



# Barcroft News

April 2003

Vol 100, Issue 8

## President's Report

— by *Pat Williamson-Edwards*

Celebrate Spring's arrival by joining your neighbors at the Barcroft monthly meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 3. Items already on the agenda include a presentation by County staff on the new bus services that are planned for Columbia Pike (said to be the most heavily used bus service route in all of Virginia!) and a visit from Howard Hudgins of the PRCR to discuss a complaint about inappropriate activities taking place in the Arlington Hall Park after dark and what might be done to control this situation.

It appears that the HiCue Billiards liquor license application may be active again. We will monitor closely.

David Michaelson has agreed to chair the Community House Restoration Committee. Many thanks to Jim Kerr for his years of service in this role. With many projects still ahead David will need volunteers. Please contact him right away if you can help plan these projects.

Once again a reminder that we need candidates

for the BSCL election of officers to be held at the May 1 regular monthly meeting. The current slate of candidates includes Eric Harold for President, Gary LeFebvre for Treasurer, Eric Parker for Recording Secretary and Sue Tenebaum for Corresponding Secretary. A candidate for Vice President is sought; contact Randy Swart or me. Serving this community is truly a rewarding job.

The County has shown great flexibility in helping us finalize the traffic calming project for Wakefield. Neighbors' and school staff's negative opinions were heard in respect to the building of traffic circles at 9th, 8th and 6th. The opportunity to have one four-way stop at 8th and three raised crosswalks at other points along Wakefield won almost unanimous approval at the March meeting. Please contact Sue Tenenbaum to help in the petitioning process to make this safety measure a reality SOON. Now that Barcroft has adopted the modified school calendar, students will return to classes in early August.

## Barcroft Easter Egg Hunt

The Annual Barcroft Easter Egg Hunt will take place at the Community House on Saturday, April 19, at 10:00 a.m. Please be on time to avoid disappointment. Once the hunt starts, it is over quickly!! Be sure to bring something to collect your eggs in. Coffee will be provided and anyone who can donate a baked good please call Lisa Palance at 703-979-8366.

This is a fun event for the whole family and a great way to welcome in the warm weather. Also, if there are any Easter Bunny helpers out there who would like to help Lisa stuff eggs please call 703-979-8366. In the event of bad weather, the egg hunt will be held inside the Community House.

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

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The *Barcroft News* is printed on recycled paper with vegetable-based ink by the Stanley Adams Printing Company.  
 All phone numbers are area code 703.

**Childcare Wanted:** Occasional weekday evening and Saturday childcare of 9 year old boy between the hours of 6-10. Prefer someone with existing childcare experience or taken a Red Cross course. South Sixth Street neighborhood. Please call 703-302-5850 if interested.

**Wanted: Temporary rental (April/May to July/Aug.)** of apartment or room (furn./unfurn.) nearby. Barcroft couple has baby coming and needs overflow space for home office and visiting in-laws! Quiet, low-impact use. Would also consider renting desk space in a nearby office, same period. Contact Bill Byrne at 553-0756.

**Have anything to contribute to the Barcroft News?** Submissions are due by the 15th of each month. Contact Christina at 271-0631  
 or  
 editor@bscl.org or 618 S. Stafford St.  
 Ads are due by the 10th of each month; contact Jim Kerr at Jim@bscl.org

**Next BSCL Meetings:**  
 April 3, 7:30 PM  
 May 1, 7:30 PM  
 Barcroft Community House, 800 S. Buchanan

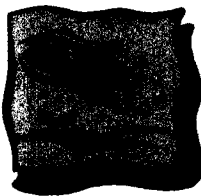
**Keep up to Date!**  
**WWW.BSCL.ORG**

## 7th annual Plant Sale to be held Saturday, April 26

On Saturday, April 26, 2003, the 7th annual plant sale will take place from 9 am to 1 pm. Your neighbor, Peter Wood, will once again host the plant sale at the Barcroft Community House.

Peter buys high quality annuals, perennials and herbs from his brother who has a greenhouse operation on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Purchased at wholesale prices and sold at local retail values, the proceeds from the event are donated to a charity each year.

This year the proceeds will be donated to the Tour de Friends, a bike ride to raise money for



Food & Friends ([www.foodandfriends.org](http://www.foodandfriends.org)). Food & Friends is a nonprofit organization that provides meals, groceries and nutrition counseling to people living with life-challenging illnesses such as AIDS and cancer in the Washington metropolitan area.

