



March 2022

# Barcroft News

Vol 119, Issue 7

## Watershed Collaboration Volunteers Needed

We all remember the July 8, 2019 monsoon storm and awful flooding that followed. That is when the bridge over Four Mile Run along the W&OD trail near Barcroft was wiped out. We'd all like to make sure the County doesn't forget about neighborhoods along Columbia Pike as it starts to roll out a series of remedial measures and funding devices over the next several months.

Civic associations in the Westover Area and Lubber Run watershed have found they get better access to and traction with County decision makers by banding together with a com-

mon, watershed-based approach. It might work in our area, too. But we need concerned members to represent the Barcroft School

and Civic League and volunteer to serve on a group drawn from the four West Pike Civic Associations: Arlington Mill, Barcroft, Columbia Forest, and Douglas Park.

If you'd like to be part of a potential solution to remediate stormwater flooding and erosion problems in this part of the Four Mile Run watershed, please contact Deborah Wood, at [president@bscl.org](mailto:president@bscl.org) or 703-892-1243. •



*The bridge over Four Mile Run by the dog park that was washed out in a 2019 flood is being replaced.*

### Next Meeting:

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

**Topic: To Be Announced on BSCL Chatlist**



*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:* Vacant

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

**Next Deadline: March 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

*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.:* Vacant

*NCAC Alternate:* Deborah Wood

*Arlington Civic Fed. Delegates:* Eric Harold,  
Christopher Hoh, Randy Swart, Deborah Wood

*Alternates:* Gary Mason, Daniel Weir

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

## President's Message

**By Deborah Wood**

Greetings! Signs of spring are showing up and the days are noticeably longer! It is now two years since the last time the Barcroft School and Civic League held a monthly meeting in the Community House. Given how well we have adapted to meeting on Zoom, the Board of Directors and Officers have decided we will continue to meet virtually through the current meeting year, which ends in June.

As you will read in the article about Community House rentals in this newsletter, the omicron variant has put a dent in our anticipated rental income for this year. Our membership list is also lagging behind where it was at this time in past years. I'd like to make a plug for joining the BSCL. You become part of a network of people who care about and appreciate our neighborhood. With all the new construction along the Pike, the expansion of Amazon, and the steady replacement of older homes with new, larger footprint residences, Arlington is undergoing a major growth spurt. Being part of our neighborhood civic association is a great way to find a network of well informed people who can add support for concerns both large and small that have environmental and quality of life impacts.

**Continued on page 3**

# Barcroft Elementary February Update

**By Kelly Miller, Barcroft Elementary PTA**

As we approach the end of winter the Eagles celebrated one of the most successful online auctions ever! Thanks to all the families, friends, and neighbors who helped make this fundraiser a success. What's even better is that Amazon will be matching the amount raised.

The Eagles shared the love in February

with a recipe exchange with Discovery Elementary students, lots of Valentines, and a celebration of Barcroft's fantastic bus drivers and crossing guards. In March the Eagles look forward to a motivational assembly by stepping group Step Afrika!

Until next time, stay warm readers and thanks for your support! •

## Help Shape the Future of Columbia Pike

If you are interested in the future of Columbia Pike and how the county's vision for it is being implemented, please consider becoming a Barcroft co-representative to the Form Based Code Advisory Working Group, (FBC AWG). Meetings are usually held the second Wednesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. At this time meetings are being

held virtually.

One of the main duties of the rep would be to keep the Barcroft community updated on projects and pertinent discussions. For background info go to the county's site, [arlingtonva.us](http://arlingtonva.us) and search for FBC AWG. If you are interested and/or would like more information please contact: [Keith@bscl.org](mailto:Keith@bscl.org). •

## *President's Message, continued*

***Continued from page 2***

The BSCL would appreciate your ideas for topics that you would like to learn about and have addressed at a meeting or in the newsletter. Or perhaps you have volunteer ties to one of the many community or cultural organizations within Arlington. Updates on the work of these organizations, especially as they relate to Barcroft, are most welcome as

either a newsletter article or a briefing at a monthly meeting. Please contact me at [president@bscl.org](mailto:president@bscl.org), and I will share your ideas with Daniel Weir, the BSCL vice president, who is responsible for organizing programs, or you can submit stories to Alyssa Ford Morel, the newsletter editor, directly at [editor@bscl.org](mailto:editor@bscl.org). •

# Arlington's Recycling Services Reminder

Place all recyclable materials in the blue recycling cart. Unacceptable materials such as cardboard boxes containing packing peanuts, Styrofoam or trash will be tagged and left at the curb.

