



December 2023

Barcroft News

Vol 121, Issue 4

Help Restore Grandma's Creek Park

By Deborah Wood

Are you familiar with Grandma's Creek Park? The interior area of the park is a beautiful forest, but its borders along streets and yards are being overrun by invasive vines, trees, and plants. Barcroft neighbors and Tree Stewards have been meeting on Saturday mornings once a month or so to spend a couple hours together to improve the park land by removing invasive vines and plants.

We would welcome your help! Our next event will be on Saturday, December 16th, from 9:30 to 11:30. The County Department of Parks and Recreation supports our efforts and provides tools and gloves if you need them, but please bring your own favorite tools if you have them.

Beginners are welcome, and will be paired with an experienced invasive plant remover. Wear sturdy shoes and clothes you don't mind getting dirty. We will meet on S Pershing Drive, south of 4th St S, near the gate in front of the Dominion Energy lot.

Please sign up for this event at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/Grandmas#/>. That way you can receive updates or be notified if we have to cancel for bad weather. Contact Deborah Wood at wooddeb52@gmail.com or 703 892-1243 if you have any questions.



Porcelain berry vines removed on Sept. 30th by our crew.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 4, 7:30 p.m.

Location: Barcroft Community House

Topic: TBD



Barcroft News

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Randy Swart, Deborah Wood

Alternates: Gary Mason, Daniel Weir

Visit Us Online: www.bscl.org

President's Message

By Matthew Field

It's the season of thanks, and the season of gatherings, so I'd like to thank everyone who came out to our gatherings last month. The open house at the Community House had an excellent turnout. Reading through some of the old newsletters, reports, and meeting minutes, I was struck by how the issues confronting our neighborhood have not radically changed over time, but some of the approaches to solutions have. That's progress, I think. What has seemed to have persisted most, however, is the sense of home and community Barcroft continues to provide. Special thanks to Randy Swart for compiling the artifacts onto thumb drives distributed to all the attendees; if you'd like your own copy, get in touch.

We also had a turnout in line with historical norms for our first in-person BSCL meeting since the onset of the pandemic. Those who came (and generously offered to present) saw that we are obviously a little rusty with the mechanics of an in-person meeting, and we'll do some work over the winter break to better incorporate modern technology into our historic meeting space. Nevertheless, I enjoyed seeing the electronic talking heads of the meetings during my tenure transition into full bodied humans. So long as it remains safe to do so, we'll continue holding meetings in person in the New Year, and I hope to see you there. Cheers, and happy holidays to you all. ●

Barcroft Elementary Update

By Alice Tewell, Barcroft PTA President

Thank you for inviting us to the Civic Association Meeting in November. It was so wonderful to connect with you and share more about the school. As many of you know well, Barcroft Elementary is a Title 1 neighborhood school with a student population of about 475 from PreK through grade 5 including about 50% English language learners and 75% of the student body receiving free and reduced lunch. Barcroft is proud of its culturally and linguistically diverse community, currently representing 24 countries from around the world. The school motto is “Work Hard. Get Smart. Have Fun. Be Kind.”

The teachers and administrative staff have worked diligently over the last several years to narrow achievement gaps for every student and particularly for English Language Learners and those who are Economically disadvantaged. Most students in the 2022-2023 school year gained more than a year learning in English and in Mathematics.

You asked how you could support Barcroft Elementary. We would appreciate your financial support and your support as volunteers.

For financial support, we would love you to support our Arlington community and children through the Barcroft Elementary School Auction which will take place February 3rd through 11th, 2024. The Barcroft School Auction is an annual fundraiser put on by the Barcroft School PTA with the support of over 100 area businesses, individuals and organizations – many of which are located or live here in Arlington. Items donated are

auctioned off online to raise funds in support of the Barcroft PTA to directly support our students and excellent and hard working staff. We invite you to visit our auction website and if you are able make an early gift to the school. www.ourschool.auction/barcroft

Here are some the major items we are raising funds towards for the 2023-2024 school year:

- \$7,900 for field trips for PreK-5th Grade. APS no longer covers field trips/buses except to a few select locations.
- \$1,114 for every kindergartner to receive a Barcroft t-shirt (5 kindergarten classes this year!).
- \$17,237 for staff support including mini grants for teachers, staff morale, classroom support, copier lease, staff appreciation week, and the principal’s fund.
- \$1,930 on after-school enrichment scholarships. Most of our scholarship funds come from a grant from outside of the school.
- \$800 for community family events like the outdoor picnic, movie night, bingo night and more (events cost more but PTA raises the additional money during these events by selling pizza etc.).
- \$400 for insurance!

We would also welcome your support of Barcroft by volunteering. Here is the message from Principal Ms. Apostolico-Buck.

Our school can always use parent volunteers during class field trips, school events, and other community events. If you would like to volunteer please follow the steps below!

Continued on page 4

Barcroft Update, *Continued*

Continued from page 3

Complete the Volunteer Application Form: <https://apps.raptortech.com/Apply/MjQyMDplbi1VUw==>.

Email Mr. Marcelo Ribera at juan.riberamendoza@apsva.us when the form is submitted.

Once you completed the initial application, a link to a Safe Schools Sexual Misconduct training will be sent to you.

After completing the training, you must email Mr. Ribera again, with a screenshot of your certificate, and your application will be approved.