For more information, please contact Peter S. Wood at 703-892-1692 or check out Peter Wood's metal sculpture website: [www.rustymetal.com](http://www.rustymetal.com)

### Pre-School Playgroup



Barcroft Preschool Playgroup -- Looking for neighborhood preschool friends for your little one(s)? I am coordinating an e-mail list for a weekly playgroup to meet at the 4th Street/Taylor playground. The group will meet each Friday at 10 AM. Please call Lisa at 521-2141 or e-mail [LSteinmuel@aol.com](mailto:LSteinmuel@aol.com).



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## Memorial

Long-time Barcroft neighbor Florence Churchill passed in March. Ms. Churchill had lived in her Barcroft home on Stafford Street since it was built in the late 1940s. She was often seen strolling around the neighborhood.

Services were held at her church on March 14. Her family came from California and New York. Ms. Churchill will be missed.

## CIVIS Bus Ride

— *Trav Fik*

On Feb. 15, the CIVIS bus provided a demonstration ride from South Greenbrier and Columbia Pike to Crystal City. The invitation was an interesting opportunity to improve understanding of mass transit.

The large, fast "bus rapid-transit vehicle" looks more like a tram than a bus and runs on rubber tires. It does not require special power facilities or structures, can be steered by an optical guidance system or driver, and can be powered by an all-electric motor or a clean hybrid diesel-electric motor. To attain high speeds, a dedicated lane would be needed to bypass cars during commuter time. There are many options in size, capacity, and power. Has everyone noticed the widening of Columbia Pike on the Fairfax end west of Carlyn Springs? Is there a connection?

1041 S. Edgewood St. Arl. VA 22204 (703)521-2667

# Shop Organic Community Style

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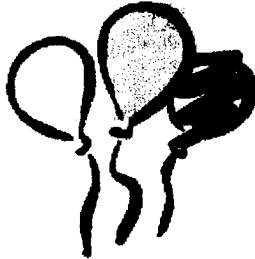
**\$2 OFF  
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Expires May 31, 2003

## Bring the family to the Barcroft Spring Fair!

Forget the winter and start thinking about the Spring Fair at the Barcroft Elementary School, scheduled this year for Saturday, May 3, 11:00 - 3:00.

Come and meet all those neighbors and friends that you haven't seen for months without a snow shovel in their hands. Those of you who attended last year know what fun it was for kids and grown-ups alike. Like last year, we will have games, food, cake walks, and amusements, like a moon bounce, an obstacle course, "putt-putt" golf, and "spin-art".

There also will be a silent auction to raise money for the Barcroft PTA. While you're



spending your money at the auction, the kids can ride the rides and test their skills at the carnival games. So drop by for the day or just between baseball and soccer games. Have lunch at the fair. We'll have hamburgers, hot dogs, popcorn, sno-cones, sodas, and lots of other health food. We'll start

the rides and games at 11:00 and wrap up at 3:00 in the afternoon. If it rains, we'll just move it all indoors.

If you'd like more information, or if you'd like to help with the fair (especially then), please call Marge Miller at 703-979-5838.

See you at Barcroft on May 3!

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## St. John's Episcopal Church

415 South Lexington Street Arlington, VA 22204  
(one block off Carlin Springs Rd. & 5th St. just south of Rt. 50)



### Come Celebrate EASTER With Us!

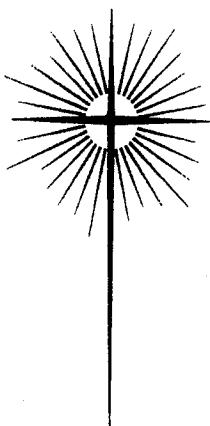
- Palm Sunday, April 13  
8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.\* Blessing of the Palms and Holy Eucharist
- Maundy Thursday, April 17  
7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar
- Good Friday, April 18  
12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy
- Easter Sunday!  
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Hymns  
10:00 a.m.\* Festival Holy Eucharist with choir and instrumentalists  
Reception and Easter Egg hunt following the 10:00 service

\* Child care provided

Join us all year to worship, learn about, and serve God in a warm, welcoming, and active Christian community. Check our Web site (<http://stjohnsarlington.thediocese.net>) or call 703-671-6834 to learn more.

All Are Welcome!

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



## Minutes from the Meeting: Changes to Traffic Calming Plan Approved

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Much was accomplished at the March BSCL meeting.

Ritch Viola presented the 9th Street sidewalk project and all of the neighbors present were very supportive, even those losing flower beds and such. It's hard to argue with a program called "Safe Routes to Schools." Whoever named it was a genius.

Jeff Sikes presented his revised traffic calming design for Wakefield, asking us to accept humps rather than raised crosswalks to expedite the installation. We opted for raised crosswalks instead, in part because people thought they were more effective because they provide pedestrians with better protection and raise the pedestrian three inches higher for better visibility. That will also enable curb cuts at 9th and at 6th Street. Most of the attendees were concerned about making sure the school has adequate traffic calming measures. These speed humps would not have the slots for emergency vehicles, since Wakefield is not a designated fire route like Buchanan/Pershing.

