



February 2021

Barcroft News

Vol 118, Issue 6

Winter: The Quiet Season

By Wendy Mills, Extension Master Gardener

On a recent walk at Long Branch park, I noted that the last of the redbud's heart-shaped leaves had fallen. Naked branches etched the gray sky while the purring of the stream echoed in the still, quiet air. Winter, the season of dormancy, is here.

Just as you might feel the pull of the couch, comfy blankets, and carbohydrate-rich foods, much of the natural world around us is reacting to the loss of light and decrease in temperatures by pausing growth and minimizing metabolic activity to conserve energy. Walking in the woods, we see the culmination of this annual adaptive process, choreographed by plants' biological clocks that tell

them when to begin preparing their soft tissues for freezing temperatures and the water and nutrient shortages to come. Leaves are shed and above ground foliage dies back while life continues underground in the roots and core of perennial plants.

The natural world is replete with plants that spend part of each year in a state of dormancy. Seeds, for instance, contain a complete embryo along with a reserve food supply within their hard coverings. When they fall to the soil in late summer and autumn, they lie in wait. Were they to germinate so late in the season, the new growth wouldn't survive the winter.

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Next Meeting:

Thursday, February 4, 7:30 p.m., On Zoom

Topic: Arlington County's Community Development Citizens Advisory Commission



Send an email to zoom@bscl.org to request an invitation to the meeting.



Barcroft News

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President's Message

By Deborah Wood

I am writing this message five days before the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris. After what has happened so far this year, I wish I had a crystal ball to be able to foresee what will have occurred by the time the February Barcroft News is delivered. Here I am, fervently hoping for a peaceful transfer of power, something that wouldn't have crossed my mind before the events of the past year.

We will also be having a national memorial event for the lives lost to the COVID-19 epidemic the evening before the inauguration. By the time you read this, our country's death toll from the virus will most likely exceed the total number of U.S. military killed during World War II. The loss is enormous, but here in the 21st century, the number of Americans willing to deny scientific knowledge that would help contain the virus adds to its enormity. It points to tremendous fissures in the structure of our society that we must try to mend.

Now back to our little community — always a source of comfort. At our BSCL meeting on February 4, we will have a 15 minute presentation by Tim Denning, Chair of Arlington County's Community Development Citizens Advisory Commission, or CDCAC. Rosemary Leffler, who has been Bar-

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Sparrow Pond Update

By Deborah Wood

Sparrow Pond, along the W&OD trail near Barcroft, was originally constructed in 2001-02. Over time, the pond has filled in with sediment. The restoration was identified as part of the 2012-13 Watershed Retrofit Study, and funding was allocated for design through the Capital Improvement Program in 2018.

The project goals are to restore the pond to the original depth by removing sediment, add a sediment collection forebay to allow easier maintenance and sediment removal, maximize water quality benefits, and restore habitat.

There will be a virtual Zoom community meeting on February 4 at 6 p.m. Lily Whitesell, Stormwater Outreach Specialist, Arlington County Environmental Services, will present the latest information on the project, including the revised schedule. The following is the agenda for the meeting, which will be over by 7 p.m.

Sparrow Pond Project Community Meeting

- See plans for the sediment forebay, pond footprint, construction access, and planting plan.
- Learn more about the water quality ben-

efit and habitat features.

- Provide input on the draft design.

To get an invitation for this Zoom meeting, email Lily Whitesell, at lwhitesell@arlingtonva.us, or call 703-228-



Sparrow Pond on the W&OD Trail.

3042. Questions about the beaver lodge and dam can be asked. Interested Barcrofters can attend this meeting, and then tune in for the virtual Zoom BSCL meeting at 7:30. The agenda for the BSCL meeting will be a short one this month. •

President's Message, continued

croft's representative to the Commission for the last six years is stepping down. She arranged to have the presentation and also wrote an article in this Barcroft News (page 4) to provide background information about CDCAC's work distributing Block Grants to local organizations. Tim and Rosemary will be happy to answer questions, and hope that there will be someone in the community who would like to keep Barcroft's engagement with this program going.



