



April 2021

Barcroft News

Vol 118, Issue 8

Culling Our Urban Deer Herds

Deer overpopulation has become a growing concern, and Arlington Regional Master Naturalists, along with the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, are advocating managed hunts to cull our urban herds. The following article is adapted from one by Master Naturalist Bill Browning, who also made a presentation at the BSCL's monthly meeting in January. To read the full article, see <https://armn.org/2020/05/09/white-tailed-deer-and-forest-health-in-northern-virginia/>

In the early 1600s, there were between 400,000 and 800,000 deer in Virginia. But by the early 20th century, hunting and economic development drove them out. The pendulum swung back during the latter part of the 20th century, as hunting declined and

agricultural land was transformed into suburban "edge" forests beloved by deer. Now, the population has exploded, and we are suffering the consequences.

It takes one square mile of a healthy forest to generate enough vegetation to feed about 15 to 20 deer. Arlington County has slightly more than one square mile of deer habitat (natural areas), suggesting that it can support few more than 15 to 20 deer in total. The number of deer you can spot in Barcroft alone – in nearby Glencarlyn Park, along the W&OD Trail, or in our back yards – is clear evidence that the countywide population far exceeds that number.

As each deer scavenges for the 5 to 7

Continued on page 8

Next Meeting:

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

Topic: The Complete Vaccination Committee, outreach to help every Arlingtonian get vaccinated



Send an email to zoom@bscl.org to request an invitation to the meeting.



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: April 15, 2021

BSCL Officers

President: Deborah Wood, 703-892-1243
president@bscl.org

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barcrofthouserental
@yahoo.com

Web: Daniel Weir,
webmaster@bscl.org

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Landscaping: Scott Brinitzer, 703-892-0308

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President's Message

By Deborah Wood

Hello Barcrofters, and welcome to spring! Spring brings back memories of the first outdoor social distanced gatherings in front yards last March, and how naive we were about what living in a pandemic would mean.

It is quite impressive to look forward one year, and find that three vaccines have been approved for emergency use to protect against COVID-19, and over one million Virginians have already been fully vaccinated (although we have a long way to go). There are quite a few categories of employment, health conditions, and living situations that are eligible to pre-register. If you qualify in more than one category, you may pre-register separately under all that apply, and take the first opportunity to schedule an appointment you are offered. Go to arlingtonva.us/covid-19/vaccines/ for a complete list of categories eligible to pre-register. You can also schedule vaccines through grocery stores with pharmacies, and pharmacies. Check their websites for availability, or call.

All pre-registration in the statewide program is done through the vaccinate.virginia.gov/preregister website. If you don't want to use a computer to pre-register, call (877) VAX-IN-VA or (877) 829-4682. If you have any questions about any-

Continues on page 5

Barcroft Elementary School Welcomes Students

By Beth Ragnauth

After nearly one year since school buildings and so many other things closed in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, in early March 2021 about half of Barcroft's students began hybrid learning while the rest of the students continue with full-time distance learning. Students who attend in person do so two days per week, with some grades at the school Tuesday and Wednesday and others on Thursday and Friday each week. With new protocols for arrival and dismissal, we thank all our neighbors for your patience with extra car, bus, and pedestrian traffic in the mornings and afternoons. Everyone is settling into new routines for both in-person and distance-learning kids, daily online health screening questionnaires, some new teachers and classmates, and a few changes in schedules. We will all be ready for spring break at the end of March.

Our school community continues to find ways to engage together virtually as well. In late February, we held a fun-filled Zoom

bingo night! Families picked up PTA-supplied packs of bingo cards and snacks in advance, and our principal and assistant principal called bingo numbers. Winners picked up their prizes the next week. Our principal continues to hold regular "Principal's chat" video calls to share information and answer questions on the latest developments, which has been so very helpful to our families.

It has also been a year since our PTA began focusing on supporting our Barcroft families in need. The pandemic hit many in our community especially hard, and it became clear that there was a need for food assistance during these tough economic times. In the spring we began weekly grocery and produce distributions for Barcroft families in need, which expanded into providing other essential supplies. Thanks to your generous donations and countless volunteer hours, we were able to serve an average of 100-120 families each week.

Even though we may not have been

Continued on page 4

Barcroft welcomes students back to the building for the first time since March 2020.



