



September 2018

Barcroft News

Vol 116, Issue 1

Arlington's Parks Praised in Time Magazine

By Jay Jacob Wind

A recent on-line version of Time Magazine praises Arlington's parks in an article entitled "These Cities Have the Best Public Park Systems in the Country" (<http://time.com/5291562/best-parks>).

David Johnson wrote, "Do you live within a 10 minute walk of a park? The answer is yes for nearly all residents of Minneapolis and St. Paul, helping to place Minnesota's twin cities atop The Trust for Public Land's ranking of America's best park systems within the 100 most populous cities. Next up are Washington, D.C. and neighboring Arlington, Va., which boast high investment in parks and easy access for 98 percent of residents."

The print edition (August 6-13) took the theme even further. Jamie Ducharme wrote, "Maybe the best strategy of all is making exercise so ingrained in daily life that it

becomes automatic, says Sagar Shah, the planning and community-health center manager at the American Planning Association. Take Arlington, Va., which topped the American College of Sports Medicine's 2018 American Fitness Index rankings in part because of its exemplary funding for and access to parks, paths, and green spaces. Thanks to 49 miles of safe paths, Arlington households make three times more trips by foot, bike or transit than other households in the region, according to a report from the county's transportation and development department."

Reading these articles, I recalled back 28 years ago, when footracing was banned on Arlington's park trails, and a group of us wrote a trail racing policy adopted in 1990 by Arlington County Board. Now hardly a weekend goes by when we don't have a race at Bluemont Park. I recall in 1987

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Next Community Meeting

Thursday, September 6, 7:30, Barcroft Community House
Featuring Election of Officers. Speaker to be announced.



Barcroft News

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Next Deadline: September 15, 2018

BSCL Officers

President: Chris Siple, chris@bscl.org

Vice President: Gary Mason, gary@bscl.org

Treasurer: Jennifer Lis
jenlis@comcast.net

Recording Secy.: Vacant

Membership Secy.: Joanne Rodewald
joanne@bscl.org

Board Members: Barbara Clemens, Keith
Fred, Eric Parker, Daniel Weir

Contacts and Committees

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barcrofthouserental
@yahoo.com

Web: Daniel Weir,
webmaster@bscl.org

Fundraising: Chris Ditta

Landscaping: Scott Brinitzer, 703-892-0308

Traffic Committee: Vacant

4th of July Parade: Heather Meade and Jim Moran

Columbia Pike: Keith Fred, Charlie Smiroldo

Demeter House: Darlene Mickey

Parks: Shirley Gay

Signs: Doug Mueller

NCAC Rep.: Deborah Wood
wood_deborah@yahoo.com

NCAC Alternate: Neal Martin

Arlington Civic Fed. Delegates: Eric Harold, Chris-
topher Hoh, Chris Kupczyk, Randy Swart *Alter-*
nates: Joseph Knarich, David Michelson, Mark
Wigfield

President's Message

By Chris Siple

I hope everyone had a great summer. It will be memorable if only for the epic amounts of rain we got.

We resume our BSCL meetings on Sep-tember 6 at 7:30 p.m. The first order of business will be to elect next year's officers. All current incumbents (check out the column to the left) will be standing for re-election, and we have an opening for Recording Secretary. All who wish to stand for election are welcome to do so. The strength of a community lies in the willingness of individuals to contribute to its welfare. There will be many opportunities to do just that through the BSCL in the coming year. I hope to see you on the 6th! •

Advertising Manager Sought

A new volunteer Advertising Manager is needed for **Barcroft News**. This position takes minimal time each month, but makes a big difference to the success of this community newsletter.

Does this sound like the way you would like to contribute to your community?

Contact Barcroft News
Editor Alyssa Ford
Morel for more infor-
mation at 703-907-
9318 or
editor@bscl.org. •



Back to School at Barcroft Elementary

By Jennifer Weber, PTA President

Barcroft Elementary School is full of excited students and energized staff. School started on Monday, August 6 and we are already in the school routine. This year, our goals are to Work Hard, Get Smart and Have Fun!