Best wishes to all for a Happy Valentine's Day! •

Advisory Committee Helps Throughout Arlington

By Rosemary Leffler, Outgoing CDCAC Representative

La Concina! ASPAN! These are just two of several organizations you are familiar with that have benefited from the work of Arlington County's Community Development Citizen's Advisory Committee (CDCAC). The CDCAC also considers requests from housing, immigration, legal and dental services, job training and other worthwhile Arlington organizations. The CDCAC makes recommendations to the Arlington County Board for the Community Development Fund (CDF) to influence decisions for the use of funds for the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and advises on the development of the annual Community Development program as part of Arlington's five-year Consolidated Planning process.

CDCAC membership includes citizen representatives of county-wide organizations or constituencies with a special interest in community development and affordable housing programs. In addition to Barcroft, representatives from Buckingham, Arlington Mill, Nauck, Pike Village Center, Arlington View, Radnor/Ft. Meyer Heights, Long Branch Creek, Lyon Park, Penrose, and Westover participate. Meetings are held once a month on Wednesday evenings. The month of October CDCAC meets every week to hear proposals from various organizations re-

questing grant funds for the following year. The committee votes on the proposals at the end of October which are submitted and considered by the County. Every Spring the CDCAC has a field trip to learn more about where and how the grant funds are used by the various recipient organizations.

This is a rewarding volunteer opportunity to participate in and influence County funds' distribution! I have appreciated being your Barcroft representative for the past six years, but it is time to pass this opportunity on to another citizen of Barcroft! Please let BSCL President Deborah Wood know you are interested and help in improving Arlington for all. •

Membership Update

By Linda Gaines, Membership Secretary

A friendly reminder that BSCL membership runs with the calendar year. Thank you to Barcroft residents who have already renewed their membership or have established a new one. You can renew via the included form in the monthly newsletter, or you can renew online at <https://www.bscl.org>. Membership is \$5 for individuals and \$10 for families. Even if you are renewing, I encourage you to fill out all information on the form to make sure our membership records are current. Please contact me at linda@bscl.org. Thanks! •

BSCL Resolution on Proposed Parking Program Changes

By Deborah Wood, President

On January 7, 2021 the following resolution was passed without objection by the Barcroft School and Civic League expressing our neighborhood's opposition to aspects of the proposed changes to the Arlington County Residential Parking Program (RPP).

"The BSCL respectfully requests that the Arlington County Board not include paid parking by app or other means in upcoming changes to the RPP that will apply to the Barcroft neighborhood. Additionally, BSCL requests that the Board reexamine and postpone a reduction in parking passes allocated by residence, allowing residents more time to reconsider their transportation requirements, particularly in a time of significant disruption due to the COVID-19 emergency.

Finally, the RPP changes would conflict with and dilute the important value of the 1977 Supreme Court decision, "ARLINGTON COUNTY BOARD v. RICHARDS*." This decision allows residents to control commuter parking

for environmental and quality of life purposes for a residential community. *County Bd. of Arlington Cty. v. Richards, 434 U. S. 5 (1977) (per curiam)

Originally the County Board was going to have a hearing on the proposed new Residential Parking Program at their January meeting, but it has been moved to the February 20, 2021 meeting. Public comment will also be accepted at the February 2021 meetings of the Transportation Commission and the Planning Commission. Please consider signing up to speak at any of these three meetings if you have any concerns about the proposed changes. Changes still include two hour paid parking by parking app on all streets where residential permits are required to park.

To see a newly revised chart comparing the old program to the new proposed program go to https://projects.arlingtonva.us/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2021/01/rpp_review_RTA_policyproposal_procedures_comparisontables_advertised-2.pdf. •

Preschool Outdoor Classrooms Available Locally

By Kasey Vanderpoel

For 50 years, Arlington Unitarian Cooperative Preschool (AUCP) has educated young children with a play-based curriculum that builds self-confidence and independence. Serving children ages infant through pre-

kindergarten, AUCP is a half-day cooperative preschool that values meaningful parent involvement and fosters community. The program places an emphasis on the outdoors and nature and was the first preschool in the area to have a dedicated outdoor classroom pro-

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Preschool Outdoor Classrooms, continued

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gram. For more information visit www.aucpva.org or email membership@aucpva.org. AUCP admits students without regard to race, color, creed, or national or ethnic origin.

