



September 2007

Barcroft News

Vol 105, Issue 1

President's Report

by Heidi Wicker

After a whirlwind summer that never seems long enough, Barcroft Elementary school is in full swing and it's back to school and work for the rest of the Barcrofters. Please join us at the Community House on September 6 at 7:30 for our first regular meeting of the 2007-2008 season. We will be discussing a report provided by the County regarding projects needed to complete our neighborhood infrastructure. We have been asked to create a "wish list" of projects we would like to see completed--for example, streetlight additions and replacements, sidewalk repair, curb, gutter and street improvements, traffic calming and intersection improvements and beautification. We hope that all Barcrofters will participate in the meeting and providing feedback about issues that are important to you!

The Fourth of July parade this year was yet another success, thanks to participation by multitudes of Barcrofters marching in the parade, the hard work of our many volunteers and to Andrew Hunter and Katherine McGuire at the helm. The Sun Gazette

published wonderful pictures of the festivities that we can all enjoy for years to come.

The National Night Out Ice Cream Social also was a huge hit, as always. Many thanks to past BSCL president Pat Williamson who boldly took the lead in arranging for this evening of sugary fun on a hot summer day. Pat has the distinct honor of being the first Ice Cream Social organizer to buy exactly the right amount of ice cream! We were joined by Arlington police officers, sheriff's department, County Board members Chris Zimmerman and Barbara Favola and Barcrofters young and older alike.

You may have noticed the new curbs on 4th and 6th Streets at Taylor Street, which were installed this summer for traffic calming at those busy intersections. The new curbs also have proper cutouts for ease of crossing with wheelchairs and baby carriages, which are a great improvement as well.

We look forward to seeing all of you and catching up on September 6 at 7:30pm at the Community House.



World Music Festival

Saturday, September 1, 2007

Netherlands Carillon/Iwo Jima Grounds

Begins at 4 PM

See Inside Barcroft News for more information.

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Deadlines: 10th (ads) or 15th (news/editorial material) day of the month preceding the issue month.

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Arlington Farmers Markets

Yummy, local corn, peaches and more!
 Meet your neighbors at the market.

Clarendon Farmers Market
 Wednesday 3 PM—7 PM at the metro

Rosslyn Farmers Market
 Thursday 11 AM—3 PM at Metro Park

Ballston Farmers Market
 Friday 11 AM—3 PM at Wellburn Square

Arlington Farmers Market
 Saturday 9 AM—Noon at N. Courthouse Rd.

Columbia Pike Farmers Market
 Sunday 9 AM—1 PM in Front of Eckerd's

Did you know there were so many?!

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Playground Art—Fall 2007

German sculptor Bonifatius Stirnberg of Aachen, Germany has recast his sculpture *Spielschiff* (*Play Ship* in German) from molds he originally used to create an identical piece in 1979 for Aachen, Arlington's sister city. This duplicate sculpture will be installed in Maury Park adjacent to the Arlington Arts Center in fall, 2007.

a magical vessel either from the lower level's revolving hull, or in the crow's nest which is equipped with kaleidoscopes and weathervanes.

The sculpture was funded by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources, Public Art Program, Cultural Affairs Division.

Spielschiff is an interactive play sculpture with parts that can be repositioned, swiveled, peered through and explored. Children can imagine they command

Aachen, Germany is Arlington's sister city.

Arlington Remembers

2007 Events Commemorating September 11

Saturday, Sept. 8

Arlington Police/Fire/Sheriff 9-11 Memorial 5K -- a race benefiting local charities and open to all runners.

Saturday, Sept. 8 and Sunday, Sept. 9

First Responders Cup Tournament -- a Girls Fast Pitch Tournament to celebrate the heroism of the Arlington Fire and Police who were the first at the Pentagon. The tournament will be held at Arlington's newly renovated Barcroft Sports Complex.

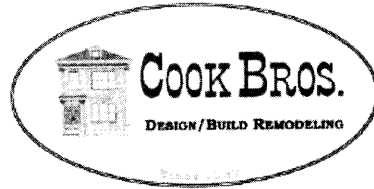
Tuesday, Sept. 11, 9:15 a.m.

