



May 2019

Barcroft News

Vol 116, Issue 9

Mature Trees are Valuable Trees

By TreeStewards of Arlington and Alexandria

Our region is booming. Arlington's population alone has grown over 7 percent since 2010 and is expected to grow another 20 percent by 2040. Homebuyers are drawn to our tree-lined streets, walkable neighborhoods, vibrant parks, convenient amenities, and diverse residents. However, many large, mature trees are being damaged or removed during the construction of new homes and condos. New construction that happens at the expense of trees threatens the unique character that makes our region such a desirable place to live in the first place.

It's no secret that trees add comfort and charm to our lives. They shade our decks, lower electricity bills, increase property val-

ues, and reduce flooding risks. According to the US Forest Service, mature trees can account for as much as 10 percent of assessed property value. And, 98 percent of realtors report that mature trees affect the sale of a home. Trees properly placed around a house also reduce heating and cooling costs by 20 to 50 percent. Planting new trees is great, yet when it comes to maximizing the incredible benefits of trees, nothing beats caring for existing mature trees.

The TreeStewards of Arlington and Alexandria have launched a campaign to help residents learn how to properly care for the mature trees on their properties. TreeStewards are available to present at civic associations, HOAs, churches or wherever there are

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Next Community Meeting

Thursday, May 2, 7:30, Barcroft Community House

Topic: Current and Future Barcroft Projects and Events



Barcroft News

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Next Deadline: May 30, 2019

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Columbia Pike: Keith Fred, Charlie Smiroldo

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Parks: Shirley Gay

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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

Ah, Spring at last! The neighborhood is alive with color (and pollen) and it's only going to get more lovely in May. I've made my first run to the plant nursery. There will be more.

It's been an honor and a pleasure to be BSCL President for the last two years. Please come to our May 2 meeting to elect officers for the coming year, including a replacement for me. We'll also review the improvements we've seen and the challenges in front of us. Join us at the meeting and contribute to forming the agenda of the BSCL for the coming years. The BSCL exists to serve the Barcroft community and your input is important! •

Shirlington Dog Park Clean-up and Fund Raiser

By Keith Fred

Mark your calendars for May 4 and 5 as the Shirlington Dog Park will have its spring cleanup and fund raising weekend. Come show your support by participating in the cleanup starting at 10 both mornings. They will also be taking donations both days to support the park and pay for all the supplies to maintain it. You can also make a tax-deductible donation any time at their web site: <http://www.ShirlingtonDogs.org>. •

Barcroft Elementary May Update

By Gretchen Odegard

Barcroft Elementary School Principal Judy Apostolico-Buck has been named Arlington Public Schools' 2019 Principal of the Year! Ms. AB joined Barcroft before the 2018



Principal Judy Apostolico-Buck

-2019 school year and her enthusiasm, high expectations, commitment to students and staff, and belief that school should also be fun has been transformational. We are delighted that others recognize what we already knew – that

Ms. AB is amazing!

Prior to joining Barcroft, Ms. AB served in a variety of positions with APS including a resource teacher for the gifted, assistant principal at Taylor, supervisor of Early Childhood Programs and principal of Ashlawn Elementary School.

A few quotes from the APS press release that sum it up, "Recognition as the Arlington Public School Principal of the Year both humbles and thrills me. I'm very humbled to receive this award and to represent all my equally deserving colleagues within APS," said Judy Apostolico-Buck. "Thirty-three years ago I received a coveted spot in APS for my student-teaching and fell in love with all that is Arlington: eager children, en-

gaged parents and, most exciting, a culture that encourages and demands innovation, pushing boundaries and accepting nothing short of excellence for all. To be selected as a leader within the APS community is truly an honor."

"Those of us who have had the honor to work under Judy's instructional leadership will often share how, because Judy believed in us, we went after our dreams. Judy is that beloved teacher who makes such an impact in one's life and then one's story is changed forever," said Barcroft Assistant Principal Gabby Rivas.

Ms. AB will be recognized by the Arlington School Board along with the 2019 Teacher of the Year and Support Employees of the Year on Tuesday, May 14, at Washington-Lee High School. Congratulations Ms. AB and thank you so much for leading Barcroft!

In addition to celebrating the recognition of Ms. AB, the spring also includes many activities at Barcroft. Family Fitness Night is April 25, the fourth grade music concert is May 2 and Author's Night with book swap will be May 9. The popular BOGO Book Fair will be held April 29 to May 3. We invite everyone to join us at Café Sazon on May 23 where 10 percent of sales between 4 and 8 p.m. will go to Barcroft PTA. Make sure to mention you are supporting Barcroft! •

Mature Trees are Valuable Trees, continued

Continued from page 1

trees! Simply contact us through www.TreeStewards.org and a volunteer will respond.