Recyclable materials placed outside of the cart should be placed in household containers, or cardboard boxes. Recyclable materials placed in plastic bags outside of the cart will be treated as trash. Remember to always empty and rinse all containers. Residential home properties are required to recycle the following materials:

- Aluminum cans
- Cardboard (no size restrictions)
- Metal cans

- Metal household items (large household appliances, bicycles, cabinets, doors, grills, iron furniture, etc.)
- Mixed paper (cardboard, magazines, newspapers, office paper, etc.)
- Plastics. •



*The items shown above are **not** recyclable and should be put in the black trash bins.*

## Learn to Grow Peppers in “Pepper-licious” Class

Join the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia on Friday, March 18, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. for Pepper-licious, a free online class. RSVP at <https://mgmv.org/events/> to receive link to participate.

Peppers hot and sweet are the 7th most popular vegetable in the world and are beloved in cuisines from Africa to Asia to Europe to the Americas to Australia. They are eaten at all times of the day and can be enjoyed raw, roasted, stir fried, stuffed, pickled,

and dried. This class will focus on everything you need to know to grow and harvest delicious peppers of your own this summer. You will learn about the history of peppers and the many varieties; how to select peppers that suit your needs; when to start seeds inside (optional); how to plant and nurture your peppers; and how to identify pests and diseases common to peppers.

This class is intended for both new and experienced gardeners. •

# Easy Plant Combinations for Your Yard

## ***From the Plant NOVA Natives Campaign***

Are you ready to brighten up your yard but not to spend hours researching plant choices? You may be a candidate for a native plant "package" that includes plants that thrive in similar landscape conditions. Grouping them together will quickly beautify your property while benefitting the local ecosystem.

Trees, shrubs and groundcovers are the backbone of any landscape and are in fact all that most people want to bother with. You can find combinations for nine common situations on the Plant NOVA Trees website. If, for example, the ground in your yard gets soggy at times, you might choose a Wet Areas package and include a Sweetgum tree for shade, American Hornbeam in the understory, and a couple Smooth Hydrangea shrubs. If you underplant them with Golden Ragwort, you will have an evergreen groundcover that has the added bonus of bright yellow flowers for two months in the spring. If you don't have room for a canopy tree, choose the Small Space Combo instead and pair the Common Witch Hazel shrub with its November blooms with the shorter spring-flowering Virginia Sweetspire.

When practical, there is a great deal

to be said for planting each member of a grouping at more or less the same time, minimizing root disturbance by installing the specimens when small. Whether planting all at once or in stages, though, the healthiest landscape is one that is densely planted with native species, healing the soil and providing food and shelter from the ground to the canopy for our local birds, fireflies, butterflies and other residents. Professional gardeners of course need to be adept at exactly matching plants to the microclimates within a landscape, but the rest of us can do quite well just using the obvious sun, soil and water conditions as our guide.

