



April 2020

Barcroft News

Vol 117, Issue 8

For Those at High Risk of COVID-19

By Judi Heichelheim

At press time, the US has topped 4,200 cases of COVID-19, schools are closing, event gathering has been limited and many of us are starting to work from home in an effort to slow down the spread of this pandemic. Virginia has 52 cases, 13 of which are in Arlington. Cases are likely to grow. Social distancing can help to slow the spread and flatten the curve, which means our health system will be better able to respond and buys time for those working on testing, treatments and vaccines.

While our data is still quite limited due to the lack of testing, for now we have to rely on non-pharmaceutical approaches, in-

cluding hand washing (20 seconds with soap), staying home if you are sick at all, and social distancing.

Also, you have probably heard those at higher risk are those aged over 60, and those with cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, or cancer. If you fall into any of these high risk categories, this

If you are at high risk of COVID-19, don't get out, give a shout!

message is for you. Younger people and those without immune deficiency are less likely to need critical care if they get sick,

but are likely to be vectors to spread the virus.

Again, if you are sick at all, please stay home! A message was sent out on March 10 to the BSCL chat group asking for volunteers

Continues on page 9



April Community Meeting:
CANCELLED
Due to COVID-19 Precautions

Barcroft News

Editor: Alyssa Ford Morel
703-907-9318,
editor@bscl.org

Advertising: Jack Mayer
jackmayer09@gmail.com

*Publishers/
Mailing:* Theresa Schweser and *Vacant*
publisher@bscl.org

Next Deadline: April 15, 2020

BSCL Officers

President: Gary Mason, gary@bscl.org

Vice President: Ken Simpson

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

Community House Rental Manager:
Barbara Swart
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, Gary Mason, Randy Swart *Alternates:*
Joseph Knarich, Mark Wigfield Chris Kupczyk,

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President's Message

By Gary Mason

Last month's message noted that winter might still have a surprise in store for our neighborhood; one that hasn't appeared as of this writing (March 15). But that concern for late season cold, snowy weather pales in comparison with the specter of something that also began far away – like our weather – and has now reached Arlington County, the virus responsible for Corona Virus Disease 2019; abbreviated by the World Health Organization as: COVID-19.

Why lead this month's message with something about COVID-19? It is certainly not to cause or increase anxiety; instead, because information on the disease is rapidly evolving, I simply wanted to help ensure all of the 800-plus recipients of Barcroft News know where up-to-date information on this disease can be found on the Internet together with precautions individuals and households can take to reduce the risk of infection and transmission.

- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- Virginia Department of Health (VDH): <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/surveillance-and-investigation/novel-coronavirus/>

Continues on page 6

Arlington Food Assistance Center Can Use Help

By Teresa Saunders

As many of you know, we have a wonderful food bank off of Four Mile Run, not far from Barcroft. In fact, a number of Barcroft residents volunteer there regularly. Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC.Org) serves over 2,400 families each week, at their distribution center in Shirlington as well as at various affordable housing communities here in Arlington.

With Coronavirus affecting so many people economically, AFAC anticipates an increase in families needing food assistance. From their website: "If this continues long-term, many of those working in the service industries may be affected which may result in a significant increase in the demand for our services. AFAC is committed to serving all

Bike Rodeo Planned

The Woman's Club of Arlington is being joined by Bike Arlington, Phoenix Bikes and Kidical Mass in hosting a free Bike Rodeo for children ages preschool and up on April 25 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at their clubhouse at 700 South Buchanan Street.

The rodeo includes games that teach safe biking skills, bike checks for safety, several courses to practice new skills, and helmet checks to ensure proper fit. Those interested in participating are asked to RSVP to bit.ly/WCABikerodeo. ●

in need and will remain ready and determined to serve the least fortunate and most vulnerable in our community."

Please consider making a monetary donation to AFAC or dropping by the distribution center with groceries. The address is 2708 South Nelson Street, Arlington, VA 22206. ●

Love the Barcroft News?

We are seeking a Co-Publisher to support monthly distribution to carriers

Total time is 3 hours/month, with five delivery months a year.

