



BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 97, No 8

April 2000

April Meeting: BICYCLE!

Spring is here, and daylight savings time arrives a few days before our April meeting. Why not be ready for that first extra hour with new bicycling know-how? Did you know that Arlington has 36 miles of paved trails, and that there have been major improvements to Arlington area trails including 2 new bridges on the Mount Vernon Trail at Reagan National Airport. To learn all about trails and bicycling from Barcroft to the world, attend the April 6 meeting, 7:30 p.m., at the Barcroft Community House. Free Arlington bike maps will be available. Our panels and panelists focus on:

Bike trails and the logistics of getting around by bike – picking the right route, where you can lock your bike, safety, taking a bike on the metro, and more (continued inside)

Easter Egg Hunt

Our Third Annual Easter Egg Hunt is fast approaching, it will be on Saturday, April 22 at 10:00 a.m. at the Barcroft/Arlington Hall park, located on Taylor Street. If it is raining we will move it to the Community House for an indoor dry hunt.

This year we will also have a special treat for the kids: the Easter bunny will stop by. (If you come early you may even see him hiding eggs!) Please come on time, once the hunt starts the eggs are found very quickly.

We are still looking for volunteers to donate baked goods and help with the bake sale please call Anna Peterson at 703-521-8756.

Spring Forward and take a walk around our beautiful neighborhood while the spring foliage moves from beautiful to sublime. Thanks to all Barcroft gardeners!

(continued from front)

Ritch Viola, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator for the Arlington Department of Public Works.

Commuting downtown by bike, Barcrofter **Elizabeth Rives**.

Commuting to the metro by bike, **Mark Wigfield**.

Helmets, **Randy Swart** in his professional capacity as the Executive Director of the Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute, on-the-web as www.helmets.org. The Institute runs helmet advocacy programs, serves on helmet standard committees, and is a clearinghouse for consumer information. Bring your helmet, and Randy will show you how to adjust it for proper fit.

If you have access to the internet, visit the Arlington Bike & Pedestrian Services at www.commuterpage.com/bike.htm. If anyone else has knowledge to share, please contact Marie Korn, 703-521-8069, or mkorn@iamdigex.net

Bicycle Registration: Community House, Thursday April 6.

Coinciding with our bicycling program, representatives from the Arlington Police Department will be at the Barcroft Community House between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. on the 6th to register your bicycle. This is a good opportunity for everyone in the family the have their bikes registered. It takes only a few minutes and greatly increases the chance that your bike will be recovered in case of theft.

Be healthy, be fun, be safe, be on a bike!

It's Not Too Late....

to send in your BSCL dues for 1999-2000. If you happen to have the form, just fill it out and send it in. If you don't have the form, write down your name, address, phone number. Include e-mail address if you want and say whether or not you want your e-mail address on the BSCL Web-Page. Send all this along with your dues (\$3 per adult) to:

Peg Lefebvre
Membership Secretary
812 S. George Mason Dr.
Arlington, VA 22204-1555

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Deadlines: 1st (ads) or 10th (editorial material) day of the month preceding the issue month.

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<i>Columbia Pike</i>	Alake Hinton

The *Barcroft News* is printed on recycled paper with vegetable-based ink by the Stanley Adams Printing Company.

Neighborhood Day: Float or Drill?

At our April meeting we will consider how Barcroft should participate in this year's Arlington Neighborhood Day Parade on May 13th. We can build a float, or we might revive our Imprecision Lawnmower Drill Team. Be there and make your suggestion!

Barcroft is also likely to hold its own event on Neighborhood Day at Barcroft Elementary. Stay tuned for more information.

The Columbia Pike Jazz Festival is scheduled for the same day at Patrick Henry School, 701 S. Highland Street, from noon until 6 p.m. Space is available for neighborhood booths and exhibits. For more information, contact Rebecca Krafft at 703-862-2776. Or visit the CPRO web site, www.UptownArlington.com/ThePike; e-mail the cpro at cpro@uptownsarlington.com

Grandma's Creek Cleanup Returns Pizza Ads

On a damp March Saturday a cleanup crew including Kate and Ken Butler, Jim Kerr, Randy Swart, Mark Wigfield, and Dick and Susan Williams had a grand time cleaning up Grandma's Creek from Dead Person's Curve down to Four Mile Run.

