



February 2022

# Barcroft News

Vol 119, Issue 6

## Bringing Restorative Practices to Arlington Communities

A new and dynamic initiative is on the horizon for Arlington. For the past two years, a dedicated team of Arlington volunteers, working under a visionary coordinator, have developed a strategic plan followed by implementation teams towards bringing restorative practices to Arlington. Restorative practices help build community and create effective responses to conflict and harm. The Restorative Arlington initiative is bringing people together to adopt restorative practices in Arlington's legal system, schools and community settings.

The Restorative Arlington Community team is connecting with communities to gauge interest in practices like Wellness and Virtual Circles. Circles are a foundational re-

storative justice practice, and, these online (and potentially in-person) community-building circles offer a great way to both connect with people and to experience a restorative circle process, adapted for the online setting.

The Community team is currently co-led by Mr. Michael Brown and Ms. Nutan Chada. Chada is a resident of the Barcroft community. At this time, the Community team is developing detailed, data-informed proposals for implementation of the community section of the strategic plan including budgets, timelines, asset-framed statements of opportunities and benefits. Implementation will take place once proposals are approved by the

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### Next Meeting:

**Thursday, February 3, 7:30 p.m., On Zoom**

**Topic: Nutan Chada on Restorative Practices**



*Send an email to [zoom@bscl.org](mailto: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: February 15, 2022**

## BSCL Officers

*President:* Deborah Wood, 703-892-1243  
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:* Paula Levin-Alcorn, 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

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*Alternates:* Gary Mason, Daniel Weir

Visit Us Online: [www.bscl.org](http://www.bscl.org)

## President's Message

*By Deborah Wood*

Let it snow, let it snow... At least in January, we are experiencing more snow than we have in the past few years. That has put the Barcroft Snow Brigade on active duty. Now that Arlington County requires residents to remove the snow from their sidewalks in a timely manner (see the complete snow removal ordinance at <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Emergency/Weather/Snow-and-Ice/Snow-Removal-Ordinance>), more people who are unable to shovel snow are requesting the services of the Snow Brigade. Sharon Tope has been ably coordinating her volunteers, and handling new requests. I hope the crew of volunteers was enough to meet the demand! Frequently, some of our considerate residents quietly take it upon themselves to clear snow off sidewalks for their less able neighbors. Thank you so much to the Snow Brigade volunteers, and to those who do extra sidewalk snow shoveling on their own. The Barcroft community does a good job of keeping the sidewalks accessible. It's nice to be able to safely walk to Harris Teeter after a snow storm, especially when driving is not a good option.

And to Sharon Tope, a special thank

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# Barcroft Elementary February Update

**By Kelly Miller, Barcroft Elementary PTA**

Happy New Year from the Barcroft Eagles! When we last left the Eagles they were looking forward to a two week winter break. As two weeks tumbled into three, the Eagles played in the snow and enjoyed time with friends and family sledding and making snow angels.

Once back to a normal routine, the Eagles enjoyed a successful fundraiser at Barcroft family-owned Sloppy Mamas on January 26. They also celebrated the awesome Ms. AB, our fearless leader! The staff were welcomed back with Coffee and Quote of the day. The

PTA provided pastries, coffee, and inspirational quotes.

We look forward to our biggest fundraiser of the year taking place on February 5 to 12. The annual online auction will offer a myriad of activities, discounts, and experiences for everyone to bid on and help support our awesome Barcroft Eagles! (See story below for more.)

As we look forward to spring and warmer weather the Eagles will continue to soar through their year working harder and getting smarter! •

## Online Auction For Barcroft Elementary PTA

**By the Barcroft Elementary PTA Auction Team**

Barcroft Elementary School's annual online auction – which raises money for the school's parent-teacher association (PTA) – is right around the corner. The bidding window opens at 9 a.m.

on Saturday, February 5 and lasts until 6 p.m. on Sunday, February 13.

