



September 2020

Barcroft News

Vol 118, Issue 1

Virtual Meetings to Replace the Community House for 2020

By Deborah Wood, BSCL President

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it will not be possible to use the Barcroft Community House for meetings or events of any kind, at least through the end of 2020. In place of the Community House, the Barcroft School and Civic League Board of Directors has voted to approve holding our monthly meetings on Zoom, a virtual meeting computer app.

The first meeting after our summer break will be on Thursday, September 3, at 7:30 p.m. Invitations to attend the meeting will be sent by email to everyone on the BSCL chatlist, and to everyone who is a member of the BSCL. If you are not a member of either one, you can request an invitation by sending an email to: zoom@bscl.org. If you are a member of

BSCL, it is preferable that you respond to the membership invitation because then you will be able to participate if any votes are taken.

Once you respond yes to the invitation, you will receive a brief registration form to fill in and send back. This step is a security precaution to limit attendance to residents of Barcroft. The invitation containing the link to



join the meeting will be sent in reply. It will also contain a phone number, and those who prefer to call in to the meeting can do so by using that number. Access to the meeting will start at 7 p.m., so folks have time to get in, and

we can get started on time.

The officers and members of the board look forward to having you join us in this new meeting format. •

Next (Virtual) Community Meeting

Thursday, September 3, 7:30, On Zoom

Topic: To be Announced



Barcroft News

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Arlington Civic Fed. Delegates: Eric Harold,
Christopher Hoh, Randy Swart, Deborah Wood

Alternates: Joseph Knarich, Chris Kupczyk, Mark
Wigfield

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President's Message

By Deborah Wood

I have the unexpected honor of addressing you as the new president of the Barcroft School and Civic League. Accepting this position seemed to be a good way to express my gratitude to the Barcroft community for the great place it has been to live and raise a family for the almost four decades we have been here.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been many times that the caring and love shining out from this community have raised my spirits. From teddy bears peering out of windows, to the masked tyrannosaurus rex next door; from the Black Lives Matter and multilingual All are Welcome signs, to the profusion of trees and flowers, vegetables, sculptures, bits of whimsy and even weeds lining the sidewalks; all of these have lightened the burden of staying in place.

A special thank you is due to Heather Meade and Jim Moran for their inspired efforts to plan and execute Barcroft's (Further Apart) Closer Together 4th of July 2020 celebration. The parade of floats honking horns, with Uncle Sam in the lead, brought people streaming from their houses to share the excitement and candy. And the results of the yard decorating contest were amazing. It was a treat to have the festive and thoughtful statements about why we

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Barcroft Elementary PTA September Update

By Beth Ragnauth

The Barcroft Elementary community has shown great resilience over the past few months and has been humbled by the support we have received from the Barcroft neighborhood. The Barcroft PTA has continued to provide groceries (including fresh produce!), books, and some needed household/personal items to families in need during the summer school break. We held a total of 11 distribution events since spring, which served an average of 100 families per event and were possible only because of the generosity of our community (YOU!).

School staff – in addition to their tireless efforts to provide quality distance instruction and other essential support for students - have also volunteered their time at these events to assist as well as answer questions families have. We are truly fortunate to have such a wonderful community.

We are now gearing up for our later-than-usual return to school via distance learning. As most Barcrofters know, our neighborhood elementary school operates on a modified calendar, with school typically starting in early August and unique “intersession” options (or a break) in October and April. This month’s newsletter update

would normally report on our back-to-school activities, but this year, Barcroft will follow the standard Arlington Public Schools calendar due to all the challenges presented by the ongoing pandemic.

The PTA continues to identify needs



The Barcroft PTA has held 11 events distributing groceries and other essentials to school families in need since spring.

of our school families and strives to ease the burdens of this time. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for any support you can provide. I want to take this opportunity to note that Harris Teeter’s VIC reward card program has an option to link your card to a school, and a percentage of your purchase amount will be donated to the school. You have to link your card each year, so please

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Community Music Each Day on 8th Road

By Marel Sitron

As a demonstration of gratitude for front line workers during this pandemic, neighbors on 8th Road South gather to play music and socialize (distantly) at 7 p.m. every day.

Elisabeth Lloyd plays lively Austrian-Bavarian folk music on a steirische harmonica, which is similar to an accordion. Prior to the pandemic, Elisabeth could be heard in a folk music duo, Liab & Schneid at area restaurants, embassies, and Oktoberfests.

Angela Chen and Georgina Bramsen, the



originators of this idea, are active percussionists using their kitchen utensils. Georgina says Elisabeth's playing brightens up the day for everyone on the street. Christine Sabatowski, a new neighbor and mother of four very active young boys, says, "Elisabeth has brought our street together during this time."

Like the Barcroft Fourth of July parade, the 7 p.m. event is brief. If you're interested in hearing live Bavarian music for a few minutes, please join us on 8th Road close to the bike trail. ●

Barcroft Elementary Update, continued

Continued from page 3

support Barcroft by linking your card now - Barcroft's code is 4238.

