



# Barcroft News

June/July 2021

Vol 118, Issue 10

## The Parade is Back on the Fourth!

**By Heather Meade**

Get ready for Barcroft's greatest annual (modified) neighborhood event. Come celebrate our Nation's Birthday and the Annual 4th of July Barcroft Parade. The parade will be at 10 a.m. on Sunday, July 4.

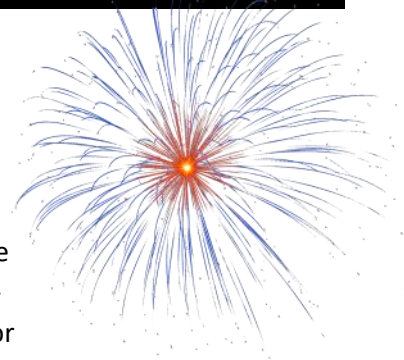
The parade begins at 10 a.m. sharp. Anyone can join and we hope you will! Marchers meet in the Women's Club parking lot at 9:45 a.m. across from the Barcroft Community House.

### The Parade:

A Scout Color Guard, AFD Fire Engine and Arlington police, our very own Barcroft Marching Band, Uncle Sam and all of you in your most creative costumes and floats. Let's come back big!!!



Decorate those strollers and bikes, paint those faces and bellies or come dressed as your favorite super hero or surprise us! Turn your bike into a helicopter, put wheels on your surfboard, make a fun float or banner, or just come watch! Participants might even win a coveted Barcroft Parade Medal.



### Post- parade:

We will have popsicles for the kids, but the Barcroft School and Civic League voted to postpone the traditional picnic and entertainment one more year.

Come and

*Continued on page 4*



## Barcroft News

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

*Advertising:* Jack Mayer  
jackmayer09@gmail.com

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

**Next Deadline: August 15, 2021**

## BSCL Officers

*President:* Deborah Wood, 703-892-1243  
president@bscl.org

*Vice President:* Daniel Weir

*Treasurer:* Jennifer Lis  
jenlis@comcast.net

*Recording Secy.:* Chris Siple

*Membership Secy.:* Linda Gaines, linda@bscl.org

*Board Members:* Paula Levin Alcorn, Susan  
Cohen, Keith Fred, Eric Parker

## 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.:* Vacant

*NCAC Alternate:* Deborah Wood

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

*Alternates:* Gary Mason, Daniel Weir

**Visit Us Online: [www.bscl.org](http://www.bscl.org)**

## President's Message

**By Deborah Wood**

A year of Zoom meetings has ended for the Barcroft School and Civic League. At this time, fully vaccinated people have the green light to gather with family and friends without masks, both inside and out. Schools are making plans to reopen in September with full-time in-person instruction. Some things are feeling normal!

But the pandemic is by no means over. Telecommuting and Zoom meetings have become ingrained, and a hybrid of in-person and virtual is likely to continue for many activities, sometimes just because virtual is more convenient and safe. The BSCL Board of Directors is considering the viability of restarting Barcroft Community House uses that are currently paused. We welcome input from the community. Please email me at [president@bscl.org](mailto:president@bscl.org) with your thoughts.

Throughout the year, I have been impressed and gratified by the many Barcrofters who volunteer their time and talents to support our civic association. The BSCL was able to make a successful pivot to Zoom meetings, thanks to the efforts of our current officers and Board of Directors. Doug Mueller and his team of sign posters make sure we are reminded of upcoming BSCL meetings on our way in and

*Continues on page 8*

# Barcroft Elementary School Ends Year With Thanks

**By Beth Ragnauth**

As the school year draws to a close, we are reflecting on all the ways members of our whole community have supported Barcroft this year. We are thankful for all the donations of time, food, money, and more from families and community members like you; we truly cannot thank you enough. We were also lucky to receive a donation of over 200 "sit upons" (portable, insulated cushions) in May from Arlington Healthy Community Action Team, the Arlington Living Schoolyards Initiative, and several local Girl Scout troops. This gift supports our ongoing efforts to improve outdoor learning use of the school grounds, and Barcroft students will be able to make great use of them for outdoor lunch and class time this year and beyond.

