



October 2019

# Barcroft News

Vol 117, Issue 2

## Oak Death in Barcroft

**By Scott Brinitzer**

**President, Scott Brinitzer Design Associates**

Last year with so much rain some of the older oaks experienced root rot, root dieback, especially the top feeder roots. With the onset of hot weather and drought the trees could not take up needed moisture. The trees are 'programmed' to send off or emit an ethanol warning scent that other oaks recognize. Unfortunately this scent immediately attracts Ambrosia Beetles. The beetles which are the size of a pin head, attack the trees, boring into the trunk. They bring with them a fungus that grows in



the tunnels that they build in the tree. The fungus provides food for the beetles. But it also clogs the vascular system of the tree causing immediate tree death.

Trees that are cared for, watered occasionally, fertilized yearly, and that have dead wood removed will survive for a long time. Trees left unattended and without care will succumb to these environmental stressors.

Barcroft will continue to see large oaks die as the oaks reach maturity. It's a natural occurrence. The only way to maintain the canopy is to plant young hard-

*Continued on page 9*

## Next Community Meeting

Thursday, October 3, 7:30, Barcroft Community House

Topic: Residential Parking Permit Program



## Barcroft News

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**Next Deadline: October 15, 2019**

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## President's Message

**By Gary Mason**

The leaves are turning and the evenings have become cooler now that we're shifting into Fall. It is yet another great season unfolding across our Barcroft neighborhood. Schools are back in session and post-Summer vacation season traffic levels have resumed.

Speaking of traffic, during the September BSCL monthly meeting participants were asked to voice their biggest concerns for the coming months in Barcroft. The resounding dual priority was traffic and its close cousin parking. While the issues may vary somewhat in different portions of Barcroft they are clearly part of a broader issue affecting many, if not most, residents one way or another.

Our BSCL Vice-President, Ken Simpson, has put together a committee to flesh out the issues. If you would like to join the committee or provide it with your input please contact him at: [ken@bscl.org](mailto:ken@bscl.org)

Meantime, BSCL is approaching Arlington County for more information on the Residential Permit Parking (RPP) Program. Currently, the Program is undergoing a major review by the County, which has suspended establishing new RPP areas pending completion of the review. (Barcroft already has several streets near Arlington Hall within the RPP Program.)

**Continued on page 4**

# Back to School at Barcroft Elementary

**By Grechen Odegard**

While the rest of Arlington was just starting the school year in early September, Barcroft Elementary School students were already deep into their learning for the year. Many students also began after-school enrichment classes in September, with fun options like art, cooking, nature club, and chess.

Student Council elections were held in September as well, and the 5th graders had an overnight field trip to the Arlington Outdoor lab.

Neighbors are invited to join us at our annual Chalk for Peace event at the

school on Saturday, September 28 from 9 to 11 am. Chalk is provided, just bring your creativity and help us decorate the blacktop around the school.

Planning is well underway for our ever-popular International Night on October 10, which celebrates the rich cultural diversity of our school community.

Thanks to all the neighbors who joined us at District Taco on September 11! We hope you will join us for our next restaurant fundraiser at the Dogfish Head Alehouse in Falls Church on Tuesday, October 8. Eat there anytime that day and a portion of proceeds will support Barcroft! •

## Biking Around Barcroft Together

**By Bayley Vanderpoel**

Please join me and my family on Sunday, October 6 at 4:30 p.m. as we ride our bicycles for an hour around Barcroft and adjacent neighborhoods before returning to my home for a happy hour. As always, the ride will be a slow pace and is suitable for all new comers. I'm happy to help you rent a



bicycle at the bike share a five minute walk away.

Please arrive a little early if you'd like assistance on tuning your bicycle. Please note that the starting point is Our Savior Lutheran Church on Taylor Street.

For updates on the ride, please join "South Arlington Slow Riders" on Facebook. Please contact me with questions at [bayleyvanderpoel@gmail.com](mailto:bayleyvanderpoel@gmail.com). •

# Public Art Installation Request for Proposals

The Arlington Arts Center (AAC), in partnership with the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia (CFNOVA), invites artists based in Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, DC, to submit a proposal for a temporary public art project to be installed on AAC's front lawn during the spring of 2020. The submission deadline is Monday, October 21, 2019.

AAC and the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia are seeking a project that engages the community and is accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds. The work should offer opportunities for interactivity and public engagement, whether through direct interaction with the work itself; through public programs to activate the work while it is on view; and/or through community involvement in the production of the work. AAC and CFNOVA encourage interested artists to consider the environmental impact of their proposal and avoid the use of environmentally damaging materials, including Styrofoam or spray paint.

AAC and the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia anticipate installing in March or April of 2020 and keeping the project up for three to six months. The final timeline will be developed in conversation with the selected artist.

