



April 2007

# Barcroft News

Vol 104, Issue 8

## President's Report

by Pat Williamson

Leadership roles are open and available in the Barcroft School and Civic League. We need candidates for the offices of President, Vice President, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. Please contact me or Randy Swart ([randy@bscl.org](mailto:randy@bscl.org)) to learn more. Elections will be held at the May 3 regular monthly meeting at the Community House at 7:30 pm.

Our April 5 meeting will feature Martin Ogle, Chief Naturalist for the Northern Virginia Park Authority, presenting about practical conservation measures we can take to conserve energy and resources in our homes and the neighborhood in gen-

eral. Elizabeth Rives, Barcroft's resident tree steward, will be at the meeting taking orders for free trees to be given away by Arlington County on Neighborhood Day.

Surveys for the Neighborhood Conservation Plan are still being accepted and are greatly sought after. The higher percentage of these surveys we get returned, the more clout our plan will have with Arlington County. If you need another copy, call me -- 703-887-8514.

Come and greet neighbors and bunnies at the annual Barcroft Easter Egg Hunt on April 7th at the community house. This year we are starting earlier. The hunt starts at 9 AM sharp!

Barcroft Easter Egg Hunt

April 7, 2007

9 AM Sharp

(NOTE THE NEW, EARLIER TIME!)

Barcroft Community House

Rain or Shine

Meet neighbors and friends at the Barcroft Easter Egg Hunt.

Take a picture with our resident bunny.

There will be a less challenging hunt for Barcroft's littlest ones.

Bring your basket. Come early. The bunny is prompt. The hunt starts at 9 AM.

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**Deadlines:** 10th (ads) or 15th (news/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.

**Classifieds**

Looking to clear out the attic or sell that amazing crib now that your children are off to college?

Place a classified in the Barcroft News! No fee for Barcroft residents. It's better than Craig's List!

**Barcroft News Invites You...**

Join the Barcroft News team and be a part of this much anticipated publication! Give a little love to the community you call home!

The Barcroft News needs a new distributor. Below is a list of tasks that are involved with this position. Please consider filling this important post. See your name in stars!

1. Pick up the newsletter from Adams Printing on Wilson Blvd. in Courthouse.
2. Count out and bundle newsletters for delivery routes.
3. Distribute to the carriers the week before the monthly BSCL meeting. (Carriers try to pass out the letters the weekend before the monthly meeting.)
4. Send out newsletters by mail to approximately 30 individuals on a computerized mailing label list. (BSCL reimburses distributor for the first class stamps).

To volunteer Contact Pat Williamson:  
 (703) 887-8514 or pwilliamson@weta.com

Keep up with events by joining the Barcroft chat group and news list.

Go to:

[www.bscl.org](http://www.bscl.org).



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Sabrina Huffman is a registered yoga teacher (RYT 200) with the Yoga Alliance.

Contact [sabrinahuffman@mac.com](mailto:sabrinahuffman@mac.com) or 703-615-6039 for info.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Saturday, May 5, 2007                      11am – 3:00pm**

On Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> Barcroft Elementary School will be holding its annual Spring Fair and Silent Auction. Please join in the fun! There will be moon bounces, games, and great food. Come and browse the Silent Auction where this year you can bid on gift certificates to local restaurants, hotels, B& B’s, and a one week stay at a beach cottage in Chincoteague, Virginia! You won’t want to miss it! It has become a community event, so come on out and enjoy the day with your fellow Barcroft and Alcovia neighbors!

If you know of a business who would like to donate money (to offset food and game expenses), or a gift certificate, please contact Anna Peterson (703) 521 8756. All contributions are appreciated!

Money raised by this PTA event will help pay for additional field trips and other educational opportunities for our students.


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**NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL NEWS**
***Barcroft Elementary School***

Did you see those arrows on the sidewalk? Did you witness a sea of white shirts walking through the neighborhood on March 11th? Did you see the volunteer crossing guards keeping our young walkers safe? Did you stop to think about the impact Diabetes has on you or someone you love?

Barcroft students, their parents, their teachers and their neighbors joined together early in the morning on March 10th to do something important. The raised awareness of Diabetes and more than \$4320.00 for the American Diabetes Association.

