

BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 98, No 3

November 2000

November Meeting

Elaine Furlow, member of the Arlington County School Board, and School Board Liaison assigned to the Barcroft community, will be a speaker at our November 2 meeting. Elaine will report on some of the topics currently under discussion at the School Board and she will be delighted to entertain questions from our members on those and any other related topics. Some hot button issues for us to learn about include:

SOLs -- How should Arlington County Public Schools balance these state mandated tests with the enriching programs already in place here?

Homework -- too much?? too little?? consistent throughout County schools??

School start times -- so much is being said about a later start time for high schools? How would it work? How will other start times be effected?

Boundary setting process -- how will the new process work? How will Barcroft be effected in the future?

Choice Schools -- what is the fair way to determine who gets in? How will Barcroft be effected when Claremont becomes a neighborhood school?

Take this opportunity to present your opinions and questions to Elaine Furlow.

Barcroft Membership

Thanks to all who have returned their dues. And a special WELCOME to our new members. So far we've heard from 214 (27%) of the 800 households in Barcroft. Sure would like to hear from all of you.

Dues are \$3 per adult (\$6 per couple/family). You can pick a

(continued inside)

Barcroft Membership (cont)

membership form up at the November 2nd meeting or at the Fall Festival on November 4th.

This year's form will be used in updating the Barcroft Directory. The form also has some new volunteer opportunities.

If you have questions or need more information, call Peg Lefebvre, Membership Secretary 703-521-0184 or e-mail her at garynpeg@netkconnect.net. She'll be glad to help.

Irish and English Country Dancing

Our series of Dances of the British Isles continues in November with a post-Thanksgiving dance Saturday, November 25, featuring Irish and English Country dances. Carol Lash will teach Irish dances and Barbara Harding will call English Country dances. The callers will explain and lead the dancers through each dance. Beginners and singles are welcome.

Live music will be performed by Peascods Gathering, which has been playing for dances in the Washington area for 25 years. The dance will be at the Barcroft Community House, 800 S. Buchanan St., Arlington. The dances begin at 8 pm and end at 10:30. Those who are new to this style of dancing are invited to come at 7:45 for tips for beginners. Admission is \$5.

There will not be an Arlington dance in December, but everyone is invited to the

British Isles Candlelight Christmas Dance Party December 9 at Sligo Middle School, 1401 Dennis Ave., Silver Spring, MD.)

If you have any questions, contact Dottie Beck at 703-671-3240 or dottieb@erols.com.

On November 10 and 11 we pay homage to the brave Veterans of our Country who have defended liberty and democracy.

Barcroft News Staff

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

BSCL Officers for 2000-2001

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<i>Demeter</i>	Daphne Miller 920-5681
<i>Crime</i>	vacant
<i>Parks</i>	vacant
<i>Volunteers</i>	Scott Royal 553-0909

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Unsafe at Any Speed?

At a recent NCAC meeting, the representative who serves on the County's Neighborhood Traffic Calming Committee had a list of the traffic calming problems they have ranked so far. The list is based on a points system that provides an objective yardstick for how bad a problem really is. The list is new so even Trav Fick may not have seen it yet.

The whole list runs more than fifty projects, but the one we got was only the top 18. The Committee has begun work on the top five. The others will be left for later and re-ranked with anything new that comes in before designation of another top five.

Barcroft has two in the top 18 but none in the top 5. Ours are:

3rd St S east of S. Abingdon St
85 percentile speed 34
Rank number 11, and
S. Abingdon St at 3rd St S.
85th percentile speed 31
Rank number 14

The list does not have any detail on what measures will be proposed for each situation, and it is possible that other than the top five it is too early to say. There was an intense but fruitless discussion at NCAC of the fact that none of the civic associations in the room had been notified that they had projects on the list. The two Traffic Calming Committee members present stonewalled, indicating to me that there must have been a Committee decision not to notify. They reminded us

that under the guidelines for the traffic calming program the civic association is consulted, but it is not necessary to have its approval to proceed if the measures are otherwise warranted and approved by the neighbors. There may not be any point in early notification if it just gives the opposition more time to fret over measures that only came from their imagination.