We will reach out via Barcroft neighborhood chat emails with additional ways you can help as school gets started. If you have students at Barcroft this year and are not receiving PTA communications, please email president@barcroftpta.org. ●



Donated bags of groceries at a recent distribution event.



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President's Message, continued

Continued from page 2

celebrate July 4th scattered around the neighborhood.

Shortly after the pandemic shut down our schools and workplaces, Gretchen Odegard, the Barcroft School PTA president, and a large, dedicated volunteer group of Barcroft neighbors and school staff began working tirelessly to provide support for families at Barcroft school hard hit by the loss of resources. Their amazing team work, and the outpouring of generosity from the Barcroft community and beyond, have made it possible to provide food distributions from the school for months.

Heather and Jim tapped into this effort by replacing the usual 4th of July picnic potluck with a canned food "potluck" collection for the food distribution program. Thank you, Gretchen, and all who volunteer tirelessly to shop, organize, and run the distributions, as well as those who donate food and money. Your efforts to step up and help those who have been hardest hit by the pandemic speak to the spirit of our community. As the virtual school year starts, we look forward to your guidance on helping to give Barcroft Elementary students the supplies they need to learn from home.

In the midst of everything, we are facing a momentous election in two months. The officers and board of directors for the BSCL look forward to having you join us for our virtual monthly meetings, beginning on September 3rd. We will do our best to keep you informed about the status of our neighborhood association, and to find answers for your questions about County-wide plans for voting and other services affected by the pandemic. •

COVID Changes Stressing You?

Have you been feeling isolated and looking for a connection?

We offer a small welcoming community to all who wish to join us.

Give us a try!

Join us in our regular Sunday 10 AM Worship Experience.

Our new minister has brought an exciting and interactive dimension to our service.

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Membership Update: Your Email is Needed

By Linda Gaines, Membership Secretary

Neighbors, my name is Linda Gaines, and I would like to introduce myself as the new BSCL membership secretary. My main duty is processing new and renewal membership applications and maintaining the membership list.

The vast majority of members have submitted their email address(es) with their membership application. Because of the current COVID-19 pandemic, the board has decided to hold our monthly meetings virtually. Your email addresses are now more important than before. Providing your email in your membership application is unrelated to join-

ing the BSCL email chat. We will be sending out emails to both the full membership list and to the email chat list with information on how you can register to virtually attend our monthly membership meetings.

If you are not on the email chat list, could you please email me at lgtgaines@gmail.com to confirm that I have your current email address? There are a few members for which we do not have email on file, and I can't be sure all the ones I do have are current. We want to make sure everyone gets an invitation to attend the meetings.

Thank you! •

AutumnFest at Glencarlyn: Safe and Distant Edition

On Sunday, September 13, the Glencarlyn Library Garden will be hosting a safe and distant version of its AutumnFest event for 2020. The limited event will continue the AutumnFest tradition and raise funds to keep the non-profit demonstration garden going.

In the spirit of garden education, on September 13 three short educational videos related to gardening and AutumnFest will be premiered at MGNV.org.

Also on September 13 between 1 and 3 p.m. supporters can pick up pre-ordered plants, honey, compost tea and Perfect Partners T-shirts at the Glencarlyn Library Garden

located at 300 Kensington Street in Arlington's Glencarlyn neighborhood. Participants are asked to wear masks and practice safe distancing during pick-up. A portion of the sale price comes back to the garden.

Vendors include Hill House Farm & Nursery, which carries a wide selection of Mid-Atlantic native plants, and Hive Hive, providing local honey and compost tea. Preordering must be done by September 9.

To learn more go to <https://mgnv.org/tag/autumnfest/>, or send an email to alysa.morel@mgnv.org for a flyer with complete details. •

Arlington Community Emergency Response Team

Community Members Trained in Disaster Preparedness Making a Difference

From ArlCERT

Your neighbors support and nurture resilient communities. The events of 9/11 made it clear that community members want to help, and the most helpful volunteers have disaster preparedness and relief training.

Since September 2002, the Arlington Community Emergency Response Team (ArlCERT) has trained over 900 community members—including 44 online in May—who live, work, attend school, or volunteer exten-

sively in Arlington in CERT disaster response, fire suppression safety, basic first aid care, light search and rescue operations, and terrorism awareness.

The county has seen evidence many times of how valuable the CERT program and its volunteers are. Activated by the Arlington County Emergency Management (ACEM), ArlCERT volunteers have (i) assessed the dam-

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Your Neighbors are #1 in the DMV!

Big News! The results are in and our team, Trent & Co. is honored to be included in this year's Wall Street Journal's annual REAL Trends + Tom Ferry's The Thousand – a list of the top real estate professionals in the United States.

With more than \$175 million in sales in 2019, we are proud to announce Trent & Co is ranked #1 in the DMV and #19 in the country for medium size teams by volume. We cannot thank our clients enough for their continued support – we could not do this without you!



Stay well and be safe!

To learn about listing or purchasing with one of the area's top-producing teams please contact us today.
We love helping our Barcroft neighbors!



