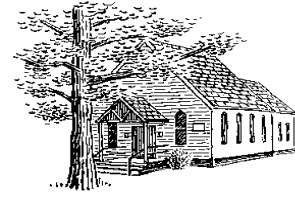


Barcroft School and Civic League
800 South Buchanan Street
Arlington, VA 22204



May 2016

Barcroft News

Vol 113, Issue 9

The Lurking Menace of Barcroft: Why Invasives Matter

*By Alyssa Ford Morel
Certified Master Gardener and Certified
Master Naturalist*

vealed only once they start to spread and disruptive characteristics manifest themselves.

There are a lot of nasty characters lurking around the Barcroft neighborhood and the adjacent W&OD trail. They masquerade as attractive, healthy foliage. Known as invasives, their vigor and attractiveness is generally what started them on the road to delinquent behavior.

Many invasives were introduced as appealing, easy to grow nursery plants. Some have lovely flowers, berries or other interesting characteristics. Their thuggish nature is re-



Local Delegate Alfonso Lopez holds sections of invasive Wisteria he helped remove from the 9th Street entrance to the W&OD Trail last year during a volunteer invasive pull.

An invasive is a plant that is introduced from another place, and spreads aggressively in its new location. Some native plants can be aggressive, but because they still contribute to the ecosystem, they are not considered invasive.

When invasives are brought to a new area, the diseases, insects and other herbivores that would normally keep them in check do not often travel with them. In our area, deer do not like most invasives, and

Continued on page 6

Market Update - According to the monthly Credit Suisse agent survey, the buyer traffic index in the DC area jumped higher in March with a reading of 62 (vs. 39 in February) and the highest reading in three years. Consumer confidence is growing, and in most sectors homes priced right in affordable price points are getting multiple offers. Single family homes & townhouses seem to be the most desirable commodity. March and mid-April trends in the local area indicate that demand is outpacing supply, more so in affordable price ranges.

Remodeling Trends - Remodeling Magazine has created home remodeling project estimates for 20 years. They survey over 6,000 realtors nationwide along with RemodelMAX, a publisher of remodeling cost estimating tools. Variance exists nationwide as all remodeling costs will be different in regions of the country, and few of them will attain 90% ROI.

In the 2016 DC area Cost Vs. Value report, a Minor Kitchen remodel costing \$20,742 returned 96.4% at \$19,999 was the fourth highest return. Fiberglass attic insulation was number two on the list at a cost of \$1,287, yielding a 99.4% return at \$1,279. The industry report focuses on paid labor, not DIY. For owners looking to improve to sell sooner than later, kitchens and baths are traditionally the best improvements over furnaces and roofs. If you are looking to sell it can be a hard decision choosing which areas to invest in to make the best impact on resale. Contact me for a copy of the report, and if you need advice on home improvements I would be glad to help!

FREE Notary for Barcroft Residents!
Casey O'Neal, Associate Broker
RE/MAX Allegiance 703-217-9090
www.CaseyOneal.com
Curious about your home's value? Visit
www.NovaHomeListings.com

Next BSCL Meeting

Thursday, May 5, 7:30 p.m., Community House
Topic: BSCL Elections



Barcroft News

Editor: Alyssa Ford Morel
703-907-9318,
editor@bscl.org
Advertising: Jennifer Tomlinson
jaitomlinson@yahoo.com
Publisher/Mailing: Christine Hopkins,
chopkins4149@gmail.com
703-350-2101

Next Deadline: May 30

BSCL Officers

President: Chris Kupczyk, chris@bscl.org
Vice President: Joe Knarich, joe@bscl.org
Treasurer: Jennifer Lis
jenlis@comcast.net
Recording Secy.: Christine Hopkins,
chopkins4149@gmail.com
Web: Alex Chamandy, alex@bscl.org
Membership Secy.: Christine Hopkins,
chopkins4149@gmail.com
Board Members: Michael Behringer, Keith
Fred, Bryant Monroe,
Eric Parker