Eventually as the County starts working down the list Elaine can tell us what to expect when and if we get to the top five. I am sure that nobody is forgetting that 4th Street from Pershing to Abingdon needs to be done if we are doing 3rd Street.

NCAC still has no policy on funding projects that are too far down the list to qualify, but are a neighborhood's top priority. Lyon Village has as traffic circle on the project list for the next funding round that was rejected by NCAC vote last time. East Falls Church has a street closing on the project list that is identified as a "beautification" project.

The NCAC staff has a meeting scheduled with the County Attorney to talk about possible NCAC funding for restoration of our Community House. We may or may not know more after that meeting.

Note: One item on the agenda for the November meeting is an update of the Traffic Calming efforts for Barcroft. We will look at the results of the traffic volume and speed counts on our streets collected by the County and a summary of other Arlington County neighborhood traffic issues to provide the context for our own concerns.

Barcroft Memories

By Danette Blundell Bailly

I was born and raised in Barcroft where my mother still lives on 4th Street South. She is the original owner of her home. Although I now live in Miami, I cherish my memories of growing up in a neighborhood filled with special people and special times.

My parents bought their home from Walter O'Hara and have lived there for over 60 years. My father, George D. Blundell, worked until he retired as a buyer for boys and men's wear for the old S. Kanns & Sons department store. He passed away in 1998.

My mother, Grace, is one of the surviving original members of a local neighborhood club, K Klub, which now only has 6 members. They have celebrated at least 60 years of friendship since being started by some of the newly married women in our section of the neighborhood (3rd, 4th, 5th Streets South west of S. Pershing Dr.). My uncle, William Blundell, was president of the BSCL at one time.

We all always walked to school (Barcroft Elementary). Walking to the Community House was also no problem and commonplace as most households only had one car. At the Community House, I enjoyed Brownies and Girl Scouts meetings, as well as ballet, tap, and even baton! I remember so fondly going trick-or-treating as kids (again, innocently on our own) and knowing that certain houses held certain treats. Old Mrs. Cooks'

house, two doors from ours, would delight us with homemade popcorn balls and Millie across the street always made her decadent chocolate brownies (and not from a mix).

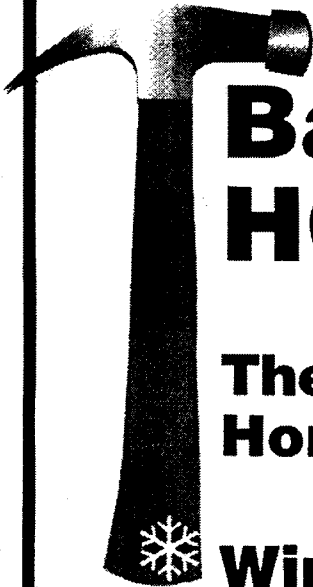
Caroling at Christmas was also to be savored. Another wonderful memory, and one we have captured on those old 8mm movies, was when the County would block off 4th Street so we kids could sled ride. There we were, all bundled up so we could hardly walk, experiencing the thrill of running with our sleds down that "mighty steep" hill!

One of my favorite possessions is a map of Barcroft tee shirt that my folks got me several years ago. It shows a map of Barcroft and it's neat because the Community House and, of course, my immediate neighborhood, are on it. I wouldn't trade it for anything!

October Meeting

Installation of curb, gutter, sidewalk and improved drainage at the intersection of 4th and Taylor will be Barcroft's top priority for funding under the so-called "Neighborhood Conservation" grant program from the county. A discussion at the meeting weighed this against requesting additional funds for community house renovations. But uncertainty over whether the program would actually pay for renovating a non-county facility, and a desire to complete the long-awaited intersection work tipped the scales in its favor. The community house will be considered for the next round of funding in the spring.

Arlington,
VA



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Todd Otto
509 S. Taylor Street
Office 703-553-TODD

Saturday,
Fall F



**Bring the whole family to the Community House
entertainment and Fun. Starts at 1 p.m. Adults \$
donate potato salad or your favorite side dish or**

November 4 Festival!



or pork shoulders, bratwurst, hot dogs, soda, beer,
6, children 4-16 \$4, 3 and under FREE. If you can
dessert please call Anna Peterson at 703-521-8756.

