



Barcroft News

February 2023

Vol 120, Issue 6

Bid and Donate: Barcroft Elementary Online Auction

By Caitlin Brosseau

Barcroft Elementary School’s annual online auction – which raises money for the school’s Parent Teacher Association (PTA) – is right around the corner. The bidding window opens at 9 a.m. on Saturday, February 4 and lasts until 6 p.m. on Sunday, February 12.

Anyone can bid on an incredible array of goods, services, and experiences – all while supporting our neighborhood school’s PTA which, at Barcroft School, is more than just a social planning club. The Barcroft School PTA provides support to our teachers, students, and their families. This support includes morale boosters for school staff, student coat drives, facility enhancements, and other critical services. Proceeds from the 2022

auction funded the beautification of the school grounds with a shade structure and blacktop game art, as well as mini-grants for teachers to buy much-needed classroom supplies.

To bid, use this QR code or visit ourschool.auction/barcroft. Enter your email address and a payment method into our secure Stripe account and peruse dozens of exciting listings including leisure experiences, gift cards to local vendors, summer camps and more. If you are a winner, you will be thrilled knowing every dollar of your bid will go toward supporting our Barcroft Eagles. And, even if you decide not to bid, you can still donate to the PTA on the auction website.



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Next Meeting:

Thursday, February 2, 7:30 p.m., On Zoom

Topic: To Be Announced on the Chat List



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



Barcroft News

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Next Deadline: February 13, 2023

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Traffic Committee: Vacant

4th of July Parade: Heather Meade and Jim Moran

Columbia Pike: Katja Helbing, Charlie Smiroldo

Demeter House: Darlene Mickey

Parks & Enviro.: Don Bennett

Signs: Doug Mueller

ArNAC Rep.: Don Bennett

ArNAC 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

President's Message

By Matthew Field

The February message is a tough one to write. There are no New Years resolutions to talk about (unless we're talking about already-broken ones). Despite the recent warm-ish weather, it's too early for the "Spring in Barcroft" piece, and no one wants to talk about the weather in February anyway. We haven't even had a chance to celebrate the Barcroft Snow Brigade this year.

So let's just talk about a couple of things going on in the neighborhood. We had a productive discussion of a proposed Arlington Civic Federation resolution on transparency in government during our January meeting. Feedback from the community was essential in providing guidance to our Civ Fed delegates; we ultimately decided Barcroft cannot support the resolution as it is currently written.

Construction along Columbia Pike continues. Expect it to continue for a while; the improvements between Wakefield and Oakland aren't expected to be completed until late 2025. Not all of the segment will be under construction at once, and the County intends to give two weeks notice of traffic changes as the construction moves up and down that segment.

Progress is being made, however. Two of the Pike's multimodal transit stations

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President's Message, continued

Continued from page 2

are now open, with five more (including at Columbia Pike and Buchanan Street) expected to open by the end of January. The stations should have full electrical service in February.

Soon after, new limited-stop Metrobus service and neighborhood connections via ART will begin in Spring 2023.

Short month, short message. Hope to see you all at the February BSCL meeting. •

Woman's Club Meeting

By Pat Fisher

The Woman's Club of Arlington is presenting a program on Monday, February 6, at 1 p.m. at 700 South Buchanan Street led by Don Francisco, a colonial presenter from Mt. Vernon using Fife and Drum. Call 703-751-3442 for more information. •

Online Auction, continued

Continued from page 1

Also, new in 2023, you can purchase Barcroft spirit gear to show your EAGLE PRIDE.

The Barcroft PTA relies on our neighbors for their support and encouragement. We are counting on you to make this the best Barcroft Auction ever. Go Barcroft Eagles! •



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Equal Housing Opportunity

Gardening Classes at Your Own Computer

The Virtual Classroom of the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia and the Virginia Cooperative Extension is online and free to all. RSVP online for all events at https://mgnv.org/events/month/2023-02/?hide_subsequent_reurrences=1 to receive the link to participate. Video recordings of the sessions will be posted to <https://mgnv.org/reading-room/master-gardener-virtual-classroom/>.

Sustainable Landscape Design Part II: Landscape Problem Solving. *Friday, February 3, 10 to 11:30 a.m.*

Sustainable landscape design builds on the unique conditions of your yard to create a healthier and more ecologically friendly outdoor space. In Part II of this two-part series, Kirsten Conrad, Extension Agent for Arlington County and City of Alexandria, will focus on solving landscape problems to help you create more harmonious, functional, and pleasing outdoor spaces. Attendees are invited to submit photos, some of which may be selected, to discuss particular design challenges. Details at mgnv.org.

Introduction to Vegetable Gardening - Part 1 *Friday, February 10, 10 to 11:30 a.m.*

Join Extension Master Gardener Interns Faatimah Muhammad and Krystyn Moon for a beginners' class on the many aspects of vegetable gardening. In Part 1, you'll learn how to select a site, improve your soil, plan your garden, and obtain seeds, plants,

and equipment.

Introduction to Vegetable Gardening - Part 2 *Friday, February 17, 10 to 11:30 a.m.*

Extension Master Gardener Interns Faatimah Muhammad and Krystyn Moon continue their beginners' class on the many aspects of vegetable gardening. In Part 2, you'll learn tips on how to care for crops as they grow and how to harvest them.

Winter Pruning for Woody Plants

Friday, February 24, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Winter is an excellent time to prune many trees and shrubs. Extension Master Gardener and ISA certified arborist Maraea Harris, will explain how to the shrubs in your landscape. The main focus is pruning to maintain healthy trees and shrubs.

