



# Barcroft News

December 2013

Vol III, Issue 4

## Mark Your Calendar for the Barcroft Holiday Party

Everyone is invited to the Barcroft Holiday Party on Thursday December 5 at 7 p.m. in the BSCL Community House. There will be:

✧ Music by our Barcroft neighbors (if you would like to volunteer for the band, please contact Barbara Swart at [barbara@bscl.org](mailto:barbara@bscl.org).)



✧ A visit from a special, jolly guest.

✧ Sing-a-longs.

✧ A reading of “The Night Before Christmas”.

✧ Refreshments: Please bring cookies or treats to share.

✧ For questions, contact Barbara Swart at [barbara@bscl.org](mailto:barbara@bscl.org).

See you there! ●

## Are you on the BSCL Listserv?

*By Mark Wigfield, Listserv Moderator*

Barcroft has a Yahoo groups e-mail listserv that provides a great way to keep up with all that the neighborhood has to offer. Typical topics on BSCLchat: recommendations for plumbers and contractors, issues before the civic association, community house and Barcroft Elementary school events, offers to “freecycle” treasures, and more. Traffic is usually light, and the dialogue is traditionally polite. We ask people to take discussions of politics elsewhere, and to focus on neighborhood issues, offers, and interests. All neighborhood residents are invited to sign up for BSCLchat!

There are a couple of ways to join:

- Send an e-mail to [bsclchat-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:bsclchat-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). Please include your name and address in the e-mail so I can verify that you’re a Barcroft resident.
- Or, go to the neighborhood web site at [www.bscl.org](http://www.bscl.org),
  - Click on “chat list”, which will take you to the Yahoo Groups signup page for BSCLchat,
  - Click on +Join Group. If you go this route, you will need to create a Yahoo e-mail address or profile if you don’t have one, or sign in through Google or Facebook.

*Continued on page 6*

## Barcroft News

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**Next Deadline: December 15**

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Michael Nazareth

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*Traffic Committee:* Heidi Wicker

*4th of July Parade:* Andrew Hunter, 703-979-8247

*Columbia Pike:* Randy Swart, randy@bscl.org

*Demeter House:* Darlene Mickey

*Parks:* Shirley Gay

*Signs:* Ken Edwards

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*Alternates:* Karen Darnier, David Michelson, Elaine Squeri, Mark Wigfield

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

# Monthly Happenings

## *President's Report by Eric Harold*

November is a time of change. The balmy early days of fall give way to cooler and shorter days. Election Day always brings about some changes...if not at 2100 Clarendon then at the Governor's Mansion in Richmond (at least, once every four years it does). The one constant, it seems, is the wonderful bake sale held by the Barcroft PTA outside of the school. Do your civic duty AND pick up some coffee and punkin bread while you're there. Thanks to the PTA for continuing the tradition, and to all who buy the goodies that help support our neighborhood school.

At our November meeting, we voted to give first priority to the Neighborhood Conservation project to finish the sidewalk on 9th St from Buchanan down the hill to the park. Seventh Street neighbors whose street was also under consideration turned out to oppose a similar project on their street. We also voted to add a clause to the Community House rental contract prohibiting the use of open flames (including candles) in the Community House. Finally, we heard an update on the multi-modal improvements to Columbia Pike. See what you miss if you skip the meetings? These meetings are chock full of information and discussion.

Speaking of "can't miss" meetings, be sure to attend our annual Holiday Gala on Thursday December 5. No formal business...just singing, stories, and visits from the Grinch and Santa. Bring a dessert to share. ●

# A Walk Around the Neighborhood

**By Jennifer Bowers**

Need an alternate destination to encourage a walk around the neighborhood as the weather gets colder? The Holy Martyrs of Vietnam Catholic Church, on 9th Street South between Wakefield and Taylor, is a destination worth looking at during several seasons.

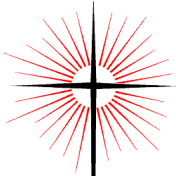
Over the past several years during the Christmas season, a congregational member has set up a larger-than-life-size nativity scene. They follow the tradition of having the Jesus infant figure not appear until Christmas Eve. But the rest is lit up and is a dramatic sight through the weeks before Christmas.

The same parking lot area, facing 9th

Street, has a Stations of the Cross display, with the carvings offering a Vietnamese expression of those iconic images.