And, of course, we are so very thankful for the tireless efforts of our teachers and staff! We were excited to celebrate them during Teacher Appreciation Week in May with handmade cards, video messages, and a to-go box with a week's worth of

goodies for each of them.

We are also ready to do a little COVID-modified celebrating to mark the end of the school year: Field Day, virtual fifth grade promotion, and our traditional fifth grade clap-out on the last day the fifth graders will have an in-person school day. Looking forward to next year, we will be planning some outdoor play dates for incoming kindergartners this summer. Keep an eye out for news of the dates and times; we will send them out via the BSCLChat email list. If you have a rising kindergartner at Barcroft and would like to learn more about upcoming events please feel free to reach out to Maeve Ward at [maevechward@gmail.com](mailto:maevechward@gmail.com). ●



***Left to right: The "choice" table at a recent food distribution. Barcroft PTA President Gretchen Odegard receives a donation of 200 "sit-upons" from Mary Sanders of the Arlington Healthy Community Action Team. Appreciation from Barcroft students during staff appreciation week.***

# Fourth of July Parade, continued

Continued from page 1

join in the parade.

For more information or to volunteer to help call or email Heather Meade: [heather.meade@gmail.com](mailto:heather.meade@gmail.com) or (206) 817-5609.

To join the Marching Band contact Doug Kramer at [drkramerus@yahoo.com](mailto:drkramerus@yahoo.com)  
**Join the July 4th Barcroft Marching Band. We need your talent!**

Calling all musically inclined Barcrofters. We need your talents for the 4th of July Marching Band. The marching band is a highlight of our annual Barcroft 4th of July Parade and we couldn't do it without you.

The fantastic Doug Kramer will provide music and direction.



Please email Doug to let him know you are interested and to join the practice. To join the Marching Band or for more information contact Doug Kramer at [drkramerus@yahoo.com](mailto:drkramerus@yahoo.com).

## Parade Route:

- ★ Start 800 South Buchanan (Barcroft Community House)
- ★ Down 8th Road South
- ★ Left on South Wakefield
- ★ Turn at Barcroft Elementary
- ★ Right on 8th Street South
- ★ Left on South Buchanan Street
- ★ Finish 800 South Buchanan ●





# How may I be of help?

*Proudly Serving Barcroft*

*Buying, Selling or just Friendly Advice*

**Susan Tull O'Reilly, Realtor®**

NVAR Lifetime Top Producer, Over 25 Years Experience  
703.509.7222 | soreilly@mceneaney.com | SusanTullOReilly.com  
1320 Old Chain Bridge Road, McLean, VA 22101 | 703.790.9090

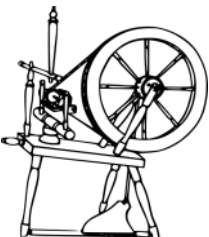
Equal Housing Opportunity

## Ball-Sellers House Opens

Have you visited the Ball-Sellers House? It's a historic treasure just across the trail in the Glencarlyn neighborhood at 5620 3rd Street South. A visit shows how middle-class folk of the Colonial era lived.

The Ball-Sellers House will be open every Saturday from 1 to 4 to p.m. through the end of October for free guided tours of the oldest house in the county.

For more information, go to <https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/visit/ball-sellers-house/> •



Barcroft News



## Barcroft's local farmers market

Barrett Elementary School  
4401 N. Henderson Road

<https://lubberrunfarmersmarket.org/>

Saturdays, April – November  
8 a.m. – 12 noon

*Buy Fresh • Buy Local  
Build a Healthy Community*

# New Bench on Community House Grounds

**By Deborah Wood, BSCL President**

On May 22 a beautiful wooden bench was dedicated at the Community House. It was built by Don Bennett, a Barcroft resident, and presented to the Barcroft School and Civic League by Michael Kieran, in memory of his wife, Judith Cusick. Mike and Judy were long time Barcroft residents — and Don's next door neighbors — until Judy passed away in autumn 2019. Mike then moved to Leesburg to be closer to his children and grandchildren.