They crew found hundreds of door hanger ads from Pizza Outlet on Columbia Pike that had been dumped in the park, and returned two bags stuffed full of them to the business. A great place to order pizzas...Not!

In a number of places people or tree workers are dumping yard cleanup material, old fencing and tree branches in the park. Please make sure anyone you hire is hauling that stuff away! If you have any information that could lead to tracking the dumpers down, please call Mark at 703-979-0339 or mark@bscl.org.

This year the volunteers found jillions of packing "peanuts" in the park. As we order more from Internet suppliers and receive boxes of those bits of foam we need to be careful to contain them before putting them into our trash. They are so light that they spill as the can is emptied, and the wind and rain bring them to Grandma's Creek.

Rescue Me

CPR Kits Available for checkout at Arlington Public Library. Did you know that only 30 percent of the population is trained in CPR? The Arlington County Fire Department and the Arlington County Public Library offer Rescue Me Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) kits to the public free of charge. The Rescue Me program was developed to enable more people to learn this critical life-saving skill. It is a self-guided program that you can learn at your own pace in your home. There is no certification or test.

Anyone with an Arlington County Public Library card will be able to check out the Rescue Me CPR kit from the following branch libraries: Aurora Hills, 735 18th Street S, Columbia Pike, 816 S Walter Reed Drive, and Cherrydale, 2190 N Military Road

As the Water Flows

On February 24, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held at Barcroft Park to unveil the new Four Mile Run interpretive signs about our neighborhood watershed. These signs, which were designed by Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE) with a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, are temporarily sited at Barcroft Park, but will ultimately be moved to the park currently being planned in our neighborhood at Columbia Pike and the Four Mile Run bike path.

The signs present a fascinating history of Four Mile Run (including some great turn-of-the-century photographs); explain the relationship between our Creek and the Chesapeake Bay; and describe how our activities in our neighborhood and backyards affect the health of the creek, the Potomac River and the Bay.

To get a sneak preview of the signs before they are moved to our neighborhood, you can see them now at Barcroft Park. They are sited next to the creek behind the Department of Motor Vehicles office and baseball fields off South Four Mile Run Drive. If you have any questions about the signs, or about the ongoing plans for the park at Columbia Pike, you can call T. J. Murphy (703) 486-1734 or e-mail at SewerDude@aol.com.

Community Hero Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2000 Community Hero Awards, which will recognize outstanding contributions to Arlington civic life on Neighborhood Day

in May. The deadline for nominations is April 3. The awards program, now in its fourth year, is sponsored by Ballston Common Mall and the Sun Weekly.

Award recipients and finalists will be honored at ceremonies at Ballston Common on Saturday, May 13 at 11 a.m. Community Hero Awards recognizes individuals, couples, families, agencies/businesses and youth for their contributions to Arlington over the past two years. A nomination form is available in the Sun Weekly by calling the Sun Weekly (703 204-2800) or Ballston Common Mall (703-243-6346). Nominees do not need to live in Arlington, but the impact of their work must focus on Arlington residents.

Nominees will be scored based on seven categories: type of need addressed; actions taken to address that need; initiative taken in spearheading the actions; achievements of the actions; impact of the achievements; special challenges faced by the nominee; and the overall impact of the nominee's work.

Julie Yard Café

Spring has truly arrived when the Julie Yard Café opens Friday, April 7, 7:30 p.m. Enjoy free desserts and snacks while visiting with neighbors and friends at the Cafe (otherwise known as the Community House). Background piano music (jazz, pops, Celtic, and mellow classics) will be provided by the teen students of Julie Gorka. Call Julie for more information at 703-979-0339.

A Confluence of Community, School and History

My son Adam, a 3rd grader in Mrs. Crocker's class at Barcroft School had just completed a report on the life of James Henson. He came home and talked of this man, his new hero - a stranger to his parents' history classes. He told us how he was the first American who reached the North Pole. I corrected him by saying it was Robert E. Peary. With great authority he then corrected me by saying that Henson was Peary's navigator who in fact first reached the Pole but was never given the credit as he was a Black man; a man I soon learned who lived a remarkable life of his own.