Arlington's Commemorative Observance:-- Arlington County remembers the lives lost at the Pentagon and honors those who responded to the attack -- with a ceremonial tolling of a bell 184 times, once for each victim.



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September Meeting: Neighborhood Wish List

The County is compiling a list of all the projects needed to complete neighborhood infrastructure: sidewalks, streetlights, curb and gutter, traffic calming and neighborhood park improvements among them. To help this process, Barcroft is making a list of the improvements we may ask for in the foreseeable future. It will be based on responses to our neighborhood survey, and is being drafted by our Neighborhood Conservation Plan committees.

In our September 6 meeting we will review the draft and make any needed changes. The product of the meeting will be our input to the County--our wish list to finish Barcroft. Please come and be a part of this process. Be ready to talk about missing sidewalks, street lights, traffic calming, park amenities or other improvements that you think we need. This is a warmup for drafting our Neighborhood Conservation Plan this fall. For info email or call Randy Swart.

September BSCL Meeting

Community House 800 South Buchanan Street

7:30 PM

Be a part of it!

Cinema at the Central Library

Viva Cuba (2007)

A film by **Juan Carlos Cremata Malberti**

In Spanish with English subtitles

Thursday, September 20, 2007, 6:30 p.m.

In a tale akin to "Romeo and Juliet," the friendship between two children is threatened by their parents' differences. Malú is from an upper-class family and her single mother does not want her to play with Jorgito, as she thinks his background coarse and commonplace. Jorgito's mother, a poor socialist proud of her family's social standing, places similar restrictions on her son. What neither woman recognizes is the immense strength of the

bond between Malú and Jorgito. When the children learn that Malú's mother is planning to leave Cuba, they decide to travel to the other side of the island to find Malú's father and persuade him against signing the forms that would allow it.

<http://www.filmmovement.com/filmcatalog/index.asp?MerchandiseID=114>

Look for more Planet Arlington Cinema events at the central library in the coming months.

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Take Part in your Community

Your community needs you. The distribution of this fine community newsletter is in jeopardy.

The position of publisher/mailer for the BSCL Newsletter has been vacant for since spring 2007. The editor filled the spot until summer break but it is now in dire need of a volunteer for the coming news cycle.

The duties include:

1. Pick up the newsletters from Stanley Printing in Clarendon.
2. Bundle the newsletters according to routes.
3. Deliver the newsletters to the approximately 30 amazing neighbors who deliver the newsletters on their street.

This is an incredible opportunity to give back to our wonderful community. It will take approximately four hours per month.

Please step up and accept this responsibility or talk to a neighbor who you think might be willing to contribute! This would also be a great community service opportunity for middle / high school students with minimal oversight from a parent.

Contact Heidi Wicker to volunteer: 202.776.0717

Speedy Tolliver Fiddle and Banjo Fest - Lubber Run Amphitheatre

Once again Arlington Cultural Affairs, with support from www.Bluegrasscountry.org, honors old time music master Speedy Tolliver with his very own event. The event has become a tradition in Arlington, a tribute to Speedy's lifelong achievements and dedication to traditional music, and this year will again feature a category for banjo players as well as

fiddlers. Speedy Tolliver, at age 89, is known for his versatility, having mastered various fiddle and banjo styles including old time, bluegrass, Dixie-land and swing. banjo players of any traditional style to perform in celebration of their love for traditional music. Come out to this **free** event!

Sunday, September 23, Noon - 4-ish

Planet Arlington



PLANET ARLINGTON is an Arlington County program designed to explore issues of immigration, globalization and the environment through the lens of the

arts and humanities. Beyond the annual World Music Festival, the County will also produce numerous Planet Arlington activities throughout the year

World Music Festival 2007
Saturday, September 1, 2007
Netherlands Carillon/Iwo Jima Memorial Grounds. RAIN OR SHINE

Information: 703-228-1850
 Shuttle buses will run continuously from the Rosslyn Metro Station, Arlington Mill Community Center, 4975 Columbia Pike, and Barcroft Sports and Fitness Center, 4200 S. Four Mile Run Drive.