What Are AUCP's Outdoor Classrooms? Currently, each of our 3- and 4-year-old classes spends one Tuesday or Friday every other week at nearby Long Branch Nature Center. Children spend the full morning — rain, snow or shine — outdoors in unstructured play and exploration. In the event of rainy weather, we establish our base camp at

a nearby picnic shelter, but we have learned that we don't spend much time there – the children are just as excited about exploring in the rain as they are in dry weather! Even on snowy days, the Outdoor Classrooms are still magical for the children!

In addition, our enrichment classes, 2-year-old classes and even our under-2-year-old classes will schedule days at the nature center during the year so that they can experience the wonder of a morning in the woods with their friends.

The application deadline is Friday, February 12, 2021. •

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Winter: The Quiet Season, continued

Continued from page 1

The foliage of bulbs, like tulips and daffodils, dies back after spring flowering leaving the bulbs hidden underground, where they store up energy for next year's growth and bloom. Evergreens that keep their green leaves or needles during winter also slow or stop growing. Even houseplants that are sub-



ject to a stable temperature can be susceptible to the shortened days. Less sunlight means less time for energy-producing photosynthesis which enables plants to grow and reproduce. This is why most houseplants can get by on less water in the winter.

Winter is a good time to prune many plants. In general, if the plant blooms on new growth it can be pruned in winter before the new season's growth begins. Before winter's end, the Master Gardeners at the Glencarlyn

Library Garden will prune the beautyberries, roses, red twig dogwood, summersweet, hollies, spirea and our Harry Lauder's walking stick. We'll cut back to a "healthy bud"— a dormant bud that is not growing now but could when the conditions are right.

Unlike plants, people move when their surroundings become uncomfortable.

But not so in this pandemic year with its restrictions on mobility. In this quiet season, I personally feel drawn to the cocoon of home with a soft blanket and good book. We like to think of ourselves as separate from the natural world — answering to the call of a different wild — but a new study in *L'Anthropologie* reports that bones found at a fossil site in northern Spain suggest that our hominid predecessors

may have dealt with extreme cold thousands of years ago by sleeping through the winter. Perhaps the inner call to rest is a message from our primordial past reminding us of our interconnectedness with the natural world. •

Editor's Note: *Wendy Mills is one of the coordinators of the Glencarlyn Library Community Garden, a demonstration garden of the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia.*

Update From Barcroft Elementary School

By Beth Ragnauth

Barcroft Elementary School students and teachers returned to classes on January 4 after a much-needed break. While the school district continues to prepare for more students to return to school buildings, still only a very small number of students with special support needs are physically at the school, and the vast majority continue with the full distance learning model.

While distance learning is different from what most of us have experienced in our own schooling, Barcroft's creative teachers and staff have worked hard throughout the school year to make the best of this educational environment and continue favorite school activities. Every student has an iPad, but they are not just staring at it all day. Materials for some classes have been provided to all students so that classes like art, music, and PE can do standard activities — don't worry, those third graders are not deprived of learning the recorder this year! Watercolor or clay projects are added to home art collections each week under the inspiring guidance of our art teachers. You may find that a PE activity to practice ball-rolling aim explains where all your plastic cups went thanks to the ingenuity of our tireless PE teachers.

Students can put books from the school library on hold and pick them up on

Mondays so they have regular access to physical books to read, and teachers have created time for online socializing during lunch break or after class to foster relationships. Some classes have gone on virtual field trips, and we've had a couple of all-school assemblies to carry on school traditions like the holiday sing-along. Instrumental music lessons, small group instruction, hands-on math activities and more are all happening in distance learning.