Those with a flower garden in their yard can speed up its evolution into a native paradise by

choosing combinations that will result in blooms over the course of the season. In a sunny areas, if you are guided by the spring, summer and fall packages on the Plant NOVA Natives website (<https://www.plantnovanatives.org/>), the result will be a stunning combination of well-behaved plants that will attract butterflies throughout the growing season. Suggestions for shady or wet areas are included, as are ornamental grasses. You can also find locations of garden centers that stock native plants. ●



*Golden Ragwort is a cheerful, evergreen native groundcover.*

# Benefits of BSCL Membership: Barcroft House

By Jennifer Lis, BSCL Treasurer

Thinking of hosting a birthday party or get-together as the weather warms up? A key benefit of joining the BSCL is that members receive significant discounts on renting the Barcroft Community House – with more than a 70 percent discount on weekends. The Community House re-opened to rentals in mid-November, and everything is going smoothly

with regular cleaning and maintenance. To see rates and request a reservation go to [www.bscl.org/rentals](http://www.bscl.org/rentals). To find out more about hosting your event at Barcroft House, including a photo tour and guides for renters, go to [www.bscl.org/#barcrofthouse](http://www.bscl.org/#barcrofthouse)-section. Enjoy our beautiful neighborhood space and grounds for your next event and renew your membership today! •

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

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 & Picnic

Grant Writing  One-Time Efforts (*as they arise*)

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

(*Crime Resistance, Parking, Traffic*)

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

## Two Arlington Historical Society Programs in March

The Arlington Historical Society is offering two programs in March. The first will be held on Thursday, March 10 at 7 p.m. The title is Mapping Exclusion: Locating Racially Restrictive Covenants in Arlington. The speakers include: Samia Byrd, Deputy County Manager, Chief Race and Equity Officer, Arlington County Government; Janine DeWitt, Ph.D. Professor of Sociology, Marymount University; and Kristin Neun, MA, JD, Community Educator in Arlington. The event will be held both on Zoom and in-person at the Marymount campus Library auditorium.

We know that racially restrictive covenants were placed on residential properties in Arlington County before 1968 – what we don't know is when they first appeared or exactly where these restricted parcels of land were located. We will take a closer look at

the historical context in which racial covenants emerged, and share the initial phase of our research that involves mapping these land records from 1900 to 1968.

On Thursday, April 14, at 7 p.m., Colonial Era Gardens at the Ball-Sellers House will be presented by two Master Gardeners who researched how John and Elizabeth Ball would have gardened at their home in the colonial era and how they would have used what it produced. Their home is now the Ball-Sellers House and is a house museum owned by the Arlington Historical Society. The speakers are Kathleen Clements and, Dr. Cheryl Vann.

Zoom information for both events is available at <https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/events/>. •

## Barcroft News is Searching for an Advertising Manager

**By Alyssa Ford Morel, Editor**

After four years serving as the Barcroft News Advertising Manager, Jack Mayer is moving out of Barcroft and is resigning his position. His faithful efforts have made putting together each issue smooth and helped bring in funds to pay for printing the community's official newsletter.

"The Advertising Manager role is an easy yet impactful way to give back to the community," Mayer says. "It's a great role for

someone that's organized and customer-service oriented."

Historically the role hasn't required much business development, but going forward, an enterprising volunteer who would be willing to find new sponsors would be most welcomed.

If interested in learning more about possibly filling this need, please send an email to [editor@bscl.org](mailto:editor@bscl.org) or call Alyssa Ford Morel at 703-907-9318. •



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Equal Housing Opportunity

# Mid-Winter Greetings from Our Savior Lutheran School

Every year, Lutheran schools around the country celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week. Our school will celebrate this special week from March 7 to 11. Our theme for this year is "In All Things," which is associated with the scripture verse from Colossians 1:15-20. Every day during the week, we dress up in special spirit wear or crazy outfits and have fun activities, such as a school wide student team competition. Please join us in celebrating our Lutheran Schools across the nation.

Our chapel offering for the month of February went to Arlington Bridge Builders (A.B.B.) whose mission it is for Jesus' followers to build bridges to meet tangible needs, equip leaders, and transform our city. A.B.B. is a partnership of area churches, Christian organizations, and individuals that operate in the Arlington community, have strong neighborhood ties, and provide social services for those in need. A.B.B meets practical needs of the community by providing a food pantry, school backpacks, holiday charity, financial assistance, and pastoral care. They build relationships through focus on families, wrap around care, and independence guidance. They also provide education through English language and life skills training, Bible studies, development counseling, and a children's scholarship fund. What a joy it is for us to join Arlington Bridge Builders in bringing

hope to every corner of Arlington.