One recent weekend as we were driving by Arlington cemetery, Adam asked if we could visit Mr. Henson's grave. We drove in and found the grave coordinates. We started off on our search, our treasure hunt. After a lengthy walk to the far side of the cemetery, Adam excitedly ran ahead in search of the black gravestone (he had seen it in a photo). And there it was, in a place of lonely prominence on a wind swept ridge overlooking the Navy annex - the place of rest for Adam's friend and a confirmation of history for me. Mr. Henson was laid to rest next to Peary, the man he served as navigator.

Adam of course wanted a photograph so he could prove to Mrs. Crocker and his classmates that he was there. He wanted the credit. As the rest of the family started walking away, Adam lingered behind to say a few words to his friend. And in the

fashion of an eight year old boy who rarely slows down, with his arm lazily draped over the gravestone and absently kicking the ground, he sent his message across time to another soul. I thank Barcroft school - a school that takes time to celebrate diversity and make it work - for helping Adam make this magical connection....yet another reason why our lives are made richer having our children go to Barcroft School, a school that is aware of the diverse and broad world our children will grow up in, and the privilege of living in Arlington.

By Andrew Hunter

W&OD Trail Bluemont Bypass Slated for Year 2000

W&OD trail users, relief is in sight from the crowded trail conditions in the Bluemont Park picnic area. A new trail will be paved on the old railroad bed along the east side of Four Mile Run from the Bluemont Junction Trail to a point just south of Carlin Springs Rd, providing a bypass of the meandering W&OD trail in that busy section of the park. The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority has fully funded and designed this project and should get it built in 2000.

Barn Dance

Join us Friday May 19 at 8:00 p.m. for a Barn Dance with Liz Donaldson, caller, and tunes by JumpStart. Dances for kids earlier in the evening, progressing to real squares and contras. All ages; kids are welcome with parents. \$7/adults, \$5/kids, \$15/families. Julie, 703-979-0339.

March Meeting Recap

The March meeting was held at Barcroft School, where we enjoyed a student performance celebrating African American history. Afterward, Principal Miriam Hughey-Guy invited our participation on April 7 at 10 a.m. for the opening of a time capsule buried 20 years ago, and for a celebration of the 75th birthday of Barcroft School on April 8 from 2-6 p.m.

At our business meeting, we voted to install a trash can at 9th and Buchanan. Jill Herndon requested volunteers for landscape maintenance at the community house—please contact her at 521-8907 or jillherndon@aol.com if you can help. A new picket fence should be installed by the end of March using volunteer help, as well as the new wood floor.

Elaine Squeri reported that data collection boxes will be installed in several locations in Barcroft to monitor speed and the amount of traffic. We approved the resolution in the March issue of the Barcroft News and will send our endorsement of the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Committee and their report to the Arlington County Board.

Mark Wigfield reminded Barcrofters that there are some 50 county citizen commission looking for volunteers. These commissions make recommendations to the county board on a wide variety of issues, ranging from parks, transportation, planning, housing, sports, fiscal affairs, the arts, the environment and other areas. If you want to get involved, call Jeanne Logtens at the Arlington County Board at

703-228-3155. She'll give you information about how to apply.

All's Quiet At Demeter

Demeter House, a residential substance abuse recovery center in the neighborhood, reported no incidents or other problems at its quarterly meeting with the neighborhood advisory committee on March 9. Indeed, the only incident worth mentioning was the result of good intentions gone awry. A photo taken by a community resident caroling with Demeter women in the neighborhood made its way onto Barcroft's Web site. While the photo was taken and posted with the best of intentions, it was against confidentiality rules protecting the location of the facility and the identity of the women in it. Barcroft's webmaster promptly removed it when Demeter staff notified us of it.

Demeter's one-year review by state licensing authorities comes up in May. So far, there have been few reported problems that could lead to any questions about renewal of their license. Meanwhile, a local brownie troop that organized the Christmas caroling is working on a Mother's Day event for the residents. By design, mothers at Demeter are allowed to bring their young children with them to the facility. And by design, interaction with the neighborhood aids in the recovery of these women, who have voluntarily taken the difficult step of leaving their addictions behind. But Barcroft remains alert to any problems that could result from the county's decision to place the institution on a quiet neighborhood street in Barcroft.



COME TO THE APRIL BSCL MEETING TO SUPPORT BARCROFT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

At the April Meeting, we will vote on priorities for possible funding from an Arlington neighborhood improvement organization. On the list of possible projects to be funded is a proposal to expand the playground at Barcroft Elementary School. The school board has agreed to partially support the project, but additional funding is necessary for a successful expansion. Please come to the meeting to support your local school. If you are not a member of the BSCL, please bring \$3 to join the organization, so that you will be allowed to vote.