***Kenmore Middle School***

Everyone had a great time at the silent auction last month at Kenmore. If you were there you know of the many, many items donated by members of our greater community. You probably left with some great deals of your own! Did you know that Kenmore's PTA benefited greatly from this event?! Look for the wonderful ways the PTA will use this money to support the middle school students in our community. Thanks to all who participated.

***Wakefield High School***

Wakefield environmental science teacher Michelle Harris was each chosen to receive a grant from the Virginia Classroom Grants Program for Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences. Harris was awarded a \$750 grant which will fund a study of the differences between a rural stream and an urban stream by the AP environmental science class. Her class will collect water from Pohick Bay and Four Mile Run, test the water quality, and prepare a water quality comparison report.

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## At Your Public Library

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Shirlington Library is open. Visit this month!

Wednesday, April 11, 3 PM

ALRI Meet the Author

Central Library auditorium

Kai Bird and Martin Sherman speak about their Pulitzer Prize winning book *American Prometheus, the Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer*, the inventor of the atomic bomb. Co-sponsored by Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute and Arlington Public Library. 228-5996

Friends Spring Book Sale: Arlington ReReads!

Central Library Garage

[Thursday, April 12-Sunday, April 15] Don't miss your chance to pick up rare first-editions and signed

copies of highly collectible texts. Gently-used CDs, games, videos are also available.

Sunday, April 15, 4:30 PM

Cellophane by Marie Arana

Central Library auditorium

Described as a cross between John Cheever and Isabella Allende, Washington Post Book World editor Maria Arana will read from her first novel, *Cellophane*, an amazing chronicle of an unconventional engineer, Don Victor, who moves his rowdy and disorderly family to an isolated corner of the Peruvian Amazon to put up a paper factory.

*Only a part of a long, long list of library activities. Visit the website for more!*

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**FREE**

**Special Report From Realtors  
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Mike and Claudia are now offering their special report "29 Essential Tips That Get Homes Sold Fast-- And For Top Dollar." Vital reading for anyone selling a home now or in the near future.

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**RE/MAX Allegiance**

**To get your free copy of this report,  
Call Mike and Claudia Webb  
703-979-3016**

## Neighborhood Surveys Due

We are beginning to wrap up the collection of the surveys for the update of our Neighborhood Conservation Plan. We can still accept them and add them to the database until summer, but if you want yours to be included in the printouts for the committees working on the Plan, you should get it in by about cherry blossom time. We will be beginning data entry this week.

If your block captain missed you, please drop off your survey with them or put it through the door slot at the Community House, 800 S. Buchanan.

If you did not get a survey and want to register your opinions about the many neighborhood planning issues surveyed, please send me an email to [randy@bscl.org](mailto:randy@bscl.org) with your address and I will drop one off to you.

Thanks. Randy Swart

## Book Discussion

The Woman's Club of Arlington will hold its monthly book review/discussion on Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 p.m. This month Patricia McArdle, Retired Foreign Service Officer and volunteer trainer of "The Climate Project" will lead our discussion. Based on Al Gore's book "An Inconvenient Truth" Ms. McArdle was trained in Nashville, TN to spread awareness about global warming, its consequences and what we can do to reduce its effects. Come join the discussion at our clubhouse located at 700 S. Buchanan St. Arlington, VA 22204. For more information call 703-553-5800.

## New Warning System

Arlington is installing a new warning system for emergency messages.

It uses a horn followed by a clear voice message. The speakers are on utility poles, mostly in Rosslyn, Clarendon and Pentagon City. Testing can be silent or deliver a test message. Audible tests will be announced before they begin.

The system can reach people who do not have mobile devices, are visiting, or are outside and away from television, radio, and telephones. It can be used in one neighborhood, helping police look for a lost child, for example. This pilot program is federally funded.

The system supplements Arlington Alert text messages to your mobile device and email. Arlington also uses commercial broadcast media, its web site and 1700AM Radio Arlington. In addition, Arlington uses Reverse 911 phone calls for highly localized needs.

