



December 2022

# Barcroft News

Vol 120, Issue 4

## Keeping Our Wooded Areas Beautiful

### *By the Plant NOVA Natives Campaign*

If your community owns some wooded common land, or if you yourself own a wooded property, you may have noticed that the woods around here have been slowly changing, and not for the better. They may still look green, but the devil is in the details: much of that “green” is now made up of invasive non-native plants that damage the ecosystem and bring down the trees.

Natural wooded areas are a beautiful and invaluable resource for any landowner or community. Unlike most material assets, they appreciate over time.

They capture storm-water and keep our basements from flooding. They provide soundproofing and a visual barrier between properties as well as a place for us to walk and enjoy nature. They block the wind and lower heating costs in the winter. And of course, they are the home to

birds and other wondrous beings, who will need our help if their homes are not to completely disappear.

In the past, the woods managed themselves nicely. In present-day Northern Virginia, at least some care is needed to keep the woods from degrading, turning an asset into an increasingly expensive problem. It is wise to make a forest management plan that looks ahead for twenty or twenty-five years.

You can do this on your own, or you can call in a consultant to help you evaluate the situation and map out solutions to any

problems. Professional assistance is available, as are volunteers from various programs including Tree Stewards, Master Naturalists, and Audubon-at-Home ambassadors.

The two biggest threats to our woods are invasive non-native plants and browsing by deer.

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**Next Deadline: December 15, 2022**

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*Alternates:* Gary Mason, Daniel Weir

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## President's Message

**By Matthew Field**

They say elections have consequences. I'm not qualified to opine on the consequences of the midterm Congressional elections nor the Arlington County Board and School Board elections. But I am quite familiar with the consequences of past Spring's Barcroft School and Civic League elections—the most immediate being that I get to subject you all to another month of this little column.

But in keeping with the generous spirit of the upcoming holidays, I'll keep this one short and give you back some time. I'll just take a moment to give thanks: to the long-time Barcrofters who have helped me figure out what a BSCL President does; to the volunteers who have dedicated their time to working with the County on Barcroft's behalf, acted as officers and Board members for BSCL, and have planned great events like the Fourth of July parade; to the future volunteers who will help us do even better next year (including the ones who will bring back the holiday party next December!); to our indefatigable newsletter editor for accepting every one of these columns after deadline; and to all of you, who make Barcroft such a great community.

There won't be a BSCL membership meeting in December, but we'll be back and raring to go in January. •

# Barcroft Elementary School Update

**By Kelly Miller**

The Eagles cannot believe that winter is on its way. Fun things are going on at Barcroft Elementary as we move into the holiday season and a beloved winter break.

The fourth graders enjoyed a fun and educational trip to Jamestown where they were able to learn about the settlers who first landed in 1607 as well as the Powhatan tribe who inhabited the land. They were able to see how the Powhatan tribe lived and worked as well as the ships that the settlers lived on as they made their way over from England. It was a very exciting, educational trip and the Eagles represented Barcroft well!

The Eagles also practiced the democratic process by electing members of the stu-

dent government. Congratulations to all who participated and put effort into campaigns and were willing to be a part of such an important process.

The Eagles look forward to time with family and friends during the Thanksgiving break (November 23 to 25) and the winter holiday break. They are breaking out their winter feathers as the days get colder, and as always, working hard and being kind!

## **Upcoming events:**

- December 9: Make-Up picture day
- December 13: 5th Grade Winter Concert
- December 19 to January 2: Winter Break
- January 10: Next PTA meeting •

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## Barcroft Votes!

**By Randy Swart**

The November election marked a big turnout in Barcroft precinct. A very high 72 percent of our voters turned out in a non-presidential year. About 30 percent of them voted early.

Our results again mirrored those for the County as a whole: about 61 percent for de Ferranti for County Board, 68 percent for Sutton for School Board and 79 percent for Beyer for Congress. •

## New Advertising Manager

Barcroft News is pleased to announce that a Barcroft community member has taken on the job of Advertising Manager for this newsletter. Mary Arreaga will be filling this important role in the coming months and is available to answer questions about paid advertising at [newsletteradvertising@bscl.org](mailto:newsletteradvertising@bscl.org).

Advertisements help offset the cost of printing Barcroft News, which has risen considerably in the past two years. •

# Explore Nature and History in Arlington

Arlington's Nature Centers are offering a variety of programs designed to help residents explore the beauty of nature in wintertime and Arlington's unique history during December and January. The offerings are listed at <https://www.arlingtonva.us/>

Government/Departments/Parks-Recreation/Programs/Explore-Nature-and-History-in-Arlington/Programs.

Classes at Long Branch Nature Center include: Holiday Wreath Workshops on December 10; Flying Squirrel Lore on December 11 and 16 and January 7 and 13; A Microbiology for Naturalists Series starting on January 11; Family Campfires on December 10 and January 14; multiple bird walks, nature hikes and more.

Online Registration is available at [registration.arlingtonva.us](https://registration.arlingtonva.us), and walk-in registration is available at Lubber Run Community Center at 300 North Park Drive. •

## Arlington Historic Society Talk

On December 8 at 7 p.m., the Arlington Historic Society will present "Trooper Pride: Buffalo Soldier, Patriot, and Pawn" both in-person at the Reinsch Library on the Marymount Main campus and on Zoom.