Contacts and Committees

Community House Rental Manager:
Barbara Swart
barcrofthouserental
@yahoo.com
Fundraising: Chris Ditta
Landscaping: Scott Brinitzer, 703-892-0308
Traffic Committee: Vacant
4th of July Parade: Heather Meade and Jim Moran
Columbia Pike: Chris Kupczyk
ckupczyk@verizon.net
Demeter House: Darlene Mickey
Parks: Shirley Gay
Signs: Glen Li
NCAC Rep.: Deborah Wood
wood_deborah@yahoo.com
NCAC Alternate: Neal Martin
Arlington Civic Fed. Delegates: Eric Harold, Christo-
pher Hoh, Chris Kupczyk, Randy Swart *Alternates:*
Joseph Knarich, David Michelson, Mark Wigfield

Visit Us Online: www.bscl.org

Monthly Happenings

President's Report by Chris Kupczyk

It's time for our annual elections! At our May 5 meeting (7:30 p.m., at the Community House), we will elect a slate of BSCL officers and one board member for the coming year. The BSCL elects officers for a year, although they traditionally serve a total of two consecutive years, with the approval of the BSCL membership. However, anyone is welcome to stand for election to any open position.

Here is the list of officer candidates for 2016-17:

- President: Chris Kupczyk
- Vice President: Joe Knarich
- Treasurer: Jennifer Lis
- Recording Secretary: Christine Hopkins
- Membership Secretary: TBD

We are especially interested in recruiting a new membership secretary to maintain our membership database. Christine Hopkins, our recording secretary, very kindly offered to step in for Fay Cheung, our previous membership secretary, who left Barcroft last year. She has been pulling double duty, and we'd like to give her some relief if at all possible. In terms of technical expertise, the position requires a basic understanding of Microsoft Access but little else.

Finally, we have one position open on the BSCL board of directors. Un-

Continued on page 3

Neighbor to Neighbor Listings, *continued*

Continued from page 10

Babysitting, Petsitting, and Dog Walking:

Emily Barton, very reliable 17-year-old. If you need a baby/pet sitter or walker please contact me. Phone: 703-629-5234 Email: emilykbarnton@gmail.com.

Sophia Field: 7th Grader, available for pet sitting and afternoon walking. Lost Dog and Cat Rescue volunteer and experienced bunny owner/foster. Sophia.b.field@gmail.com.

Private Drum Lessons: All ages/levels. Wakefield alum with a BA in music offers instruction in Barcroft home. Multiple styles--rock, jazz, classical, musical theatre. Performed in middle school, high school, college ensembles--concert band, marching band drum line, jazz band, and orchestra. Contact: mitchbassmusic@gmail.com

Barcroft neighborhood teenager seeks lawn mowing (\$15 per hour), dog walking (\$10 per walk) and or house sitting opportunities (tbd) during the spring and summer months. If interested, please email ethanavalencia@gmail.com.

Babysitter, house/pet sitter: Carmen Dunlap, responsible 17 year old. Available weekends and weeknights. Dunlap.carmen@ymail.com.

Babysitting and Petsitting: Tyler LaPointe, responsible 11th grader, experienced pet/babysitter. Will also water plants and take out trash. Email tylerchanlapointe@gmail.com or call 571-244-7555.

Babysitter/nanny/petsitter: Jenny Claire, responsible 18 year old available for babysitting, and petsitting! Contact Jenny at 571-484-6445 or jennylclaire@gmail.com.

Kevin's Media: Will convert VHS tapes, TC30 tapes, Laserdiscs and 35mm photograph slides to DVD. Professional packaging/artwork included upon prior request. Please inquire for rates. Email kevinmedia118@gmail.com or text/call 703-919-7605.

Sarah Oldham: Responsible, organized, and friendly 17 year old available for dog sitting and babysitting. Contact me at 571-314-3904 or sarah_oldham@aol.com.