Part-time Nanny Available:

Excellent References: Call Lisa at 703-486-2983

Don't Bag It - Recycle It!

Warmer temperatures and the first crocus blooms remind me that the weekly lawn mowing ritual will soon be upon us. Though some find this landscape task "pleasurable," even "relaxing" in its predictability (or at the very least "a good workout"), most of us would rather be elsewhere!

Grass clippings generated from lawn mowing, along with other organic landscape debris, comprise up to 30 percent of the solid waste stream on average. Tax dollars spent to dispose of grass clippings, which are over 90 percent water anyway, surely could be used more effectively!

If properly mown and left on the lawn, grass clippings eventually dry up and provide valuable organic matter to the topsoil immediately below the turf. In the process of drying up, the clippings return nitrogen to the soil (nitrogen is the nutrient responsible for the nice green color in our turf). This may reduce the amount of fertilizer you have to dump on your lawn to keep it green, and save you some bucks at the same time.

Here are some do's and don'ts on lawn mowing to help you become a successful "grasscycler" while saving your time, money and energy:

Mowers: Use a mulching mower. These mowers chop clippings into finer pieces and help get them out of sight. Take the bag off the mower and replace it with a cover. Most new side and rear discharge mowers come with covers that attach when

the bag is removed. Keep the mower blades sharp. This prevents tearing of the grass blades which leads to ratty looking lawns.

Mowing Frequency: Mow when the grass needs it. Most lawns in Arlington are "cool weather grasses" such as Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue and ryegrass, and should be cut at 2.5 - 3 inches tall. Mow when the grass grows about an inch, so that you don't remove more than 1/3 of the surface are of the grass blades at a time. This might mean every five days in the spring, and every 10-14 days in summer. Mowing more frequently reduces the chance you will leave grass clumps behind you. **AVOID** this if possible! Don't mow when the grass is wet from rain or dew.

Soils and Fertilizers: Don't fertilize heavily this spring since the grass grows fast in the spring, anyway! Instead, wait until May and apply a small dose of fertilizer according to soil test results. Apply most of your fertilizers this fall when the grass will use it to grow strong roots and **NOT** lots of new leaves that you have to mow! Aerate the lawn this spring or fall to help the roots breathe and to reduce compaction. Annual aeration will improve your lawn greatly over the years.

For more information on Grasscycling, Composting, and Mulching, please call the Arlington Extension Office Horticulture Hot Line at 703-228-6414 and ask for the "Grasscycle Pack." This info also can be found at www.ext.vt.edu/offices/arlington. Look under "Environmental Horticulture".
By Tom Tyler, Extension Agent-Environmental Horticulture, Arlington County

Drought Recovery, Spring 2000

Is the drought is really over? All we know is that our trees, shrubs, lawns and gardens suffer from one of the most serious droughts in recent history last growing season. This and the cumulative effects of rainfall well below average over the past three years do not bode well for Arlington landscapes. You can check your trees and shrubs for signs of growth stress by looking for annual growth patterns. Compare growth of twigs by going back from the tip of the twig to the end of the previous year's growth. This is usually indicated by a scar (dark line) that encircles the twig. Current season's growth is usually a light brown or green color. Stress is indicated by shorter growth between years e.g., two inches of growth in '99 vs. three in '98 and four in '97.

Like people, any kind of stress will predispose a plant to attack by bugs and fungi. The white birch is notorious for getting insect borers when summers are dry; dogwoods, cherries, peaches and other fruit trees are also susceptible to borers. These immature beetles or moths bore holes into the trunk and branches to feed, and wreck havoc on the plant in the process. Sawdust or frass, loose or peeling bark (unless typical for the tree), dead limbs or branches, tunneling and open holes, or "shot holes," are all signs that your tree or shrub might have borers.

Help your trees recover from drought by keeping them adequately watered. Try for

the equivalent of 1-1.5 inches of rainfall per week. Apply 2-3 inches of hardwood mulch to keep the soil damp and reduce fluctuations in moisture content. Spread the mulch out to the drip line of the tree if you can spare the space! Finally, have the soil tested and broadcast the appropriate fertilizer in the root zone where feeder roots are located in early spring. Prune out dead or broken branches.