Trent Heminger
Team Leader; Trent & Co
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Barcroft Resident
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ArlCERT Training, continued

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age, distributed ice, and assisted with traffic control after Hurricane Isabel in September 2003; (ii) assessed the damage after the June 2012 derecho as well as (iii) the massive flooding in July 2019; (iv) helped neighbors clear 3' from fire hydrants during winter storms to speed up emergency fire response; (v) acted as survivor role-players to support first responder training events; and, since mid-May (vi) distributed over 5,000 meals and counting to those in a county quarantine hotel during the COVID-19 pandemic (a former Barcroft resident tops the leaderboard with 58 shifts delivering meals).

ArlCERT also has a cadre of trained “hams” (licensed amateur radio operators) who participate in emergency comms preparedness nets, provide communication support for first responder training events, and assist with communications when a disaster takes out power, Internet or phone lines.



After graduating from CERT basic training—held twice a year in the spring and fall for six weeks—volunteers join a neighborhood CERT (Barcroft residents join Bon Air Park Neighborhood CERT) to collectively help their community prepare for and recover from emergencies and disaster situations. Prepared neighborhoods save lives, reduce the severity of injuries and trauma, and reduce property damage.



If you are interested in joining ArlCERT to equip yourself to help your family and the Barcroft community in an emergency or disaster situation, please visit <https://emergency.arlingtonva.us/get-involved/cert/> and click on the CERT Info Request button. As all face-to-face events are canceled indefinitely due to the pandemic, ArlCERT will conduct the fall CERT basic training via Zoom starting Wednesday, September 9 (class in Spanish will be available in November).

For information and resources on CERT and general emergency preparedness, please visit the ArlCERT Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/arlingtonvacert>. ●

Opening on the Board of Directors

By Deborah Wood, BSCL President

Barbara Clemens has resigned as a member of the BSCL Board, and we are seeking nominations for her replacement. Anyone who is an active member of the BSCL is eligible. The Board has four members, in addition to the BSCL president, who serves as the chair. Members are elected for a term of four years. For a complete description of the duties, please refer to Article III in the BSCL By-laws, which are posted on www.bscl.org. Basically, the Board sets the dues, approves expenditures over \$500, and holds an annual meeting immediately following the annual meeting of BSCL members. If you would be interested, please contact the president, Deb-

orah Wood, or Randy Swart, the nominating committee.

Barbara, thank you for your service on the Board! •

Barcroft Weather Stations

Did you know? Two households in Barcroft maintain local weather stations and their data can be accessed online for hyper-local information. They are available at:

- <https://www.pwsweather.com/station/pws/fw8162>, and
- <https://www.wunderground.com/weather/us/va/arlington-county/KVAARLIN212> . •

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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.

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 to keep Rob Severn in shape!

Knives Sharpened? Hold them until Thanksgiving and I will be happy to sharpen them when I am back from college! Contact my mom, Betsy, at 703-380-6227, or robbets4@gmail.com to get on the list. Thanks for all your support!

Lawn Mowing: Hello! My name is Than Valencia and I am available seven days a week to mow lawns. I charge based on lawn size. I have my own mower and weed whacker. If this interests you, please text me at 703-254-9551.

Barcrofter Loki Mulholland Books and Movies: His complete works available (save shipping costs!) and timely, especially the movies dealing with voting and institutional racism. Several kids books too. Call and come by: Joan Mulholland, 501 S. Taylor St., 703-979-4719. Pay by cash, check, or Venmo. Great for now or gifts later.

Art Card: Want an original personalized card (acrylic, pen and ink, watercolor) for a birthday, anniversary, graduation, retirement or other event? Art major graduate can do that! Cards priced at \$7.50 to \$10. Includes envelope. Also open to painting or drawing commissions. Contact Alex at amrosenberg13@yahoo.com

Got Projects? Due to COVID canceling college, I will be around intermittently this fall for jobs that you just need someone to help get it done! Text Jeremiah at 571-357-9313 or email jwsevern@gmail.com. ●



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July was a record-breaking month for home sales price in the D.C. Metro area. The median sales price has reached a decade high. With rates falling below 3 percent, buyer demand continued to skyrocket. Led by Northern Virginia, Alexandria and Arlington posted decade high median prices. Homes are selling quickly, keeping inventory tight, especially for single family homes.

July deals did not solely increase in sales price, but volume as well. We received our most deals ever in July, up 13% from June — an indication of increased seller sentiment. The rebound of the D.C. Metro area housing market has been incredible. Amidst the most unpredictable times in the modern era, it has been a force for economic recovery.

The D.C. area is now ranked the 4th most competitive housing market in the U.S. Through July in Barcroft there have been 12 homes closed in

2020 - average list price of \$783,887 - average sales price of \$820,000. Avg days on market = 10 days.

Data from pending sales reflects a slight increase in purchase price from July. The record-breaking home prices continue to beat July's decade-high median sales price. Not only will price increase, but volume as well. As seller sentiment continues to rise, the already strong buyer demand is rising as well. The low rates are attracting consumers to secure a new home.

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