



October 2020

Barcroft News

Vol 118, Issue 2

Memorial Bench in Honor of Judy Cusick

The BSCL has approved the building and placement of a bench on the community house grounds in memory of Judy Cusick, a longtime Barcroft resident who died in October, 2019. Don Bennett, who lived next door to Judy and her husband, Mike Kiernan, for three decades, has volunteered to build the bench. In appreciation of the BSCL's approval of the bench, Judy's family has made a generous donation to the Barcroft Community House fund.

Judy Cusick,

who lived on 3rd Street South for 34 years before her death, was an inveterate reader and a life-long volunteer. She began her career as a high school English teacher but soon got into editing professionally. Before retiring in 2011, Judy was an award-winning senior editor of books for the National Science Teachers Association. Shortly after retiring, Judy worked as a volunteer at the Randolph Elementary School as a book buddy and lunch buddy to first

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Judy Cusick and Mike Kiernan holding their granddaughters Olivia Rodriguez (in Judy's arms) and Lily Kiernan (held by Mike) in early 2019.

Next (Virtual) Community Meeting

Thursday, October 1, 7:30 p.m., On Zoom

Topic: Community Updates (Including Traffic)



Barcroft News

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

Advertising: Jack Mayer
jackmayer09@gmail.com

*Publishers/
Mailing:* Theresa Schweser and
Kirt Miller
publisher@bscl.org

Next Deadline: October 15, 2020

BSCL Officers

President: Deborah Wood,
president@bscl.org

Vice President: Daniel Weir

Treasurer: Jennifer Lis
jenlis@comcast.net

Recording Secy.: Chris Siple

Membership Secy.: Linda Gaines, linda@bscl.org

Board Members: Susan Cohen, Keith
Fred, Eric Parker

Contacts and Committees

Community House Rental Manager:
Barbara Swart
barcrofthouserental
@yahoo.com

Web: Daniel Weir,
webmaster@bscl.org

Fundraising: Chris Ditta

Landscaping: Scott Brinitzer, 703-892-0308

Traffic Committee: Vacant

4th of July Parade: Heather Meade and Jim Moran

Columbia Pike: Keith Fred, Charlie Smiroldo

Demeter House: Darlene Mickey

Parks: Shirley Gay

Signs: Doug Mueller

NCAC Rep.: Neal Martin
rnmartin69@hotmail.com

NCAC Alternate: Deborah Wood

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President's Message

By Deborah Wood

Welcome to Autumn! Here we are, starting a third season of 2020 since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. On Thursday, October 1, we will have the second virtual BSCL meeting, at 7:30 p.m. Please join us the same way as last time, via Zoom with video or by phone. By now, you should have received invitations to register for the meeting via the chatlist or membership email list. If you have not, please send an email to zoom@bscl.org, and a registration form will be sent to you. The meeting will include updates on the Community House, the Barcroft Elementary virtual school experience, and the Traffic Committee.

Early voting has already begun for what promises to be a very high turnout national election. On September 18, mail-in ballots began going out to Virginia voters who requested them. Early in-person voting at 2200 Clarendon Blvd. (a new location) also began on September 18. By now, some Barcrofters have voted, and I hope, reported their experiences, good or bad, through the BSCL chatlist and/or Facebook page. From October 17 to 31, Arlington will also have four auxiliary early voting sites open. The nearest one to Barcroft is at the Walter

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Barcroft Elementary PTA September Update

By Beth Ragnauth

Like many schools around the country, Barcroft Elementary School began classes via distance learning this September. It quickly became clear that our dedicated teachers,



Barcroft math coaches hand out ice cream to students who completed their summer math packets.

staff, students, and community at Barcroft rose to the occasion. Before school even began, teachers held phone and video calls to meet their students and families, iPads were picked up, school administrators held virtual office hours many evenings to answer parent questions, food and basic school supply donations were collected (thank you!) and distributed. The PTA welcomed kindergartners to the school with new Barcroft t-shirts, many of which were spotted in video feeds when class sessions began.