Of course we are all looking forward to when schools can again operate as they used to, but for now, we are thankful for all the ways everyone is working so hard to support our kids. •

Girl Scout Cookies

By Denise Hart

As you can imagine, Girl Scouts are selling cookies in our neighborhood. If you don't have a Girl Scout in your life from whom to buy cookies, please visit www.gsnc.org for our cookie locator. This year more than ever



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BSCL Membership History

By Randy Swart

I can add some info to last month's story about former BSCL membership restrictions.

When Pat Roach and I were elected President and VP in 1987 we were shocked to find that the bylaws still said membership was restricted to residents of Barcroft "of the Caucasian race." A Supreme Court decision had nullified it years earlier and we actually had black BSCL members including Dr. Talmadge Williams who was later elected our VP, but there it was. There were other anachronisms, so we rewrote the bylaws and articles of incorporation, with the research done by a

young lawyer in Pat's firm who was bucking for partner. It took a long time, and we finally got approval on May 2, 1991 with Larry Goldschmidt in the chair, eliminating the offending language.

After the meeting former President Al Copeland came up to the podium to thank us, saying that he had tried in the 1970's to get that language removed, but "they voted me down."

I have a ton of Barcroft historical documents and such going back many years. If anyone is interested in taking over the project and updating the neighborhood's history, please contact me: randy@bscl.org. •

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Winter Greetings from Our Savior Lutheran School

Thank you to everyone who came to our virtual Open House in January. We are currently accepting applications for the 2021-2022 school year for grades PreK through 8th. Our Savior Lutheran School (OSLS) is non-discriminatory in enrollment and we welcome the chance to show you around our school if you are looking for a Christian education for your child. Check out our school website at osva.org.

During the month of January, our school chapel offering went to Save the Children. Save the Children is a nonprofit that focuses primarily on helping children in need.

This includes emergency response, global health initiatives, disaster response, and educational opportunities. Save the Children works in over 100 countries to give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn, and protection from harm. However, the scale of crisis in the world has increased recently. There are more children living in conflict zones, natural disasters are more frequent and severe, and more than 12 million refugee children now face the impact of Covid-19 on their futures. To find out more information about Save the Children, visit their website at <https://www.savethechildren.org/>. •



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Equal Housing Opportunity

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!

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

Knives Sharpened? Hold them until Spring Break and I will be happy to sharpen them when I am back from college! Contact my mom, Betsy, at 703-380-6227, or rob-bets4@gmail.com to get on the list. Thanks for all your support!

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 South Taylor Street, 703-979-4719. Pay by cash, check, or Venmo. Great for gifts.

Virtual Private Drum Lessons in Barcroft: All ages/levels welcome. Local professional giving instruction from Barcroft home studio on 3rd Street South. Multiple styles--rock, jazz, classical, musical theatre. Lessons are now virtual via Zoom, Duo, FaceTime, Google Meet, etc. References provided. Email Mitchell at mitchbassmusic@gmail.com

Barcroft T-shirts: Just a few BSCL T-shirts left — all red, but not all sizes. Clearance sale: \$5 each. Call me and come by: Joan Mulholland, 501 South Taylor Street, 703-979-4719. •



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Historically low interest rates helped to fuel the 2020 seller's market, driving prices up throughout the region as buyers competed for available homes. The 2020 average home price in Northern VA was \$670,408, up 9% above the 2019 average. December is usually a month marked by lower new contract activity, as consumers pause making decisions about buying or selling properties during the holidays. But this year we saw an extension of the busy fall market right up through the year end.

During the last week of December 2020, showing activity was up 252% in NOVA compared to showing levels in the same week in 2019. A total of 1,955 homes sold in December 2020, a 28.2% increase above 1,525 sales in December 2019. The average home sale price in NOVA rose by 5.44% compared with last December, to \$676,724. The December 2019 average sale price was \$641,789.

In Barcroft, there were 27 properties sold in 2020, with an average sales price of \$819,630, 2019's average was \$802,700. With rates at historic lows, a strong stock market, and buyer demand unabated, experts don't foresee any conditions that would dampen the market in early 2021.

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