If you are interested, or know that perfect person, please contact BSCL President Gary Mason at gary@bscl.org

From Theresa Schweser, current Co-Publisher: I have volunteered as a co-publisher for the last three years, and have met many neighbors and discovered hidden gems among our homes. It's an enjoyable few hours every other month during the year. Co-publishers pick up the newsletters from the printer, sort in bags and then deliver to the 30-plus carriers in our neighborhood. I look forward to working with another Barcroft neighbor in support of our newsletter.

Notice to Members of BSCL

By Gary Mason, BSCL President

Over the weekend of March 14 and 15, 2020, the Barcroft School and Civic League (BSCL) Board of Directions approved three motions in response to the on-going novel coronavirus 2019 epidemic responsible for the COVID-19 illness. During the week of March 8 to 14, 2020, various jurisdictions and organizations in and adjacent to Arlington County began rescheduling or cancelling meetings and activities, and closing facilities. The week culminated with Arlington Public

Schools announcing their closure from March 15 to April 14 and Arlington County's Declaration of Local Emergency in response to the coronavirus. In view of the evolving situation the BSCL Board took action out of an abundance of caution in order to minimize the risk of community spread of the virus to our members, neighbors and the larger community.

The principle effects of these actions included:

Continues on page 5

Conquering the Competitive Spring Market

You don't need fancy software or analytics to tell you what's going on in our local real estate market - just talk to someone in the industry, and you'll hear how hot the market is right now!

Inventory is low, which means many sellers are seeing multiple offers on their homes within just a few days! This also means that buyers need to be highly competitive when making an offer on a desirable property. Here are some tips to help make sure you're prepared for your dive into the spring market:

As you prepare to sell your home, be sure to look at what else is on the market in your neighborhood. In order to stand out, you'll want an experienced team to guide you in how to get the most for your home. A reputable agent with a strong network and an expert staging team are two ways to give you a competitive edge.

As you begin your home search, focus on assembling a top team: Agent + Lender. Browsing on the weekends is a great way to get to know the market, but many properties have been going under contract before reaching their first open house! A creative, dynamic, and fast-acting team who can think outside the box to help you write a competitive offer may be just what you need when you find your dream home.

As one of the top-producing and most widely-known teams in the DC Metro area, we are prepared to help you navigate this process with efficiency and precision. Reach out to let us know how we can help you this spring!

We love helping our Barcroft neighbors!



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



Rick Woler
Barcroft Resident
Agent
267.261.9932
rick@trentandco.com
@rickwoler



Ryan Isaacson
Barcroft Resident
Agent
904.309.2558
ryan@trentandco.com
@rforyan

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Continued from page 4

- Cancellation of the previously scheduled April 2, 2020 BSCL monthly meeting;
- Suspends use of the Barcroft Community House for any public or private gathering or other non-emergency use from March 16 through April 14, 2020, (and authorizes the BSCL President to extend this suspension beyond April 14 until the Arlington County Declaration of Local Emergency has been lifted and the Arlington County Public Health Division advises there is no longer a risk of community spread of the virus);
- Suspends entering into new rental agreements for the use of the Barcroft Community House until April 14, 2020; and
- Authorizes the BSCL Manager of the Barcroft Community House to refund without penalty any rental agreement fees or deposits paid for use of the facility from March 16 through May 30, 2020, if the user opts to cancel the agreement instead of rescheduling their use until after May 30, 2020.

Please direct any questions or requests for the full text of the motions adopted by the Board to Gary Mason, BSCL President, at: gary@bscl.org. •

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President's Message, continued

Continued from page 2

- Arlington County Public Health Division (ACPHD): <https://health.arlingtonva.us/2019-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know-from-arlington-county-public-health-division-acphd/>
- Arlington County COVID-19 Situation Report (updated as events unfold): <https://health.arlingtonva.us/covid-19-coronavirus-updates/>
- Arlington County Public Schools (APS): <https://www.apsva.us/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/>

On page 7 you'll encounter a VDH graphic on hand washing - one of the primary and simplest ways to reduce the chances of picking up or passing on the virus responsible for COVID-19.