Bill Nehrke presented his views favoring stop signs rather than speed humps and challenging whether the current speed measurements meet the County standard since the street has been narrowed at one point across from his house by a new sidewalk that comes out to get around a large tree. Sue Tenenbaum very calmly separated the issues into A) the measures to be installed and B) Bill's insistence that the County adopt a new "school" warrant for stop signs. (warrant=criterion) She did a great job of clarifying the issues and keeping the peace. We voted for Jeff's design with raised crosswalks by about 20 to 1, and then voted almost unanimously to send Bill's suggestion for a school warrant on to the County with the clear understanding that it was a consideration for the

future, somewhere, and had nothing whatsoever to do with our approval of Jeff's design for installation on Wakefield now.

Jeff talked about the County design for reconfiguring the intersection at Pershing/First Place/Arl. Blvd Access Rd. (The proposed design is on the BSCL Web site at <http://www.bscl.org/pershing.htm>)

We discussed it and decided to ask them to proceed. We could probably have it modified if it turned out less than optimal and there was a consensus that the intersection needs something. The service road would be one way from Pershing east to George Mason, where most people are not aware that it is now two way up to the church parking lot entrance and the merge point.

At the end we applauded Jeff and told him we appreciated how far he had gone to work with us. He really deserves a medal if he can get all the calming measures through the system for us before school opens in August.

Elaine Squeri and Randy Swart are creating a new set of petitions to approve the new design. Maybe we can get the same petitioners as last time to do each block. Please email Elaine if you want to help at [frenchsqueri@erols.com](mailto:frenchsqueri@erols.com)

Jeff's design as we approved it:

Alternative Traffic Calming Plan for S. Wakefield Street:

1. Raised crosswalk on the south side of 9th Street intersection.
2. Allway stop signs at the 8th Street intersection.
3. Raised crosswalk in front of Barcroft School where laddered crosswalk currently exists.
4. Raised crosswalk on the north side of 6th Street intersection.

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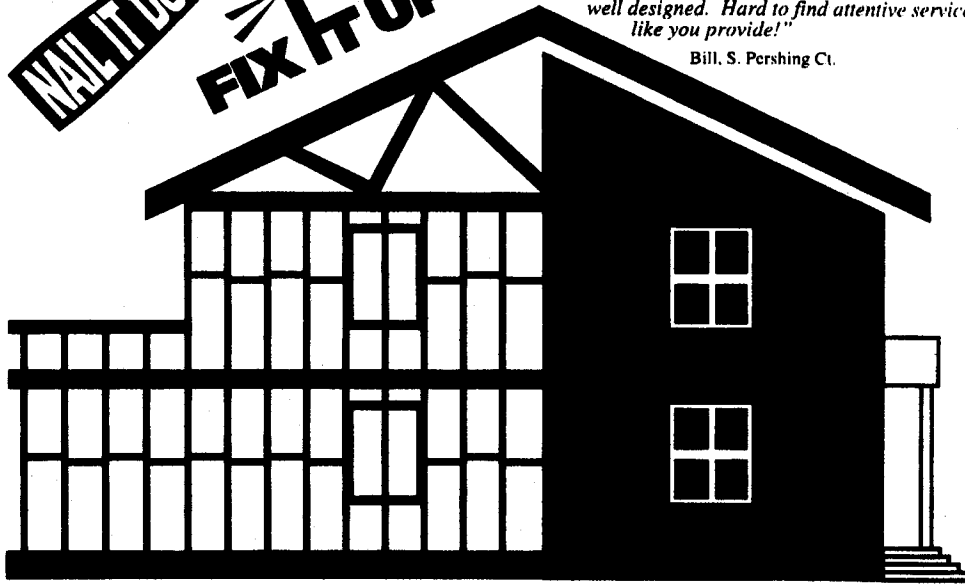
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Ray, N. Granada St.

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Bill, S. Pershing Ct.

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FIX IT UP**





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## Around the Neighborhood...

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**BARCROFTERS TO THE RESCUE!** At least 20 Barcrofters came out of their homes, shovels in hand, to assist an ambulance that got stuck at the corner of the S. Abingdon and S. 5th St.