Photo by Gretchen Odegard

Barcroft Elementary, continued

Continued from page 3

asking for donations for the past several months, our efforts to serve the Barcroft community continue. In the fall, we downsized our program to a more streamlined weekly program, which provided a bag of pantry staples to Barcroft families in need each Friday to help provide food over the weekend. With the return of students to the building, we are now distributing these “Barcroft Bags” on Mondays at lunchtime. The program is sponsored by



Photo by Gretchen Odegard

5th graders line up with their iPads showing their health screening before entering the building .

the Barcroft PTA and Communities in Schools. Any Barcroft family with a student currently enrolled may pick up a bag of groceries. We are especially thankful for the Discovery Elementary School PTA which has been partner-

ing with us in this effort, bringing us a significant amount of bagged groceries each week. We continue to serve about 75 families each week. If you would like to provide financial support or occasional

volunteer time for this effort, please contact president@barcroftpta.org. •

Glass Recycling Reaches 5 Million Pounds

Although Arlingtonians no longer recycle glass in their blue curbside carts, their use of the drop-off sites continues to shatter expectations - surpassing 5 million pounds (2,500 tons) collected since 2019. The County now receives \$15 per ton for glass collected, a welcome new revenue stream. The recycling company uses the glass to make new bottles, insulation, filter materials, sand material and other products.

The five drop-off sites are Quincy Park, Aurora Hills Community Center, Lee Community Center, Madison Community Center and the Trades Center near Shirlington.

If you don't drop off your glass it goes in the black trash cart and ends up in a landfill. It is easy to save it until you are passing by one of the drop off points anyway to avoid wasting energy. •




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Equal Housing Opportunity

President's Message, continued

Continued from page 2

thing related to COVID-19, either before or after registering for the vaccine, call the Arlington County hotline at (703)228-7999.

Speaking of looking forward, two new developments on Columbia Pike -- at the Westmont Shopping Center on the corner of South Glebe and the Pike, and around Rappahannock Coffee, across from Penrose Square-- have been approved. Keith Fred, Barcroft's representative on the Form Based Code Arlington Working Group (FBC AWG), raised concerns to the group about the lack of diversity and retail choices in the new developments along the Pike. In response, the County

agreed to do a "Ground Story Uses Study." The purpose is to investigate a wider range of eligible ground-floor uses, allow flexibility and transitional elements, and capture unique and authentic opportunities. It would be nice to see some of the existing restaurants and businesses be able to make the transition.

Meanwhile, Centro has added a professional services business called Eye Smile, which has been well reviewed on the chatlist for both dentistry and optometry. We are still waiting to see what is going to happen on the ground floor of Trafalgar Flats. There's always plenty to watch for when we're out and about the neighborhood on walks. ●

Planting in Pots for Easy Butterfly Viewing

By the Plant NOVA Natives Campaign

Some of us are deeply into gardening, but the rest of us are content with plopping a few flowers into a pot and calling it a day. This explains a lot of the popularity of annuals, most of which end up in containers and are switched out when they fade. Their colors brighten up our decks and balconies all summer, but their value in most cases is only visual. Native perennial flowers, by contrast, not only look beautiful but actually support butterflies and other life.

Most plants that are native to our area will overwinter in a pot, thus saving us the trouble of replanting year after year. Although none of them will bloom for the entire growing season, they provide interest as they develop. It is easy to get continuous color by planting several species that bloom at different times.

Once blooming begins, the parade of associated pollinators is fascinating. Being able to view the flowers up close on a deck or balcony reveals the variety of critters that you might not notice from afar, from tiny metallic-blue bees to the whole range of butterflies. There are four hundred species of native bees in Virginia, none of which will sting you as they forage for

food. Butterflies range in size from the tiny Least Skipper to the classic Eastern Tiger Swallowtail. With luck, you may even see a Monarch Butterfly, especially if you plant any of a number of the several local milkweed species. The milkweed Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) is particularly ornamental and just the right size for container gardening. Just as Monarch caterpillars require milkweed to sur-



vive, every other butterfly has its preferred host plant with which it evolved. This is why adopting locally native plants is so important. The annuals sold in garden centers are not native and thus do not help butterflies

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6
complete their life cycles.

