



February 2020

# Barcroft News

Vol 117, Issue 6

## Noticed Around Barcroft

**By Louise Shutler**

Here are some things I have noticed around Barcroft...

- A lot of the bamboo at the bend on Buchanan is down/lower – thanks to whomever does that!
- Some of our neighborhood rose bushes have rose rosette disease, a condition that causes roses to grow strangely deformed stems, leaves, and flowers. The disease itself is a virus, carried by a tiny mite from plant to plant. Look it up – I took out two bushes infected



*The densely tangled “witch’s broom” in the middle of this rose bush is rose rosette disease.*

with it because you can’t really rid your bush of it.

- A good number of Little Libraries on our streets!

- The deer are coming even in the winter and I am told they saunter down the street at night. Be on the look-out when driving.

- Our dogs and their owners are being pretty thoughtful. Two things though: 1. Please try to have your dog skip a stop at Barcroft Elementary, the kids walk all over the area and we don’t want kids

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## Next Community Meeting

Thursday, February 6, 7:30, Barcroft Community House

Topic: 2020 Census and Q&A with Arlington Police



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**Next Deadline: February 15, 2020**

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## President's Message

**By Gary Mason**

As of this writing mid-January has brought us an early mid-winter warmup with several days closing in on 70 degrees; some of our fellow Barcrofters have even been seen out walking their dog or running in shorts. February, in particular, will tell us whether this winter has anything more in store for us.

Mark Wigfield's article in the January Barcroft News and presentation at the January meeting on use of our new Groups.io platform for the BSCL chat list were very popular. If you haven't made the transition to Groups.io please review his article in the January issue. As for myself, when seeking to respond only to the sender (versus the entire chat list membership) I'm still trying to get used to NOT hitting reply on my email window but instead selecting the "Reply to Sender" hyperlink at the bottom of the message itself. (Those already on the chat list are well aware of my propensity here – of which I beg your patience.)

You may also have noticed, especially within a few blocks of Columbia Pike in the southern part of the neighborhood, Car2Go and Free2Move free-floating car-sharing vehicles parked on residential streets. They appeared in modest numbers beginning in mid-December 2019. According to a County spokesperson their arrival to Barcroft is in response to the new customer

*Continues on page 5*

# Update from Barcroft Elementary

**By Beth Ragnauth**

Barcroft Elementary School students and teachers enjoyed a two-week winter break and returned to school in the new year refreshed and ready to learn.

The fourth graders had a busy second week back at school, with a fun field trip to visit the NHL Black Hockey History mobile museum, followed two days later by their winter music concert.



*Fourth graders presenting their winter music concert.*

Barcroft families of all grades are also looking forward to a “Bedtime and Books” evening at the end of January – stories, book chats and snacks to celebrate reading; our Barcroft Eagles do love books!

The Barcroft School community is excited about our upcoming Snowball Stride 5k on Saturday, February 29, which is a great fundraiser for the school and a fun event! The course is right here in the neighborhood – starting at the school and heading down to the trail along Four Mile Run. All are welcome to join – keep an eye on the BSCL Chat emails for sign-up details! ●

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## Barcrofter on History Panel

On Thursday, February 13, from 7 to 9 p.m., as part of Arlington's celebration of 100 years of being called Arlington, there will be a panel discussion at the Central Library focused on Arlington's African American history. Barcrofter Joan Mulholland will be a panel member. She grew up in Arlington and was part of the group that held sit-ins to end segregation at the lunch counters. ●

# Coffee and Conversation Series

Join Arlington Neighborhood Village's "Coffee and Conversation" series. Everyone is invited to join the conversation. Bring your own coffee, learn interesting things about our community and hear from the speakers listed below. These events are on Wednesdays, February 5 to 26 from 10 to 11 a.m. at Langston Brown Community Center, 2121 North Culpeper Street.

- February 5: Rosa Parks' personal reflections as a civil rights activist are shared by Susan Reyburn, Senior Writer-Editor at the Library of Congress
- February 12: Join Sydney Palinkas, El-

derSAFE Center Community Educator, in an interactive discussion of elder abuse, fraud and ways we can support one another

- February 19: The Falls Church Tin Man and Arlington's Magnolia Bog are just a couple of the overlooked places in Arlington and Falls Church explored by local journalist Matt Blitz
- February 26: Certified Financial Planners Nick Harris and Mike Carey will discuss required minimum distributions (RMDs) and qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) from IRAs

## **Volunteer with Arlington Neighborhood Village:**

ANV welcomes volunteers of all ages and interests to help us provide services and support to older adults who want to age in their own homes and community. We do our best to provide service opportunities that offer a personally enriching and meaningful volunteer experience. If you want to learn more, visit our website at [www.arlnvil.org/volunteer](http://www.arlnvil.org/volunteer) or email us at [volunteer@arlnvil.org](mailto:volunteer@arlnvil.org)



For more information or to learn more about the benefits of becoming a member of Arlington Neighborhood Village, call the ANV office at (703) 509-8057 or visit [www.arlnvil.org](http://www.arlnvil.org) . •

## **Christine Hopkins**

Your Barcroft Neighbor &  
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## President's Message, continued

*Continued from page 2*

base afforded by the nearby Centro and Trafalgar Flat residential developments on the Pike.