- 4 p.m. Skatalites**
- 5:30 p.m. Cyro Baptista**
- 6:30 p.m. Benny Jones Sr. & the Treme Brass Band**
- 7:15 p.m. Lila Downs**
- 8:45 p.m. Hugh Masekela**

Emceed by Kojo Nnamdi of media partner WAMU 88.5 FM.

Putumayo's Word Playground (Children's Stage):

- 4 p.m. Bakithi Kumalo with Robbi K**
- 5 p.m. Phil Melancon**
- 6 p.m. Asheba**

NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL NEWS

Barcroft Elementary School

Barcroft students are staying in school a little longer this year. We used to see them stream out of school early on Wednesdays. Now, they are staying put.

Why?! Barcroft was chosen to participate in a new Arlington County Public Schools foreign language initiative (FLES). Barcroft students traded their early release Wednesdays to learn conversational Spanish and Spanish culture as well as enjoy an extra music class! More about this innovative program in the October edition of the Barcroft News.

Kenmore Middle School

Kenmore eighth grade science teacher Jeff Politzer has taken the classic egg-drop to a new level. As with the classic model, students designed and built containers to protect a raw egg from breaking when dropped 9 meters. Points were given for artistic designs and themes. The lab was enhanced by designing and building a device that measured the final velocity of the egg container just before impact. The device used lasers, mirrors and Lab-Pro equipment to create dual grids to measure the velocity. Students then compared these measurements to theoretical final velocity and average velocity and calculated potential and kinetic energy and the effect of air resistance.

Wakefield High School

On Monday, June 4 WJLA News 7 anchorman Leon Harris visited **Wakefield** to talk about the perils faced by teenaged drivers. In a seniors only assembly, Harris presented videotape of how teens drive when they believe no one is watching; reports on teen crashes due to inexperience and excessive speed; as well as recorded personal accounts of area incidents in which teens were killed in car crashes.

Earn Points for Barcroft by Green(er) Living

Arlington County and Arlingtonians for a Clean (ACE) recently launched an exciting new project—the 2007 Green Living Challenge lists 16 actions individuals can take to protect our environment by conserving energy, reducing solid waste, eliminating runoff, enhancing habitat, and protecting air quality.

Residents of Arlington are challenged to complete as many of the actions as they can before October 31, 2007 and earn “green points” for themselves and their neighborhood! There are currently 7 Barcroft residents who have signed up for the challenge. Why don’t you become the 8th to sign up?

Participants who earn one hundred points will get certification as a green household—and will help make Arlington a healthier, more sustainable community.

To accept the challenge download the Green Living Challenge form and rules from the Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment website (www.arlingtonenvironment.org).

Here are a few examples of the actions you will be challenged to complete:

- Change the most frequently used light bulb(s) in your residence to compact fluorescent (up to 5 bulbs with one point per bulb).
- Grasscycle and/or compost your lawn clippings and yard waste.
- Plant a tree in a school or park (with permission) or your yard.

Participants in the Green Living Challenge are also eligible to win great prizes. By registering for the Green Living Challenge and emailing us your name and civic association, you will be eligible for a monthly prize drawing with prizes from area busi-

nesses including Flexcar and Nature by Design. Each month there are five winners and in November there is a prize drawing for all participants who sent in a completed challenge form by October 31.

Along with the contest, ACE and the county have highlighted the following educational opportunities for the community.

Global Warming, Energy, and Conservation.

Tuesday, September 25, 7:00 p.m. Alexandria Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria 22314. This program will focus on the ways in which our energy use and conservation can have a positive or negative impact on this over-arching challenge of our time. Recommended for adults and children ages 12 and up. Presented by Potomac Overlook Regional Park. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. PLEASE RSVP by calling 703-528-5406.