The Casey O'Neal Team

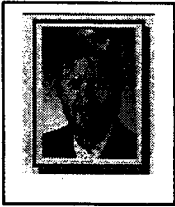
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Curious about Current Homes for Sale? Check out our web site, www.caseyoneal.com, which has a link to the realtors' MLS database (MRIS). The database covers more than 22,000 square miles in five states with more than 65,000 active listings. Choose any area that interests you, and receive instant email notification when new listings come on the market.

Internet Surfers Beware! Are you using the Internet to see if you can afford a home mortgage, automobile, or refinancing your home mortgage? If you are it might be dangerous to your credit rating. Giving an online lender your Social Security number to see if you qualify for an interest rate means the lender will run a credit check. If your credit is checked several times within a month, it can hurt your credit score. The logic is that lenders figure consumers who are seeking a lot of credit may be strapped for cash and have a harder time paying it back. Multiple applications for credit have been known to lower a

credit score, and the ease of using the Internet makes it easier to do it.

Many Lenders will require a credit check to determine creditworthiness, which is a key factor in obtaining specific rates and fees for a borrower. They don't disclose that multiple applications can hurt your credit score. What is a credit score? The scores are a snapshot of your credit risk at a particular point in time, based on your past credit history, outstanding debt, and how many times you recently applied for credit.

Safeguards:

1. Use a mortgage calculator on a web site to check monthly payment options and not officially applying for a loan.
2. Bypass any online service that asks for a Social Security number

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Dance Factory
954 N. Monroe St. (Virginia Station Metro)
Sunday: 9:00 am
Arlington Class Hotline: 703-671-2055
www.jazzercise.com

Homeless Mini-Walk Set for November 9

Mark your calendars and dust off your walking shoes! Fannie Mae is holding its 13th annual Help the Homeless Walkathon on November 18. Many separate mini-walks that month will raise public awareness of the issue.

Barcroft will stage its mini-walk at 1:30 p.m. on November 9 to raise money for a community service organization that helps homeless people. Students will wear their Barcroft T-shirts. We'll need parade spotters, refreshments, signs, stickers and other help.

Proceeds of the walk go to A-SPAN, the Arlington Street People's Assistance Network. A-SPAN is a nonprofit community-based organization that provides services such as bag meals, emergency winter shelters and housing assistance to an estimated 700 homeless people in Arlington.

During November, Barcroft students will also be learning about the problem of homelessness and what they can do to prevent it. Any change they bring to school to contribute will be matched by the Fannie Mae Foundation, which has raised nearly \$16 million since 1988 to help homeless people in the area. Fannie Mae will also donate \$1,000 for every 250 people participating in Barcroft's walk.

Librarian Patty Hunter is coordinating the project, so expect to see information fliers from her soon. Please call her at 703-228-5838 if you have any questions.

Holiday Boutique

The Women's Club of Arlington hosts a Holiday Boutique on Friday and Saturday, November 10 and 11, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Crafts, home-made jellies and preserves, attic treasures, home-made soups, sweets, and bakery are for sale.

This event will be held at the Clubhouse, 700 South Buchanan Street, across the street from the Community House. Proceeds go to a perpetual college scholarship fund for Wakefield High School graduates, to libraries, and to Arlington parks. For more information, call 703-533-5800.



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Men's Christmas Chorus Forming

The Northern Virginia Men's A Cappella Christmas Chorus is seeking men who like to sing and want to bring the spirit of Christmas in song to the community. Rehearsals will be held Tuesdays, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Room 207, Gunston Arts Center, 2700 S. Lang Street, Arlington. First rehearsal Tuesday, October 10. First performance Tuesday, November 28. For information call Tom (703) 768-9522.

Grocery Programs Earn Money for Barcroft School

Local grocery stores are promoting educational fundraising programs that can help Barcroft School. Barcroft is participating in three programs: Safeway's "Club Card for Education," Harris Teeter's "Together in Education," and Giant's "Apples for the Students Plus." Any shopper can register one time with each program to have Barcroft School be the recipient of the program benefits, and it will help our school for the entire program year. It does not cost anything and it is easy to do. You do not even have to save your receipts!