Boutaina Marhrim: Female, age 17 (almost 18). Caring, trustworthy, responsible high school senior with lots of experience with sitting. Available after 3:30 on weekdays and on weekends to babysit, dog or cat sit. If you're looking for a sitter, I'm the one for you! Phone number: 703-472-8718, Email: boutainam7@gmail.com. •

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.

Carla Roca: 18 year old responsible, reliable, honest and trustworthy, experienced dog sitter, dog walker, and baby sitter. Available weekdays after 3:30 p.m. and available often on weekends. Contact at (703)474-4172 or via email at carlaroca98@gmail.com.

Petsitter: Responsible 10th grader. Can house sit, water plants, pet sit, bring in mail, etc. Email to chrisclaire99@gmail.com or call 571-623-1133.

Recent 21-year-old College Graduate: Available for babysitting, pet care, other odd jobs weekdays and weekends, starting May 12. Abby Fram, phone: 703-477-7550, email abbyfram94@aol.com.

Arlington Artists Alliance's Annual Show: It's a Steal

The Arlington Artists Alliance will hold its annual show, It's a Steal, May 20 to 22. Every piece of art - 2D, 3D, pottery, glass, note cards, and more - is all \$95 or less. The show will be held at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 4000 Lorcom Lane, Arlington, VA (corner of Lorcom Lane and Military Road).

Worry-free Vacation Help: College Student available to keep an eye on your home, pets, plants, gardens or all of the above while you relax on vacation. Reasonable rates; references available. Dylan Vega, 703-907-9162; dylanrvega@gmail.com

August's Pet Sitting: Responsible high school freshmen available to care for pets. 703-892-6712.

Babysitter: Experienced, Red Cross certified 9th grader. Call Liza Harold at 703-868-3518.

Rebecca Bean Babysitter: 11th grader available nights and weekends. Call 571-344-4134 or email: Rebeccahbean@gmail.com.

Kyle and Ted Lawn Mowing: Hardworking and reliable 12th graders who will mow and edge your lawn for an affordable price. Contact us at kpboll333@gmail.com.

Continued on page 11

Artwork may be framed or unframed. Prints, matted and shrink-wrapped work, notecards and 3-D items will also be sold providing great gift ideas!

Hours are: May 20, Reception 5 to 8 p.m.; May 21, Open Hours 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; May 22, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. •

President's Report, continued

Continued from page 2

like officers, board members serve four-year terms, with one board member elected each year. The new board member will succeed Barcroft stalwart Bryant Monroe, whom I'd like to thank for serving these last four years.

As this goes to press, I am establishing a nominating committee (per our bylaws) to confirm the officer candidates in advance of the annual election meeting. If you are interested in serving as a board member, membership secretary, or any of the officer positions, please contact me at chris@bscl.org, and I'll be happy to discuss it with you and submit your name to the nominating committee. •

Picture Framing

Recycle Enrich Enjoy

Frame new pictures or update old ones with creative low-cost solutions. Unique low-impact service.

In Barcroft - 737 247 8929
jaitomlinson@yahoo.com



Juliet's Housecleaning Service

Honest, more than 10 years experience with Excellent Barcroft-area References

LOW RATES!

Weekly, biweekly, monthly, or one-time cleaning.

Call anytime: 703-628-3434,
703-354-3225, or
571-236-3700



St. John's Spring Tea

Saturday, May 7 - 1 - 3 pm



Celebrate Mother's Day weekend with a friend, child or grandchild. There is a wide selection of fine teas and an impressive buffet of scones, sandwiches, and scrumptious desserts along with piano music. Adults will also be offered a glass of champagne. Adults \$20 - Children 12 and under \$10

All are welcome to all services and activities!

