



# Barcroft News

December 2002

Vol 100, Issue 4

## Traffic Circles Spark Debate

— *By Trav Fick*

About 30 Barcrofters participated in a discussion at the November BSCL meeting about the traffic circles that were approved for the Wakefield Traffic Calming Plan. Jeff Sikes, Dept. of Public Works traffic engineer and Coordinator of Traffic Calming for the county, came to the meeting to clarify distinctions between and present new information about stop signs and traffic circles.

After discussing the objectives of each, Mr. Sikes stated that the intersection at Wakefield and Eighth Street could qualify for a four way stop sign **IF** no circles were to be installed on Wakefield. No other street intersection on Wakefield qualifies for stop signs. He also stated that as this is the first time circles have been planned for an elementary school location, no data are available about their effectiveness or safety.

Alice Morris, coordinator of the School Crossing Guards, spoke against the circles because of child safety concerns. She pointed out that children serve as traffic control guards at two intersections to supplement the three adult crossing guards; these children are posted on 8th and on 6th at Wakefield. A parent and the Guards feel that the children are not old enough to determine vehicular traffic right of way at those intersections with circles, posing additional safety issues. Questions also were raised about safety issues for children crossing the street at a circle when no traffic guard is pre-



**Thank you  
to Scott Brintzer**  
for planting the  
Arlington County 9/11  
commemorative tree  
in our beautiful Barcroft Community  
House yard. Scott selected a willow  
oak for our participation in this county-  
wide program.

## Parking Committee Update

— *By Tom Palance*

The parking committee will resume meetings in November. If you are interested in attending please write to Eric Harold at [eric@bscl.org](mailto:eric@bscl.org). So far we have made progress in making our intersections safer by moving and adding no parking signs. Most parkers are adhering to the new placement of the signs.

The next topic will be to form a plan to limit parking on our streets to residents of the neighborhood. This will take time and patients. The county will first need to conduct a tag survey to see where the needs for possible resident permits are. The neighborhood will then have to be surveyed for approval of a plan.

In the interim if you have a problem with cars blocking your driveways, cars parked too close to intersections, etc. you are encouraged to call the non-emergency police line at 703-558-2222. They **WILL** come out and ticket and or tow cars. If you notice an abandoned auto call, 703-228-4300.

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

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**Barcroft Exchange**

**TOYS!** Just in time for the Holidays! Barely-used toys in like-new condition, complete with all their pieces and parts! **Little Tikes Kitchen** -- Large kitchen set with oven, microwave, refrigerator, washer, dryer and ironing board. Includes over 50 pieces of play food and utensils. **\$60. Fisher-Price Work Bench** with more than 20 tools. Large playset with storage drawer that converts to a drawing table. **\$40.** Call 271-5987 if you're interested!

**Wanted: Turned porch posts** common to many early 20th-century Barcroft homes for our renovation project. Posts must measure 7' to 7'-6" tall and the wood should be usable. We are seeking six (6) posts, but will appreciate hearing from anyone with any posts available. Please help recycle these salvageable architectural artifacts—call Gary or Sara at 685-2827 (evening).

**Misc. for Sale:** Student Desk with 2 drawers - \$20; Office Rolling Chair - \$15; Two Drawer file cabinet - \$5; Plastic roller chair floor mat - \$5; Red Table Lamp - \$10; Two-Level End Table - \$5. Discounts for multiple items purchased! Contact Peter Amstutz, 4830 8th RD, 521-9075.

**For Sale:** Friendly french-lopped ear rabbit looking with hutch and some supplies. All for an investment of \$25.00 (negotiable). If interested contact Josiah @ 979-1166 or pz5@juno.com.

**Mature Person needed** to occasionally sit with or be a companion to another mature person—I am offering \$10/hour to a neighbor who can help provide company. Please call me at 920-1262.

**Have anything to contribute to the Barcroft News?** All submissions are due by the 15th of each month. Contact Christina at 271-0631 or editor@bscl.org  
 Ads are due by the 10th of each month; contact Jim Kerr at Jim@bscl.org

## Water Shock

— *By Sue Tenenbaum*

When I recovered from my dead faint caused by receiving my last utility bill, I pointed out to the utilities office that all that water I used in July ran right into my garden and not down the sewer; and therefore they were mistaken to charge me \$1 million for the sewer portion of my bill.

Brenda patiently bore my rant and told me quite kindly that there is no way to separately monitor sewer usage, so the sewer rate is based on water consumption, only slightly higher.

I replied that during droughts when water bills



spike it is unfair to assume that sewer usage is increasing along with water, and she directed me to Mr. Erik Grabowski, Billing Office -- Dept. of Utilities, Suite 807, 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Arl 22201.

