many special events that make Barcroft a unique place to live. Our newsletter, 4th of July Parade, Ice Cream Social, and maintenance of the Community House and grounds are just a few of the specific activities your dues and donations support. The application form is available in this newsletter and online at our website at <http://www.bscl.org/membership>. Please check the current membership roster and if you haven't already done so, please join today. •



Is it Amazon?

The Arlington market is HOT right now! Compared to last year, the average list price has seen a 21%* increase, and our median increase is close to 14%*. Is this the "Amazon Effect?" It's hard to say for sure, but what we do know is that these numbers are great news for those looking to sell their homes right now.

To celebrate this booming market, we'd like to share with you our team's famous lychee martini recipe. It's always a huge hit at our client parties, and we can guarantee it'll be one at your Memorial Day barbecue as well!

1. Prepare martini glass with 1 canned lychee
 2. Combine 2 parts gin, 3 parts lychee liqueur, 1 part lychee juice (saved from can) shake or stir
 3. Add lime juice to taste
- (Can be made individually or in large batches as a party cocktail)

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

We love helping our Barcroft neighbors!
Rick & Ryan

*Information from BrightMLS



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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*): _____

Two Weeks in El Paso

By Teresa Saunders and Dan Junker

In early April, Barcroft saw a BSCL Chat post calling for toiletries and tote bags. We were planning to drive to the US-Mexico border at El Paso to volunteer with Annunciation House, a non-profit which declares “*Not one refugee to the street!*”

Our car was stuffed with over 200 tote bags, 200 small bottles of shampoo, over 600 toothbrushes, 300 tubes of toothpaste and nearly 500 bars of soap. We would like to thank our generous neighbors and others who contributed.

Annunciation House runs several shelters in low-end motels in El Paso. A large conference room was the center of the operation, with a folding table as the reception desk. Behind the desk were stacks of supplies, including OTC Medicines, shampoo, combs, soap, diapers, and disposable razors. More supplies were stacked in the corner under sheets.

Our shift started daily at 7 a.m. and continued until around 3 or 4 p.m. It was non-stop. Buses from ICE brought 20 to 100 people in family units. Some babies were just a few months old, some mothers seven or eight months pregnant.

The asylum seekers assembled in the dining area. We passed out bottles of water, PB&J sandwiches and shoelaces to replace those confiscated by border patrol. We used scissors to cut off all the paper wristbands from detention.

Our leader, Sister Pam, welcomed them. She explained that this was not a de-

tention center. They were free to stay or go. We would help them arrange travel from El Paso to their sponsor in the US. Meanwhile they could stay here, where there would be showers, meals and a place to stay for the few days it would take arrange their trip.

Then they were brought into the adjacent room in family groups. At

conference tables we’d talk with each party. What country they had come from? Typically Honduras and Guatemala. Who were their sponsors here? Family members or friends. Where in the US were they going? Texas, California and Florida were common, but really everywhere, including the D.C. area. All families had preliminary court dates set for a week or two later near their destination.

Fluent Spanish speakers made phone calls to the sponsors, indicating that the fami-



ly was in a shelter in El Paso and would have their basic needs met for the next few days, but asking the sponsor to provide onward travel. The sponsors usually got right on it, calling back within 24 hours with the date, time and confirmation numbers of the flights or buses.

Quarters were tight. Two families were assigned to each hotel room with one family per bed. We gave out the donated toiletries and showed them to their room. We'd



Dan Junker, in his Barcroft T-shirt (left) providing food to asylum seekers. Above, donations ready to go to El Paso.

show them that the TV worked only when the light switch was turned on and how the shower diverter worked and please remember to keep the shower curtain in the tub.

Sponsors called back with travel plans. Volunteers tracked status for each party on bulletin boards. Each evening, the supervisor grouped travelers together for shuttle bus trips to the airport or bus station. By morning,

as more calls came in, we'd rearrange the shuttle bus assignments, or have volunteers drive them to the bus or airport. Travelers were effusive expressing relief and appreciation as they headed off for the final leg of their journey.