Sunday Worship Services
8 am and 10 am

Sunday Christian Education
Adults 9 am - Youth 10 am

St. John's Episcopal Church

415 S. Lexington Street Arlington, VA 22204

703-671-6834

stjohnsarlingtonva.org



April/May Update From Barcroft Elementary

By Jenny Ditta, Barcroft Elementary Liaison

After enjoying two weeks of Spring Intersession classes through April 8, students were ready to return to fourth quarter learning. Classes resumed on Tuesday, April 12 after a Teacher Grade Preparation Day on April 11. The schedule for April was full. On April 12, the PTA held its April meeting and discussed the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) testing for Grades 3 through 5. The school offered practical tips for how parents can help to ensure that the SOLs are a beneficial experience for families and children.

On April 14, Barcroft hosted the third of three School Information Sessions and Tours for interested incoming kindergarten families. Students enjoyed an Early Release Wednesday on April 20 while teachers received professional development training. Third quarter report cards were sent home on Wednesday, April 27. A fantastic International Night celebration was held on Thursday, April 28, and enjoyed by all. Students posed for Spring Pictures, including class pictures, on Friday, April 29.

A special thanks to our neighbors who participated in various events in April benefiting the Barcroft PTA. A PTA fund raiser was held at Dogfish Head Alehouse on Tuesday, April 19, in Seven Corners. For those who visited the restaurant between 11:30 a.m. through 11:00 p.m., a percentage of their or-

der was donated to the Barcroft PTA and will help fund student field trips, student enrichment opportunities and teacher and classroom resources. Many thanks as well to everyone who participated in the Reading is Fundamental (RIF) 5K Run and 1 Mile Fun Run on Saturday, April 30. Barcroft Elementary students are beneficiaries of the RIF program and receive periodic free books distributions.

May events include Staff Appreciation Week to be held on May 2 to 6. All week long, students, the administration, and the PTA will host events to show teachers and staff how much we appreciate all that they do for our children. The Spring Concert will be held on Thursday, May 5 at 7 p.m. As always, we welcome neighbor participation in PTA and school events! Standardized Virginia SOL testing will be conducted for students in Grades 3 to 5 between May 16 and June 10. To learn more about what's happening at Barcroft Elementary, contact our PTA President Tara McCabe at tcs04@gmail.com.

HOME LIBERATORS
 (415) UN-CHAIN
 862-4246

ESCAPE from your HOME PRISON!
 Call or email us to schedule a FREE consultation.
consultation@homeliberators.com | www.homeliberators.com

Arlington Reads 2016

The Arlington Reads 2016 series of special author events kicked off on April 7 at Washington-Lee High School Auditorium with Anthony Doerr, author of "All the Light We Cannot See." Doerr, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction, discussed his haunting narrative of a blind French girl and a German boy whose lives come together amid the destruction of occupied France.



On Thursday, May 5, 7 p.m. at Central Library, Julie Otsuka discusses "When the Emperor was Divine," her acclaimed debut novel

based loosely on her family's history with a Utah internment camp for Japanese Americans during the Second World War.

Also at Central Library, on Thursday, May 19 at 7 p.m., best-selling historian and journalist Richard Reeves discusses "Infamy: The Shocking Story of the Japanese American Internment in World War II."

The Shocking Story of the Japanese American Internment in World War II."

Arlington Reads is the Library's one-theme, one-community reading initiative.

It is made possible through the generous support of the Friends of the Arlington Public Library. •

You Don't Have to Interview the #1 Remodeler in Arlington... But... Why Wouldn't You?

For a larger Graph image and more information about the Graph, visit our website at www.CookBros.org/BarcroftGraph

Number of Building Permits Pulled in Arlington County since the year 2000

COOK BROS.
 DESIGN/BUILD REMODELING
 Since 1987

Running for Turtles

By **Cliff Fairweather**

Naturalist, Long Branch Nature Center

Turtle and run are not two words you hear put in the same sentence very often but we are looking for folks to run for turtles on Sunday, May 15 at Bluemont Park. That's when we hold the Turtle Trot 5K race for adults and kids, with the proceeds going to our reptile rehabilitation program. Long Branch Nature Center is the only facility in Northern Virginia that provides rehabilitation for sick and injured turtles and other reptiles.