Anyone can bid on an



incredible array of goods, services, and experiences – all while supporting our neighborhood school's PTA which, at Barcroft School, is more than just a social planning club. The Barcroft School PTA provides much-needed support to our teachers, students, and their families. This support includes morale boosters for school staff, student coat drives, family food distributions, and other critical services that have taken on a new meaning during the pandemic and ever-changing environment in which we all live, work, and learn.

To bid, use this QR code or visit our school.auction/barcroft. Enter your email ad-

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# Get Busy Pruning Shrubs: Why, When and How

**By Paul Nuhn and Alyssa Ford Morel,  
Extension Master Gardeners**

Winter is usually a gardener's season of rest. Plants are dormant, and most maintenance tasks are put aside. Dormancy, however, makes late winter/early spring the best time to prune many shrubs and trees. The gardener can see the shape of the bare plants better, and the cuts are less disruptive than when the plant is growing. When full spring arrives, the plant will put energy into the new shape and desired size.

We prune shrubs to help control their size, to direct their growth, to make blooms more abundant, to rejuvenate, and to maintain health and appearance. February through March is the best time for most deciduous (leaf-dropping) shrubs, just before they start new spring growth. The exception to this rule is plants that will bloom in spring, such as Lilacs, Forsythias, Azaleas and Weigelas. Their buds have already set, and if pruned now, though the plant will not be damaged, the blooms will be lost. Pruning them can be delayed until right after they bloom, but no later than early July.

Pruning tools include pruners, loppers, and pruning saws. Make sure to use a sharp blade as a dull blade can damage the wood. Also keep the tools clean. Wiping blades down with a bleach solution, rubbing alcohol or a spray disinfectant as you go will

make sure no diseases are passed from one plant to another.

Begin by removing any dead, damaged, or diseased wood. Next, remove any branches that cross or rub another, which can damage both. Removing them will also improve esthetics. Then select a group of strong, well-balanced branches to keep, and remove about a third of the plant's bulk. This bold pruning will jump-start new growth on the remaining branches. As your plant grows, you will see dramatic improvement.

## **How to Prune**

There are two basic types of pruning cuts: heading cuts, and thinning cuts. **Heading cuts** stimulate growth of buds closest to the wound. The new growth will be vigorous and often make shrubs bushier, but not smaller. Heading cuts are used when you are working on a hedge. When pruning a hedge, be sure the sides of the hedge angle slightly inwards as they rise, allowing sunlight to reach to the bottom. Sides that angle outward generally have leaves at the top and are bare at the bottom.

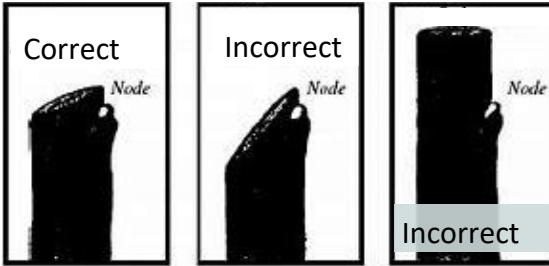
**Thinning cuts** remove branches at their points of origin or attachment. Used in moderation, this gradual thinning reduces the shrub's density without stimulating regrowth.

Make the pruning cuts correctly. For heading cuts, prune 1/4 inch above the bud, sloping down and away from it at a 45-degree

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angle. Avoid cutting too close, or too steeply, or the bud may die. Make thinning cuts just above side branches and roughly parallel to them which will encourage new growth outwards. Pruning sealer is not recommended.



### Growth Habit

Understanding a plant's natural shape or "habit" helps explain how it should be pruned. Shoots grow outward from tips. When branch tips are removed, the buds below the cut are stimulated to grow. Buds are located at nodes – where leaves are attached to twigs and branches.

Shrubs have one of three growth habits – **mounding**, **cane**, or **tree-like**. Those with mounding habits, such as Spirea, generally have soft, flexible stems and small leaves. Shrubs with cane habits include Forsythia and Nandina and spread by sending up new canes from their base. Tree-like shrubs have woodier branches and include Witch Hazel and Buttonbush.