As all these week-before-school activities progressed, I noticed something unexpected. Anxiety about how well this distance

learning thing would work began to shift to excitement about the new school year. My kids were excited about school rather than disappointed about it being online. I was excited for their experience this year, wherever it may take place. And, once class time began — despite some technical hiccups the first day or two — I was in awe of our teachers. Kids were learning their routines and getting accustomed to a new mode of schooling. Our indefatigable school leaders even held our traditional back-to-school assembly – virtually – at the end of the first week!

We know this school year will be one for the history books, and we know we will continue rallying our community to support our students and families through it. We do plan to continue food support and may be coordinating other needs as well as the school year progresses. Please keep an eye out in this newsletter and on the BSCL chat emails for details on ways you may be able to contribute. ●



Barcroft principal Ms. AB and assistant principal Ms. Rivas read a book to Barcroft students virtually at an online all-school assembly.

Substitute Carriers Needed

By Kirt Miller

Did you know that 30 of your neighbors deliver over 800 newsletters to Barcroft residents for each edition of the Barcroft News? It is due to the volunteer efforts of these individuals that we are able to bring you BSCL news and updates.

To assist with these ongoing efforts, we are recruiting for sub-



stitute carriers. These individuals will not be assigned a regular route, but can be available to assist when one of the regular carriers is on vacation (yes, we remember those days) or is unable to deliver the newsletter for that month. If you have an interest and availability, please email publisher@bscl.org for additional information. •

President's Message, continued

Continued from page 2

Reed Community Center, 2909 16th Street South. There will be secure drop boxes for mail-in ballots at all early voting sites, with more locations to be added, if necessary.

I recently looked at a sample ballot on the Arlington County election website: <https://vote.arlingtonva.us/elections/>. It made me realize one of the advantages of voting by mail is that you receive the ballot and have plenty of time to research the issues and candidates that are on it. There are many offices up for election: President, U.S. Senate, U.S House of Representatives (8th District), County Board (1 Seat), and School Board (2 seats), plus two Virginia Constitutional amendments, and five Arlington County bond is-

issues. I encourage those who plan to vote in person to look at a sample ballot beforehand and decide how you are going to vote. It will be safer and less stressful if you are prepared to cast your ballot quickly and confidently. On Election Day, November 3, all of Arlington's usual polling places will be open; ours is located at Barcroft Elementary School, 625 South Wakefield Street.

Lastly, best wishes for a Happy and Safe Halloween! It is impossible to predict how we will be celebrating, but for certain, there will be some weird, scary, and funny displays by the true believers and creatives among us for all to enjoy on safely distanced walks around the neighborhood. •



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Making Friends With Hummingbirds

By the Plant NOVA Natives Campaign

Fall is a great time to work on the guest list for next year's garden party. Hummingbirds make some of the best guests of all, or to put it more accurately, we can make ourselves better guests of them by providing what they need around their homes, otherwise known as our yards. Our local Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are migratory, departing Virginia in September for Central America and returning to the place they were

born in mid-April. It will not surprise anyone to know that what they need when they arrive back is not sugar water but an intact ecosystem that provides food and shelter for them and their offspring.

It is well known and indeed true that hummingbirds are attracted to bright col-



ors, especially red, so for viewing opportunities, do plant Eastern Red Columbine and Coral Honeysuckle for spring blooms, Scarlet Beebalm for early summer and Cardinal Flower for late summer. It is fun to watch the hummingbirds make the rounds from plant to plant, timing it exactly to when the nectar has had a chance to re-accumulate. All of these plants co-evolved with hummingbirds and have the tubular-shaped red flowers that fit the bill – literally. Hummingbirds have incredible memories and know the location of individual flowers not only around their own homes but along the thousands of miles of their migration routes. They also recognize humans as individuals, learning to trust you and hovering in front of you when they are wondering when you are going to refill their feeder, if you have been in the habit of providing one.

Girl Scouts Recruiting

By Denise Hart

Join Girl Scouts!