Every year, caring people bring us about forty sick or injured turtles and smaller number of snakes for rehabilitation. Naturalist Rachael Tolman, our licensed rehabilitator, diagnoses and treats their afflictions and then we provide them with food, water and shelter until they are ready to go back to their wild lives. We have seen some horrifically injured turtles come through our door that Rachael's skills, the compassionate care of our volunteers and a turtle's natural toughness have overcome.

All this care incurs expenses for medicines, food and supplies and that's where the Turtle Trot 5K comes in, with registration fees helping to cover much of these costs. The registration fee is \$30 for adults and \$15 for children 12 and under. You can register in advance online at Active.com; a limited number of same day registration slots may also be

available. We'll also have activities for kids and a real turtle race after the people run. The race is chip-timed and is on a certified course.

Here are the rest of the details:

- Turtle Trot 5K
 - Sunday, May 15, 2016
 - Check-in and on-site registration starts at 9 a.m.
 - Race starts at 10 a.m.
 - Lower Bluemont Park
 - 329 North Manchester Street
- Come on out and run for the turtles! •

Shredding for Scholars

Once again The Woman's Club of Arlington is offering document shredding and garage sale tables on Saturday, May 14 at their clubhouse, 700 South Buchanan Street in the Barcroft neighborhood.

Hours are 9 a.m. until noon for the yard sale. Tables are \$20 for a six-foot table and two chairs. Please contact Kathleen Harrison at womansclubarlington@gmail.com or 571-257-8520 to reserve a table or answer questions.

The shred and a Lion's Club van will be available from 10 a.m. until noon. The Lion's Club will offer free sight and hearing tests.

And the famous Woman's Club homemade bake sale will be back. •

Crescendo Concert



Please come to a family friendly concert featuring Crescendo, the Youth Chamber Music Program of the Arlington Philharmonic. Hear the next generation of talented musicians at this free concert!

Sunday, June 5, 4 p.m.
Barcroft Community Center
FREE!

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV STRING QUARTET
IN F MAJOR, OP. 12

GLAZUNOV STRING QUINTET
IN A MAJOR, OP. 39

TCHAIKOVSKY SERENADE FOR STRINGS
IN C MAJOR, OP. 48

AND MORE!

The Arlington Philharmonic is supported in part by the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and Arlington County through the Arlington Cultural Affairs division of Arlington Economic Development and the Arlington Commission for the Arts. Crescendo is supported in part by the Arlington Optimists Club.

Parliamentary Workshop

The League of Women Voters of Arlington is hosting a free workshop on parliamentary procedures. The event, How to Run Meetings Like Parliamentarian, will be at Arlington's Central Library on Sunday, May 22 at 4 p.m. Please share this event's details with your friends, family, fellow community activists, and any Board members you know. A flier is attached. The link to RSVP for this free event: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/workshop-learn-to-lead-a-meeting-like-a-parliamentarian-tickets-21314081993> •

Is your computer broken or your data in jeopardy?
Or is your small business in need of IT support?



Arlington Virginia Computer Repair

<http://avcr.us> | help@avcr.us | 703-486-0200

Data recovery, computer repair and IT consulting with a personal touch

- AVCR is a local alternative to big box stores and mail-in data recovery services.
- We live and work in Barcroft. Our family-owned and operated business has been serving Arlington since 1999.
- All work is given personal attention from our seasoned IT experts. We don't outsource your repair or data recovery.
- Our experts also serve local small businesses for IT support, business consulting, web design, one-on-one training and more.

**Bring this ad to receive a 10% discount
on our labor rate for your first case!**

Invasives are Shady Characters, *continued*

Continued from page 1

instead chomp on natives and friendly non-natives, allowing the invasives to spread unchecked.