Questions? Contact Blair Murphy, Curator of Exhibitions, 703-248-6800 or [exhibitions@arlingtonartscenter.org](mailto:exhibitions@arlingtonartscenter.org) . •

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## President's Message, cont.

### *Continued from page 2*

Just as the causes and issues raised with traffic and parking in our neighborhood vary by location, the alternatives necessary to redress them will likely differ as well. So if you have concerns – or history – with traffic and parking issues in Barcroft consider contacting Ken and attending our October monthly meeting.

Until then stay safe and look out for the safety of others. •

## St. John's Episcopal Church



**Book Club** Tuesday, October 1 7:30pm *The Halloween Tree* by Ray Bradbury

**Blessing of the Animals** Sunday, October 13 two times at two locations. Everyone is invited to bring your pet(s) to be individually blessed at either location. 1:30 pm in the Shirlington Dog Park or 5 pm at St. John's - see the website for details.

**Bingo Night** Saturday, October 19 7 to 9 pm  
\$5 for a dessert, 2 cards and a raffle ticket. Prizes will be awarded.

BINGO				
12	18	41	47	61
7	26	39	54	70
4	27	49	63	
5	23	35	58	73
3	30	32	52	75

### Sunday Worship Services

8 am and 10 am

415 S. Lexington Street Arlington, VA 22204

### Sunday Christian Education

Adults Seminar 9 am - Youth 10 am

703-671-6834

[stjohnsarlingtonva.org](http://stjohnsarlingtonva.org)





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# Dues News: October Status Update

**By Joanne Rodewald, Membership Secretary**

It is hard for me to believe there are only three more months left in this calendar year. So if you haven't already become a member of the Barcroft School and Civic League this year, please consider sending in your dues today. If you aren't sure you have paid, check our roster at <http://www.bscl.org/membership>. As of September 3, 194 households have joined. If you're curious, that includes 144 family member-



ships and 50 individuals. 24 of those memberships are new households to our roster. I am pleased to announce the BSCL Board of Directors has voted to keep our dues at the current rate for 2020: \$5 per individual or \$10 for a family membership. If you have already become a member of the Barcroft School and Civic League this year, we thank you. For everyone else, please join and help us support the many special events that make Barcroft a unique place to live. •

## The Perfect Pumpkin

As our favorite time of year approaches, we wanted to share with you some of our favorite pumpkin-carving tips. We look forward to seeing your jack-o-lanterns around the neighborhood. To see how ours turn out this year, follow @rickwoler on instagram!

1. The longer a pumpkin is off the vine, the more dry and brittle its stem becomes. Choose a pumpkin with a stem: the greener the better!
2. When outlining your design, use a dry-erase marker to avoid a marked up jack-o-lantern.
3. Open your pumpkin from the bottom. Place your light source on the ground and sit your jack-o-lantern right on top!
4. Leave NO goop behind! This will be the first thing to get moldy and will spread to the rest of the pumpkin. An ice cream scooper makes this as easy as pumpkin pie!
5. If you make an unintentional cut, toothpicks can be used to reattach the severed piece.
6. Once carved, seal the cut edges with petroleum jelly to help prevent moisture loss.
7. Rubbing cinnamon on the inside of your pumpkin can help deter hungry squirrels; and we all know Barcroft has plenty of those!
8. Use an LED light or candle so the heat doesn't "cook" the inside of the pumpkin and cause damage.

To schedule an appointment and learn about the advantages of listing or purchasing with one of the top producing teams in the metro area, as well as a free market analysis, contact Rick and Ryan today.

**We love helping our Barcroft neighbors!**

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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

<b>Check one:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership Renewal
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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*): \_\_\_\_\_

# The Story of One Oak Death

**By a Barcrofter, name withheld by request**

My beautiful mature oak tree has died. In a matter of two weeks an infestation

of fungus took over and killed the tree. I'm writing this newsletter article so that if you notice something amiss with your trees, you might want to investigate it. I did call a licensed arborist to check on my tree when I first noticed something was wrong (at about day two). I did not get a second opinion, so I do not want all readers to assume the worst on your own tree situation – call an arborist. The Virginia Department of Forestry has good information about certified Arborists (<http://www.dof.virginia.gov/manage/arborist.htm>).

The arborist indicated my tree was infested by the Ambrosia Beetle ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ambrosia\\_beetle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ambrosia_beetle)). The beetle excavates tunnels in stressed trees, you can see the sawdust accumulating at the base of the tree and marks of the tunnels on

the trunk. The beetle spreads a fungus to feed on and it is that fungus that kills the tree. He said my tree would be dead by the



*This mature Oak tree was killed as the result of an Ambrosia beetle infestation.*

**Editors note:** *While there are currently 55 species of Ambrosia beetles in North America, those causing tree death are generally recently introduced non-native species.*

end of the year but it only took two weeks to kill this 84 year old Oak tree, very sad. Indeed this Oak was in stress and showing its age. The arborist also said there was no known pesticide for the Ambrosia Beetle as of yet, and it is new to the Northern Virginia area in the past decade. I will have to have my tree removed, and am currently checking with the County to see what permits are needed.