Special Thanks to Noreen Atkinson  
For her service to Barcroft as  
BSCL Newsletter Publisher  
Thank you Thank you Thank you!



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## Barcroft Players are Back

### Mark Your Calendar for Arlington Neighborhood Day – May 11th and 12th

The Barcroft Players will celebrate Arlington Neighborhood Day by presenting two performances of “A Thousand Clowns” on May 11th and 12th at the Barcroft Community House. “A Thousand Clowns” has won many awards including a Tony for the Broadway production and an Oscar

nomination for the movie version. It’s one of those rare plays that meld together great comedy with human warmth.

So come enjoy a great evening of neighborhood theater and celebrate Arlington’s Neighborhood Day. See you there!

Break a Leg!

Look for that **BARCROFT BUNNY** at The Annual Egg Hunt **Saturday April 7th, 9AM Sharp, at the Community House**  
 Details in the April edition of the Barcroft News



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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 5: Barcroft Elementary Spring Fair

May 12: Arlington Neighborhood Day

See Details in this issue of BSCL News!

## Neighborhood Day

Arlington will observe its 11th Annual Neighborhood Day on Saturday, May 12th. This year's theme is: "Neighborhoods Green and Fit" and we invite you to join us in celebrating our pride in the vitality and diversity of our neighborhoods.

Several annual Neighborhood Day events have already been planned, including the James B. Hunter III Community Hero Awards, the Animal Welfare League of Arlington's Walk for Animals, and, of course, the annual Neighborhood Day Parade.

The parade will begin at 2 p.m. and travel down Wilson Boulevard from the Clarendon Metro Station to the Courthouse area. We hope that you will join us again this year in the parade. You will find the registration form at <http://www.arlingtonva.us/portals/Topics/NeighborhoodDayMain.aspx>. Please remember that all parade participants must be registered by Sunday, April 29th in order for you to be guaranteed a spot in the parade.

Remember, "Arlington Green and Fit" and on May 12th we look forward to celebrating with you all the things that make Arlington a great place to live, work and play!

## Free Native VA Trees

As part of its Neighborhood Day activities, Arlington County is sponsoring the annual tree giveaway to county residents May 12, 2007.

The two species available this year are native trees highly recommended for this area. One choice is The Fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*) is a small flowering tree with year-round interest. The other choice is The Black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) is a medium-to-large shade tree with spectacular red fall color. The trees are in one gallon containers and their height should range between three and four feet. This is a good size for transplanting and future growth success, and is small enough to handle with ease.

### Residents need to place their order for trees by April 6th.

To order your trees, please contact Barcroft resident tree steward Elizabeth\_Rives@hotmail.com or by phone at (703) 486-1323. Please note the species and quantity you prefer.

Trees will be available for pickup from the Barcroft community house on Saturday May 12, 2007. County Tree Stewards will also be on hand to give a planting demonstration, and will provide detailed instructions, maintenance tips, and general guidance.

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## Neighbors Share Their Story

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Two and a half years ago while browsing at the Arlington County Fair, one of the exhibitors looked me in the eye and asked directly, 'Are you interested in becoming a foster parent?'

My answer was indecisive, 'Well, yes and no'. I'm willing to help children in need but what about the long-term commitment? She took my name and number and I wandered off to the next booth.

Today, I am thankful for this encounter. It marked the beginning of my husband's and my participation in Volunteer Emergency Families for Children (VEFC). VEFC is a statewide non-profit organization that provides emergency and respite foster care to children in need.

Most people think of foster care as a long-term commitment. Children come into your home for months or years. VEFC, however, addresses short-term needs of up to 3 weeks.

In the past year and a half, we have hosted about ten children, ranging in age from 7 months old to 15 years old. They stay for a weekend, a week and even three weeks (the VEFC limit).

Not all placements are a result of recent removal from the child's home. Some involve respite, which means that the regular foster family would like a week or a weekend off. Recently we cared for 2 young siblings; while they had endless energy, they were wonderful companions. While sitting at the dinner table, they said, "I like you." We liked them, too.

Another young teenager liked riding bicycles, so we cycled down to the W&OD trail for a ride. We skipped stones into Four Mile Run trying to get across the creek without getting wet and tossed really big boulders into deep eddies to see how tall of a backsplash we could make.