We welcomed Gaby Rivas as our new Assistance Principal. Ms. Rivas was previously the Elementary English for Speakers of Other Languages/High Intensity Language Training (ESOL/HILT) Specialist for Arlington Public Schools. We are so excited to have Ms. Rivas as part of #TeamBarcroft!

We celebrated the start of the school year with a family picnic on August 10. Families all gathered at the school to share a meal (we even had a food truck!), play games, enjoy popsicles and jump in the

bounce house. For those who wonder how we feel about starting school in August, we had a school yard full of students, families and staff on a Friday evening!

Please add linking your grocery store cards to Barcroft to your back-to-school “to do” list. Harris Teeter VIP cards need to be relinked every year. Starting in September, you can link to Barcroft by asking them to link your card to 4238. We also continue to collect Box Tops. While those Box Tops may seem small, they add up to additional resources for our school.

You can connect with us at www.barcroftpta.org and @BarcroftEagles on both Twitter and Instagram. •



A school picnic on August 10 celebrating the start of the school year featured a food truck (above). The new goal for the year is to Work Hard, Get Smart and Have Fun! (below.)



AutumnFest at Glencarly Library Garden

By Alyssa Ford Morel

The annual AutumnFest at Glencarly Library Community Garden is back this year on Sunday, September 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is better than ever with more nature-related information and products. Located at 300 South Kensington Street in Arlington, this Master Gardener demonstration garden will once again host a family celebration of all that is Fall, including free herbal treats to taste, face painting, and herbal sachets to make and take home. A naturalist will be on hand with a critter, Tree Stewards, Master Gardeners and Audubon at Home will all be there to answer questions and provide helpful information.

This year AutumnFest also offers visitors

a chance to visit the oldest house in Arlington, the Ball-Sellers House, a farm home from the 1740s with a wonderful garden. Visitors to the Ball-Sellers home can create an herbal craft project and enjoy a tasty colonial treat.

Gardeners know that fall is a great time to plant, and can purchase locally native plants from Hill House Nursery, and pumpkins, pot-pourri and blooming plants and herbs from Country Gardens. Local vendors will also be on hand offering bee houses, honey, compost tea, handcrafted jewelry and T-shirts with artwork featuring butterflies and their host plants. The sale raises funds to keep the demonstration garden operating, and is free to the public. More information is available by calling 703-244-7309. ●

information is available by calling 703-244-7309. ●



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www.firstthoughtyoga.com

Woman's Club Bazaar

If you are interested in becoming a vendor for the Woman's Club bazaar to be held on Saturday, October 20th, please contact Pat Fisher at 7fisherp@mosn.com. The fee is \$50

for a table. Set up will be on Friday, October 19 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Bazaar will run from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. •



This summer, bring Lake Barcroft in.



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What will \$10 buy you around the world?

By Joanne Rodewald, Membership Secretary

- **In Brazil:** A bottle of mid-range wine.
- **In France:** A combo meal at McDonald's.
- **In Thailand:** An hour-long Thai foot massage.
- **In Ghana:** A nature walk in Kakum National Park.
- **In the United States:** a year's family membership in the Barcroft School and Civic League. An individual membership is only \$5. Both a great bargain!

If you haven't already paid your dues

this year, please send in your membership application today. Not only will your dues show your civic pride in our great neighborhood but they support our newsletter, 4th of July Parade and numerous other social activities throughout the year. The application form is available in this newsletter and online at our website at <http://www.bscl.org/membership>. You can check the membership roster on our website if you are not sure if you have already paid. ●

MAKE OUR SUCCESS WORK FOR YOU

COMPASS

Having moved to the neighborhood in March, we are proud to count ourselves among Barcroft's newest residents. We have met many of our neighbors already, including several new canine friends, and are excited to see what else this amazing community has to offer!