They also have a small outdoor garden area which is decorated in warmer weather with a creative assortment of colorful potted flowers and greenery. It appears to be set up as a reflective space, in honor of Vietnamese martyrs, clergy and lay Catholics from early in the Catholic Church's history in that country. It is an attractive quiet space, culturally different than ones many of us are more familiar with.

Altogether, it is worth visiting a different corner of the neighborhood to experience the creativity of this local house of worship! •



## ***Celebrate the Birth of Christ With Us!***


St. John's Episcopal Church is a vibrant congregation with a big heart. We are an inclusive and welcoming community of faith where families are supported in their spiritual growth and questions and discussion are always welcome.

***- The Reverend Ann Barker, Rector***

**Sunday Worship Services**  
8 am and 10 am

**Sunday Christian Education**  
Adults 9 am — Youth 9:30 am

**All are welcome to all services and activities!**

- |                    |               |   |   |
|--------------------|---------------|---|---|
| <b>December 15</b> | 10 am<br>4 pm | Children's Christmas Pageant at the 10 am service<br>Join in Christmas carol singing in the Church  |  |
| <b>December 24</b> | 5 pm<br>11 pm | Christmas Eve Service - special music and a children's message<br>Christmas Eve Service with carols |   |
| <b>December 25</b> | 10 am         | Christmas Day Service with carols   |   |
| <b>December 29</b> | 10 am         | Hear the Christmas story in Bible lessons and carols  |   |

***St. John's Episcopal Church***

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



# The People in Barcroft: The O'Rourke Family

**Compiled by Lisa Piantanida**

We moved into Barcroft on Labor Day 1986 on the corner of Wakefield and 8th Street. All of our children attended St. Thomas More where Mary Anne works as a children's librarian.

Mary Anne ran the Barcroft Fourth of July parade for seven years! We love the friendliness of our neighbors and their incredible talents. We have great memories of major

snowfalls and walking to the shops pulling our kids on sleds and sliding down the huge hill on 8th Street. We have had great babysitters who are still part of our extended family. What a great place to live! •



*We are the O'Rourke family in the picture in the back row are Conor 26, Mary Anne and Michael. In the bottom row are Deirdre 20, Evan 24, and Claire 27.*

## **G. F. Handel**

### **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Messiah Sing-Along in Alexandria**

*Part 1 and Hallelujah Chorus*

**Guest Soloists:** Rachel Blaustein, soprano; Tia Price, alto  
Peter Scott Drackley, tenor; Alex Rosen, bass

## **Johann Sebastian Bach**

*Oboe d'amore Concerto in A Major, BWV 1055*

Wesley Nichols, oboe d'amore and the Amadeus Orchestra  
Dr. Louise C. Wilson, Conductor

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2013 AT 4:00PM**

**Fairlington United Methodist Church, 3900 King St., Alexandria, VA 22302**

**Info: 703-671-4057 [www.fairlingtonumc.org](http://www.fairlingtonumc.org)**

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# Flavors of the Season: Peppermint

By Kari Hickman,  
[virtualgoodyplate.blogspot.com](http://virtualgoodyplate.blogspot.com)

Packages of candy canes are everywhere this month; their festive red-and-white stripes and wintery peppermint flavor inspire this month's recipe. Homemade marshmallows make lovely gifts (especially dipped in white or dark chocolate), are amazing in hot chocolate, and can be a welcome low-fat and gluten-free addition to dessert tables or cookie exchanges.

## Candy Cane Marshmallows

Vegetable-oil cooking spray

2 cups sugar

1 tablespoon light corn syrup

4 packages (1/4 oz each) unflavored gelatin\*

3/4 teaspoon peppermint extract

2 large egg whites

5-10 drops red food coloring

Powdered sugar for dusting

1. Coat a 9x13 pan with cooking spray; line bottom with parchment paper. Coat the parchment with cooking spray. Put sugar, corn syrup, and 3/4 cup water in a small saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring, until sugar is dissolved. Stop stirring; let mixture come to a boil. Raise heat to medium-high; cook until mixture registers 260 degrees on a candy thermometer.



2. Meanwhile, sprinkle gelatin over 3/4 cup water in a heatproof bowl; let stand 5 minutes to soften. Set the gelatin bowl over a pan of simmering water; whisk constantly until gelatin is dissolved. Remove from heat, and stir in extract.