Registration for each program is slightly different. Here is a summary:

* Safeway (School Code = 2207) You can register for Barcroft School online at www.proghqtrs.com/safeway or call Susan

Hickey, 703-486-8577, with your card number, and she will register for you. The Safeway account then accumulates points toward educational materials and equipment.

* Harris Teeter (School Code = 4238) VIC cardholders tell the checkout cashier our school code once to register. Barcroft will get at least 2 percent of Harris Teeter brand purchases credited for school funds.

* Giant (School Code = 2199) Giant Bonus cardholders register once for the program. You can obtain sign-up forms at any store.

Remember to have each store scan your card each time you shop. This will save you money as well as help the school, as each store has sale prices for card members only.

If you have questions about the programs, call Susan Hickey at 703-486-8577. If you've already registered, thanks. If not, please sign up today!

No Roy No More

The owners of Bob and Edith's diner are said to be the buyers of the former Roy Rogers property at South Buchanan and Columbia Pike. Plans tentatively call for a diner-style restaurant, with some land left over for other, undetermined uses. More details should be available soon. This could turn out well for the neighborhood, giving us a local place to get a cup of coffee and a local business owner who hopefully will be willing to work with us regarding traffic problems at the intersection.

New Vice

A volunteer has stepped forward to fill the position of retiring BSCL Vice President Marie Korn. Pat Williamson, who revived the flagging civic association in nearby Columbia Forest, has agreed to do the job. Pat has lived in Barcroft for about a year. She has lots of contacts in the county and lots of ideas for meetings for the year to come. Welcome, Pat, and thanks. We'll look forward to voting you into office at the November meeting.

Barn Dance

Liz Donaldson calls to the live music of JumpStart (Julie Gorka, piano and fiddle, Kathy Kerr, fiddle, and Jim Besser, guitar and concertina). Friendly community dance for dancers and non-dancers, families, neighbors, and friends. (Children welcome with parents). Friday November 3, 8:00 p.m., Barcroft Community House. Admission \$7/adults, \$5/kids, \$15 families.

Volunteer Architect Needed

The BSCL needs someone capable of rendering architectural drawings to be used in the planning and construction of a handicapped accessible ramp to the community house. We have rough drawings that need to be put into finished form. The plans must meet the approval of the county historic review board. Please

contact BSCL Mark Wigfield at 703-979-0339, or at mark@bscl.org.

Volunteers!

The award this month goes to another duo, Gary and Peg Lefebvre. Peg is the BSCL's membership secretary. You might have seen her setting near the door of the community house during meetings around this time of year with membership forms and pencils in hand. She diligently chases down everyone she can to pony up the \$3 dues -- including recalcitrant board members. She also has compiled a marvelous volunteer database from the information she collects. Peg is full of good ideas and has been known to bend this president's ear with a few of them.

Gary is an accountant and Barcroft's diligent treasurer. He cranks out monthly financial reports to help us make sure the community house stays in the black. The job has been complicated in recent years by all the fundraising we've done for community house restorations. And Gary has been able to keep it all straight -- a benefit to the association and to all those who have donated to it. Gary is another steady hand on the BSCL executive committee, and has pitched in with the many complications involved in renting the community house to outside groups. Recently, he found himself in the kitchen on one pleasant late summer afternoon when a renter discovered the gas stove was on the fritz. Gary hung in there until the gas company came and fixed the problem.

Thanks, Gary and Peg, for your hard work and good counsel.

Events November Events November Events

Thursday, November 2 ⇒ **BSCL Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., Community House, 800 S. Buchanan Street.

Friday, November 3 ⇒ **Barn Dance**, 8 p.m., Community House

Saturday, November 4 ⇒ **Fall Festival**, 1 p.m., Community House

Tuesday, November 7 ⇒ **ELECTION DAY!**

Thursday, November 9 ⇒ **Mini-Walk for the Homeless**, 1:30 p.m., Barcroft School

Friday, Saturday, November 10, 11 ⇒ **Holiday Boutique**, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Women's Club of Arlington, across from the Community House

Every Wednesday in November, **Hatha Yoga Classes**, Community House, 7:00 p.m.



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

Barcroft School and Civic League

800 South Buchanan Street

Arlington, VA 22204