For additional information, please visit the APS Application Process and FAQ

Thank you very much for being a great community to raise our children! ●

Arlington Chorale presents Of All the Kings

Join us on Saturday, December 9 at 5 p.m. for an extraordinary evening as the Arlington Chorale presents *Of All the Kings* at Westover Baptist Church. Celebrating historical icons and musical legends, this concert has something for everyone! You'll hear well-known holiday favorites like the beloved carol, "Good King Wenceslas," Nat King Cole's timeless classic, "The Christmas Song" and Antonio Vivaldi's uplifting Gloria. We will also introduce you to Margaret Bonds' *The Ballad of the Brown King*, a rarely performed work with libretto by Langston Hughes that premiered in 1954. This captivating story of Balthazar, one of the Three Wise Men, weaves together elements of

December Events at St. John's in Glencarlyn

Community Christmas Caroling

(followed by holiday treats and beverages)
Sunday, Dec. 10th 7 pm

Christmas Eve

Family Focused Service
Sunday, Dec. 24th 5 pm

Blue Christmas Service

A gentle approach to Christmas for those who
have difficulty in this holiday season.
Tuesday, Dec. 19th 7 pm

St. John's Episcopal Church

415 S. Lexington Street Arlington, VA 22204
www.stjohnsarlingtonva.org 703-671-6834

See website for more information on events

spirituals, gospel, and classical music, creating a unique and soul-stirring experience that will resonate with all.

The Chorale is proud to collaborate with the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington for this concert, working with museum director Dr. Scott Edwin Taylor and Sandra Green, a long-time Halls Hill resident. These two speakers will share some of the struggles faced by Margaret Bonds, a Black female composer, as she strove to have her work taken seriously in America in a time before the Civil Rights movement. Don't miss this incredible musical event! Tickets are available for purchase at www.arlingtonchorale.org.

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Treasures Open House Well Attended

The November 5 Open House at the Community House drew 60 attendees for hands-on experience with our oldest historical documents, ledgers, notebooks, photos, publications, and more.

Thanks to those who brought refreshments and those who donated winter coats and hats. Every participant took home a thumb drive with all the materials scanned.

We still have a few of those, so if you want one please email randy@rswart.org and it will appear on your doorstep. ●



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.

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.

Kyle's Lawn Care: Mowing, trimming, mulching, gardening and other various lawn maintenance. Email kylepboll@gmail.com or call 571-255- 9034.

Looking for a babysitter? Responsible, athletic 14-year old rising freshman is seeking summer babysitting opportunities. Good with kids, and is CPR/First Aid/ Babysitter Training Certified through the Red Cross. Email barcroftbabysitter@gmail.com for contact.

Pet Sitting: Colin and Emmett (6th-7th grades) are happy to pet sit for your cats or other small animals. We have experience with fostering and pet sitting. Available Thanksgiving and Christmas. Call (703)474-2691 or email Lauren.alyssa@gmail.com.

Yard Work: Experienced, hard-working kids (11 and 9) available for jobs, including lawn mowing and weeding, leaf removal and snow shoveling. Text or email Will and Owen at tdaniel7t8@hotmail.com (dad Todd's email) for an estimate and availability.

Pet Sitting: If you and your family are out of town and are interested in finding a cat sitter and/or dog sitter, Eve and Lucy would love to help. Our parents email is: briannegk@gmail.com and eddie3@gmail.com. References available upon request. We both have taken an Animal Allies Course at the Animal Welfare League of Arlington, Virginia, Eve is in 6th Grade and Lucy is in 5th Grade.

Private Drum Lessons: Local musician offers instruction in your home or in his Barcroft home studio. (Virtual lessons also available.) All ages/levels, multiple styles--rock, jazz, classical, as well as high school marching band, concert band and audition/ performance skills. Complimentary 30-minute lesson/consultation. Local references provided. Also available: drum set tuning, used drum sets, consults for equipment purchase. Contact mitchbassmusic@gmail.com, 202-409-4370.

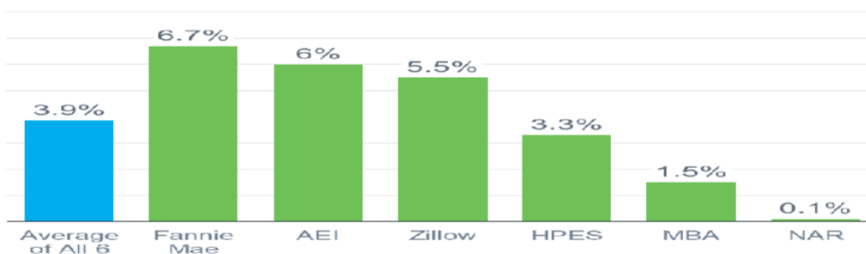
Local Barcroft Honey for sale. Neighborhood beekeeper. Text Lee at 703-609-2670. ●



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

Just a few short weeks ago, the *Fannie Mae* [forecast](#) was for 3.9% appreciation in 2023. In the forecast that just came out, that projection was updated from 3.9% to 6.7% for the year. This increase goes to show just how confident experts are that home prices will net positive this year. So, if you believe home prices are falling, it may be time to get your insights from the experts instead – and they're saying prices aren't falling, they're climbing. Questions on your home? Let's talk!

2023 Year-End Home Price Forecasts



If you have questions about the market and when might be the best time to plan for a move, let's connect so you have a professional's advice. Put my 38 years local market expertise to work for you! **Casey O'Neal, Compass, 703-217-9090**
casey@caseyoneal.com www.caseyoneal.com **Free Notary Service**