Before I write him and plead my case, would any other gardeners out there (or just citizens who want their trees to survive) care to join me asking for a more realistic (and less expensive) sewer policy? Contact Sue Tenenbaum, 979-0054, [anni-essgarden@starpower.net](mailto:anni-essgarden@starpower.net).

## PTA at the Polls

— *By Mark Wigfield*

There was something missing at the polls at Barcroft School this year: Muffins. Seems that election officials decided they had to enforce a state law that bans sales of any kind -- even PTA bake sales -- near the polling booths. Banished to the parking lot, the Barcroft PTA canceled their traditional bake sale, as did other PTAs around

the county.

What a shame. Voting without a cupcake and coffee just isn't the same. And the PTA lost a source of revenue.

Looks like a PTA-at-the-polls referendum is needed on the next ballot. Wouldn't that be a great project for some ambitious civics students to take on?



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*"Thank you, Todd for all you did to rehabilitate and prepare my house for sale. The hundred tasks you completed in less than a month made it possible. I note your leadership and construction skills, and am very glad you were available and willing to do the work for me. Thanks."*

Ray, N. Granada St.

*"Thanks for the very professional renovations performed on my home -- fast, reasonable, and well designed. Hard to find attentive service like you provide!"*

Bill, S. Pershing Ct.



## Defining the Format for the Barcroft Newsgroup

— *By Mark Wigfield*

In response to comments by BSCLChat users, a formal policy for the Barcroft Chat group has been proposed.

BSCLChat is the e-mail chat list for discussion of issues and events pertaining specifically to the Barcroft neighborhood in Arlington, VA. Non-residents may subscribe but may not post to the list.

This CHAT list works in tandem with bscl-news-list@yahoo.com, a broader circulation list in the Barcroft neighborhood used to announce events both in the neighborhood and of community interest beyond. Posts to the news list should be sent to bscl-news-list@yahoo.com, and will be made at the discretion of the moderator of the list. Posts to the chat list should be sent to bsclchat@yahoo.com. Posts to either list must conform to the rules outlined below.

We ask that the list not be used to promote

specific candidates in a political campaign.

However, the actions or ideas of politicians, the county board or other group as they pertain to Barcroft are fair game. We suggest that those interested in a broader discussion of issues pertaining to South Arlington subscribe to: Arlington22204-subscribe@yahoo.com.

Posts must be kept to a reasonable length. Not everyone has a DSL or cable line, so please keep the messages short. In order to keep messages to a manageable size and, more importantly, to reduce the risk of spreading viruses, do not send attachments.

The list must not be used for chain e-mails or spam. Posts must not be vulgar, obscene, libelous or hateful toward any group, race, or ethnicity. Take a deep breath and think before you write! Keep the tone friendly.

BSCLChat subscribes to all of the Yahoo! groups terms of service. For more information, visit <http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/>

Many, many thanks to our wonderful neighbor, the **Woman's Club of Arlington**, for a generous donation of cash to our Community House

Renovation Fund along with their 2002 BSCL membership renewal. We are most appreciative of this donation and also for the sharing of their parking lot with us when they are not using it.

Please remember that we must always request use of the lot in advance because they may have their own activities booked!



**Next BSCL Meeting:  
HOLIDAY PARTY!!!!  
December 5, 7:30 PM  
Barcroft Community House  
800 S. Buchanan St.**

**A**re you planning an event at the Barcroft Community House and need a photographer? Call me, an experienced, dependable, and creative event photographer with the best rates in town. Leave a message for Nikki at 703-979-3920, or e-mail [nicnac6@yahoo.com](mailto:nicnac6@yahoo.com).



## DECK THE HALLS AT DECEMBER "MEETING"

Every December, we set aside business to welcome in the holiday season. We invite everyone, all ages, to gather to sing Christmas carols, hear talented neighborhood performers play and sing, hear a dramatic reading of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," and await a surprise visitor (hint: carries his own bag). This



is really one of the special treats that goes with living in Barcroft. As usual, the gathering will be potluck—contributions of cookies, candies or other finger foods are welcome (and encouraged). Join your neighbors Thursday, December 5, 7:30 p.m. at the Barcroft Community House.

### (Traffic Circles, Continued from page 1)

sent, since circles slow traffic but do not stop traffic. Mr. Sikes repeatedly said that the current stop signs would remain and would continue to determine right of way.

Speed counts were taken by the County last week. The new data will be shared with Barcroft as soon as it is assembled and analyzed.

Two actions resulted from this session:

1. Discussion about a traffic calming approach on Wakefield was continued at a meeting

held on Nov. 14 at the Community House.

2. A vote was approved to send a letter to the County Board explaining the safety concerns of BSCL about the implementation, without further investigation, of circles near an elementary school. A second vote was approved to send another letter to the County Board requesting that the County research changing the warrants for 4 way stop signs in an elementary school area.