Car2Go has been operating in the County since testing began in 2015 and although its corporate sponsors are withdrawing from the U.S. market at the end of February, its successor's Free2Move vehicles began arriving in the neighborhood in December. Commercial car-sharing is a major element of the County's Master Transportation Plan. (FYI – Car2Go and Free2Move vehicles can't be parked in underground parking structures because they are managed using satellite com-

munications.) More info on Free2Move can be found at: <https://www.free2move-carsharing.com/>.

Hopefully everyone has their snow shovel and other winter gear dusted off just in case winter brings its seasonal worst sometime in the coming weeks.

Finally, BSCL is still in hopes of volunteers coming forward for our recording secretary and Barcroft News co-publisher openings. Both of these roles are key to our neighborhood organization. If you are interested in either (or both) please contact me at [gary@bscl.org](mailto:gary@bscl.org). •

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# Dues News — New Option to Join or Renew

By Joanne Rodewald, Membership Secretary

If you are a member of the Barcroft Chat List you may have already seen the recent post by Daniel Weir that we now have an additional option for payment of our BSCL



dues. In addition to sending in a hard copy of the membership form with a cash or check payment, you can join or renew your membership online on our

website at <https://www.bscl.org/> membership. Click on the "Join and Renew Online" link in the Membership Resources menu on the right of the page to complete the process there.

You may still join the traditional way by completing the 2020 application form included in this issue of the newsletter and sending it and your payment to our treasurer. Dues are still only \$5 per individual or \$10 for a family membership. On behalf of the BSCL Officers and Board Members, I thank you for your support. •

## Barcroft Real Estate Market Update!

Happy New Year! With 2019 behind us, we are excited to share these numbers with you! We compared real estate sales from 2018 and 2019 in Barcroft with those of Arlington. Our neighborhood's property values have seen significant growth compared to the rest of Arlington!

SINGLE FAMILY HOMES					
	Number Sold 2018	Number Sold 2019	Average Sale Price 2018	Average Sale Price 2019	% Market Increase
Barcroft	34	34	\$735,787	\$815,762	<b>+10.87%</b>
Arlington	1,060	1,002	\$1,026,963	\$1,080,483	<b>+5.21%</b>
TOWNHOMES					
	Number Sold 2018	Number Sold 2019	Average Sale Price 2018	Average Sale Price 2019	% Market Increase
Barcroft	11	5	\$597,627	\$639,600	<b>+7.02%</b>
Arlington	553	479	\$632,371	\$642,283	<b>+1.56%</b>

Source: Bright MLS

To learn about listing or purchasing with one of the area's top producing teams, as well as a free market analysis, please contact Rick and Ryan today.

We love helping our Barcroft neighbors!



Trent Heminger  
Team Leader; Trent & Co  
Executive VP; Compass



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# 2020 BSCL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL

January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020

You may check the current roster at <https://www.bscl.org/membership>. If you don't see your name listed please complete the entire form and return with dues to:

Barcroft School & Civic League, c/o Treasurer  
811 South Taylor Street, Arlington, VA 22204

<b>Check one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> New Member Application <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Renewal
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<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership (\$ 5.00)	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Couple/Family Membership (\$10.00)	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Tax Deductible Contribution to the Community House Conservation Fund	\$ _____
<b>Total</b> (Please make check payable to BSCL)	\$ _____

Check Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address (s): \_\_\_\_\_

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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> )      |

Serve on a Committee -- Specify which: \_\_\_\_\_

(*Crime Resistance, Parking, Traffic*)

Other (*Please Specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

# Inside Out Gardens

## ***By the Plant NOVA Natives Campaign***

Before we turn our thoughts to spring, let us take this opportunity to plan for next year's long stretch of cold and gray. Does your landscape give you pleasure in the winter, as you sit inside looking out? Or is it only designed for curb appeal, with the plants crammed up against the foundation so that all you see from your window is the lawn and the street? Or perhaps the shrubs that were installed with the house are now overgrown and blocking your view altogether. A little rearranging can give you both curb appeal and a vibrant vista from your breakfast table or living room.