Travel itineraries usually included transfers. Volunteers would accompany travelers to the check-in counter, go over the tickets with them, and discuss how to read the monitors to find the gates at connecting terminals.. We provided them with a small note in English that explained that although they had a ticket, they might need help finding the correct gate.

We sent folks on their way with food. Standard fare was PB&J sandwiches and snacks like granola bars, trail mix or cookies. Packing sufficient PB&J sandwiches for a family of three travelling to Florida meant including about 30 sandwiches. Not the healthiest diet, but at least they wouldn't be hungry.

We heard about Annunciation House via the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers association. Our coworkers included other RPCVs, nuns, and other individuals, hailing from NY, NC, MT, SC, KS, MI, PA, IN, IL, and OR. I was so pleased to see so many people giving of their time and energy to help others.

Asylum seekers continue to come to the US in record numbers. Annunciation House and other charities are extremely busy trying to meet the basic needs of these people.

Thank you for your donations. ●

Tolling for Tradition

By Mark Wigfield

One of the unique features of the Barcroft neighborhood is the Holy Martyrs of Vietnam Church. The original congregation is comprised of refugees from the Vietnam war who met in temporary quarters for two years until they bought the Grange Hall in Annandale in 1978, where this small church could sit only 200 people. Finally, they were able to purchase their church home on 9th Street in 1985 from Barcroft Bible Church. Since then, the congregation has reached deep into their own pockets and donated their time and labor to raise money to continue to build, enlarge and improve the church as a center for the Vietnamese Catholic community.

Among those improvements is the bell tower, which was constructed in 1999. Church bell ringing is a tradition for Catholic churches all over the world. “The bells remind us of our beloved parishes in Vietnam,” says Thu Bui, a past chairman of the Parish Council at Holy Martyr who has served the church for 34 years in different functions. “The church is our home away from home.”

However, that beloved tradition has not always been beloved by close neighbors, who have sometimes complained about the bells. Three times, they summoned police. However, finding no noise ordinance violation, police took no action. Others have complained to the civic association; recently,

past President Chris Siple raised the concern with Fr. Liem Tran, the church pastor. And the church has responded, Bui says.

Fr. Tran has repeatedly reduced the number of tollings, first cancelling 34 of them, and in January, cancelling another 20. Now, the bells toll only 22 times during a week, with the most frequent occurring before the four Masses on Sunday. The earliest tollings are at 8 a.m., and the last at 7 p.m. Hopefully, neighbors can live with this compromise so that a pillar of the neighborhood – the Holy Martyrs of Vietnam Church – can honor its traditions. •



Barcroft's local farmers market

**Barrett Elementary School
4401 N. Henderson Road**

<https://lubberrunfarmersmarket.org/>

**Saturdays, April – November
8 a.m. – 12 noon**

***Buy Fresh • Buy Local
Build a Healthy Community***

Barcroft Projects, continued

Continued from page 6

Housing Arlington

Status: The Arlington County Board adopted a “Housing Arlington Resolution” in April 2019. The Resolution was followed later the same month by the County Manager’s initial effort concerning a plan intended to focus County attention on the shortage of both traditional affordable housing and a shortage of affordable housing options for the middle class (referred to as the “missing middle”). The initial public meeting on this initiative is scheduled for May 29 at Wakefield High School.

More information at: <https://housing.arlingtonva.us/housing-arlington>

Other Activities to Watch/Listen for this Summer:

- Effect of County’s 2020 budget on NCAC projects.
- Widening of pedestrian walkway on Columbia Pike bridge over Four Mile Run.
- Arlington County’s replacement of sodium lamp street lights with LEDs.
- Cut-through traffic increase due to Waze app guiding drivers to avoid traffic congestion/issues.

Of course there are new things that will arise over the Summer. Please let the BSCL President and Vice-President know by email about them. ●



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Greetings from Our Savior Lutheran School

By OSLS National Junior Honor Society

May was a great month at Our Savior. Our middle school students headed out on class trips in early May. The 6th graders joined our Washington Area Lutheran Schools for three days of outdoor education in Pennsylvania. The 7th grade class went into Downtown D.C. on a three day servant event field trip, and the 8th graders headed north for a three day trip to New York City. The 5th grade also had some exciting moments as they prepared to watch baby chicks hatch in the classroom. We also celebrated our annual Field Day, which was an endless day of fun activities.