"As homeowners and home buyers, we don't have a lot of direct say over big development projects or transportation upgrades. But we do have control over what happens in our yards and to our trees. We can choose to live in neighborhoods with lush, tree-lined streets. And we can choose to take care of the mature trees that we have," explains Nora Palmatier, TreeStewards member.

Mature trees need some basic care. As trees age, a branch here or there may need to be pruned or removed to keep the tree healthy and strong. But, just as you wouldn't amputate an arm because of a cut finger, the whole tree doesn't need to come down just because a branch has gone bad. The TreeStewards recommend following these simple steps to keep mature trees in good health.

1. Remove ivy from your tree.
2. Remove mulch that is piled up around the base of the tree. Keep a 3-inch circle around the base of the

tree mulch-free.

3. Construction projects are one of the biggest threats to mature trees. If you are considering construction anywhere in your yard, always contact a certified arborist first so you can avoid damage to tree roots. Find one at GoodTreeCare.com

Caring for mature trees not only protects the tree, it safeguards property values and the character of our neighborhoods. It ensures that we can all continue to enjoy the many benefits of these gentle giants. A certified arborist can provide reliable, clear information and directions for keeping your trees healthy for years to come. Find out more information on tree care at www.TreeStewards.org.

The TreeStewards are a volunteer organization dedicated to the stewardship of a sustainable urban forest in our region. Membership requires graduation from an initial training course, annual continuing education and volunteer service. There are currently 68 members who provided over 4,200 hours of service in 2017, or over \$99,000 worth of work. Last year the group cared for more than 3,700 trees and educated over 2,550 people. ●





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Dues News: May Update

By Joanne Rodewald, Membership Secretary

Finally it feels like the weather realizes it is spring with summer fast approaching. I find Barcroft such a beautiful environment, with supportive neighbors and many special events that make this a unique place to live. I hope you do too. I was encouraged last month that many of you have renewed your membership in the Barcroft

School and Civic league with an additional two “new” families recently added to our ranks. If you haven’t already sent in your dues, won’t you join us? Check our roster at

<http://www.bscl.org/membership>) and if your name isn’t listed, please send in your payment. For only \$5 per individual or \$10 for a family membership you can feel good about showing your support for our community. ●



Is it Amazon?

The Arlington market is HOT right now! Compared to last year, the average list price has seen a 21%* increase, and our median increase is close to 14%*. Is this the “Amazon Effect?” It’s hard to say for sure, but what we do know is that these numbers are great news for those looking to sell their homes right now.

To celebrate this booming market, we’d like to share with you our team’s famous lychee martini recipe. It’s always a huge hit at our client parties, and we can guarantee it’ll be one at your Memorial Day barbecue as well!

1. Prepare martini glass with 1 canned lychee
 2. Combine 2 parts gin, 3 parts lychee liqueur, 1 part lychee juice (saved from can) shake or stir
 3. Add lime juice to taste
- (Can be made individually or in large batches as a party cocktail)

To schedule an appointment and learn about the advantages of listing or purchasing with us, as well as a free market analysis, contact Rick and Ryan today.

We love helping our Barcroft neighbors!
Rick & Ryan

*Information from BrightMLS



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Treatment for Spring Fever Available at May 5 Glencarlynn

The itch to acquire beautiful plants and nature-related products can be met at the annual Spring Celebration and Plant Sale at Glencarlynn Library Community Garden on May 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Located at 300 South Kensington Street in Arlington, this Master Gardener demonstration garden will be offering a wide range of plants cultivated on site, as well as featuring native plants from Hill House Nursery and blooming plants and herbs from Country Gardens.

Also on offer this year will be hand-crafted containers suitable for potting, hand-made reusable shopping bags, compost tea, local honey, and T-shirts with artwork featuring

butterflies and their host plants.

“Some of these items are just right for Mother’s Day,” says Elaine Mills, one of the coordinators at the garden. “Come and find a beautiful plant or treat for yourself or a special woman in your life.”

The sale also offers Master Gardeners on site to consult on garden-related questions and to help choose the right plant for the right place. The sale raises funds to keep the demonstration garden operating, and is free to the public. More information is available by emailing glencarlynnlibrarygarden@gmail.com, or calling 703-244-7309. •

St. John's Spring Tea

Saturday, May 11 - 1 - 3 pm



Enjoy scones, sandwiches, an array of desserts, fine teas, and a complimentary glass of champagne while relaxing to piano music!
Adults \$20 - Children 12 and under \$10



Book Club Tues. May 7 - *The Last Runaway* by Tracy Chevalier - 7:30 pm

Family Game Night Sat. May 18 - Hot chocolate and popcorn provided - **Free** - 7 - 9 pm

All are welcome to all services and activities!

St. John's Episcopal Church



Sunday Worship Services

8 am and 10 am

Sunday Education (Sept—June)

Adult Seminar 9 am — Youth 10 am

*Would you like to talk with someone about an issue or concern in your life?
Our pastor, Ann Barker, is available for conversation. Call to schedule an appointment.*

415 S. Lexington Street Arlington, VA 22204

703-671-6834

stjohnsarlingtonva.org

Appreciation of Barcroft Volunteers

Editor's note: This article was submitted for last month's issue but inadvertently left out.