On Tuesday, 2/18, a fire truck and an ambulance, both with chains on the tires, attempted to respond to a call from a neighbor on 5th St. S. The fire truck waited on S. Abingdon while the ambulance attempted to go down 5th St. and promptly got stuck. Some of the rescue personnel took a stretcher to the home of the person while others attempted to move the ambulance. Barcrofters came out to assist; soon there were at least 20 helping to dig the snow and push the

vehicle. Meanwhile, a neighbor driving an SUV couldn't get out of 5th street because the ambulance was blocking the path. Makes you wonder why the fire department isn't using SUVs for rescue! Hurray for Barcrofters willing to help out in crisis!

**Award Winning:** Barcroft's Alan Fram of S. Abingdon, who has covered Congress for the AP since 1987, was awarded the Everett McKinley Dirksen Award for Distinguished Reporting of Congress by the National Press Foundation at a black-tie ceremony in March. Yay, Alan!

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### Coming in May: BARCROFT TALES !

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"Barcroft Tales" is the name of the Barcroft Players original musical play celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Barcroft neighborhood. The Barcroft Players will have a dinner theater on Friday May 16th and a matinee on Saturday May 17th.

Look for more information in May's newsletter. We still need acting, cooking, and behind the scenes help. Anyone interested, please call Barbara Swart (703) 521-2080 or email [Players@helmets.org](mailto:Players@helmets.org).

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## Time to Unload!

### Join the Barcroft Neighborhood Garage Sale in May

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There has been an enthusiastic response to the idea of a neighborhood-wide garage sale day. Other neighborhoods sponsor such events annually, and Barcroft has had a few in the past.

The idea for this year is to place ads in the Washington Post and Arlington Journal announcing the neighborhood sale. There is a suggestion to have maps of Barcroft available, indicating which houses are having sales. A small, honor-system donation to the Barcroft Community House fund, if you choose to participate, has also been suggested.

The date given for consideration is May 10, Arlington's Neighborhood Day, with the idea of creating a neighborhood activity.

So who is interested? I need a few people to help organize and the households that want to participate. Please call Christina Cavoli at 271-0631 or email [editor@bscl.org](mailto:editor@bscl.org) if you'd like to participate, be listed on the garage sale map, or can help with the minimal organization needed to get this project properly executed! New information will be posted to [www.bscl.org](http://www.bscl.org).

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*Space is limited. These classes are for all levels. Dress comfortably and bring a blanket.*

Barcroft Community House, 800 S. Buchanan Street, Arlington

Qigong~ from 6:30pm to 7:45pm

Yoga~ from 8:00pm to 9:15pm

Tuesdays beginning 4/1/03 for 12 sessions ~ \$120 either class ~ \$220 for both

Register: Send check to Peaceable Dragon, 8562 Gwynedd Way, Springfield, VA 22153

More information: call 703.625.8431 or [www.PeaceableDragon.org](http://www.PeaceableDragon.org)

Paul Rischard, the qigong instructor has practiced internal arts nearly thirty years and has studied with qigong masters in Asia, Europe, and in the USA. He has a reputation for providing students with a wide variety of learning opportunities that are presented in a creative, joyful manner. Nancy Rischard, the yoga instructor, is a life-long dancer and a qigong practitioner who began to study yoga in 1989. Her yoga journey has brought her into classes with master teachers representing a variety of styles. She is known for her warmth and personal attention to the student.



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Barcroft School and Civic League  
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Arlington, VA 22204

### **Keeping basements dry**

Given the recent volume of snow and rain there have been some flooding problems locally. To assess a wet basement, walk around your house and look for low or wet areas where water might flow toward the structure. 99% of the homes with seepage issues are not graded to channel water away from the house. Water leaking into your basement is usually caused by poor surface drainage, surface tree roots that channel water toward the house, or a downspout or gutter that doesn't carry the water away. The cause of poorly directed runoff may be hidden by gardens or shrubs planted close to the house. Look behind your plantings.

The best solution is to create a grade slope dropping 6 inches per 10-foot run, down and away from your home, continuing slightly downhill to the edge of the property. Your basement probably will stay dry and the yard will remain well drained and usable for plantings. Downspouts should also be directed well away from the house. For aesthetics, install four-inch black corrugated pipe underground for at least eight to 12 feet. The pipe must be laid to slope downhill and have an open end.

### **More drainage tips:**

- ◆ Don't block the drainage pattern of your property with structures or plant beds.
- ◆ Remember the need for surface drainage when you work on your property. Home-

made patios, walks and mounded plant beds can cut off existing grades, and puddling can render these areas useless most of the year.

- ◆ Maintain, when installing paving, a drainage pattern that moves water from your structures to your property lines.
- ◆ Avoid laying walks or patios perfectly level. A level surface can hold water and promote growth of fungus and algae. Install walks and patios so they drain. With a drop of one to two inches over 10 feet it will appear level.

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