Mike also donated funds to install the bench in a suitable setting and maintain it. Scott Brinitzer, a neighborhood Landscape Architect, who heads the Community House Landscape Committee, volunteered to design the attractive pea gravel setting

***Mike Kiernan and Don Bennett at the bench dedication.***

where the bench now sits.

Please come by to relax with a friend, read a book (Judy Cusick's favorite activity), or enjoy the pleasant grounds of the Community House from our new bench. ●



## Historic Independence Day Options

The Arlington Historical Museum at 1805 South Arlington Ridge Road reopens on Sunday, July 4 at 1 p.m. with fanfare, fun, and food! The reopening includes a flag raising ceremony, local dignitaries, Civil War reenactors with a mini-Civil War encampment,

speakers, a special behind-the-scenes tour of the museum, a new exhibit about the history of Upton's Hill, and more. More information: <https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/events/reopening-the-arlington-historical-museum/>●

# Summer With The Arlington Historic Society

The Arlington Historic Society will be presenting “Uncovering Alexandria’s Waterfront” virtually on July 8 at 7 p.m. Registration is at <https://forms.gle/eidsSHbiGfrVQcEx8>.

Archaeological work along the waterfront in Old Town has led to new insights into 18th century Alexandria. Recent discoveries include remnants of four ships, and evidence of an intricate network of wharves and piers created when Alexandrians were filling in the area to extend the shoreline out into the Poto-

mac River. Arlington’s history is inextricably linked to the history of its closest Virginia port, Alexandria City. The two were a single body until 1870 when Alexandria City separated from the more rural Alexandria County. Alexandria County was renamed Arlington in 1920.

Speaker Dr. Benjamin Skolnik is an archaeologist for the City of Alexandria’s Archaeology division. He specializes in landscape archaeology, digital mapping, and GIS. ●

## Meet Your Newest Neighbor!

We’ve been extremely busy with this market, so we’re taking a break from talking real estate to introduce you to your newest neighbor, Han Solo! Han was born on March 12th, and we got to bring him home on May 4th (yes, May the 4th be with you!). If you see us walking around the neighborhood, stop and say hello; he’s fond of new friends!



If you are interested in selling or buying, please reach out to your Barcroft neighbor, Rick.

We’re invested in our community which means we’re invested in you!



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



**Rick Woler**  
Barcroft Resident  
Agent  
267.261.9932  
[rick@trentandco.com](mailto:rick@trentandco.com)  
@rickwoler



**Ryan Isaacson**  
Barcroft Resident  
Agent  
904.309.2558  
[ryan@trentandco.com](mailto:ryan@trentandco.com)  
@rforryan

**COMPASS**  
**TRENT & CO**  
THE POWER OF A TEAM

Compass is a licensed real estate brokerage that abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is not guaranteed. This is not intended to solicit property already listed. Compass is licensed as Compass Real Estate in DC and as Compass in Virginia and Maryland. [compass.com](http://compass.com) | [trentandco.com](http://trentandco.com) | Licensed: DC|MD|VA | 301.298.1001 | 5471 Wisconsin Ave #300, Chevy Chase, MD 20814



## President's Message, continued

*Continued from page 2*

out of the neighborhood. Alyssa Ford Morel, the Barcroft News editor, assembles relevant news, and with the help of school and community contributors, keeps our neighborhood informed. Jack Mayer handles the advertising, which helps defray publication costs. The publishers, Theresa Schweser and Kirt Miller, coordinate their dedicated team that delivers newsletters to as many households in Barcroft as possible. Mark Wigfield administers our chatlist, which is a neighborhood lifeline for all sorts of information.