3. With an electric mixer (whisk attachment), beat egg whites until stiff peaks form. Whisk gelatin mixture into sugar mixture; with mixer running, gradually add this to egg whites. Mix on high speed until very thick, 12 to 14 minutes.

4. Drop a few dots of food coloring into the marshmallow mixture; fold just a few times with a rubber spatula to swirl, and then pour into lined pan. Let marshmallow stand, uncovered, at room temperature until firm, at least 3 hours or overnight. Cut into squares.

5. The cut sides will be sticky, so lightly toss in powdered sugar to dry them. Pour some powdered sugar on a plate and gently roll/press cut sides into the sugar. Then toss the marshmallow between your hands a few seconds to shake excess off. Makes about 4 dozen yummys.

\*Unflavored gelatin can be found in the baking aisle, in a pudding-size box of four envelopes. ●

# What's Happening at Barcroft Elementary: December

## **By Jenny Ditta, Barcroft Elementary Liaison**

Barcroft Elementary wishes our neighbors a happy, healthy holiday season. Here are some updates about events and programs of interest to you. Construction on the new school playground was complete as of early November and neighbors are invited to come take a look. On Thursday, November 21 the school hosted a special assembly to dedicate the completed outdoor Leonardo Library. The assembly honored special guest Mrs. Miriam Hughey-Guy, Barcroft Principal for 20 years. Mrs. Hughey-Guy will have an opportunity to see for the first time the beautiful tile artwork created by Barcroft students on her behalf.

On Monday, December 2, please join us for Silver Diner Night at the Clarendon Silver Diner, from 5 to 8 p.m. Eat at the Silver Diner that evening and up to 20 percent of the proceeds are donated to the Barcroft PTA. Use your Eat Well Do Well card and earn even more for Barcroft. School families, neighbors, and alumni are invited!

On Thursday, December 5, the PTA will host a Book Fair and Holiday Shop. The Book Fair will be an all-day event featuring Usborne Books, <http://www.usborne.com/>. The Holiday Shop will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. that evening. Our Holiday Shop is a great event for parents and kids

and includes a secret craft area for kids, a silent auction for parents, Stella & Dot jewelry, and the Usborne book fair. Get all your holiday shopping done in one night, and benefit your neighborhood school. You will not want to miss this evening!

On Thursday, December 12 the school will host a Winter Concert at 7 p.m. All are invited to join us that evening for wonderful student musical performances. Winter Break begins on December 20, and school will resume on January 6. •

## **BSCL Chat List**

*Continued from Page 1*

- One advantage of this signup process is that it enables you to manage your chat group e-mail preferences.
- Once again, please include your name and address in the "comment to owner" field once you reach it.

**NOTE:** We have decommissioned a second group, bscl-news-list. Some of you on that list who do not have a chat list membership will soon be getting an e-mail invitation to join chat, which you can accept by replying to the e-mail.

E-mail me if you have further questions at [mark@bscl.org](mailto:mark@bscl.org). We'll be looking for you on the listserv! •

# Overwintering Your Garden

*By Inge Nealis*

It is now getting colder and which means that you need to start to close down your garden. Overwintering your garden can be a long or a short process depending on how big your garden is. You should try some of these tips. Just remember even professional gardeners lose some plants trying to over winter them.

This time of the year perennials are on sale because it is the end of the planting season. Take advantage of the discounted prices because you can plant the perennials in the fall and then during the fall and winter they will have a chance to get rooted and be even bigger in the spring.

If you like to grow throughout the winter you could build or buy a greenhouse, using something that light can go through such as glass or plexi-glass.

Also, you want to make sure that you give your plants extra protection. You can add mulch on top of your plants but it is better to put wood chips or straw on your plants because the mulch will decompose over the winter.

If you have a sunroom or grow light then bringing you plants inside is an option. You can also add art to the garden, bringing color and a fun look. Hope that overwintering is successful for you and your plants. •

Barcroft News



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**20 percent discount to Barcroft residents!**

# Make Bird Feeding Healthy and Safe for Birds

*By Cliff Fairweather,*

*Naturalist, Long Branch Nature Center*

Many of us feed the birds in the fall and winter. You can actually feed birds all year round but this is the most popular time of year to put out feeders. We should keep in mind, though, that we feed birds because we enjoy seeing birds around our homes – they rarely depend on feeders for survival.