Lawns that were not irrigated last summer also suffered. If there are bare patches in the lawn, remove dead grass with a thatch rake. Sow new grass seed in bare spots from early March until the trees leaf out. To insure good germination, lightly rake the seed bed to maximize contact with the soil. If you don't re-seed these bare patches, rest assured there will be a good crop of crabgrass and other weeds to fill in for you! Lastly, avoid fertilizing early this spring. Instead, have your soil tested and fertilize lightly in May, according to soil test results.

For more extensive information on tree maintenance, pruning or lawn care, please call the Arlington County Extension Office Horticulture Help Line at 228-6414 and ask for publications 430-018 Fertilizing Landscape Trees and Shrubs, 430-455 A Guide to Successful Pruning: Pruning Basics and Tools, 430-460 Deciduous Tree Pruning Calendar, 430-461 Evergreen Tree Pruning Calendar, 430-462 Shrub Pruning Calendar, and 426-717 Maintaining Lawns.

Submitted by Tom Tyler, Extension Agent, Environmental Horticulture Arlington County

Rom's Reflections

Kitt's bicycle was speeding out of control when he hit the tree in GlenCarlyn Park. Though wearing a helmet, his head snapped back and he fell as if shot. He was bleeding heavily when I picked him up. (Training: never move a person with a head injury. Reaction: scoop my son up.) A beautiful day, runners and bikers quickly gathered. No cell phones? I should, but didn't, know where the closest pay phone was located. Better, I thought, to rush Kitt home than to wait for help.

"Can we help?" two runners offered. "No, we're ok" I might have said as I deserted the bikes of both my boys. "We'll bring the bikes home" the runners insisted. I did not know them, but recognized them because they sometimes ran past our home. "Ok, we're on 3rd Street" is what I think I told them. We rushed off, called an ambulance, and headed for the hospital.

When we returned home, stitched and sore but safe, I found two bicycles in my garage. Pat and Chris, the runners from Abingdon St., had carried the bikes there and left a note. Thanks, Abingdon friends.

Human kindness sometimes shows up in unexpected moments. Not all kindness is random, however, nor need it be. Communities can nurture it, especially when we look out for each other. I was so glad to recognize those runners, even if I hadn't actually met them. Now that I have, I hope that someday I'll be able to return their kindness....if not to them, to someone else who perhaps has lost control and smacked a hard object in life.

Make Your Garden More Your Own

(With a little help from whatever you choose from:)

Consulting
Plants
Installation
Maintenance
(Muscle)

....Gardening



'Weed 'em and Reap'

Annie's Garden
4413 South 8th Street
Arlington, Va 22204
(703) 979-0054

**Come Dance, or
Pin the Tail, or
Toast Your Friends
Host Your Party at the
Barcroft Community House**



**Large space, small rental fee;
Sparkling new kitchen &
restroom
Call 521-1116 for reservations**

Bicycle Collection

Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE) will host a bicycle collection event for Pedals for Progress on Earth Day, April 22. The event, held in conjunction with Arlington County's Household Hazardous Waste Collection, will allow used bikes sitting in storage or headed to the landfill to be sent to people who need transportation in Third World countries. Any used bike in working or repairable condition is welcome. A minimum \$5 donation is required for each bike donation to help offset shipping costs. Pedals for Progress works with select charities in Third World countries to supply bikes for transportation. The organization was started in 1991 and today collects over

5,000 bicycles annually. The collection is scheduled for Saturday, April 22, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Washington-Lee High School I-66 parking deck at N. 15th Street and N. Quincy, Arlington. For more information on Pedals for Progress call 703-525-0931. For information on the Household Hazardous Waste Collection call 703-228-6832.

Wanted: Summer Help

Are you a neighbor willing to care for children or lawns? Please let us know...and we'll list you next month. Contact Mark 703-486-2983; romm@gunet.georgetown.edu

Casey O'Neal

Associate Broker,
RE/MAX Horizons 703-824-4800
"Your Personal Real Estate Advisor"
Direct Line: 703-824-4196
Email: casey@caseyoneal.com
Internet: www.caseyoneal.com

Curious about Current Homes for Sale? Check out our web site, www.caseyoneal.com, which offers a link to the local MLS system (MRIS database). Homes data base covers over 22,000 square miles in 5 states with over 65,000 active listings and is the most current of any internet site for available properties. Also available is community & school information. If you don't have internet access, call us and we can mail you whatever you need or refer you to the source.