As we approach the 4th of July, a special thank you is due to Heather Meade and Jim Moran for organizing the annual Barcroft 4th of July parade. Please read Heather and Jim's announcement in this newsletter, for information about plans for the celebration.

Other neighbors are instrumental in up-keep for the Community House and its grounds. Throughout the summer, a team of volunteer mowers — Randy Swart, Shaun Ragnauth, Lisa Meacham, Leonardo Sarli, and Andrew Hunter — takes turns cutting the grass at the Community House every weekend. Although we have not been able to use the Community House during the pandemic, Randy and Barbara Swart are making sure that it will be in excellent condition when it can be reopened. Each

week, Randy checks all the systems to confirm they are in good working order and runs them so no problems develop. Barbara maintains the cleaning schedule and stays abreast of all Community House associated issues.

Scott Brintzer, who heads our landscaping committee, designed the pea gravel setting for the beautiful wooden bench donated by Michael Kiernan, in memory of his wife, Judy Cusick. He also worked hard to beautify the grounds prior to the bench dedication ceremony on May 22.

To everyone I've mentioned, and to the many more who represent Barcroft on Arlington County committees, volunteer for the Barcroft School PTA, and help their neighbors in ways big and small, please accept a big THANK YOU! Your caring, talents, and generosity are what make Barcroft a wonderful place to live.

Have a great summer everyone!! •



**Juliet's Housecleaning Service**  
Honest, more than 10 years experience  
with Excellent Barcroft-area References  
**LOW RATES!**  
Weekly, biweekly, monthly, or onetime cleaning.

**Call anytime: 703-628-3434,  
703-354-3225, or  
571-236-3700**





# Beat Summer Heat With a Native Plant Shade Garden

## *By the Plant NOVA Natives Campaign*

They say shade gardens are the gardens of the future, since it will be too hot to spend much time in the sun. That's pretty much the case already on most summer days. Although sunny butterfly gardens still provide hours of entertainment, a shady place to relax or play in your yard is a welcome addition. An added bonus is that gardening is a lot easier in the shade, because the weeds grow much more slowly.

There are plenty of native flowers available to provide color in a shade garden. You can see examples of them on the shade garden page of the Plant NOVA Natives website. Many of those species also make excellent ground covers. For example, Woodland Phlox and Golden Ragwort are evergreen and spread to make a mat, with blue and yellow flowers respectively in the spring. April and May are a particularly lively time in the shade, as spring ephemerals such as Virginia Bluebell and Spring Beauty pop up and bloom before the trees and shrubs leaf out, then disappear when the shade gets too heavy. They make perfect companion plants for the ferns and sedges that provide a cooling backdrop all summer long. Contrasting foliage textures create visual interest even without flowers.

Why choose native plants? A plant is native to our environment if it evolved within the local food web and has the intricate rela-

tionship with animals and other plants that this implies. Plants such as turf grass and many of the ornamentals that were brought here after the arrival of the Europeans are nearly useless (and sometimes actually harmful) from an ecosystem perspective. Choosing native plants allows us to fit into the ecosystem instead of displacing it.

Most native plants can be planted any time of year that the ground is not frozen or saturated. Spring is of course the most popular time for gardening (though fall is even better.) As consumer interest has grown, conventional garden centers have been providing an ever-increasing variety of native plants. In Northern Virginia, 22 garden centers have red stickers on their native plants, placed there by Plant NOVA Natives volunteers, so all you have to do is walk down the aisles and look for the stickers. In addition, several local garden centers sell only native plants, which gives you the best selection of all.

