



February 2024

Barcroft News

Vol 121, Issue 6

It's Back! Barcroft Elementary Online Auction Feb 3 to 11

By Caitlin Brosseau

Barcroft Elementary School's largest fundraising event, the annual online auction, is back! Bidding opens at 9:00AM on Saturday, February 3 and lasts until 6:00PM on Sunday, February 11. **Anyone can bid** and the proceeds go to support the school PTA.

Over 100 goods, services, and experiences are up for bid, including theater tickets, personal training sessions, certificates to award-winning restaurants and so much more. The best part is that 100% of the proceeds from winning bids are used to support our teachers, students, and their families. Last year, auction proceeds were used to fund campus beautification, morale boosters for school staff, and critical student-support services. In addition to projects like these, funds from the 2024 auction will be used to offset APS budget cuts to field trip transportation. Ensuring our Eagles have access to high-quality learning experiences is a top priority for the Barcroft Elementary PTA.

BARCROFT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



NEW THIS YEAR: The PTA is hosting an adult-only auction kick-off event at the Barcroft Community House. Purchase a ticket online or at the door and join us on February 3 at 7:00PM for a silent auction and fellowship. Childcare can be coordinated for the evening, thanks to our friends at Camp Sarraka. All funds raised will also support the Barcroft PTA.

Continued on page 6

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 1st, 7:30 p.m.

Location: Barcroft Community House

Topic: TBD



Barcroft News

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Next Deadline: December 15, 2023

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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

Maybe it's because I have a vicious miniature goldendoodle regularly patrolling, or maybe it's because I'm not terribly observant, but I haven't noticed significant deer damage in my yard. That's despite their regular presence inside my fence and the wealth of native vegetative treats I grow for them. So I've generally been skeptical of calls to manage the deer herd in Arlington, categorizing them (admittedly, unfairly), as the complaints of gardeners who see their mission as taming the wilderness rather than embracing it.

But the data presented by Master Naturalist Bill Browning at BSCL's January meeting indicates deer are having a substantial impact on the forest ecosystem outside our gardens. Browse rates (i.e., the percentage of vegetation in an area chomped on by deer) in the Grandma's Creek area are around 80%. A sustainable browse rate is around 50%. These rates prevent the regeneration of native trees and shrubs, and they inhibit attempts to restore degraded areas. That could be particularly important for Barcroft as we have several ongoing efforts to improve the Grandma's Creek area.

The County is currently considering options for managing Arlington's herd, including selective culling. The County will be engaging in community outreach regarding its plans and accepting feedback over the next couple months.

Continued on page 4

Barcroft Fences and Good Neighbors

By Suzanne Day

We all know the old adage about fences making good neighbors, but I would amend it to include that Barcroft fences add substantial enjoyment to a neighborhood walk.

No doubt, Barcroft has its share of wooden privacy and chain link fences that efficiently contain dogs and children and remind us of where to mow; but it also has some notably beautiful fences that front Barcroft homes.

A Barcroft classic is the stone fence topped with stone teeth. These fences seem to have long been a feature in Barcroft and you can see a beautiful example at the corner of South Taylor and 4th where the fence used to front a single house with a lot that stretched all the way up Taylor to the park. The house is long gone, but luckily the lovely fence is preserved. There is another long one like this, although with a few missing “teeth” on 8th Street South.

Taylor Street also has some great examples of the classic white picket fence. On the corner of Taylor and 8th there are two kitty-corner from each other. One has beautiful French Gothic pickets and the other swooping scalloped curves between posts. There are another two across the street from each other on the corner of South Pershing and Wakefield – one white and one, breaking somewhat with tradition but nicely matched to the brick and tree-filled yard, stained red.

The wrought iron fence is another classic that really compliments Barcroft’s many brick homes. A beautiful one surrounds a house and its lovely garden is on the corner of 4th and Taylor.

A particular favorite of mine (and also a repeat from my earlier article on garden features) is the art deco pressed concrete fence on 8th Street South. It has lovely curves and integrated flowerpots. And kudos to the Barcroft neighbor who live here who completed a recent renovation without losing or damaging this beautiful fence!

But Barcroft fences are not just classic styles, there are some lovely modern wooden fences with horizontal rails. The one on the corner of Taylor and 8th Street with the gaps in the rails bigger at the top than bottom is particularly nice. I also like the one further west on 8th Street that includes a sliding gate for the driveway. And while you are admiring these stylish designs, take a moment to appreciate the bonus “fence” in the little decorative feature on the second story of the craftsman style bungalow on Taylor just south of 8th Street.