Barcroft's Digital Divide

Some 200 Barcrofters are on an e-mail list used to deliver instant information about community events and other news. While most of the information is in the newsletter, e-mail is the best way to announce late-breaking news or to issue reminders. Unfortunately, not everyone has e-mail. But there is an alternative. Call the Barcroft Neighborline at 521-1116 for event information. Or ask your computer-geek neighbor to tell you about any late-breaking neighborhood news coming through cyberspace. Have e-mail but not on the list? Send your e-mail address to mark@bscl.org. Watch for the establishment of an interactive "listserv" in the coming months. Also, visit virtual Barcroft at www.bscl.org.

Volunteer of the Month

By the time this newsletter reaches your door, the community house is likely to have a stunning new picket fence. This is the work of Scott Brintzer, a BSCL board member who, by day, is a landscape architect. A review of old issues of the Barcroft News reveals that Scott has been building support and developing plans to beautify the grounds of our historic building for nearly a decade. Over that time, he's single-handedly raised thousands of dollars and donated generously of both his time, money and resources to get the job done. Now, one of the most dramatic of the improvements is finally happening. Thanks, Scott, for your vision and persistence.

Crime Report

Here are the crime statistics for January. The first number is for the County, the second for the district which includes Barcroft also a much broader area.

Commercial burglary 19/6
Residential burglary 18/7
Larceny from auto 91/22
Rape/Sodomy 1/1
Recovered stolen vehicle 18/9
Commercial robbery 3/3
Purse snatch 5/2
Street robbery 6/3
Sexual assault 5/0
Auto larceny 60/30

The victim of the rape was 11 years old. The suspect in the case was an acquaintance of the victim's family. No force was involved but an 11 year old cannot legally consent in such a case. The suspect is awaiting indictment.

With these reports, I am trying to give you a better picture of the actual crime rate in your neighborhood. I want to explain some of the more serious sounding crimes so that you will have a better understanding of them. In talking with residents, it appeared to me that many felt there was much more crime than there actually is. I have tried to give you a more accurate picture. I realize that I do not give you all of the crime statistics or stories. I rely on the media and other conduits [such as www.crimereports.com] for that.

Be safe.

Steve Holl, 3rd District Commander
703-228-4097 Sholl@co.arlington.va.us

Citizen Speed Monitors Sought

The Special Operations Section, in conjunction with the Districts, will soon be starting a Neighborhood Speed Watch Program. All of the details are not finalized, but here is the broad outline. Civic associations or neighborhood groups would select several residents to participate in the program. Participants would receive about 30 minutes of training which allows them to operate a hand held radar device. They would then monitor traffic at residential locations of their choosing. Tag numbers of vehicles in violation would be recorded and advisory letters sent to the vehicle's registered owner. This is a great way for the community to become involved in one of the areas I hear the most about - traffic! I will give you all of the details as soon as they are finalized.

I would also like to remind residents about some common-sense traffic rules:

-It is illegal to drive across public or private property to avoid a STOP sign, traffic signal or other traffic control device. We have worked several complaints regarding this type of driving behavior.

-It is illegal to sound your vehicle's horn other than as a warning device. We have been having problems with people stopping outside apartment buildings and sounding their horns to let occupants know their ride is present.

Steve Holl, 3rd District Commander

EDITORS NOTE: A volunteer is needed to collect additional police reports for the Barcroft News. Contact Mark at 703-979-0339 or mark@bscl.org if you'd like to help out. Also, if you're interested in participating in the Neighborhood Speed Watch program, contact BSCL traffic committee chair Elaine Squeri at 703-920-7014 or frenchsqueri@erols.com.

Columbia Pike Revitalization Effort Revitalizing -- Again

The Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization's ambitious plans to improve the Pike were put on hold last fall with the resignation of its executive director and by difficulties the county experienced hiring the three planners it needs to get the job done. But CPRO now has an interim director, and the county has hired two of the three staffers it's seeking. Now, CPRO has rescheduled community meetings meant to solicit your vision of what the Pike can be. Target date for completion for a plan of action: This fall.

