



Barcroft News

January 2020

Vol 117, Issue 5

Barcroft Chat List Moves to Groups.io

By Mark Wigfield, Chat List Moderator

On Monday, Dec. 2, 2019, Barcroft moved its 19-year-old chat list, bsclchat, from Yahoogroups to Groups.io. The move was precipitated by Yahoo's announcement that it would no longer support many aspects of the listserv. For Barcroft, the deal-breaker was the new "no attachments" rule, since we like to post photos of parades, curb couches, and more. Happily, the move to Groups.io went smoothly. I and everyone else I've talked to likes the new service, and bsclchat didn't miss a beat. To subscribe, send an email to: subscribe@bsclchat.groups.io.

Please know that the new group offers some features that are useful for managing your mail or your discussion topic. Some are the same as on Yahoo, but actually

work. Many of these features can only be activated or used from the web interface: <https://bsclchat.groups.io>. It's much better and easier to use than the Yahoogroups erstwhile web interface. Log in using the e-mail address you use for groups.io, create a password, and you're in. Here are some highlights -- and more information is available by clicking "help" at the top right-hand side of the bsclchat.groups.io page:

- **Digests:** you can consolidate e-mail into three varieties of digests. Or choose to get no-email at all and read messages on the web. You must make these changes from the web.
- You can also choose e-mail option "special notices only" which would be reserved for

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Next Community Meeting

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

Topic: 2020 Census and New Chat List



Barcroft News

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topher Hoh, Gary Mason, Randy Swart *Alternates:*
Joseph Knarich, Mark Wigfield Chris Kupczyk,

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President's Message

By Gary Mason

Happy New Year! It is almost hard to believe we've come upon 2020 already. But without further delay recognition certainly is due to the many of our fellow Barcrofters whose efforts ensured yet another spectacular BSCL Holiday Party on December 5. Special kudos go out to Katherine Zucca for organizing the event, the band (Michael Nazaretz, Maureen Locke, Barbara Swart, Randy Swart and Steve Wilson) whose talents filled the Community House with the music of the season, Dan Kunber as the master of ceremonies and ever-jovial entertainer, to everyone who brought food and beverages to share, and last – but certainly not least – Santa Claus who paid us an early December visit. A wonderful time was had by all who could attend!

Someone else also deserves special recognition for his largely behind the scenes efforts on behalf of BSCL's members: Mark Wigfield. Mark has spent countless hours over the past couple of months working to prepare for and, beginning in mid-December, transition our chat list to Groups.io in response to Yahoo's decision to sunset its Yahoo Groups discussion board. Please look elsewhere in this issue of Barcroft News for information Mark is sharing

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Update from Barcroft Elementary

By Beth Ragnauth

This time of year keeps most folks busy, and it's no different for our Barcroft Elementary students and families. In early December, we were delighted by a couple fun student performances. The fifth graders held their winter music concert, and the second graders presented the story of Stone Soup to their families followed by a soup dinner. The students did great work, as did their teachers who helped them prepare and perform.



A presentation of "Stone Soup" by the second grade.

We also held a fun book fair and enjoyed some evening shopping hours with hot cocoa and cookies. In addition to buying some great books for home, many families purchased books from teachers' wish lists for the whole class to read. We wrapped up 2019 with a "spirit week" full of theme days like the ever-popular pajama day and an all-school sing-along.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who donated to our Barcroft Holiday Shop. Your support helped provide toys and coats to 50 Barcroft Elementary families who can use a little help this holiday season.

In the new year, we will have two more opportunities to support our neighborhood school: a fundraiser night at Sloppy Mama's BBQ on January 28, and an online auction beginning at the end of January – more details on both will be shared via the neighborhood listserv. Happy Holidays! ●

Chat List Move, continued

Continued from page 1

official notices by the BSCL. Warning: this probably won't be used much, but you can still read everything on the web.

- **Hashtags:** You can assign a topic a hashtag using the #symbol: #crime, #curbalert, #howtousegroupsio, etc. You can do this in the subject line of an e-mail, but the web has all the existing hashtags for you to choose. You can also create new ones there. Hashtags can be used for searches and to lump similar topics together. Please use them!
- **Topics:** If the latest chat e-mail is about groceries, and you want to write about traffic, click on "new topic" at the bottom of the e-mail to start a new chain. Please do this! Topics are also searchable and have other functions, such as:
- **Muting:** you can leave conversations by clicking on "mute topic" at the bottom of the e-mail. You can also mute hashtags.
- **Reply all, reply to sender:** please reply only to sender if your reply is only relevant to the sender, not the entire group (like the logistics of picking up a curb couch). The reply options are available in a hyperlink at the bottom of the e-mail, or on the web by clicking "private" at the right-hand side of the message reply window. If you get the group through Out-

look, using "reply" in Outlook will still reply to the whole group. "Reply all" is the default setting of our group.

- **Polls, calendars, databases:** these are all available. I have put the BSCL meeting calendar up. Will we use these other functions? Time will tell.

Once again, to subscribe, send an email to: subscribe@bsclchat.groups.io. You must be a Barcroft resident! I will be at the January 2 meeting to talk about the new group. I will try to answer questions, but I'm learning just like you are.... •

Christine Hopkins

Your Barcroft Neighbor &
Real property Adviser
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President's Message, continued

Continued from page 2

about this change and come to the January 2 monthly BSCL meeting where he will be making a presentation on Groups.io that you may find helpful as you make the transition yourself.

