



Barcroft News

November 2022

Vol 120, Issue 3

Enjoy Highlights of Barcroft This Autumn

By Suzanne Day

While fall foliage is always beautiful, houses throughout Barcroft feature surprising, whimsical and fun details that make walks a joy. Keep an eye out for these favorites.

Casting a Light: This skilled geometric painting lights up the front of a lovely old wooden garage on 4th Street South. Down at the far end of the driveway, this creative, whimsical paint job draws your attention and really pops. No doubt, it also helps keep the T-rex in the

front yard from sneaking into the back garden.

Always Blue Sky and Partly Cloudy: A

front porch always seems an invitation to sit and chat, but the painted sky and fluffy clouds invite deeper relaxation at this house on the corner of Wakefield and 6th Street South. The skyscape on the front porch ceiling also seems to extend the beautiful garden that surrounds this house right up to the front door.



Garden arch at First Road South.

Garden Arch: At the end of one of Barcroft's dead

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Next Meeting:

Thursday, November 3, 7:30 p.m., On Zoom

Topic: Barcroft Elementary School



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



Barcroft News

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President's Message

By Matthew Field

I took advantage of this space in the October newsletter to wax poetic, so I suppose it's time to get down to business this month. Despite a lack of formal programming at the October BSCL meeting, we had an engaging discussion on a number of topics of interest to the community. Taking advantage of the technological possibilities enabled by the virtual meeting format, members played with Arlington County's Stormwater Utility Fee Estimator to determine how various properties in Barcroft would be assessed if the county adopts a stormwater utility method of funding its stormwater program to replace the existing Sanitary District Tax. Rather than basing stormwater management fees on a property's real estate assessment as is done currently, the stormwater utility fee would be calculated based on the amount of impervious surface on a parcel. You can learn more about the Stormwater Utility Feasibility Study and review an estimate of your property's assessment through the county's website at <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Sustainability-and-Environment/Stormwater/Stormwater-Utility-Feasibility-Study>.

Members also expressed an interest

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President's Message, continued

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in reviving the Barcroft Holiday Party, which has been on hiatus since the onset of the pandemic. To do that, we need some volunteers to step up and organize it. If you'd be willing to help, send me a note at president@bscl.org.

Finally, if this is November, that

means it's election season (yes, I realize I'm not breaking news here). If you haven't taken advantage of early voting, don't forget to cast your ballot on November 8. U.S. House, County Board, School Board, and bond questions are all up this time around. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. There's nothing more American you can do. •

Annual Fall Craft Fair Woman's Club of Arlington

By Pat Fisher

More than 20 vendors with a wide variety of gifts to buy will be featured at the Woman's Club of Arlington's annual Fall Craft Fair on Saturday, November 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will be at the clubhouse at 700 South Buchanan Street. Entrance and parking are free. The event also features a raffle as well as lunch, beverage, and bake sale items for purchase.

Proceeds go to help pay for a scholar-

ship to a graduating Wakefield High School woman to attend a Virginia college. The scholarship is \$2,500 for four years.

For more information contact Womansclubarlington@gmail.com or call 703-553-5800. •

Next Community Meeting

The speakers at the November 3 Community Meeting will be Barcroft Elementary Principal Judy Apostolico-Buck and Carrie Lombardi from the PTA. They will give updates from the school and take questions on various items concerning Barcroft Elementary.



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Autumn Highlights, continued

Continued from page 1

end streets is a beautiful stone arch leading into the side garden. The arch on 1st Road South has been in place for decades and, surrounded by lots of green, rewards walkers for the extra steps to the end of the block.

Concrete “Art Deco” Fence: General-ly, one doesn’t associate a concrete fence



Dead trees take on new life on South Pershing Drive (above) and 4th Street, South (right).



with graceful, even voluptuous curves, but you haven’t seen

the beautiful fence on 8th Street South.

Made of cast concrete and extending around the front yard and porch, the fence features large planters and flourishes that make it a standout among Barcroft’s many pretty fences.

Chainsaw Art: In a little bit of a silver lining for the recent blight that has affected Barcroft’s old oak trees, two neighbors have commissioned chainsaw artists to rework old tree trunks into sculpture. On 4th Street South, there is a lovely lighthouse that brings a little bit of the coast to Barcroft. And on the corner of South Pershing Drive across from the Hidden Oaks townhouses, a bald eagle takes flight just off the back deck.

Doing Just Swimmingly: If the gurgle of the fountain isn’t relaxing enough, take a minute to watch the large koi in the pond on the corner of Wakefield and 3rd Street South. The beautiful, big koi are active in summer and winter over in the frozen pond. And you might not be the only ones to notice them; in a summer past, a great blue heron decided the pond was a great spot for some early morning fishing! Luckily some quick work with plastic mesh saved the fish (and disappointed the heron).

Wilbur: And finally, what says whimsy more than life size (occasionally

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costumed) pig statues? Originally, the pig was a silly gift from me to my husband Phil for our backyard at 158 South Pershing. But when the 2020 pandemic and early lockdown created a need for some lightness and connection to our neighbors, the pig came out to the front yard – at first posing in various locales and then sporting costumes of various styles and origins. Wilber, after a mishap broke a front leg, was joined by an-



other support pig, providing new challenges (and inspirations) for costumes.