That's a fast timeline, and your input is needed. Do you envision a Ballston-type corridor with light rail, or a less-dense area of shops and restaurants, maybe a Starbucks here or there. Or maybe you'd like to see additional pawn shops laced with a few more used car lots. The choice is yours. Meeting times and places are to be announced soon.

Friends of Four Mile Run Meeting

April 8, 10:30 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center. Agenda is open. Call 503-9462.

Candidates Wanted

Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE) is seeking new candidates for its Board of Directors. This is an ideal opportunity to serve the Arlington community and provide direction and oversight to ACE programs and policy. Members of the board are volunteers and must be able to attend monthly evening meetings, participate in ACE events, and contribute to ACE programs and/or board activities, such as serving as an officer or committee leader. If you are interested, please submit a written statement of interest c/o the ACE Executive Director. The candidates will be reviewed by a nominating committee. For more information, contact Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment, 3308 South Stafford Street, Arlington, VA 22206, 703-228-6427, ACE222hq@aol.com.

The Explorers

See "The Explorers" at the Arlington Planetarium through April 14. Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 1 and 3 p.m.. The one-hour program sweeps viewers into a seafaring adventure with people of the Pacific Islands, as they embark on a 2,000-mile voyage in the wake of their ancestors following only the stars. Also: "Stars Tonight" Mondays April 2 and May 1 offers a review of prominent celestial features of spring. Admission \$2.50 adult, \$1.50 seniors and children 12 and under at 1426 N. Quincy Street.

Beef on the Run

McDonalds has apparently abandoned plans to convert the Roy Rogers restaurant at S. Buchanan and Columbia Pike. McDonalds has put the property up for sale, with an asking price of \$1.5 million. No word on any potential buyer yet. McDonalds bought out the Roy Rogers chain and had closed or converted most Roy's to McDonalds. Indeed, the Columbia Pike restaurant seemed to be one of the world's last remaining Roy's. McDonalds had at one point planned to move in, and had gone so far as to get county approvals for changes in the property. BSCL's request that traffic from the restaurant be kept off S. Buchanan was rejected. County staff felt that unprotected left turns from the lot onto Columbia Pike were too dangerous.

Anyway, looks like Roy will finally be riding off into the sunset. Better act now if you want to get one last roast beef sandwich.

Proper Property Taxes?

Surprised by your real estate assessment? The Arlington County Taxpayers Association advises citizens to call (703-228-3130), write (Arlington County Board, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard, 22201) or email countyboard@co.arlington.va.us the County Board for an explanation. You can and contact the Arlington County Taxpayers Association, PO Box 5335, Arlington 22205 for membership

Attention, Dog Owners!

A sponsoring group for the Glen Carlyn Dog Exercise Area has been formed and has signed an agreement with the county to formally adopt this park. Barcroft is represented by Eric Parker on S. Abingdon St. The group, called "GlenDogs", operates as a subordinate group to "ArlingtonDogs." To find out more, call Eric at 703-486-3649.

Farmers' Market

The Arlington County Office of Virginia Cooperative Extension coordinates the popular tradition of the Arlington County Farmers' Market. In 1999 the Farmer's Market celebrated twenty years of bring fresh, seasonal, locally grown produce to Arlington residents. The market features locally produced baked and processed foods like breads, pastries, cookies, jams, jellies, pickles and relishes.

In 2000 the market opens April 22 and will have its last market day on December 16. The hours of the market are from 8 a.m. to 12 Noon on Saturdays. The market takes place at the intersections of N. Courthouse Road and N. 14th St. near Courthouse Plaza in Arlington. FREE PARKING during the hours of the market is provided courtesy of Arlington County. Market-goers with cars may park in the surface lot at Courthouse Plaza, in levels G-1 and the Mezzanine of the adjacent parking garage, as well as at metered spaces on the streets surrounding the market. The market is easily accessible from the Courthouse Metro stop on the Orange Line.

Historic Markers Moved to Barcroft Side of the Pike

The County has moved the Barcroft and Arlington Mill historic markers across the Pike to our side. They are now just off the sidewalk about half way between the shopping center and the FMR bridge. We will probably pick another spot for them when we get the park design done with our NCAC funding, but at least they are now visible and will not be run into by cars.