Birds also enjoy native plants in containers, as much as they would if planted in a garden. The seeds of Black-eyed Susan and other Rudbeckias are particularly popular with goldfinches. Of course, you will only see them if you allow the seed heads to remain. The shapes and colors of the dead stalks of native plants add a lot of interest to an otherwise barren deck in winter. You can also draw in hummingbirds when you use the red-flowered plants such as Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) that they prefer.

Shade is no obstacle to container gardening with native plants. Particularly pleasing is the native Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra eximia*). The lacy, slightly bluish foliage is beautiful by itself, and blooms keep coming from April to the first frost.

You can learn all about container gardening with native plants on the Plant NOVA Natives website. The soil used in containers is designed to have good drainage, which means you can start planting earlier in the spring than in the rest of the garden, where working the wet soil would lead to harmful compaction. ●

The 2021 Housing Market is Hot!

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"How is the market going so far this year" you ask? Well, we have certainly been busy! Trent & Co has settled an unprecedented 62 properties in the first 60 days of 2021!

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If you are interested in selling or buying – please each out to Rick today: rick@trentandco.com or 267.261.9932.

We love helping our Barcroft neighbors!

Source: Bright MLS



Trent Heminger
Team Leader; Trent & Co
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Rick Woler
Barcroft Resident
Agent
267.261.9932
rick@trentandco.com
@rickwoler



Ryan Isaacson
Barcroft Resident
Agent
904.309.2558
ryan@trentandco.com
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Culling Our Urban Deer Herds, continued

Continued from page 1

pounds of vegetation it needs per day, it destroys the understory in our woods and natural areas. When the forest is degraded, there's no place for many songbirds to build their nests and no cover for mammals and amphibians to hide from predators. Moreover, there's less plant material to absorb rainfall, making the Chesapeake Bay more vulnerable to pollutant runoff and our urban neighborhoods more susceptible to occasional flooding.

Grazing deer reduce tree seedling numbers, height, and species composition. Their selective browsing disrupts plant communities by wiping out some species but ignoring others. Deer remove hundreds of plants that provide food for insects, birds, and small animals, plants like orchids, trilliums, oaks, milkweeds, hickories, and blueberries.

Deer are ruining our home gardens, defeating our park restoration efforts, and potentially endangering our health. They can spread a variety of illnesses, such as giardia, in fecal matter that can end up in streams. Finally, deer have so decimated our local forests that they themselves are malnourished.

The deer's natural predators, such as wolves and mountain lions, were driven out of Virginia in the early 20th century. Now, we need human intervention to rebalance the ecosystem. Unfortunately, contraception and sterilization have proven costly and ineffective. It also makes deer susceptible to certain muscular disorders. Instead, many jurisdictions have adopted managed hunting as the best way to control the deer population. In Fairfax County, trained sharpshooters and archers control the deer population in over 80 percent of the county's parkland. Hunts are tightly managed by police and wildlife managers, and there have been no safety incidents or



A buck relaxes in a 9th Street South backyard in Barcroft.

injuries to park patrons (or pets) since the program's inception. As a bonus, Fairfax donates venison to the Hunters for the Hungry program.

Arlington County and the City of Alexandria do not have a deer management program at this time. But by ignoring the deer overpopulation problem, we are allowing the deer to degrade the environment at the expense of many other native species, along with the future of our urban forests and natural areas. ●

Coffee and Conversation with Arlington Neighborhood Villages

Everyone is invited to join the conversation at Arlington Neighborhood Villages' "Coffee and Conversation" series via Zoom. Bring your own coffee, learn interesting things and hear from speakers. The series is held on Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m.

April 7: Eating Healthy on a Budget. If you think eating healthy is expensive, don't miss this event. Kristen McGill, a nutritionist with Giant Food, will discuss how to stretch your dollar to provide healthy and delicious meals.

April 14: Making the Decision to Move to a Continuing Care Retirement Community.

Ever wonder about how and when to make your next move? Ann Connell, a founder of

Arlington Neighborhood Village, will share the thoughtful process she went through.

April 21: Race, Equity and Inclusion in Arlington County. Samia Byrd, Chief Race and Equity Officer for Arlington County will talk about her efforts to advance racial equity, diversity, and inclusion in Arlington.