Since we feed birds for our enjoyment, I believe we are ethically bound to make it as healthy and safe for the birds as possible. By offering food in feeders, we cause birds to concentrate unnaturally, exposing them to possible disease and predation. There are steps we can take, however, to reduce the risks to birds visiting our feeders and bird baths.

One of the most important things we can do to keep birds healthy is to regularly clean bird feeders and bird baths. The National Audubon Society recommends cleaning feeders at least twice a year and more often if you offer food during the summer. You should also inspect your feeders when refilling seed to make sure no damp seed is clumping in them. Damp, clumping seed can become moldy and should be discarded right away.

Use a hose sprayer, dish detergent, and a brush to scrub your feeders, followed by soaking them in a 10% solution of non-chlorine bleach. Rinse them well and allow them to dry thoroughly before refilling. Also, be sure to clean under your feeders occasionally by raking up spilled seed and seed hulls. These can be-

come moldy and sicken birds that eat them. Waste seed on the ground can also attract rats.

Keep your bird bath clean as well. Bird baths should be emptied and refilled every day or two and any algae scrubbed off the bottom. Frequent water changes provide healthier water for birds and get rid of mosquito larvae, which is good for both birds and us!

Where you place your feeders (and birdbaths) is an important safety consideration. Two things to keep in mind when locating bird feeders are windows and cover. Windows are a collision hazard for birds, so your feeders should be either within three feet of or more than thirty feet away from windows.

Feeders should be placed near shrubs, small trees or other cover so that birds have a chance to escape from hawks and other predators. However, feeders shouldn't be so close to cover that a predator can use it to ambush birds. If you have multiple feeders, it's a good idea to spread them out so that the birds are less concentrated.

Feeding birds and letting your cat outdoors is likely to end badly for the birds. If you have a confirmed outdoor cat, try to keep it inside until after breakfast and get it back in before dinner so that it's not outside during twilight hours when birds are most vulnerable.

For more information about feeding birds, visit the National Audubon Society ([www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)) and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology (<http://www.allaboutbirds.org>) websites. ●



# What's going on at Our Savior Lutheran School (OSLS)

**By Nancy Greenwood**

The students in Pre-K through 8th grade participated in the Arlington Street People's Assistance Network's walk to end homelessness in Arlington. In addition to raising money for A-SPAN through weekly chapel offerings, the students also made signs to carry during the walk. This is the 4th year in a row that the children have helped their neighbors by walking in this event, with the hope of bringing more awareness to the problem.

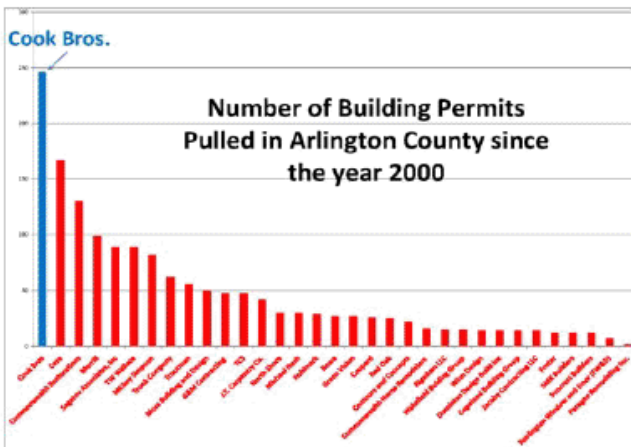
Every month OSLS raises money for the school by hosting a Market Day pick-up site. Market Day is a ready-made meal company that delivers the frozen food directly to the school. Anyone from the community can place an order through [www.MarketDay.com](http://www.MarketDay.com)

and pick it up on the monthly delivery date. All of the items are frozen and range from appetizers (great for the upcoming holidays!) to complete meals to desserts. Market Day is a great option for families on the go or singles who don't want to cook! Delivery to the school is usually the first Tuesday of the month, with the deadline to order being the previous Wednesday. Check out the website for more information or to order.