We are recruiting girls and troop leaders in Barcroft to join this year. We have pivoted to a blended format with Zoom troop meetings and camp outings (with social distancing). We know that with school being virtual many girls are experiencing higher levels of loneliness and anxiety — Girl Scouts is the answer! Please send an email to our Director of Membership, Kathryn Benison (kbenison@gscnc.org) and she can make it happen. We want you to belong to the Girl Scout family. You can also fill in the interest indicator at <https://www.gscnc.org/en/about-girl-scouts/join.html>. •

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Although we think of hummingbirds as nectar eaters, the great majority of their diet is made up of insects and spiders. We can provide them with insects by planting native plants. Because most insects can only eat the plants with which they evolved, a yard full of European and Asian plants such as turf grass and Japanese azaleas is largely an empty yard,

devoid of food sources not only for hummingbirds but for songbirds in general. The red-flowering plants that were named above are all native to our area, as are hundreds of other garden-worthy plants which are increasingly being planted in our yards as Virginians start to recognize the beauty of our own flora as well as its value for the non-human residents of our properties.

The ideal time to plant is in the fall, which gives the plants a chance to become well established before facing the heat and droughts of summer. To help you plan, the Plant NOVA Natives website (plantnovanatives.org) has a plant finder function in which you can search specifically for plants that attract hummingbirds. There are also lists of local garden centers that specialize in native plants as well as lists of conventional garden centers where Plant NOVA Natives volunteers are labeling the natives with red stickers. •

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Memorial Bench, continued

Continued from page 1

and second graders. Teachers at the school recall Judy having a special gift in helping young children learn to love reading.

"Shortly after Judy died, I decided to move to a condo in Leesburg to be closer to our two children, Elizabeth Rodriguez and David Kiernan, who both live in Loudoun County," recalls her husband, Mike, "but I also wanted to leave something behind in Barcroft so Judy's grandchildren would have a reason to come back and visit the Barcroft neighbor-

hood and especially the community house, where we held Judy's reception following her memorial service at St. Ann's Catholic Church. It was at the reception when I got the idea of creating a bench for Judy. I am so grateful to Don for volunteering to build the bench. I am hopeful that our grandchildren -- Olivia, Lily and baby Micah -- will visit Barcroft and maybe spend some time on the bench reading to each other. Judy would have loved that." ●

COVID-19 and the Barcroft Housing Market

With everything going on in the world, many of our neighbors have been asking what we're seeing in the local housing market. We've compiled some helpful data comparing home sales in Barcroft and Arlington this year and last year.

Our housing market is still thriving. Less homes sold in Barcroft this summer, but those that did averaged higher sales prices; we also saw Barcroft homes continue to sell for more than their list price and with fewer days on market than last year!

Home Sales June 1st - September 14th				
BARCROFT				
Year	Homes Sold	Avg. List Price	Avg. Sold Price	Days on Market
2019	14	\$611,447	\$602,505	16
2020	8	\$797,856	\$827,500	10
ARLINGTON				
2019	891	\$756,118	\$721,981	20
2020	896	\$797,106	\$782,384	17

Numbers based on Bright MLS data

Stay well and be safe!

To learn about listing or purchasing with one of the area's top-producing teams please contact us today. We love helping our Barcroft neighbors!



Trent Heminger
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Barcroft Resident
Realtor®
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rick@trentandco.com
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Fall Greetings from Our Savior Lutheran School

By OSLS National Junior Honor Society

We are so thankful to have students back in our school building to start the school year. Part of our student body attends a morning session and the other half comes for an afternoon session. Even though our in-person time with our students is shorter each day, we are excited to see them grow daily in many ways. We can't wait to see what the year brings!

At Our Savior, we have chapel services throughout the school year. Our chapel offering for the month of September went to Lutheran World Relief. LWR is an international organization that focuses on sustainable development projects and disaster relief and recovery. In September, we helped the people in Beirut, Lebanon. The city is in crisis after a blast within the city. Unfortunately, it destroyed three Lutheran World Relief 40-foot shipping containers, which were stored in the port and held more than 22,000 LWR Mission Quilts, 100 cartons of School Kits, 300 cartons of Personal Care Kits, and 125 cartons of Baby Care Kits that were being prepared for distribution to an estimated 24,550 men, women, and children who are already in great need in Beirut. Our gifts to LWR's World of Good emergency response fund will help get quilts and kits into the hands that need them in Lebanon. Please check out Lutheran World Relief's web-

site at <https://lwr.org/> to learn how you can help many people around the world in various ways.