In some cases, the first step toward creating a shade garden will be to create the shade. A glaring hot lawn is uninviting and can be remedied by simply planting native trees. Since most trees require full sun to grow, an empty lawn is the perfect location for a grove of trees that will beautify your property while reducing air conditioning costs. Underplanting the trees with shrubs will provide homes and food for the birds. •

# Summer Greetings from Our Savior Lutheran School

May has flown by for us here at Our Savior. As we finish the school year, it is time to say goodbye to another 8th grade class as they get ready to head off to high school. We are so excited for our 10 graduates as they move on to the next adventure of high school. Our National Junior Honor Society students from 2020 and 2021 were inducted into the Our Savior Lutheran School chapter on Tuesday, May 25. Congratulations to our new thirteen members.

We are currently accepting applications for the 2021-2022 school year for grades PreK through 8th. 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. It is our plan to begin this next school year with a full-time in person schedule to include both morning and afternoon extended day care. Our Pre-K program will run Monday – Thursday from 8:20 a.m. to noon. Please call our school office if you have any questions or would like a tour of our school. We would love to tell you more about our school. Check out our school website at [osva.org](http://osva.org). School starts again on Tuesday, August 24. •

## Still the #1 Remodeling Contractor in Arlington

Pulling more permits in Arlington than any other contractor



*Specializing in Arlington Homes*

GET A FREE QUOTE TODAY  
703-536-0900 | [CookBros.org](http://CookBros.org)

# 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).*

**Babysitting:** I am an experienced babysitter who loves spending time with kids, playing sports, and especially having fun! I am a sophomore at Wakefield High School and member of AFC swim club. I am looking for a steady babysitting job this summer and am available now on the weekends! Contact me, Lucia Jacobsen, at 703-915-0530 or [luciajjacobsen@gmail.com](mailto:luciajjacobsen@gmail.com)

**Pet Sitting:** Colin (10) and Emmett (9) are happy to pet sit for your cats or other small animals. We have experience with fostering and pet sitting animals. Email [Lauren.alyssa@gmail.com](mailto:Lauren.alyssa@gmail.com) or call (703)474-2691 and ask for Colin and Emmett.

**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.

**Dull knives? Affordable kitchen knife sharpening:** With my four years of knife and tool sharpening experience and competitive rates, razor sharp knives and tools could be yours! Cost is \$1/inch. Serrated knives \$1.50/inch. Price of tools upon inspection. For more information or service contact Zach at 571-598-4760 or email at [robbets4@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:Robbets4@gmail.com) to keep Rob Severn in shape! •

Keep on top of  
neighborhood  
events and conversations  
through the

Barcroft Chat List

Sign up at  
<https://www.bscl.org/chat-list>



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

In Northern VA, Arlington County is the most expensive county for home prices. The median price of all homes styles in April 2021 was lower than it was in 2020. With 352 closed sales in Arlington County, the median price was \$650,000, down 4% from 4/2020. Arlington's number of homes for sale was up 76% from a year ago, primarily due to Covid 19, with new listings coming on the market outpacing the entire inventory. All property styles sold for an average of 101.5% over their list price, while single family homes got 103%. Single family homes averaged \$1,081,000, down 9.9% from 3/2021's average sale price of \$1,199,500.

Fairfax County's average for all styles was \$635,000, up 9% from 2020, with an average 102.7% of their list price. Loudoun and Prince William counties realized huge year-over-year increases, up 12% with an average of close to 104% of list.

In the Barcroft neighborhood, there were 10 closed sales of this writing (5/30/21) at an average list price of \$937,360 and sale price of \$988,550, and 6 DOM (days on market). There are 7 homes under contract with an average list price of \$1,201,000 and an 8 day DOM.

With me as your advisor and project manager, I can help you prepare and sell your home faster and at a higher price whether it's a private sale, an AS-IS sale, or a remodeled property.

***Compass fronts the cost of the services to enhance your home's value before the sale. Visit our web site for details on Concierge.***

*Who you hire matters - put my 36 years of local market expertise to work for you!*

**FREE Notary for Barcroft Residents!**  
**Casey O'Neal, Associate Broker**  
**COMPASS 703-217-9090**

**[www.CaseyOneal.com](http://www.CaseyOneal.com)**