By Teresa Saunders

Barcroft is a wonderful place to live. Most of you will agree. April was Volunteer Appreciation Month and I want to thank the many residents who volunteer their time to making this neighborhood such a great place to live.

The box on Page 2 of the monthly newsletter tells us of many Barcroft residents who volunteer for our community. This newsletter is compiled and edited by a volunteer, Alyssa Ford Morel. Jack Mayer handles the advertisements. Not listed are the 29+ individuals who are involved in getting the newsletter to

your door.

The BSCL Officers handle matters big and small. Various committees help keep things running smoothly here in our parcel of Arlington. Let's not forget the Snow Brigade and the many volunteers who help out with events like the annual Fourth of July parade and Spaghetti dinners, etc. Lastly, Barbara and Randy Swart deserve recognition for all they do and have done for our community. I would like to personally thank all for their efforts. If you see one of the many residents who contribute to our lovely neighborhood, perhaps you can thank them for their contributions. •



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The advertisement features a photograph of a bright, modern living room with a dark brown sectional sofa, a white fireplace, and large windows. The ceiling has a coffered design with recessed lighting.

Greetings this May from OSLS

By OSLS National Junior Honor Society

On May 14 and May 30, our school will be hosting Coffee Preview Days from 9 to 10 a.m. Come for a cup of coffee and an introduction to Our Savior Lutheran School. Meet school leaders and get a glimpse of OSLS in action. Parents will share why they chose Our Savior! We hope you'll come see why our school is often referred to as a "hidden gem" in south Arlington. Our Savior Lutheran School serves our students as a foundation for life. We dedicate ourselves to a Christ-centered education, in partnership with the home, to address the needs of the whole child.

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 23, our school choirs along with our younger students will be celebrating the end of the school year with a spring concert. The concert will be held at Our Savior Lutheran Church, located right across the parking lot from our school at 7 p.m. After the concert, everyone will have the opportunity to view Science Fair projects downstairs in our gymnasium. We hope you can join us.

We hope everyone has a great Me-

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



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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.

Getting motivated this summer to get that nagging project done? I am available as of June 1st 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.

Dull knives? Affordable kitchen knife sharpening: With my three years of knife and tool sharpening experience and competitive rates, razor sharp knives and tools could be yours without ever having to leave your home! Cost is one dollar per inch. (\$5 pick-up/delivery will be added for orders fewer than 4 knives/tools). \$35 deal for a knife set of 8. Knives accepted are: standard kitchen knives, serrated knives, and blender blades. (please no Japanese, or particularly expensive knives) Tools included are: scissors, hand planes, chisels, axes, and pocket knives. For more information or service contact Zach at 703-380-6227, or email at robbets4@gmail.com.

The 7th street trail entrance is ready! Is your bike? 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.

Private Drum Lessons in Barcroft: All ages/levels. Local musician offers instruction in Barcroft home studio on 3rd Street South. Unique, fully equipped studio with two full drum sets. Multiple styles--rock, jazz, classical, musical theatre. Complimentary 30-minute lessons or consultation. References provided. Email Mitchell at mitchbassmusic@gmail.com. •



Barcroft's local farmers market

**Barrett Elementary School
4401 N. Henderson Road**

<https://lubberunfarmersmarket.org/>

Saturdays, April – November

8 a.m. – 12 noon

***Buy Fresh • Buy Local
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Barcroft School and Civic League
800 South Buchanan Street
Arlington, VA 22204

How's the Market?

While many markets across the US have slowed, Arlington's market is still on fire, and buyers are competing over the best selections of what is available. The short supply of single family homes has remained lower this year compared to historical trends. Prices have increased — it's a brutal market out there for buyers right now. There are still bidding wars in many sectors of the D.C. Metro market although Arlington remains one of the hottest areas. The homes attracting bidding wars typically fall into two recurring categories — total fixer uppers priced low and properly priced homes that have been updated and show in pristine condition. Today's buyers are highly discerning and prefer a home that is totally updated and move in ready condition regardless of its age. After pushing their maximum buying power in a high cost area, they don't have much cash left for improvements, and they are anxious about taking on projects for which they know little about. Buyers also seek locations that fit their lifestyle (close to public transportation, their job, shopping or children's schools.)

The fixer uppers are usually snapped up by builders and investors who can pay cash.

Is a move on the horizon for you? For sellers, we offer guidance on preparing your home for the market, walking through with our preferred contractors to provide you with repair estimates. We can help owners manage the jobs as most people are busy and/or don't have the expertise to manage a remodeling project. Our strategies and market knowledge help to position a seller with winning outcome.

Let's get together to discuss your situation and discover how you can save time and money!

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