Invasives are bad for the environment in a number of ways. Some vines such as Japanese Honeysuckle, exotic Wisterias and Oriental Bittersweet wrap around young trees and strangle them as they struggle to grow. Other vines (Porcelainberry, English Ivy and Kudzu) smother the plants they grow on, depriving them of light and weighting them down. Some invasives produce thousands of seeds (Mimosa, Ailanthus, Garlic Mustard), sending up countless babies to spread rapidly. Others have roots that are nearly impossible to remove completely (Bamboo, Lesser Celandine). Ailanthus and Garlic Mustard, among others, are also allelopathic, producing biochemicals that inhibit the growth of other plants. English Ivy can hold water perfect for breeding mosquitos and serve as habitat for rats.

None of the invasives do the important work that plants, at the bottom of the food chain, are supposed to do — supporting local wildlife. Compare a White Oak Tree that supports 532 species of Lepidoptera caterpillars to the Ailanthus which supports two, and you'll see the difference. Considering that the Carolina Chickadee, one of our tiniest local birds, must feed a clutch of nestlings an estimated 3,000 caterpillars before they fledge, which tree do you think is pulling its weight in

the ecosystem?

Invasives can pop up in our yards without us planting them. Sometimes they creep under fences from neighbors' yards without either homeowner noticing. Birds eat the seeds, serving as propagators as they poop the seeds out far from the original source. To an untrained eye, many invasives are difficult to recognize, especially when immature. But it is important we not harbor invasives which can easily escape to public and wild spaces where less maintenance means they can thrive and out-compete more valuable natives in our ecosystem.

Here is a list of invasives commonly seen around Barcroft and on the W&OD Trail abutting our neighborhood, though by no means is it a complete list of all the invasives that can be found here.

- Bush Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*)
- Creeping Euonymus (*Euonymus fortunei*)
- English Ivy (*Hedera helix*)
- Exotic Wisterias (*Wisteria sinensis*, *W. Floribunda*)
- Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)
- Golden Bamboo (*Phyllostachys aurea*)
- Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)
- Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*)
- Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)
- Porcelainberry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*)
- Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) •

Greetings This May From OSLS

By OSLS National Junior Honor Society

Thank you to everyone who stopped by at our school open house in April. We are currently accepting applications for the 2016-2017 school year for grades PreK through 8th. We offer both before and after care. Stop by or call our school office if you have any questions.

Our middle school looks forward to class trips early in May. Our eighth grade travels to New York City, seventh grade heads into downtown Washington D.C. on a mission trip, and sixth grade journeys to Science Camp.

This coming May 26, our school choir, along with our younger students, will be celebrating the end of the school year with a spring concert. Our concert will be held at Our Savior Lutheran Church, located right across the parking lot from our school. Please join us that evening to hear wonderful music and enjoy some fellowship. Contact the school office for further information, including time.

Each month, during our weekly school chapels, Our Savior students collect an offering which goes to help others in need. Our April Chapel offerings are supporting Bridges to Independence. Bridges to Independence is Northern Virginia's leading provider of services for homeless women/families and those at risk of becoming homeless. Their bridges (their services) strengthen these families and

provide them with the stability, skills, knowledge, and community networks to become self-sufficient. They offer supports for every family member. From housing to financial literacy, tutoring to youth development, and life skills to career counseling, they tailor a continuum of services. For more information, visit <https://bridges2.org/>.

We hope everyone has a great Memorial Day weekend. We would like to thank all those who are in the armed forces for their service in our country and keeping us safe. Each one of you is a blessing to us and we thank you for all you do. •



Sarah Stakes, Owner
www.compostivivn.com
info@compostivivn.com
703-362-9378

Our Service: We provide you with the essentials for collecting your table scraps and other organic material. We supply our customers with a compost collection bin/ counter bin and a starter kit of biodegradable compost pail liners. You collect your food waste. Once per week, we empty the compost bin. Once we've collected the bags from your bin, we take it to a nearby compost facility. We make every effort to provide you nutrient rich fertilizer made from the scraps we collect from our customers.

***50% off 1st month for new customers**

Cost: \$30 per month for one 5 gallon bins (serviced weekly)