So, if you are wondering about trees in our neighborhood that are turning fall colors early, they may too have the

beetle. I did a little research and according to Wikipedia the beetle does not attack healthy trees so do not worry about our neighborhood's tree canopy. I encourage everyone to plant a tree in their yard, as the proverb goes: *"The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second best time is now."* •



## Oak Trees, continued

*Continued from page 1*

wood trees, mainly oaks, that will take the place of the old oaks. Or invest in continued professional care on a yearly basis.

The large Post white oak at the Barcroft Community House is in great shape thanks to the fertilization and to the irrigation system. Hopefully this tree will stand in the 'yard' for many decades to come. (But we have the Burr oak standing next to it in case something hits the Post oak!) The White oak next to the drive has large dead branches in it. While it continues to decline, it is declining at a slower pace. •



## Barcroft's local farmers market

Barrett Elementary School  
4401 N. Henderson Road

<https://lubberrunfarmersmarket.org/>

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8 a.m. – 12 noon

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# Fall Season Greetings from OSLs

## **By OSLs National Junior Honor Society**

At Our Savior Lutheran School, we have weekly chapel services every Wednesday starting at 8:40 a.m. During the month of September, our chapel offerings went in support of LAMP (Lutheran Association of Missionary Pilots). LAMP is celebrating their 50th year of providing spiritual witness and nurturing faith in communities in remote areas of northern Canada through the ministry of pastor/missionary/pilots, and short and long-term volunteers-in-mission. Indigenous people in communities in remote northern Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia hear about and are shown the love of Jesus through Bible studies and outreach projects. Each year, over 5,000 children, youth, and adults are impacted by the ministry of LAMP.

On Friday, October 25, Our Savior will be having a Fall Carnival. Stop by with your children and enjoy a fun evening of games. Please contact our school office for information about times and tickets.

The last week of October, we will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week at Our Savior. Red Ribbon Week is a week that is set aside to say no to drugs. During the week, our school will also be focusing on helping A-SPAN, which stands for Arlington Street People's Association Network. Each year we try

to bring awareness of A-SPAN by having a walk-a-thon around the Barcroft neighborhood. We carry signs with messages to say no to homelessness in Arlington and to help support A-SPAN. Please check out A-SPAN's website at [www.a-span.org](http://www.a-span.org) to see how you can help A-SPAN fight homelessness.

We still have room for students from grades Pre-K through 8th grade. A Pre-kindergarten class will continue to be in session Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. We offer both before and after school care for Kindergarten through 8th grade. Stop by or call our school office if you have questions or would like a tour. Check out our website at [osva.org](http://osva.org). •

## **Christine Hopkins**

Your Barcroft Neighbor &  
Real Property Adviser  
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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](mailto:editor@bscl.org).*

**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 robbets4@gmail.com or 703-380-6227.

**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](mailto:mitchbassmusic@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](mailto:robbets4@gmail.com).

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800 South Buchanan Street  
Arlington, VA 22204

With continued appreciation and competitive bidding in the Arlington real estate market, it can be challenging for an appraiser to find past sales to support the price the buyer and seller have agreed to. With a financed offer the lender in most cases requires a third-party appraisal to assess the property's market value. Appraisals guidelines require appraisers to use comparable home sales from the last 3 to 6 months instead of transactions 6+ month old.

I have personally witnessed a fair number of low appraisals in Arlington this year. Typically, appraisal values lag actual market appreciation by several months, and a lot depends on the time of year a home sells. Properties sold in the 1st quarter of the year use data from the 3rd and 4th quarter of the prior year, which may not reflect as active a period as the 1st half of the year might. The appraiser is then working with lower sales prices from a slower selling season. If the appraised value comes in at or over the purchase price, all is good with the lender. If the appraised value is lower than the purchase price, the lender loans on appraised value. Normally buyers can negotiate a reduced sales price to match the appraised value or work out a compromise

appraised value or work out a compromise with the seller. When buyers waive the appraisal contingency, they are legally committed to cover the gap between the sale price and appraised value. Sometimes buyers can change the type of loan they are using.

For home sellers, having a pricing strategy and a savvy listing agent to help negotiate multiple offers can result in buyers waiving both home inspection and appraisal contingencies. Pricing higher than the market can diminish chances of bidding wars, and the buyer can negotiate an appraisal and home inspection issues.

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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