The markers read:

Barcroft: In 1880 Dr. John W. Barcroft rebuilt the Arlington Mill. The name of the railroad station here was subsequently changed from Arlington to Barcroft, and that became the name of the residential community which developed eastwards along Columbia Pike. This community, left to its own devices, developed an active civic league and its own church, school and neighborhood house.

The Arlington Mill: The land along Four Mile Run in this area belonged to George Washington and was known as Washington Forest. Later it became part of the Arlington Estate. The Columbian Turnpike was built through here in 1808 to link the Long Bridge at Washington to the Little River Turnpike to the west. In 1836 G.W.P. Custis built a grist mill here where the turnpike crossed Four Mile Run. It was destroyed during the Civil War (as the supposed property of R.E. Lee), but was rebuilt in 1880, continued in operation to 1906, and was destroyed by fire in 1930.

Explore Barcroft's history...today!

Barcroft Biker Raises Money for AIDS Services

This summer, Eric Parker, on S. Abingdon St., will participate in the Washington, DC AIDS Ride 5. Along with 1,700 other participants, Eric will ride his bike from Raleigh, NC to Washington DC. That's 330 miles in four days. The AIDS ride supports the Whitman Walker Clinic and Food & Friends, two organizations in the DC area that provide AIDS-related services

The AIDS ride motto is "I'mPossible". Eric, who commutes to work each day by bike, looks forward to doing something beyond his "comfort zone." He is also remembering his sister who died of cancer on Thanksgiving Day, 1998 at age 36. He says "When she died, I became increasingly aware of the ways I minimize the value of my own life. I needed to start turning my thoughts of 'I'd like to do that someday' into 'I'm going to do that today'."

Eric is searching for sponsors for his ride. Call him at 703-486-3649 or visit him at <http://home.att.net/~ericparker/default.htm>.

Barcroft Exchange

Offered: Sharp console copier. 50 copies per minute. Used, makes awful copies, needs work and parts. Requires a 20 amp circuit to run. With some toner. Free to a good home. Takes four strong men to lift, but can be rolled. Randy Swart 521-2080.

Wanted: Looking for someone to house sit two cats periodically over the next few months. Marilyn Beckwith 486-0997

For sale: Youth bed, red metal frame, with crib-sized mattress, \$20; 2 Fisher-Price "Sure-Grip" gates, \$5 each; Graco "Port-A-Crib," folds for easy transportation, \$15; MacLaren stroller with canopy, \$25; Fisher-Price bed rail, \$2. Call Eileen or Alan at 703-892-1090.

Wanted: One time yard help. Call Shelley, 202-298-1867

BACH to BARBERSHOP

On Saturday, April 8, at 2:15 p.m. and 8:15 p.m., come listen to the local high school Madrigals, the Ft. Myer Church Choir, the Arlingtones Barbershop Chorus, and guest quartets. Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre, \$10/\$8 afternoon - \$12/\$9 evening. Call 703-527-6195 for more information.

Grand Opening

The Barcroft Sports & Fitness Center will celebrate its grand opening on Saturday, April 1, 2000, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Police Department will have an information table and will also be offering free bicycle registrations. Please stop by on the 1st to see this beautiful facility and take advantage of our free registration.

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(703) 521-0184

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Arlington, VA

April Events April Events April Events

Saturday, April 1 ⇒ **Barcroft Sports & Fitness Center** celebrates its grand opening from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m..

Thursday, April 6 ⇒ **BSCL Meeting, Bicycle Arlington**, 7:30 p.m., Community House, 800 S. Buchanan Street.

Friday, April 7 ⇒ **Barcroft School Time Capsule Opening**, 10 a.m.

Friday, April 7 ⇒ **Julie Yard Café and Concert**, 7:30 p.m., Community House. Call Julie for information at 703-979-0339.

Saturday, April 8 ⇒ **75th birthday of Barcroft School Celebration**, 2-6 p.m.

Saturday, April 8 ⇒ **Bach to Barbershop Concert**, 2:15 p.m. and 8:15 p.m., Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre, \$10/\$8 afternoon - \$12/\$9 evening. Call 703-527-6195 for information.

Saturday, April 22 ⇒ **Third Annual Easter Egg Hunt**, 10:00 a.m. Barcroft/Arlington Hall park, located on Taylor Street.



The Barcroft Community House can be rented for your special event. Call 521-1116 for more

Barcroft School and Civic League

800 South Buchanan Street

Arlington, VA 22204