Author Dr. Alfred O. Taylor, Jr. will lead on two trails of discovery, first uncovering his great grandfather's personal biography and then delving into the role played by Trooper Pride as a Buffalo Soldier carrying out the US government's violent manifest destiny in the West.

More information on Zoom registration is at: <https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/events> •



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***St. John's Episcopal Church***  
**Come Celebrate the Birth of Christ with Us!**  
**Dec 24th Christmas Eve Family Friendly Service at 5 pm**  
Everyone is welcome to join in all our services!  
**Sunday Worship Services 9 am**  
In Glencarlyn on 5th St. S, one block from Carlin Springs Rd.

415 S. Lexington Street - Arlington, VA 22204    703-671-6834    [stjohnsarlingtonva.org](http://stjohnsarlingtonva.org) 

## Beautiful Woods, continued

### *Continued from page 1*

Many places, the deer have taken away everything except the mature trees and the invasive plants, not even leaving the seedlings that should be there to become the next generation of trees. Removing the invasives and protecting native plants from deer are the highest priority in most areas.

Some of our attempts to “improve” the woods may have the opposite effect. Woods do not need to be cleaned! The dead leaves and fallen trees are essential components of a healthy ecosystem. (Dumping extra leaves from your lawn damages that ecosystem, though.)

Standing dead trees provide perches for birds of prey, nesting sites for songbirds, shelters for mammals, and food for thousands of species of insects. They are also becoming increasingly rare in our human-managed environment. Try to leave them standing, or if they pose a hazard, just cut off the top and leave as much as you can standing.

For information about how to manage your woods, and how to help your community develop a long-term plan, see the Plant NOVA Trees website: <https://www.plantnovatrees.org/> •



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# Holidays at Our Savior Lutheran School

Our Savior Lutheran School is getting ready for the holidays. Our entire student body is gearing up for a Christmas musical to take place later in December. The students are very excited.

Kindergarten students spent time recently talking about pumpkins and even made delicious pumpkin muffins to share. Yum! The third grade class presented a readers theater to Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd graders. It was called The Cheetah and the Sloth and was based on the story of The Tortoise and the Hare. They had so much fun preparing and performing.

Our fifth graders continued to learn

about roots by investigating carrots. They identified features and made inferences based on their discoveries. Our seventh and eighth grade classes learned about Dia de los Muertos in their Spanish classes. This Mexican celebration uses a variety of traditions to honor and remember those loved ones who have passed away. Students enjoyed learning and decorating sugar skulls.



Our campus also recently set up a new gaga pit on our playground for our students. There is much excitement as we all try it out. •

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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).*

**Private Drum Lessons in Barcroft:** All ages/ levels either In-Person or Virtual! Local musician offering instruction from Barcroft home studio on 3rd Street South. 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)

**Barcrofter Loki Mulholland Books and Movies:** His complete works available (save shipping costs!) and timely, especially the movies dealing with voting and institutional racism.

ism. 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 Sitting:** Colin and Emmett (5th-6th 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. call (703)474-2691 and ask for Colin and Emmett or email [Lauren.alyssa@gmail.com](mailto:Lauren.alyssa@gmail.com).

**Dull knives?** I'm home on winter break and ready to sharpen them! Dec 10 - Jan 10. My 4 years of experience means easier chopping for you! Cost is \$1.25/inch; \$1.75/ inch for serrated. Price of tools upon inspection. For more information or service contact Zach at 571-598-4760, or email [zstech00@gmail.com](mailto:zstech00@gmail.com) •

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## Support APAH Holiday Magic Toy Drive

This holiday season, please help Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing residents experience the magic of the holidays. Support Holiday Magic by

donating toys and gift cards, buying from select online registries, or donating to our Holiday Gift Fund.

Donations will be accepted through December 9.

You can get involved today at: <https://apah.org/get-involved/donate/seasonal-drives/> •



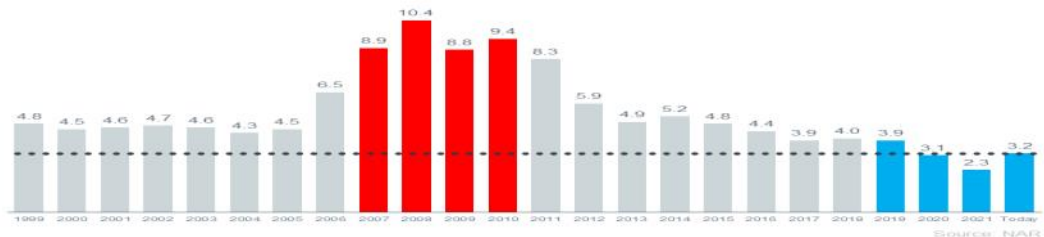


Barcroft School and Civic League  
800 South Buchanan Street  
Arlington, VA 22204

With all the headlines and talk in the media about the shift in the housing market, some think this is a housing bubble. For historical context, there were too many homes for sale during the housing crisis (many of which were short sales and foreclosures), and that caused prices to fall dramatically. The graph below uses data from the National Association of Realtors (NAR) to show how the months' supply of homes available now compares to the crash. Now, unsold inventory is at a 3.2-months' supply at the current sales pace, which is significantly lower than the last time. There just isn't enough inventory on the market for home prices to come crashing down like they did last time, even though some overheated markets may experience slight declines.

### Supply of Homes Is Nothing Like Last Time

Annual Average of Months' Supply of Homes for Sale, 1999-2022



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