We are also thrilled to be able to offer our real estate expertise to Barcroft's many residents. Whether you are looking to buy your first home, sell for the first time, or you are a seasoned homeowner, we can't wait to work with you! Put our team's 70+ years of combined experience to work for you and see why we are consistently ranked among the nation's top real estate teams in both the Wall Street Journal and Real Trends.

-Ricky & Ryan

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2018 BSCL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Please complete the entire form and return with dues to: Barcroft School & Civic League
 c/o Treasurer
 811 South Taylor Street
 Arlington, VA 22204

Check one:
 New Member Application
 Membership Renewal

Individual Membership (\$ 5.00) \$ _____
 Couple/Family Membership (\$10.00) \$ _____
 Additional Tax Deductible Contribution to
 the Community House Conservation Fund \$ _____
Total (Please make check payable to BSCL) \$ _____
 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: _____ | |

(Crime Resistance, Parking, Traffic)

Arlington in TIME Magazine, *continued*

Continued from page 1

when we created the series of winter indoor track meets at Thomas Jefferson Community Center now directed by Potomac Valley Track Club. I recall also in 1998 when Arlington organized its Saturday morning youth track program at TJ; now youth training programs are available on both Saturday mornings in spring and Sunday afternoons in autumn. I've watched the growth and success of two of the largest footraces in the USA -- Army Ten Miler and Marine Corps Marathon (I've never missed one!) and the creation of many more races by many groups. We now have two in-

door marathons on TJ's track in June and December, and we host Northern Virginia Senior Olympics at TJ every September.

Add to that all the other sports -- baseball, basketball, bocce, football, pickleball, soccer, swimming, volleyball, and even a world-class ice-skating rink, and the bonds issues for parks and recreation every two years, overwhelmingly approved by the voters of Arlington, and it's no wonder we're ranked Number One in the nation in American Fitness Index rankings. See <http://www.americanfitnessindex.org/rankings> for our rank and the methodology. •

Sunday School - Starting September 9 10 am

If you are looking for engaging Bible based education about the Christian faith for your child, our experienced teacher fosters learning while incorporating active fun for children in kindergarten to 8th grade. We also provide a professionally staffed child care facility for younger children during the 10 am service.

Blessing of the Backpacks - September 9

During the 10 am service we will be blessing backpacks that the children are using for school this year. In addition to the blessing, each child will receive a pocket cross as well as the bag tag that says that it has been blessed.

Contribute School Supplies for Students

We invite everyone in the community to contribute school supplies for low-income kids in our neighborhood elementary schools. See St. John's website for information or **bring them to the September 10 GCA meeting.**

Family Game Night - September 15 7-9 pm

Bring a board, strategy or kid's game that you would like to play with old friends, neighbors, or new friends. We'll supply the hot chocolate and popcorn. Game nights are held the third Saturday of every month.

St. John's Episcopal Church

Sunday Worship Services 8 am and 10 am

415 S. Lexington Street Arlington, VA 22204

703-671-6834

stjohnsarlingtonva.org



Confessions of a Native Plant Addict

By the Plant NOVA Natives Campaign

Hi, my name is (redacted), and I am a native plant addict. I admit that I am powerless over planting. Like many before me, all it took was one plant to start me down this road. The orange-flowered Butterfly Weed that I bought years ago was soon covered with butterflies and is still going strong, joined by hundreds of companions, blooming in succession and supporting the whole spectrum of life throughout the year.

Why is this a problem, you may ask? For the birds and the frogs that rely on native species, there is no problem. But I had fallen so much in love with each plant that I could not bear to remove a single one. Controlled

beauty slipped into riotous exuberance. What would the neighbors think?