As of mid-March BSCL's Board of Directors has voted to cancel the April 2, 2020, monthly meeting of our neighborhood association normally held in the Barcroft Community House. This is being done out of an abundance of caution to reduce the potential for community spread of the novel coronavirus 2019 responsible for the COVID-19 illness among members of our neighborhood and community. It should be noted that one factor influencing this decision is the general age composition of our members attending the monthly

meetings; up to one-half consist of "older adults" (like myself) - to use CDC's terminology - who are at heightened risk of serious complications should they contract COVID-19.

The status of BSCL's normal May monthly meeting and its annual election of officers and one board member will depend on the risk of COVID-19 community spread and recommendations from the various health agencies as that date approaches. Please check the May issue of Barcroft News for information on the status of the May 2020 monthly meeting and the BSCL election.

Jumping back to more pleasant topics – spring has definitely arrived with jonquils, daffodils, early pinks and the first peach blossoms opening. Oddly, there are even some snow flowers still in prime bloom after being delayed by a lack of sustained cold weather that normally triggers their flowers in late January. Witch hazel, which began flowering in January, is finally fading and about to burst out in leaves. Meantime, the scarlet maples are just going into flower – so the oaks can't be far behind – and those with tree pollen allergies will, unfortunately, be realizing them anew shortly.

I was unable to attend the March BSCL monthly meeting due to a contractor matter. Thanks to Randy Swart's preparation of draft

Continues on page 7

Continued from page 6

minutes for that meeting, which has been forwarded to the BSCL Groups.io chat list, timely information has gone out to members of the chat list gleaned from the Arlington County presentation on the utility (water and wastewater) rate study currently under way.

By now each address in Barcroft should have received a mailing from the U.S. Census Bureau conveying their household's unique key code for entering its information

online as of April 1st as part of the 2020 U.S. Census. Each household's participation in the 2020 Census is important not only to how congressional representation is determined but directly affects the proportionate Federal funding state and local governments receive for education, highways, and a host of other programs. So please do your part and be part of the 2020 Census.

Lastly, consider volunteering to help your neighborhood as a BSCL elected officer

or a member of its Board of Directors. The annual election is scheduled to take place during the May 7 BSCL monthly meeting (subject to change based on COVID-19). All four officer positions and one of the four positions on the Board are up for election. (FYI – I will not be running for reelection to a second term as BSCL President; I have a couple of construction projects beginning this spring that would not leave me time to do justice to the work of the office.) If you are interested in any of the positions up for election please contact Randy Swart, Chair of the BSCL Nominating Committee for more information.

Meantime, stay healthy and enjoy the coming of spring! •



BSCL Newsletter Co-Publisher Position Available

By Teresa Saunders

For family reasons, I need to step away from my role as co-publisher of the BSCL newsletter. However, my colleague, Theresa Schweser, is continuing in her position. The position, which used to be a one-household volunteer position, has been handled by two households for the past few years. When we took this on, we streamlined the process. We have a great spreadsheet of the carriers' information, as well as labels for the carriers. Having two households involved lessens the workload for each household. At present, each household is responsible for five months of the year, as there are ten issues of the BSCL News pub-

lished yearly. Here are more details of the job:

Our printer is located in the Merrifield area. The printing is often done just a day or two after it is submitted by the BSCL Editor, Alyssa Ford Morel. We pick up the box of newsletters and take them home. The next task is to bundle them into approximately 30 bundles, each counted and labeled for the specific volunteer carriers in our neighborhood. The goal is to get the newsletters to the carriers before the last weekend of the month, so the newsletters can be delivered before the first of the month. Two people in a car can distribute these bundles in about an hour. We will pro-

Continues on page 9





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Continued from page 8

vide a map of the route we have devised to make this job easier. Another sixteen newsletters get folded, stamped and sent to various county dignitaries, civic associations and advertisers. Finally, remaining newsletters are dropped off at the office of the Barcroft apartments.