The last full 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 Assistance Network. Please check out A-SPAN's website at www.a-span.org to see how you can help A-SPAN fight homelessness in our neighborhoods. ●



Barcroft's local farmers market

Barrett Elementary School
4401 N. Henderson Road
<https://lubberrunfarmersmarket.org/>
Saturdays, April – November
8 a.m. – 12 noon

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Biophilia Live! Presented by EcoAction Arlington

By Elenor Hodges

Executive Director, EcoAction Arlington

How do you connect with nature? Why is connecting with nature of such vital importance? EcoAction Arlington is celebrating the ways we connect with nature and love our living world. We invite you to join us on Thursday, October 8 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. for the first event in our Love Our Living World series, Biophilia Live! This is a free Zoom event, and registration is required.

Biophilia Live! will feature virtual presentations from a range of experts who will share their experiences on the importance of connecting with nature. Their stories will help you explore ways of interweav-

ing nature into your life and livelihood in beneficial ways. This event will launch our Love Our Living World series continuing into 2021 and culminating on Thursday, June 3, 2021, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. with our EcoExtravaganza: Love Our Living World.

We are pleased to announce Lynn Borton of Choose To Be Curious as our moderator. Lynn Borton is a facilitator of conversations and transformation with more than 25 years of experience in strategic governance and change management in the nonprofit sector. Lynn now hosts and produces the radio show Choose to be Curious on Radio Arlington WERA, 96.7 FM. ●

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The advertisement features a photograph of a bright, modern living room with a dark brown sectional sofa, a fireplace, and large windows. The room has a coffered ceiling and light-colored walls.

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.

Get it dug! – My husband hates gyms but realized digging is a great workout! Have something you have always wanted dug up but never get to? He is happy to come by and give you a price. Small to semi-large projects without strict deadlines are the best. Call 703-380-6227 or email Robbets4@gmail.com to keep Rob Severn in shape!

Barcrofter Loki Mulholland Books and Movies: His complete works available (save shipping costs!) and timely, especially the movies dealing with voting and institutional racism. Several kids books too. Call and come by: Joan Mulholland, 501 South Taylor Street, 703-979-4719. Pay by cash, check, or Venmo. Great for now or gifts later.

Art Card: Want an original personalized card (acrylic, pen and ink, watercolor) for a birthday, anniversary, graduation, retirement or other event? Art major graduate can do that! Cards priced at \$7.50 to \$10. Includes envelope. Also open to painting or drawing commissions. Contact Alex at amrosenberg13@yahoo.com

Knives Sharpened? Hold them until Thanksgiving and I will be happy to sharpen them when I am back from college! Contact my mom, Betsy, at 703-380-6227, or rob-bets4@gmail.com to get on the list. Thanks for all your support!

Lawn Mowing: Hello! My name is Than Valencia and I am available seven days a week to mow lawns. I charge based on lawn size. I have my own mower and weed whacker. Interested? please text me at 703-254-9551.

Got Projects? Due to COVID canceling college, I will be around intermittently this fall for jobs that you just need someone to help get it done! Text Jeremiah at 571-357-9313 or email jwsevern@gmail.com.

Barcroft T-shirts: Just a few BSCL T-shirts left. Some blue, some red, but not all sizes. Clearance sale time, \$5 each. Call me and come by: Joan Mulholland, 501 South Taylor Street, 703-979-4719. •



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Did you know that Summer was the New Spring for Northern Virginia Home Sales in July?

While the summer season is starting to relax, the real estate market continues to remain continually active. Our typical spring market was pushed back to the summer, and the pent-up buyer and seller demand that began in late spring continued full force into July. In July 2020, the average sales prices were up over 20% in Arlington, Alexandria, and Fairfax City, in comparison to 2019. Prices were up in Northern VA over 12.5% as a region.

More homes are coming on the market in recent weeks although choices for single family homes and townhouses remain low across the region and the median home sale price continues to rise, which means a competitive market for buyers. A recent survey reported that the top motivating factors to move are the need for more space (55%) + low mortgage rates (49%).

The desire for space likely is connected to a “quarantine effect.” Suburban areas were popular this summer with increased interest in the suburbs. Potential buyers with school-age children are more interested in single-family homes versus other home types, because of space for multiple home offices and areas that can be used for child home-schooling.

Are you living in your ideal home now? If you are thinking of a new lifestyle, I’m glad to help with some strategic planning.

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