Luckily, I was pulled back from the brink by learning some techniques that allow any garden to fit into its neighborhood. Basic design principles, such as clustering plants in masses, confining plants that self-seed to certain areas, and edging gardens with a frame (for example by placing a row of Butterfly Weed in front of taller flowers), are all it took to get a grip. Together, these techniques are called Cues to Care that signal human intention and are pleasing to the suburban eye. Find them on the Plant NOVA Natives website at plantnovanatives.org, but watch out: this addiction is contagious! ●

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Greetings This New School Year From OSLS

This year on August 28th, we opened our doors for 66th time in Barcroft. Our school theme this year is “Be Transformed” based off of the Bible passage from Romans 12:2 “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good and pleasing and perfect will.”

We are continuing to accept applications for the 2018-2019 school year for

grades PreK through 8th. The Pre-kindergarten class will continue to be in session Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. We offer both before and after care. Stop by or call our school office if you have any questions or would like a tour. Check out our school website at osva.org.

We look forward to many activities throughout this new school year. Stay posted for upcoming events in which you can participate. •

Feedback Needed for Four Mile Run Valley Plans

By Keith Fred

If you use Four Mile Run Drive to get to the Shirlington dog park or to 395 be aware that the drafts of the Parks and Master Plans will take away 30 parking spaces and will reduce the travel lanes of the Drive to only one in each direction. There will be an open house to review the plans on September 5 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Building, 2700 South Taylor Street. You can also submit your feedback on line at: <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/plans-studies/four-mile-run-valley/4mrv-meeting-documents/4mrv-feedback/> •

Christine Hopkins

Real Estate Consultant
Your Barcroft Neighbor

ChristineHopkins.smarthomeprice.com
facebook.com/NoVaHouseHunter

  

Genevieve Concannon Broker

929 W Broad Street Falls Church Va 22046
(703)663-7171

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.

Morning Mows with Ethan Valencia: need a trim? Text Ethan Valencia at 703-254-9551 or email EthanAValencia@gmail.com. Also available for cat care.

Bikes and 3D Printers: What do they have in common? You want your bike ready to ride and I want to earn money for a 3D printer! Offering a Quick Tune-up for \$30, Bike fitting for \$20 or Cleaning for \$20. Call or email me for more details or other services. Zach 703-380-6227 or robbets4@gmail.com.

Neighborhood Graduate Student: Available for pet sitting and dog walking, babysitting, odd jobs, housework, etc. Abby Fram, 703-477-7550; email: abbyfram94@aol.com.

Barcroft Resident Dog Walker: I have space available for new clients. I have 14 years experience running my own dog walking/pet sitting business in Washington, and am excited to be in Arlington. Any and all pet services can be provided. Contact David McCreight at 202-413-9179 or thedoggiedaddy@yahoo.com.

Want to get that nagging project done? I am available to help with anything up high, dirty or that just needs some strength to get done. My name is Jeremiah and I am a tall, strong college student home on summer break looking to earn some cash to help with school. I will do most any job (with parent approval) that you may want done. Text 703-380-6227 or email robbets4@gmail.com. ●



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Please consider contributing a story or photo to Barcroft News. All residents in the Barcroft Community are welcome to submit items. The next deadline is September 15. Items should be directed to editor@bscl.org.



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

July's home sales continue to highlight the low inventory crunch buyers have faced for several consecutive months. Active listings were down 12% from July 2017.

Northern Virginia's available housing supply is struggling to keep up with buyers' demands. Pending sales (homes that are under contract and not yet closed), are lower than last year at the same time. With July gaining more than a 12% increase in new contracts compared to last year and new July pending contracts rising 2%, the prospect of a strong pickup for the housing market through the fall of this year remains possible for the NOVA housing market.

Companies have continued to relocate to Northern VA, offering a promising economic outlook. With speculation about the Amazon HQ2 landing in our region, is not shocking that July Northern Virginia housing activity reflects a decisive market.

Data below represents sales in Arlington and Fairfax counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax & Falls Church. While sales were down, average sales prices were higher in all three legs of the market:

- The average sales price of single-family homes rose 2.2% to \$811,162.
- The average sales price of attached homes, such as townhouses and rowhouses, rose 4.3% to \$439,500.
- The average sales price of condominiums rose 4.9% to \$346,060.

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