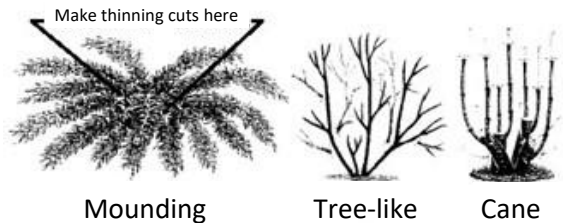
Deciduous shrubs should be regularly pruned to maintain health. Maintenance pruning practices should begin after the first year of planting, or after rejuvenation.

To maintain **mounding**-type shrubs, prune only the longest branches. Make thinning cuts inside the shrub where they won't be seen. This method reduces mounding shrubs by up to one-third without sacrificing their shape.

To prune **cane**-habit shrubs, remove the tallest canes near ground level. Then thin out crossing center canes, as well as those growing in an unwanted direction.

**Tree-like** shrubs can be challenging to keep in check. Prune to open up the center of the shrub. In our high-humidity region, plants need airflow. Keep the crown open and maximize light penetration with thinning cuts. Prune out branches that touch the ground and suckers originating from the roots. Wait until the end to make any heading cuts. Tree-like shrubs can tolerate removal of one-eighth to one-fourth of their branches.

When a shrub has been neglected for many years and become overgrown, normal



pruning isn't enough. A severe form of pruning called rejuvenation pruning may be used. The entire shrub is cut back to 12 to 20 inches above the ground. The shrub will be unattractive at first but will quickly regrow to a better

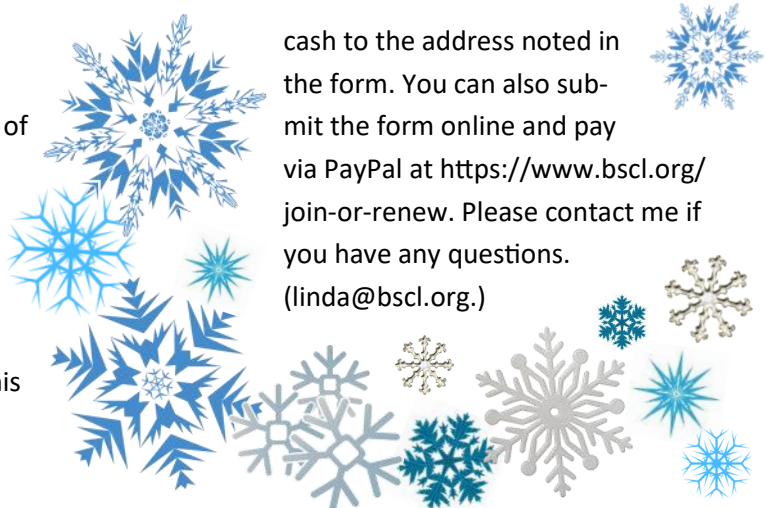
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# A New Barcroft School and Civic League Year

**By Linda Gaines,  
Membership Secretary**

Neighbors, it is that time of year again when your BSCL membership renewal or new applications are now due. Membership runs with the calendar year. You can submit your application via the form included in this newsletter along with a check or

cash to the address noted in the form. You can also submit the form online and pay via PayPal at <https://www.bscl.org/join-or-renew>. Please contact me if you have any questions. ([linda@bscl.org](mailto:linda@bscl.org))



## Happy New Year !

In 2021, not only was our team, Trent & Co at COMPASS Real Estate, named #1 in the DMV for Medium-Sized Teams in both Volume and Transactions by the Wall Street Journal's annual REAL Trends + Tom Ferry's The Thousand - but it was also our strongest year yet! We're ready to put our experience and expertise to work for you in 2022!

**\$258<sup>+</sup>MM**

In Sales Volume

**332**

Total Transactions

We cannot thank our clients enough for their continued support. We could not do this without you! If you are interested in selling or buying, please reach out to your Barcroft neighbor, Rick. We're invested in our community which means we're invested in you!