Everywhere you look, our neighbor-

hood rewards a walk: beautiful old trees, lovely gardens, flowering plants, and lovely fun features. Of course, the real joy is our friendly neighbors, so be sure, when out and about, to take the time to say hello and admire what catches your eye. •

The author's own pig, Wilber, can be seen on South Pershing.



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Equal Housing Opportunity

New Time for South Arlington Slow Rides

By Bayley Vanderpoel

The timing for the next South Arlington Slow Ride and Happy Hour has changed. The next ride will be Saturday, November 12 at 3 p.m. The ride will begin in front of Our Savior Lutheran church parking lot and end at our driveway at 4307 9th Street South. The route is to be determined. Rides are at a slow pace that everyone can keep up with, and typically conclude within 30 to 45 minutes. We'll leave at 3:10.

Need a tuneup? No problem! I have 10 plus years volunteering with Vélocity Bicycle Coop and am experienced ensuring bikes are safe and ready to ride. Please arrive ear-

ly. I'll be arriving at 2:30 with my tools and supplies.

Can't make the ride but interested in the happy hour? The happy hour will begin right after the ride concludes or about 4 p.m. at the same address above. My family will provide beer, wine, nonalcoholic drinks, and snacks. A small donation is appreciated but not necessary. Please join the South Arlington Slow Riders Facebook group.

Please stay home if you have any symptoms of illness (Covid or not!) including fever, cough, runny nose, or congestion. Have questions? Please email Bayley at Bayleyvanderpoel@gmail.com. ●

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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.

Private Drum Lessons in Barcroft: All ages/ levels either In-Person or Virtual! Local musician offering instruction from Barcroft home studio on 3rd Street South. Fully equipped studio with two full drum sets. Multiple styles -- rock, jazz, classical, musical theatre. Lessons can be via Zoom, FaceTime, Google platforms, Skype. References provided. Contact: mitchbassmusic@gmail.com

Pet Sitting: Colin and Emmett (5th-6th grades) are happy to pet sit for your cats or other small animals. Sorry, no dog sitting at this time. We have experience with fostering and pet sitting animals. call (703)474-2691 and ask for Colin and Emmett or email Lauren.alyssa@gmail.com.

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. Great for gifts. Call and come by: Joan Mulholland, 501 South Taylor Street, 703-979-4719. Pay by cash, check, or Venmo. •

Autumn at Our Savior Lutheran School

Fall is in full swing at Our Savior Lutheran School. Our first and third grades continue to watch and monitor plants as they grow. First grade is watching beans grow, and third grade is tracking beans, cilantro, and radishes. They are all doing a great job!

Our second and fifth grades recently spent some time reading and writing together. It's been a great experience with lots of collaborative learning.

In their history classes, sixth grade has started to learn about the early colonies of America and seventh grade has just finished

spending time on the Progressive Era in the United States.

Eighth grade has just had their first P.E. lesson on Pickleball. They loved it and can't wait to play it more.

All our students spent time this month supporting Path Forward in their fight to end homelessness in Arlington. Students collected toiletries for Path Forward to give to those who need it most, and we also went on a walk-a-thon around the local neighborhood to show our support for those in need. •

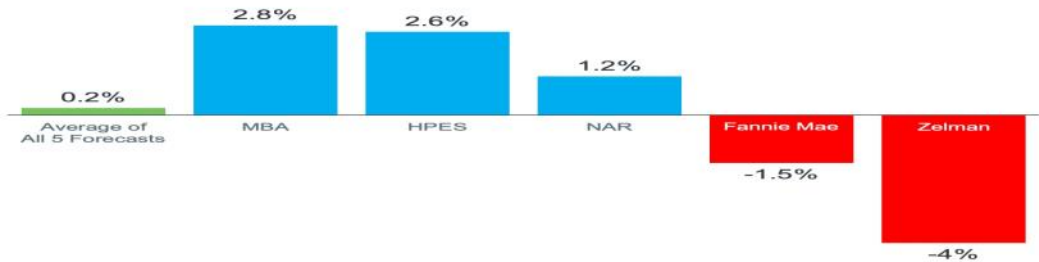


Barcroft School and Civic League
800 South Buchanan Street
Arlington, VA 22204

Experts are starting to make their 2023 home price forecasts and most agree homes will continue to gain value, just at a slower pace. Over the past few years, home prices have risen at an unsustainable rate, leaving many to wonder how long it would last. Historically, home prices have appreciated at a rate near 4%. For 2023, the average of five major forecasters noted below is .2%. While two, *Zelman & Associates* and *Fannie Mae* are calling for depreciation, the other three are calling for appreciation. The graph below outlines each expert's forecast where they project home prices are going next year. Diminished home affordability due to rising mortgage rates is a major factor.

Home Price Forecasts for 2023

As per Latest Forecasts from Each Entity



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