As you can see, it is not a heavy

load. Occasionally, there is a change of carriers, and that requires a little bit of extra work. I am available to answer questions, should you have some. We have a great community! For the past two years, the BSCL carriers and co-publishers have marched in the BSCL July Fourth parade. This is a great way to get to know more of your neighbors. Can you step up to help with this task? •

COVID-19 Neighborhood Support in Barcroft, continued

Continued from page 1

to help those residents of our community who might be at high risk for contracting COVID-19 and getting critically ill. We don't want those at risk to go out shopping or running errands and exposing themselves to the virus unne-

cessarily. If you are at high risk, please know we have people in Barcroft ready to help.

If you need help with errands, groceries, etc., please email or call Judi Heichelheim: jheichelheim@gmail.com, or 202-321-7261. •

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Greetings from Our Savior Lutheran School

By OSLS National Junior Honor Society

Every year, Lutheran schools around the country celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week. Our school celebrated this special week this past month from March 2 to 6. Our theme for this year was Joy: Fully Lutheran. Every day during the week, we dressed up in special spirit wear or crazy outfits and had fun activities, like a puppet show, bowling at Fort Myer, and student team competitions. It was a great time had by all.

At OSLS, we have weekly chapel services every Wednesday starting at 8:40 a.m. Please feel free to join us each week. During the month of March, the chapel offerings that we gathered went to Compassion International and their malaria prevention program. Transmitted through mosquito bites, malaria, the zika virus, and dengue fever are each treatable and preventable. Our offerings went to help save the lives of children by providing insecticide-treated bed nets for prevention, education to prevent mosquito breeding areas, and medical support when needed. Visit compassion.com and help us provide a swarm of protection and hope against these painful and deadly diseases.

Please join us at Our Savior Lutheran Church for Holy Week worship services. We have a Maundy Thursday service on April 9 at

7:30 p.m., a Good Friday service on April 10 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday Easter services on April 12 at 8:15 and 11 a.m. We would love to have you come and worship with us.

We are currently accepting applications for the 2020-2021 school year for grades PreK through 8th. Stop by or call our school office if you have any questions. •

Pruning Your Roses

By Alyssa Ford Morel

There are numerous rose bushes in Barcroft, but a many are not pruned yet. Now's the time to do so. Here's how:

- Start by removing anything dead. Dead branches are pretty obviously brown or grey as opposed to green with sprouts. Also remove old (four or more years) canes to stimulate new growth.
- Depending on the size and type of the plant and how hard you want to prune, reduce the height. Roses can take a lot more pruning than most people think.
- Add room for air by opening up the middle creating a "vase" shape.
- Look for any branches touching each other and remove one of them. Crossing canes damage each other.
- Prune just above an outward facing bud.
- For climbing roses, try to encourage lateral growth, increasing bloom quantity. •

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.

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. Zachrobbets4@gmail.com or 703-380-6227.

Dull knives? Affordable kitchen knife sharpening: With my three years of sharpening experience and good rates, razor sharp knives and tools could be yours without leaving home! Cost is one dollar per inch.(\$5 pick-up/delivery will be added for fewer than 4 knives/tools). \$35 deal for 8-knife set. Knives accepted: stand-ard 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 information or service contact Zach at 703-380-6227, or email at robbets4@gmail.com. •



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Fri. Apr. 10 Good Friday Services - 12 noon and 7 pm
Good Friday Vigil - Church open for prayer/meditation - 1 - 7 pm
Sun. Apr. 12 Easter Festive Holy Eucharist with children's message - 10 am
Easter Egg Hunt and reception after the 10 am service

Sunday Worship Services 8 am and 10 am
415 S. Lexington Street Arlington, VA 22204

Sunday Christian Education
Adults Seminar 9 am - Youth 10 am
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Barcroft School and Civic League
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A bridge loan makes it possible to finance a new house before selling your current home. It's the simple solution to bridge the gap between the home you have and the home you want.

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(If you plan far ahead, a home equity loan may be an option for additional funds).

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