Source: Team Records & Bright MLS

Trent & Co at COMPASS Real Estate. Compass is a licensed real estate brokerage that abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is not guaranteed. This is not intended to solicit property already listed. Compass is licensed as Compass Real Estate in DC and as Compass in Virginia and Maryland. [compass.com](http://compass.com) | [trentandco.com](http://trentandco.com) | Licensed: DC|MD|VA | 301.298.1001 | 5471 Wisconsin Ave #300, Chevy Chase, MD 20814



**Trent Heminger**  
Executive Vice President  
Trent & Co | Compass



**Rick Woler**  
Barcroft Resident  
Agent  
267.261.9932  
[rick@trentandco.com](mailto:rick@trentandco.com)  
@rickwoler



**Ryan Isaacson**  
Barcroft Resident  
Agent  
904.309.2558  
[ryan@trentandco.com](mailto:ryan@trentandco.com)  
@rforyan

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## 2022 BSCL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL

January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022

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): \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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 & Picnic

\_\_\_ Grant Writing

\_\_\_ One-Time Efforts (*as they arise*)

\_\_\_ Serve on a Committee — Specify which: \_\_\_\_\_

(*Crime Resistance, Parking, Traffic*)

\_\_\_ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

## *Bringing Restorative Practices to Arlington, continued*

### *Continued from page 1*

Arlington County Board.

We welcome the opportunity to present this exciting new opportunity to members of the Barcroft School and Civic League. For more information about Restorative Ar-

lington, visit: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Topics/Restorative-Arlington>

- Restorative Arlington Strategic Plan: <https://is.gd/RAStratPlan>
- Restorative Arlington Interest Form: <https://is.gd/RAform> •

## *President's Message, continued*

### *Continued from page 2*

you for coordinating the Snow Brigade volunteers. If anyone else in Barcroft would like to volunteer for the Snow Brigade, or has need of their help, please contact Sharon by

phone at 703-920-2567, or email at [stope3@verizon.net](mailto:stope3@verizon.net). The Snow Brigade is always a highlight of the Barcroft 4th of July Parade. You will get enthusiastic cheers at this year's parade! •



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## *Barcroft Elementary Online Auction, continued*

### ***Continued from page 3***

dress and a payment method into our secure Stripe account and peruse dozens of exciting auction listings including leisure experiences, gift cards to local vendors, student camps and more. If you are a winner, you will be thrilled knowing every dollar of your bid will go toward supporting our Barcroft Eagles. And, even if you decide not to bid, you can still donate to the PTA on the auction website.

### **EXTRA REASON TO BID AND DONATE**

### **– AMAZON WILL MATCH FUNDS RAISED! -**

The PTA is thrilled this year to announce that Amazon has committed to matching funds

raised, effectively supercharging the value of your bids and donations! That means that if your bid wins, it will be worth double to our PTA. Free will donations made as part of the auction are also eligible for a match, so even if you don't bid, any donation you make on the auction site will be doubled. We are grateful to Amazon for its support and commitment to our school community!

The Barcroft PTA relies on our neighbors for their support and encouragement. We are counting on you to make this the best Barcroft Auction ever. Go Barcroft Eagles! •

# February Greetings from Our Savior Lutheran

Each month, our school focuses on a character trait with our student body. The trait for the month of February is Loving. We often look toward the coming of Valentine's Day as a time to pass out cards and candy hearts, but we also want to remind our children that loving others can happen on more than just a holiday. Use this month to talk with the children around you about the importance of loving others every day.

Thank you to everyone who attended

our school's Open House in January. We are currently accepting applications for the 2022-2023 school year for grades PreK through 8th. Check out our school website at [osva.org](http://osva.org).