OPERATING! - The Extension Master Gardener Help Desk is open for your email, phone or walk-in questions! We welcome all garden-related questions, including those related to plant and insect identification. If emailing, please include photos to assist us with identification. The Help Desk is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Contact by email at mgarlalex@gmail.com, phone to 703-228-6414, or stop by 3308 South Stafford Street, Arlington.

Also check out the resources on mgnv.org. You'll find Gardening Basics, a list of problem plants and better alternatives, and an extensive compilation of Tried and True Native Plants for the Mid-Atlantic Area. •



2023 BSCL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

You may check the current roster at <https://www.bscl.org/membership>. If you don't see your name listed please complete the entire form and return with dues to:

*Barcroft School & Civic League
c/o Treasurer
811 South Taylor Street
Arlington, VA 22204*

Check one: New Member Application Membership Renewal

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership (\$ 5.00)	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Couple/Family Membership (\$10.00)	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Tax Deductible Contribution to the Community House Conservation Fund	\$ _____
Total (<i>Please make check payable to BSCL</i>)	\$ _____
Check Number _____	

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Apt: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

Cell Phone: (____) _____

E-Mail Address (s): _____

I/we would like to volunteer to help with:

Snow Removal for Elderly/Disabled

Yard Work for Elderly/Disabled

Barcroft Players

Food Events (*Dinners, Cookouts, etc.*)

Distribution (*Newsletters, Flyers, etc.*)

4th of July Parade and Picnic

Grant Writing

One-Time Efforts (*as they arise*)

Serve on a Committee — Specify which: _____

(*Crime Resistance, Parking, Traffic*)

Other (please specify): _____

Grants for History Projects

Arlington County now has a grant program for community and individual history projects. Grants will support maintaining historic buildings, tours of historic neighborhoods, plans for historic commercial areas, historic research, oral histories, historic markers, nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and educational activities. Capital projects (limit \$100,000) require 100 percent matching funds. Non-capital projects are limited to \$25,000. The application period closes on April 28. For application assistance, email HistoricPreservationFund@arlingtonva.us or call the Historic Preservation Program

office at 703-228-3549.

The HPF will support projects that:

- Enhance the understanding of Arlington's history and historic character;
- Have significant impact on the community and advance cultural equity in Arlington.
- Result in distinctive, high quality, and meaningful cultural experiences in Arlington.
- Foster community partnerships and advance the vision and values of the Historic Preservation Master Plan; and
- Preserve the historic built environment. •

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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. •

Barcroft Elementary February Update

By Kelly Miller, Barcroft PTA

The Barcroft Eagles are keeping warm this winter with their learning, winter enrichment programs, and eating Ledo pizza to raise money for the Barcroft PTA. Thanks to all who helped make the fundraiser a success

The 4th and 5th graders got to meet the ultimate eagle, Slapshot, when they went to watch Alexander Ovechkin celebrate his 800 NHL goals at a practice in January. The Eagles joined hundreds of fellow 4th and 5th graders from Arlington to celebrate Ovi and his momentous achievement.

February will bring the annual Barcroft Online Auction (February 4 to 12), the Friendship Party (February 10), and more chances to work hard and be kind to one another. Stay warm, readers, till next time! •



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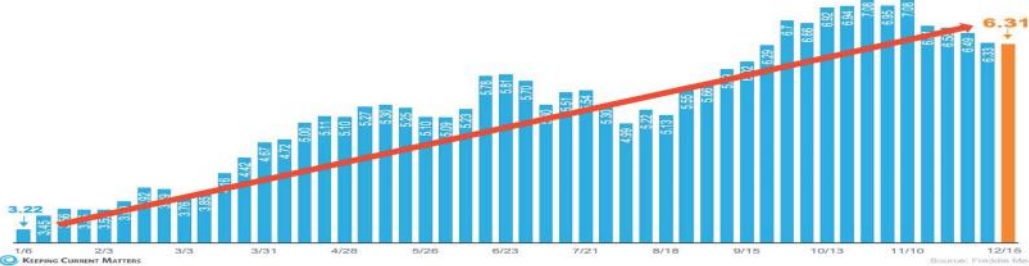


Barcroft School and Civic League
 800 South Buchanan Street
 Arlington, VA 22204

The graph below shows the rise and fall of mortgage rates in 2022. As of mid-January, rates have dropped slightly below 6%, and we have seen an increase in buyer activity. This year, experts agree we may see the return of greater stability and predictability in the housing market if inflation continues to ease and mortgage rates stabilize. The housing market, once adjusted to the new normal of higher mortgage rates, will benefit from continued strong demographic-driven demand relative to a shortage in the supply of homes. *Contact me with financing questions.*

Mortgage Rates Continue their Downward Trajectory

Freddie Mac 30-Year Fixed Rate, January 2022 - December 2022



Temporary interest rate buydowns are a hot trend for mortgages as borrowers face higher costs for home loans. Some buyers are exploring alternatives to traditional mortgages in a period of rising rates. Buydowns can be a less costly alternative to traditional fixed rate mortgages. Mortgage rates inched down in December from their peak in November and are at 6% as of early January 2023. Contact me with questions on financing options, and I can recommend some lenders who offer some creative loan programs.

Are you considering a new lifestyle? Put my 38 years of local Arlington market expertise to work for you and your largest financial investment! **Casey O'Neal, Compass Real Estate, 703-217-9090, www.caseyoneal.com. Free Notary!**