## *St. John's Episcopal Church*

415 South Lexington Street      Arlington, VA 22204  
(one block off Carlin Springs Rd. & 5<sup>th</sup> St. just south of Rt. 50)  
(703) 671-6834    <http://stjohnsarlington.thediocese.net>



### Come Celebrate Christmas With Us!

#### Sunday, Dec. 8

7:00 p.m. Free Advent Concert featuring the St. John's Festival Choir, Tone Chimes Choir, and instrumentalists. Child care provided.

#### Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24

5:00 p.m. Worship for all ages with traditional carols, children's message, sermon and Holy Eucharist. Child care provided.

10:30 p.m. Christmas music and caroling in the church

11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Festival Holy Eucharist

#### Christmas Day, Wednesday, Dec. 25

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with carols

#### Sunday, Jan. 5, 2003

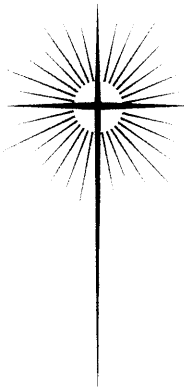
5:00 p.m. Christmas pageant and Epiphany Feast of

Lights Service

followed by Potluck Supper

All Are Welcome!

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." John 1:5



## Around the Neighborhood

**On Television:** Barcroft resident Rob LaPointe, owner of White Birch Kung Fu & Tai Chi on Columbia Pike, now has a TV show on Arlington Cable Channel 33. "White Birch Kung Fu & Tai Chi Presents" airs Thursdays at 4 p.m. The show covers various aspect of the martial arts and often includes guests. Rob also sold a short story published in the Spring issue of Aboriginal Science Fiction titled "Shirabe."

**Playgroup Forming:** Calling all "Stay-at-Home" moms looking for something to do!!! Need a break from the everyday chores of being at home? Want to meet other moms and children in the neighborhood? I am looking to organize a "Play Group" that will meet once a week at the Barcroft Community House. If interested, please e-mail me, Lori Fitchett, at TLJFitchett@comcast.net or call me at 979-3920.

## Announcements

**2002 Arlington CROPWALK**, scheduled for Oct. 19, was cancelled due to the Sniper threat in the DC area. The need for donations to help Church World Service fight hunger worldwide, including in our county through the Arlington Food Assistance Center, is still large. Barcroft residents may donate to CROPWALK volunteers in their Church, directly to Church World Service/CROP ([www.churchworldservice.org/CROP/index.html](http://www.churchworldservice.org/CROP/index.html)) or through me. Thank you— Art Lipman, 4409 First Road South, 920-6423.

**PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING:** The Parks Committee will be meeting Monday, Dec. 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the Community House to discuss BSCL's "Four Mile Run Master Plan" project. Our project for Four Mile Run is the first park master plan completed in the County that involved the collaboration of a landscape architect and a public artist design. Originally sponsored in 1999 by the BSCL and the NCAC, now is the time to work toward community approval and funding.

This is a great opportunity to join the Parks Committee and shape the future of our Four Mile Run area. Please join us on Dec. 16th, **having read the plan** and prepared to discuss. The plan is available via our BSCL home page or directly through the county's web site at <http://www.co.arlington.va.us/cphd/ons/conservation/4mr.htm>. If you have any questions, please contact Shelley Fichtner at [Shelley@bscl.org](mailto:Shelley@bscl.org) or at 486-0856.

## *Barn Dance*

*Saturday,*

*December 7, 8:00*

Traditional American dancing (contras, squares, and circles) for everyone. Liz Donaldson, caller, will teach all the steps and dances, so non-dancers can participate immediately.

Live music provided by JumpStart (Kathy Kerr, fiddle, and Julie Gorka, piano)

Barcroft Community House  
800 S. Buchanan St.

Info: Julie Gorka (703)  
979-0339

\$7/adults; \$5/kids; \$15/  
families



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

## Softening Market?

The heated real estate market has cooled off in the Washington Metro area in the last two months. After Labor Day there was an influx of property that came on the market and buying activity slowed down to create a more balanced environment than the lopsided seller's market that this area has experienced in the last few years. The Northern Virginia Realtors Association web site compiles statistics for listings, contracts, and settlements. For details see our web site, or <http://www.nvar.com/marketstats/index.html>.

September of 2002 saw a 25.9% increase over 2001 in the total active listings of single family homes in Arlington County. While the number of contracts in September 2002 was 11% more than 2001, there were still many more homes to choose from. That trend continues as of this writing in early November. With buyers having more choices it is imperative for sellers to give their homes selling appeal.

Contact us for a free report on pricing your home to sell and a checklist for conditioning your home for success.

Want to know what your home is worth?  
Call or email with questions we specialize in North Barcroft!

## The Casey O'Neal Team

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PS. If you or someone you know could benefit from expert buyer or seller representation, please call or email us for advice!

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