If you list Our Savior Lutheran School as your designated charity when you sign on to Amazon.smile, Amazon.smile will automatically contribute a portion of your purchase to the school. Thank you to everyone who supports us. •

## *Pruning Shrubs in Winter, continued*

### *Continued from page 5*

shape. Not all shrubs respond well to rejuvenation, but those that do are the ones that tend to get badly out of control. These include Spirea, Abelia, Hydrangea, Forsythia, Beautyberry, Flowering Quince, Viburnum and Redtwig Dogwood.

There is a second, more gradual technique for shrub rejuvenation. The first year, remove one-third of the oldest branches. The next year, remove one-half of the remaining old branches. In the third year, prune out the last of them. This method takes longer, but the shrub stays more attractive throughout.

**Throughout the year**, remove dead, diseased, or broken branches, making thinning cuts into healthy wood, below the affected area. Disinfect tools between cuts to prevent disease spread.

Lastly, notes on some specific shrubs: Most **roses** should be pruned into a vase shape with an open center. Climbing roses are an exception and should be pruned to create horizontal growth for maximum bloom. **Azaleas'** natural layered growth pattern can be maintained with careful thinning cuts. Most overgrown azaleas can handle severe pruning down to approximately three feet. Different varieties of **hydrangeas** need different pruning techniques. A handout with details is available at <https://mgmv.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Pruning-Hydrangeas.pdf> or in hardcopy in the Glencarlyn Library Garden's Education Box.

A short video demonstrating pruning techniques is available at [https://mgmv.org/educational-videos-from-glencarlyn-library-community-garden/#winter\\_pruning](https://mgmv.org/educational-videos-from-glencarlyn-library-community-garden/#winter_pruning). •

# 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).*

**Pet Sitting:** Colin and Emmett (4th-5th grades) are happy to pet sit for your cats or other small animals. Sorry, no dog sitting at this time. We have experience with fostering and pet sitting animals. Email [Lauren.alyssa@gmail.com](mailto: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. Great for gifts. Call and come by: Joan Mulholland, 501 South Taylor Street, 703-979-4719. Pay by cash, check, or Venmo.

**Virtual and In Person Private Drum Lessons in Barcroft:** All ages/levels! Local musician offering instruction from Barcroft home studio on 3rd St. S. Unique, fully equipped studio with two full drum sets. Multiple styles--rock, jazz, classical, musical theatre. Lessons can be via Zoom, FaceTime, Google platforms, Skype. References provided. Contact: [mitchbassmusic@gmail.com](mailto:mitchbassmusic@gmail.com)

**Pet Care at Your Door!** Barcroft resident, GWU graduate student with years of experience caring for all types of pets is available for pet sitting. Can do both daily visits or overnight stays, as needed. Mature, responsible and reliable; references available upon request. Call/text Martina at 541-602-7336 or email [martina.vega@soapcreekent.com](mailto:martina.vega@soapcreekent.com). •

## Looking for a Project?

How about writing for Barcroft News?  
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Barcroft School and Civic League  
800 South Buchanan Street  
Arlington, VA 22204

In the second year of pandemic uncertainty, the real estate market flourished in 2021, and the average sold price of a property in Northern VA increased 6.5% above 2020. Larger single-family homes posted the largest average price gains with an increase of almost 12% above the average cost of similar-sized homes sold in 2020. So far in 2022 we are experiencing a fast-paced real estate market, with strong momentum from an active December. Homes are moving quickly, and inventory is scarce. Although home prices will continue to rise, experts predict a more moderate pace than last year as prices are already high. Locally, the influx of new jobs offered and still to come by Amazon has created a ripple effect that benefits the region.

There's going to be a substantial battle for most houses and buyers will have to compete, mainly for single family homes.

Nationally there is a shortage of over 5 million homes according to the National Association of

Realtors. During the pandemic it grew from 3.8 million to 5.4 million.

The Federal Reserve is supporting rate increases to curb inflation as early as March. While the Fed doesn't set mortgage rates, mortgage rates have jumped up recently in January in anticipation of Fed policy rates hikes. Interest rates are currently in the 3.25% to 3.5% range.

***Are you living in your ideal home now?***  
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