The first thing to consider is that movement brings a landscape to life. That can be provided by wind bending the grasses but also by birds and other critters that are making use of your yard. A bird feeder can help you obtain that experience, but to actually support the wildlife, you need to provide them with the plants they need for shelter and food for both themselves and their babies. With rare exceptions, baby songbirds cannot eat seeds – they require insects, which themselves require the plants with which they evolved. In other words, to support life, your yard needs native plants.

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If you take out any overgrown shrubs and plant new ones fifteen or twenty feet away from the window, from the inside the effect can be as if you added on a room to your house. Native shrubs can be arranged into a living backdrop where birds entertain

you as they eat and shelter. Winterberry, Chokeberry and Elderberry are examples of shrubs that provide colorful berries to feed the birds. Multi-stemmed Serviceberries, with their lovely white flowers followed by berries that are also edible to humans, provide a



place for birds to sit while they eat the seeds from your feeder. Native Heucheras and evergreen native ferns and sedges can fill the lower levels, which are also the perfect place to include some small shade-loving species that might get lost in a flower garden bed. Partridgeberry, for example, lies flat on the ground and has adorable red berries from November to January. Not as tiny but still quite small, the spring

*Continued on page 10*



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## Inside Out Gardens, continued

*Continued from page 9*

ephemerals start to emerge just when you need relief from winter.

Spring ephemerals are shade plants that emerge and quickly flower in late winter and spring and then fade away once the trees leaf out. If you plant them in the woods, you will be mimicking nature, but you may miss the whole show. How often do you walk in your woods in cold or rainy weather? On the other hand, if you also tuck them under your deciduous shrubs out front where you can spot these treasures from your window or as you walk by on the way to your car, you can enjoy them the same way we appreciate snow drops, crocuses and daffodils as they emerge in succession. One of the earliest harbingers of spring is Round-lobed Hepatica, whose cute three-lobed leaves peek out in March to be followed by pale purple flowers. Another plant with intriguing leaves is Bloodroot, which starts to flower by late March, around the time that the pink and white flowers of Virginia Spring Beauty begin their long bloom period, providing an important source of nectar to bees as they first awaken. The blossoms of Virginia Bluebells may occasionally start to appear that early as well. A whole troop of other ephemerals burst forth in April. You can find details about spring

ephemerals and other native plants on the Plant NOVA Natives website, as well as information about where to buy them. •



*A mockingbird guards a native Winterberry at the Glencarlyn Library Garden that he has claimed as his winter territory.*

*Photo by Gerald Martineau.*

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## Women's Club Meeting

On Monday, February 3 at 1 p.m., the Woman's Club of Arlington will host Sharon Tindall in her discussion of quilts in the Civil War. Ms. Tindall will explain how quilts are a link to the past. All are welcome. The club is located at 700 South Buchanan. •

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## Noticed Around Barcroft, cont.

*Continued from page 1*

tracking "stuff" into the carpeted classrooms, homes..., 2. Please take your dog poop to your own trash.

**Author's Note:** *This is the first of what I hope will be a recurring column about items of note spotted around the neighborhood. If something catches your eye, please send me a note at [louiseshutler@outlook.com](mailto:louiseshutler@outlook.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](mailto: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 [rob-bets4@gmail.com](mailto:rob-bets4@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](mailto: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 [rob-bets4@gmail.com](mailto:rob-bets4@gmail.com) or 703-380-6227. ●

*Looking for  
a way to contribute?*

*Your Barcroft neighborhood  
needs volunteers to fill two  
important roles:*

- ☞ *Recording Secretary*
- ☞ *Barcroft News Co-Publisher*

*Want to learn more about either?  
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Barcroft School and Civic League  
President Gary Mason at  
[gary@bscl.org](mailto:gary@bscl.org).*

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

Locally and nationally, low inventory, especially in the starter home price range has been an issue. A recent Urban Institute report reveals that a lot of people are living in homes less valuable than they can afford. This puts pressure on the inventory for people at the lower income spectrum.

The average home price in the United States is \$362,700.

The NOVA Region's average price was \$625,860 in November 2019, up 8.38% compared to 1 year ago. There were 1,430 home sales in 11/2019, down 5.11% from 2018.

For Arlington County, sales were down in 11/2019, while the average sales price for all property types was \$726,927 - up 11.3% from a year ago. The median price for a single-family home in Arlington was \$1,051,000, up 25% from 11/2018.

Inventory in Arlington remained the market's major issue, with the 211 homes on the market at the end of November representing a decline of 40% from the 349 properties available a year before. More than half of the homes that went to closing in

November spent less than 10 days on the market before selling.

Barcroft's average sales price in 2019 was \$802,700, up from the average sales price of \$683,882 in 2018.

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