**School Support on Amazon Smile** – Amazon shoppers can designate Our Savior Lutheran School on your Amazon Smile account to receive 0.5 percent of eligible purchases. We received over \$700 during the 2020-2021 school year. Please think about designating OSLS on Amazon Smile.

If you are currently looking for a church home or would just like to visit, please join us in person or online for church on Sundays at Our Savior Lutheran. The early service is only in-person and begins at 8:15 a.m. The late service is both in-person and online at 11 a.m. You can find the online service on the Our Savior Lutheran Church Facebook page. •

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## Virginia Hospital Center's Fitness Classes

Virginia Hospital Center's fitness classes begin new sessions week of March 14. Find the full schedule at:

[www.virginiahospitalcenter.com/healthy](http://www.virginiahospitalcenter.com/healthy)

The majority of classes are still meeting virtually on Zoom. But a handful of classes will be offered in person -- held in large, open spaces in local churches. Zumba (Mondays, 6:30 p.m.) is a new, in-person class. Please reach out to the Health Promotion Department with questions at 703-558-6740. •

# 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.

**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). •

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## Provocative Solo Exhibition at Gallery Underground

From March 1 to 25, Gallery Underground will feature a solo exhibition by mixed media artist Kinda Barazi during open hours Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The “First Friday Opening Reception” will be March 4 from 5 to 7 p.m.

In “Earth Speaks,” Barazi uses mixed media on canvas to explore the questions: “Are humanoids advancing or retrogressing? Were we once a high-tech civilization, and are we now living in a virtual simulation? As humans tamper with the process of evolution, speeding extinctions, and creating organizational powers and loyalty of thousands to go to wars when few animals do, are we truly the superior species?”

Gallery Underground is located at 2100 Crystal Drive, Crystal City Shops, Arlington, Virginia 22202. •



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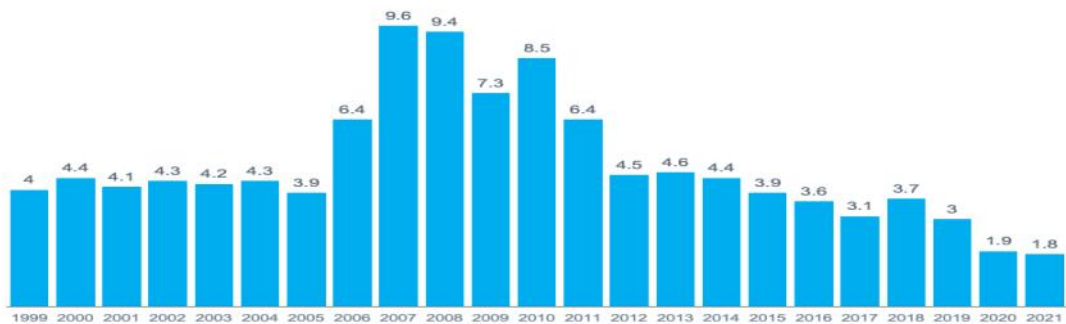




Barcroft School and Civic League  
800 South Buchanan Street  
Arlington, VA 22204

## Inventory of Homes Hits Record Low

Months' Supply of Existing Homes for Sale in December 1999-2021



Source: NAR

Data from the National Association of Realtors shows that housing inventory at the end of December amounted to 910,000 units, down 18% from November and down 14.2% from one year ago. Unsold inventory sits at a 1.8-month supply at the present sales pace, down from 2.1 months in November and from 1.9 months in December 2020. In Northern VA the market has been active so far in 2022, with a critical shortage of single-family homes. *Thinking about selling? There may never be a better time than right now.* With demand this high and inventory this low, you'll have leverage in all aspects of the sale of your house. Contact me to discuss how you can take advantage of the current conditions. Put my 37 years of local market experience to work for you!

**Casey O'Neal, Compass Real Estate, 703-217-9090, [www.caseyoneal.com](http://www.caseyoneal.com). Free Notary!**