My all-time neighborhood favorite though is the amazing hedge that fronts the bungalow on 6th Street South just off Wakefield. The hedge is an amazing work of master gardening and pruning. It is massive, tall, unbroken, and a beautiful curving oval shape uniformly fronting the whole lot.

To me, this hedge and these other fences capture the essence of Barcroft and why it is such a great place to live. Even with our (mostly) little lots and established modestly sized houses, our neighborhood is filled with residents, who invest in their homes, and add delight and a friendly welcome to our neighbors. So get out and enjoy and appreciate our lovely little corner of Arlington. ●

President's Message,

Continued

Continued from page 2

For those interested, a link to the presentation at our last meeting was included with the minutes sent to the listserv, and the County has more information on its Deer Management Project webpage. While I'm sure there will be a variety of opinions about how best to address this problem, I've at least been convinced there's a problem worth addressing. ●

Performance Parking Pilot Program

Arlington Neighborhood News Exchange

The Performance Parking Pilot project team is hosting an open house on Wednesday, Feb. 7, in Crystal City to share the data that's been analyzed so far from the 4,200 sensors installed in metered parking spaces to track how curbside parking spaces in the Rosslyn-Ballston and Route 1 corridors are used. Attendees can also learn about the tools for finding available parking when and where they need it and learn more about what comes next for this innovative parking management program.

Please find the open house event details below and more information at this link: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Transportation/Events/Performance-Parking-Pilot-Project-Open-House>. ●



Neighbors on 9th Street stepped up on Tuesday, January 16, when faulty GPS stranded the driver of a large utility truck near the entrance to the W&OD Trail. Slippery conditions brought the vehicle further down the hill with each attempt to move. With no plow in site, the neighbors broke out shovels and salt, creating a path out for the grateful driver.



2023 BSCL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL

January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

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
4812 8th Street South Arlington,
VA 22204*

Check one: New Member Application Membership Renewal

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership (\$ 5.00)	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Couple/Family Membership (\$10.00)	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Tax Deductible Contribution to the Community House Conservation Fund	\$ _____
Total <i>(Please make check payable to BSCL)</i>	\$ _____
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:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snow Removal for Elderly/Disabled | <input type="checkbox"/> Yard Work for Elderly/Disabled |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barcroft Players | <input type="checkbox"/> Food Events <i>(Dinners, Cookouts, etc.)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Distribution <i>(Newsletters, Flyers, etc.)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> 4th of July Parade and Picnic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Efforts <i>(as they arise)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on a Committee — Specify which: _____ | |
| <i>(Crime Resistance, Parking, Traffic)</i> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ | |

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Barcroft School, *Continued*

Continued from page 1

To view the auction catalog, bid or buy a ticket to the in-person event, use this QR code or visit ourschool.auction/barcroft. Even if you decide not to bid, you can donate to the PTA on the auction website.

The Barcroft PTA relies on our neighbors for their support and encouragement. Please help us make this the best Barcroft Auction ever. Go Barcroft Eagles! ●



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 2+ years experience pet sitting in Barcroft and can provide references on request. 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.

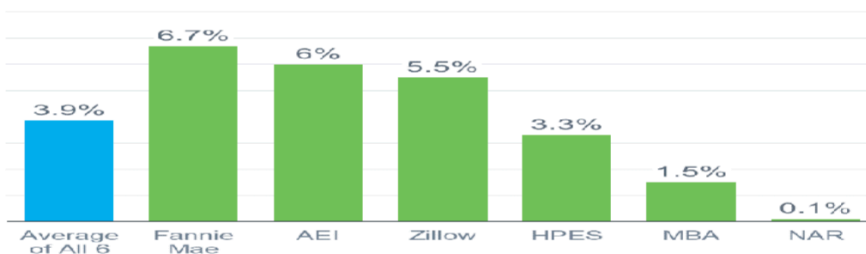
Private Drum Lessons: Local musician offers instruction in your home or in his Barcroft home studio. (Virtual lessons also available.) All ages/levels, multiple styles--rock, jazz, classical, as well as high school marching band, concert band and audition/ performance skills. Complimentary 30-minute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



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****