Our Savior students celebrate the end of the school year with our annual school Talent Show. It was held on Thursday, June 13, during the school day. Students got a chance to show off their talents to the rest of the school.

As we finish the school year, it's also time to say goodbye to another 8th grade class as they get ready to head off to high

school.

We are currently accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year for grades PreK through 8th. Stop by or call our school office if you have any questions. •

Christine Hopkins

Your Barcroft Neighbor &
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July 15 - 19, 2019 5:30-8:00 pm

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Preschool to rising 5th Graders!

All are Welcome!

\$20 for the week - \$5 for each additional sibling.

Dinner will be served each evening.

St. John's Episcopal Church

415 S. Lexington Street - Arlington, VA 22204

703-671-6834

(see website for more info)

stjohnsarlingtonva.org



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.

Getting motivated this summer to get that nagging project done? I am available as of June 1st to help with anything up high, dirty or that just needs some strength to get done. My name is Jeremiah and I am a tall, strong college student home on summer break looking to earn some cash to help with school. I will do most any job (with parent approval) that you may want done. Text 703-380-6227 or email robbets4@gmail.com.

Dull knives? Affordable kitchen knife sharpening: With my three years of knife and tool sharpening experience and competitive rates, razor sharp knives and tools could be yours without ever having to leave your home! Cost is one dollar per inch. (\$5 pick-up/delivery will be added for orders fewer than 4 knives/tools). \$35 deal for a knife set of 8. Knives accepted are: standard kitchen knives, serrated knives, and blender blades. (please no Japanese, or particularly expensive knives) Tools included are: scissors, hand planes, chisels, axes, and pocket knives. For more information or service contact Zach at 703-380-6227, or email at robbets4@gmail.com.

The 7th street trail entrance is ready! Is your bike? 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.

Private Drum Lessons in Barcroft: All ages/levels. Local musician offers instruction in Barcroft home studio on 3rd Street South. Unique, fully equipped studio with two full drum sets. Multiple styles--rock, jazz, classical, musical theatre. Complimentary 30-minute lessons or consultation. References provided. Email Mitchell at mitchbassmusic@gmail.com.

Life is a Beach: Dewey Beach, Delaware, a happy place. Two little yellow cottages by the sea. Pet friendly. Wireless, internet, TV. Second block from the ocean. Two bedrooms, maximum five. Park in front of screened porch. All ready, B&B style. Large outdoor shower and shaded yard, gas grill. Weekly and long weekends. D. Anderson. 302-228-3842. •

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

When selling your home, what's the most important factor in choosing the right buyer?

Price is important when selling your home, although what's even more critical is the buyer's financial qualifications. Do they have the right lender? Are they prequalified or preapproved? Anyone can go online, get prequalified and based on a quick application obtain a prequalification letter. The consumer fills out the application, and once finalized the system issues a prequalification letter using credit, assets, income and debt based on the consumer's data input. Often the information is wrong. An example is W2 income versus commission income or self-employed income. A buyer might state an annual income of \$150,000 if they have a base salary of \$50,000 and commission income of \$100,000. A lender views commission and self-employment income differently than salaried income.

A pre-approval is preferable, where the lender has collected bank statements, tax returns, a full credit report along with a discussion of the buyer's application, documenting assets, income and debt. A good listing agent will be proactive and learn where the

buyer is in the actual loan process by speaking with the lender and asking the right questions before committing to a contract. The last thing any seller wants is having a buyer cancel the contract during the financing contingency period, which can take 21 to 25 days. Some online lenders, credit unions, and institutions like USAA are a challenge to work with. They are not accessible for timely communications with realtors, making it hard to ascertain where the buyer is in the process. This is important!

Is a potential move in your future? Let's get together to discuss your situation and discover how *you can save time and money!*

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