Community Conservation Conversation. Sunday, September 30, 2:00 p.m. Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St., Arlington 22201. The wise use of resources and actual reduction in the consumption of energy and materials is a big part of addressing global warming and other problems. Join this panel discussion that features discussion, first among a panel and then involving all in attendance. Presented by Potomac Overlook Regional Park.

Energy Audits 101. Thursday, November 1, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Rd., Arlington. Go Green in your home! You may be able to reduce your energy use by 50% or more. Learn what an energy audit is, how to get one, or how to do one yourself. Hear about Gulf Branch Nature Center's experience when the 1920s era home it occupies was audited. Free. Registration required. Program #613204D. Call 703-228-4747 or register online with the Arlington County Depart-

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Strategies to Manage Retirement Income***

Learn how choosing appropriate retirement strategies can help you pursue the retirement you envision.

Date Thursday, September 20

Time 7:00 p.m.

Location Barcroft Community House
800 South Buchanan Street
Arlington, VA

Hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Speaker Wesley Stien
Financial Advisor

RSVP Wesley Stien
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You & Us



Adequate Yearly Progress and Our County Schools

You may have read on the front page of *The Washington Post* [*N. Va. Schools Set Back on 'No Child' Test Goals* / August 24, 2007] that almost half (14/30) of the Arlington County Public Schools failed the 'No Child Left Behind Act' by failing to show adequate yearly progress (AYP). This number includes many of the elementary schools Barcroft residents attend including Barcroft, Claremont, Campbell and Drew Model School. Most of the county's middle schools failed in 2007 as well. (Every high school in the county passed.)

Why so many failures?! The answer may be one of the greatest attributes to our county schools. Arlington County is proud of its incredibly diverse student body. Many of these students are recent immigrants to our country. While speaking their native language at home, they are learning English in school at an amazing pace. Still, is it reasonable to expect these students to pass a grade level reading tests designed for native speakers?

The following excerpt from the APS website helps explain the recent test results:

...

During the 2006-07 school year, changes were made in testing procedures, which affected the AYP results for a number of Arlington schools as well as the school division.

Superintendent Smith explained. "Originally, students new to the U.S. were tested for their progress in learning English. In previous years, Virginia used an English-language proficiency reading test for Level 1 and Level 2 English language learners, who are entry-level English readers and speakers, as a proxy for the standard grade level reading test administered to students who read and comprehend English. This testing method allowed us to track progress in student learning and use the feedback and results to identify the strengths on which teach-

ers could build to help students learn and improve."

In 2007, the U.S. Department of Education declared that the proxy method of assessment was no longer valid and that students who are not proficient in English must take the grade level reading test regardless of their ability to read the exam. As a result, among Arlington's Level 1 and Level 2 students, 75 percent did not pass the reading tests.

Smith commented, "We believe that subjecting students who cannot read English to a grade level reading test serves no valid educational purpose and leads to frustration for our students. Like many other educators across the nation, we believe that the current testing practices contribute to leaving many students, especially English language learners, farther behind and offer no research-based results that can be used to help them improve."

...

OPINION—*Annie Harold*

Last year, the welcoming nature of Barcroft Elementary School allowed my family to get to know many others in the school community. Walking to from school each day, I communicated with the parents in my daughter's class. Often, this communication was limited to a smile and a nod as I can only communicate verbally in English. My daughter's relationship with the children from these families flourished with little notice of a language barrier. As the students' English improved, they were able to translate for their parents and me.

I also had the pleasure of knowing these students through classroom visits. I was impressed by their progress. The rich learning environment, for all children, provided at our county schools far outweighs the results of any tests. Please join me in putting more emphasis on the valuable exchange and real learning that define our schools, less emphasis on testing.



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

Why ¾ of Homesellers Don't Get the Price They Want for Their Home.

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

This 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 homesellers don't get what they want for their home and become disillusioned and – worse – financially disadvantaged when they put their home on the market.

As this report uncovers, most homesellers make 7 deadly 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, there is a free special report entitled *"The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar"*. Call my toll-free hotline today at 1-800-895-1307 and enter ID# 9071. This is a 24 hour recorded message, call anytime.

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