Just in case you missed it Metro released its preliminary concepts from the Blue/Orange/Silver Capacity and Reliability Study (known as the "BOS Study") on December 5. Among the concepts being advanced under the heading of a new Metro Silver Line connection south of I-66 is a new heavy rail extension between the existing Pentagon and West

Falls Church stations that would follow Columbia Pike. While this Metro planning effort is far from its conclusion this and other concepts under consideration have an array of implications for Barcroft's residents. I'd encourage anyone interested in the Metro planning process and opportunities to provide input into the BOS Study to check out <https://www.wmata.com/initiatives/plans/BOS-Study.cfm#BOS> at their earliest convenience.

Among other issues BSCL is working on are those concerning parking and the County's Residential Permit Parking program,

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Dues News — Time to Renew Your Membership

By Joanne Rodewald, Membership Secretary

Thank you to all the households that supported our neighborhood by joining the BSCL last year. As I am writing this newsletter article, we had 214 individuals and families who helped make Barcroft a lively, caring and active community with your dues payment and donations to the Community House. Eleven families are even leading the way and have pre-paid their 2020 dues.

If you can't remember or are unsure if you paid ahead, check with me (joanne@bscl.org) to avoid duplicate payment. Dues are still only \$5 per individual or

\$10 for a family membership. The new application form is provided with this newsletter or online at our website <https://www.bscl.org/membership>.

You may ask, "Why is it important that I become a dues paying member?" The many events happening in the neighborhood such as the festivities at the 4th of July picnic and Christmas party, and other activities including the publication of this newsletter, and maintenance of the Community House and grounds are supported by our dues.

Wishing everyone peace, love and laughter in the new year. •

Staged For Success!

In a world of search engines, effective staging gives the appearance of a well-maintained home while enticing potential buyers to tour, turning online browsing into promising foot traffic! This reduces days on market and gets you the highest price for your home! Throughout the DC metro area, Trent & Co. is known for our eye-catching style. Let our team's experience and support take your listing to the next level this spring for a fraction of the cost of traditional stagers!

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*To view some of our currently staged listings, visit www.trentandco.com

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We love helping our Barcroft neighbors!



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Seen at Barcroft's Annual Holiday Party...



The Annual Holiday Party was held on Thursday, December 5 at the Barcroft Community House. Barcrofters of all ages and one notable non-Barcrofter attended..

Photos by Gary Mason (left) and Randy Swart (below and right.) •



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Holiday Season Greetings from OSLS

By OSLS National Junior Honor Society

We wish you a Happy 2020 and hope that your Christmas and holiday season was safe and full of fun. We are enjoying these winter days and all of the students are keeping their fingers crossed for lots and lots of snow!

This month in January, Our Savior will be holding a Geography Bee for our 4th through 8th graders. Students right now are preparing and getting excited. We can't wait to see who knows their Geography the best.

Our Savior Lutheran School is holding an Open House for all prospective students and their parents on Saturday, January 25, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. At that time, applications will be accepted for the 2020-2021 school year from grades Pre K through 8th. This is an opportunity to tour the school, meet the teachers, see the classrooms, and ask questions.

OSLS was established in 1952 and has been providing an affordable, quality Christian education in Barcroft ever since. With small classes, our dedicated teachers are able to entirely devote themselves to our diverse student body. We are fully accredited and licensed, and also offer before and after school care. OSLS is non-discriminatory in enrollment and we welcome the chance to show you around our school if you are look-

ing for a Christian education for your child.

We are located at 825 South Taylor Street. •

President's Message, continued

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vehicles traveling at excessive speed on several of our neighborhood streets, and opportunities for recycling glass containers no longer acceptable in the County's blue recycling bins. Look for updates on these matters in the February and March issues of Barcroft News or at those monthly meetings. •



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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.

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.

Get it dug! – My husband hates gyms but realized digging is a great workout! Have something you have always wanted dug up but never get to? He is happy to come by and give you a price. Small to semi-large projects without strict deadlines are the best. Call 703-380-6227 or email Robbets4@gmail.com for Betsy, his scheduling secretary.

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.robbets4@gmail.com or 703-380-6227.

For Sale: Barely used Nordic Track Pro ski exerciser with Heart monitor \$350. - o.b.o. Pro-Form 745CS barely used treadmill with heart monitor \$400. - o.b.o. If interested, please contact Florence@floindex@aol.com.

Getting motivated to get that nagging project done? I am available December 9 to January 10 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 winter 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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Barcroft School and Civic League
800 South Buchanan Street
Arlington, VA 22204

Here are some predictions for the US housing market in 2020 from realtor.com:

- A relatively stagnant market with 1.8% fewer sales of existing homes.
- A national median price increase of only 0.8%.
- 25 of 100 top US cities will experience a drop in average home prices.
- Millennials will account for over 50% of home purchases for the first time ever.
- GenXers will follow with 38% of purchases, trailed by Boomers at 17%.
- Mortgage rates will remain steady peaking at 3.85%.

Good news for mortgages! Loan limits in 2020 have been increased. Conforming loans are now up to \$510,400, high balance conforming loans are up to \$765,600.

VA loans, 100% financing up to \$1,200,000 (with full entitlement). Jumbo loans are now being offered with 5% down payment up to \$1,500,000.

The spring real estate market usually starts in mid to late January, and hopefully there will be some decent housing choices coming on in the 1st quarter (normally a great time to be a seller on the market).

With the typical buyer seeking move-in ready homes, making cosmetic repairs can yield a much higher price. Compass *Concierge* is a new program that covers the upfront costs of getting your home ready for the market - helping it sell faster, and for a higher price. With my expertise, I can help you line up contractors, assist in managing the process, and you pay nothing upfront for repairs and renovations until closing. Contact me for more details!

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