The children of OSLS invite the neighborhood to their annual Christmas concert on Wednesday, December 18, 2013. The students have been working hard on learning songs and want to spread the love of Christmas through their angelic voices. The concert is held in the sanctuary at 825 South Taylor Street, with performances at 11 a.m. ●

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[www.CookBros.org/BarcroftGraph](http://www.CookBros.org/BarcroftGraph)



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## A Fond Farewell to Diane Boatwright

**By Colette Bounet, Principal, and Julie Rotherham and Jenny Ditta, Barcroft PTA**

Barcroft Elementary School and the Barcroft PTA would like to express our sympathy to Diane Boatwright's family. Mrs. Boatwright, our neighbor, lunch attendant, long-time volunteer, and "Grandma" to everyone, died suddenly on Monday, November 11. Her loss was a sad shock for our school and the community at large. A viewing was held November 14, and burial services were held November 15 at Columbia Gardens Cemetery. Her family hosted a potluck reception after the funeral at the Community House.

A fund has been created to support

Barcroft News

Diane's family as they pay for end-of-life expenses. Readers may donate to it at <http://www.youcaring.com/memorial-fundraiser/everyone-s-grandma-diane-boatwright/105642>.

Diane worked as a lunch attendant at Barcroft --helping students in the cafeteria and supervising the playground -- for many years. She made "boo-boos" feel better, handled trash and recycling properly, and ensured safety rules were followed. On her own time, she assisted the afternoon safety patrol. She weeded flower beds and watched the children during PTA events. She loved Barcroft Elementary, and she was loved by our children • and our com-

# Neighbor to Neighbor Ads

*These ads are free to BSCL members.  
The listings run for three months unless re-  
quested to be removed or updated.*

**Rebecca Bean Babysitter:** 9th grader available nights and weekends. Email: rebeccaahbean@gmail.com or call 571-344-4134.

**Need music for youth-focused party?**  
Concerned about cost? Call Dylan "DJ VIP" Vega: Local, teenage and reasonably priced.  
Dylanrvega@gmail.com or 703-907-9162.

**Babysitter, house/pet sitter:** Carmen Dunlap, responsible 16 year old. Available weekends and weeknights. 571 243 1029 or Dunlap.carmen@gmail.com.

**Neighborhood college student:** Available for babysitting, odd jobs, cleaning, housework, etc. anytime. Abby Fram, 703-892-1090 email: abbyfram94@aol.com.

**August's Pet Sitting:** 703-892-6712.

**Vacation Help:** Responsible teen to water plants, bring in mail, care for pets, water gardens, etc:  
Dylan Vega, 703-271-5987,  
dylanrvega@gmail.com.

**Alexandra's Babysitting:** high school senior available, afternoon, nights and weekends.  
703-307-4889.

**Babysitting, Pet Sitting, and Violin Lessons:**  
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## Barcroft Civil Rights Activist

"An Ordinary Hero: The True Story of Joan Trumpauer Mulholland" will be shown and discussed with "We Shall Not Be Moved" author Michael O'Brien on Monday, January 13, 2014 at 3 p.m. at Arlington Central Library. ●

## Arlington Forest United Methodist Church

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[www.arlingtonforestmumc.com](http://www.arlingtonforestmumc.com) and on Facebook

8:30 Casual Worship, Godly Play & Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Traditional Worship 11:00

Breakfast with St. Nicholas, 12/7, 10 am

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

### **Dream Homes Need Strong Offers**

Here's a quick note to let you know how I can help you—or anyone you feel comfortable introducing me to.

Conventional wisdom advises home buyers not to get emotional about a property when making an offer. Here's the catch. A buyer will naturally be emotional about the right property, the home they are about to sink so much of their lives and money into. At the same time, in a hot real estate market like this one, buyers have to be prepared for the real possibility that one or more of their offers will not be accepted. The people you care about need to have a real estate advisor you trust to help them cultivate a sense of detachment from the outcome of their offers while helping them craft the best, cleanest offers they can. If an offer isn't accepted, buyers have to get right back on the home buying horse and keep looking!

If you or someone you know wants to buy a home, call me at 703-217-9090 or email me at [casey@caseyoneal.com](mailto:casey@caseyoneal.com). I'll send you a copy of my free report, ***How to Stop Spending Money on Rent and Own a Home Instead***. Who do you know who's thinking about buying a home? Please let them know I can help them write strong offers!

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