April 28: They're Back! The Brood 10 cicadas are set to re-emerge this year by the billions after a 17-year hiatus. Alonso Abugattas, Natural Resources Manager with Arlington County will teach us about these fascinating insects.

Go to www.arlnvil.org for a Zoom link for Coffee and Conversation events under "Calendar." •

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Mid-Winter Greetings from Our Savior Lutheran School

Every year, Lutheran schools around the country celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week. Our school celebrated this special week this past month from March 1 to 5. Our theme for this year was "Sent to Serve." Every day during the week, we dressed up in special spirit wear or crazy outfits and had fun activities such as: having a pizza party, making a family portrait wall of student/teacher self-drawn portraits, and playing school wide bingo. It was a great time had by all.

During the month of March, the chapel offerings that we gathered went to Helen Keller International. Helen Keller International was founded in 1915 by two extraordinary individuals, Helen Keller and George Kessler, to assist soldiers blinded during their service in World War I. Helen Keller is known the world over as a symbol of courage in the face of overwhelming odds. Yet she was so much more. A woman of brilliant intelligence, high ambition, and great accomplishment, she was

driven by her deep compassion for others to devote her life to helping them overcome significant obstacles to living healthy and productive lives. Today, Helen Keller International's programs prioritize preventing and treating loss and blindness, as well as addressing major global health problems such as malnutrition and neglected diseases that threaten sight, productivity, and well-being. They currently have more than 120 programs in 21 countries around the world. Guided by Helen's vision and optimism, they believe it is possible to eliminate preventable vision loss, malnutrition, and neglected tropical diseases and improve the well-being of millions of children and vulnerable families.

We are currently accepting applications for the 2021-2022 school year for grades PreK through 8. OSLS was established in 1952 and has been providing an affordable, quality Christian education in Barcroft ever since.

With small classes, our dedicated teachers are able to entirely devote themselves to our diverse student body. We are fully accredited and licensed. We welcome the chance to show you around our school if you are looking for a Christian education for your child. We are located at 825 South Taylor Street. Stop by or call our school office if you have any questions. •



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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.

Babysitting: I am an experienced babysitter who loves spending time with kids, playing sports, and especially having fun! I am a sophomore at Wakefield High School and member of AFC swim club. I am looking for a steady babysitting job this summer and am available now on the weekends! Contact me, Lucia Jacobsen, at 703-915-0530 or luciajjacobsen@gmail.com

Pet Sitting: Colin (10) and Emmett (9) are happy to pet sit for your cats or other small animals. We have experience with fostering and pet sitting animals. Email Lauren.alyssa@gmail.com or call (703)474-2691 and ask for Colin and Emmett.

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 gifts.

Virtual Private Drum Lessons in Barcroft: All ages/levels welcome. Local professional giving instruction from Barcroft home studio on 3rd Street South. Multiple styles--rock, jazz, classical, musical theatre. Lessons are now virtual via Zoom, Duo, FaceTime, Google Meet, etc. References provided. Email Mitchell at mitchbassmusic@gmail.com

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

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! •

Keep on top of neighborhood events and conversations through the **Barcroft Chat List** Sign up at <https://www.bscl.org/chat-list>



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

In Northern VA - a total of 1,497 homes sold in February 2021, a 25.5% increase above February 2020 home sales of 1,193.

Arlington had 247 home sales, up 68%.

The number of active listings decreased last month compared with 2020. Listings were 6.84% below last year, with 1,579 active listings in February, compared with 1,695 homes available in February 2020.

From the city, to the suburbs and out to the traditionally second-home markets in the country in Virginia, **every area is hot**. Single-family homes and townhouses under \$1 million in all parts of Northern Virginia had less than one month of inventory at the end of February 2021. Competition for well-priced, desirable detached homes was fierce in that price point with many buyers waiving contingencies to get offers considered. Mortgage rates moved up from the historic lows we experienced at the end of last year, but they still remain very attractive.

Based my experience as a buyer's agent and seller's agent in multiple offer scenarios, I've written a guide called "**13 Ways to Write a Winning Offer**," to make your offer stand out from the competition and be the one that gets accepted. Download a Free copy from our website.

With me as your advisor, I can help you sell your home faster and at a higher price. Compass fronts the cost of the services to enhance your home's value before the sale. Visit our web site for details on Concierge.

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