We cared for another teenager for a few nights. She missed her regular Saturday morning bowling league so we offered to take her bowling. We threw gutter balls and knock down a few pins.

We heard later that the young teen asked to come back for another weekend with us.

One young man wanted to attend his church during the week he stayed with us. The warmth of the pastors and the caring environment in his youth group was overflowing. Dan even had a chance to practice Spanish while he was there.

We both have concerns about the problems that children in transition may feel. It is easy to imagine children acting out in frustration against the yanking on their heartstrings and changing environment. Knock on wood; none of the children we've opened our home to has demonstrated significant anger and/or frustration at their situation. We know that could happen someday, but we are willing to risk it, knowing that we are providing a safe and caring environment for a child for a short while.

Little did we know how rewarding this experience would be for us. We miss the kids when they move on, even though we've only had a short time to get to know them. However, the phone will ring again, offering us another chance to provide a much-needed service to a youth in our community.

Volunteer Emergency Families for Children (VEFC), whose mission is helping children and youth in-crisis, recruits, trains, and supports volunteers who provide short-term (1-21 days) shelter care and mentoring to abused, neglected, runaway, homeless, and at-risk children and youth throughout Virginia.

VEFC has an on-going recruitment system. The Northern Virginia branch is not only looking for foster families, but also others to serve in a variety of ways -- recruitment, public relations, annual picnic coordination, etc.

If you would like more information about VEFC, please check their website: [www.vefc.org](http://www.vefc.org). If you are interested in talking to us about our experiences, please contact us (Dan Junker and Teresa Saunders) at 703-685-4335.

## Barcroft Historic Lustron House

Once there were eleven and now there are five---as Arlington's inventory of Lustron houses continues to dwindle. All of the Lustrons in Arlington were built in 1949 and where the "Westchester Deluxe 02" model with two bedrooms, and one bath in 1,093 square feet of living space, a really cozy fit by today's standards. But in post-WWII American these prefabricated metal porcelain enamel houses were marketed as a "new standard of living."

The house arrived in a kit that contained every panel, nut and bolt necessary and not a stick of wood. Everything was made of steel, including the roof shingles. Impervious to termites, fire and weather, the houses never needed painting. But, to quote Sam Samuels of the *New York Times*, "What time and wind cannot bring down, real estate prices

can, especially when the land the Lustron sits on is worth more than the house itself." Such is the story of the Lustron house that formerly graced a corner lot in the Virginia Heights neighborhood on South 12<sup>th</sup> Street. From the *Washington City Paper*: "My original idea was to tear it down, but when I discovered that the thing was historic, I decided it would be better to save it," remarked the property owner. He donated the house to Arlington County, which is looking for someplace to put it. For now it is boxed, relegated once more to "kit" status, awaiting rebirth, once again the "house of tomorrow."

*Note: Text above from Arlington's Art Newsletter, March 2007*

Do you know where Barcroft's Lustron house is?! 4649 Third Street South. How long will it stand?

WE INVITE YOU TO

### ST. JOHN'S SPRING 2007 SPEAKER SERIES

**Monday, April 23, 7:30 PM**

**Global Warming: An Urgent  
Climate Crisis**

Hear from individuals  
based on Al Gore's documentary:  
*An Inconvenient Truth*.

**Speaker:** Lise Van Susteren, M.D.,  
The Climate Project

**Monday, May 21, 7:30 PM**

**In our Own Voice: Recovering  
From Mental Illness**

A dramatic slideshow and Q&A session  
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and recovering from this disease.

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## **7 Things You Must Know Weeks Before Putting Your Home Up**

**For Sale** A new report has been written which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their homes, and a 9 step system that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of home sellers don't get what they want for their homes and become disillusioned and – worse – financially disadvantaged when they put their homes on the market.

As this report uncovers, most home sellers make 7 critical mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable.

In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report

prepared a report entitled "The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar". **To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your copy of this FREE report, call 1-800-895-1307, enter ID# 8200. Call anytime, 27 hours day, 7 days a week.**

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