



November 2007

Barcroft News

Vol 105, Issue 3

President's Report

by Heidi Wicker

Fall has descended upon Barcroft, which means it's time for the Candidates' Forum! Come to the next community meeting to meet the candidates for County Board and School Board and ask questions on the issues important to you.

We also will be updating everyone on progress regarding the issues we discussed at the last meeting with respect to the area at Columbia Pike and Four Mile Run/WO&D Trail. For the benefit of those who couldn't make it, the BSCL met with Captain Michelle Nuneville, our police precinct captain, County Board Chair Paul Ferguson, and Chris Pauley, Park Operations Superintendent of the Northern Virginia Park Authority. Neighbors brought up their concerns regarding a variety of issues, such as public drunkenness, unlawful vending, traffic violations, littering, loitering and the

like. Mr. Ferguson helped set a two-month deadline for improvements on these issues, and the police committed to implementing an action plan to address the issues in that period.

A special thanks to our volunteers who helped clear brush on the WO&D Trail on October 13. It looks fabulous, and will certainly help improve visibility on the sides of the trail!

We are looking for a volunteer to be our representative to the county on the plans for the Arlington Mill Community Center site on Columbia Pike. It is anticipated that the community center will be replaced with a mixed use facility, in a public-private partnership. Meetings are approximately once a month. Since our neighborhood backs up to the site, whatever is built there could dramatically affect us. Please contact me if you are interested in assuming this important position.



ARLINGTON
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CANDIDATE'S FORUM

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Barcroft Community House

2 seats on the Arlington County Board

Vote on Tuesday November 6

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Deadlines: 14h (ads) or 15th (news/editorial material) day of the month preceding the issue month.

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BSCL MEMBERSHIP

A new membership year starts each September. Thanks to those who have already sent in their dues for the new year, and for the contributions that were sent along with them - keep 'em coming!

**Don't Be a Litter Bug
 Take Down the Signs!**

Have you ever stopped, during a stroll around Barcroft, to read a sign announcing a yard sale or local event, only to notice that the date has long past?!

If you are the one to hang a sign before an event. Please take the sign down shortly after it ends. This is considerate to your neighbors and cuts down on the amount of trash that accumulates in our neighborhood.

Keep up with events by joining the Barcroft chat group and news list.
 Go to: www.bscl.org.



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Neighbors in the News

Chris Ioffreda, a Wakefield Junior, is a semi finalist in the American Architectural Foundation and Target *Redesign Your School Contest*.

Entrants had to submit designs showing ideas for the schools of the future.

CONGRATULATIONS, CHRIS!

Has your neighbor done something noteworthy?
Please tell!

editor@bscl.org

MAKE AN IMPACT ON THE FUTURE

Donate to the Barcroft Community House
Magnolia Tree Fund

E-mail: sbrinitzer@aol.com.

See Article on Page 7.

Woman's Club Crafts

Have you begun your holiday shopping yet? Why not start right here in Barcroft at the Women's Club? Make a list, check it twice and then, head out for the...

Woman's Club Annual Craft
and Holiday Boutique
Sat. Nov 10th, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.
Woman's Club of Arlington
700 S. Buchanan St.
Arlington, VA 22204 703-553-5800

White House Ornaments, Attic Treasures, Lunch,
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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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Weed Work, Tree Work

Join Shirley Gay and other Barcroft neighbors for another work session removing invasive vines on the W & OD trail on Saturday, November 10, 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM. Again, wear long sleeves and gloves and bring pruners, loppers and a long, strong screw driver. Most of our work will be removing invasive vines from trees. In some cases, vines completely cover trees and kill them.

Kasey Spriggs, Arlington County Invasive Plant Technician, joined seven Barcrofters for a weed work session on the W & OD on October 13. Kasey brought extra tools and gave some expert advice. Randy Swart taught us to use a long screw driver to loosen English ivy, making it much easier to cut. Randy and John cut brush while others worked on invasive control.

Cutting English ivy from trees improves the health of trees and helps to limit the spread of ivy as mature plants are much more likely to flower and set seed if the plants grow high in trees. Birds eat the berry covered seeds and spread them about. To limit ivy growth, cut it at the base of trees and again at eye level. Pulling the ivy down from trees is not recommended as doing so may damage trees. But, it is a good idea to pull ivy around the base of trees.

Help take care of the Trail. Join your Neighbors...

Saturday, November 10, 2007
10:00 AM - 12:30 PM
W&OD Trail

See you on the trail!

Phoenix Bikes

More than just baseball and gymnastics takes place down the street from Barcroft in Barcroft Park on Four Mile Run Drive. Young people are learning a skill and developing pride in their work.

Phoenix is on Four Mile Run Drive in Barcroft Park under the trees next to the tennis courts.

Phoenix Bikes is a small community bike shop serving folks in Arlington. Located in Barcroft Park, Phoenix works with young people in the community, building bikes and building leaders. In addition to participating in an Earn-A-Bike Program and other Phoenix Team activities, the young

mechanics join staff and volunteers in serving Arlington's biking community. Phoenix does tune-ups and repairs at low cost to area cyclists, and sells quality reconditioned bikes for the whole family.

You can donate bikes to the program, too. So, don't wait until the next community yard sale to free up that space taken up by an unused bicycle.

For details and shop hours, please see the Web site at www.phoenixbikes.org or call them at 703-575-7762. Phoenix Bikes is a project of the non-profit 501 (c) (3) Greenbrier Learning Center, and donations may be tax-deductible.

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Barnes and Noble Barcroft Weekend

Shop and support your neighborhood school!

Between November 30 and December 2, the Barnes and Noble in Clarendon Market Commons (2800 Clarendon Blvd) will donate a portion of sales to the Barcroft Elementary School PTA.

Children's author, Ginger Clarke, will be at the store Friday night for a reading and book signing.

Do some holiday shopping and support your neighborhood school at the same time!

New Look at the Community House

Have you noticed the new look for our historic community house at 800 South Buchanan Street? Have you noticed the bright white facade that greets travelers coming west on South 8th Street? Our community house has become more prominent because something is missing.

The big oak tree on the corner at the Community House is gone. It had declined in recent years, affected by the power company's merciless pruning and by simple old age. It showed signs of distress in 2006, and in 2007 was dropping branches on the yard. The County forester confirmed that it was "90% dead" and the Executive Committee, after bidding, selected a company to take it down.

The tree will be missed. Let's celebrate the life of the tree and the connection to history it represents. The memory of the old tree lives on in Jack Turner's drawing on the masthead of this Barcroft News and on the signs that border Barcroft .

Scott Brintzer, who created and cares for our Community House garden, has proposed replacing the oak with a magnolia. Another oak that close to the power lines would just run afoul of Virginia Power and be butchered. A native magnolia will not require extensive pruning for power line clearance, and is a good species to take advantage of global warming. It also fits in well with other trees on our side of Buchanan St. Scott has offered to provide half the cost of a really substantial tree, and is collecting donations for the rest. Please email Scott if you would like to contribute: sbrintzer@aol.com.

The Historic Affairs and Landmark Review board has given its blessing and is issuing a Certificate of Appropriateness, so you may see the new tree appear this fall.

Day of the Dead

On Friday, November 2, from 7-9 p.m., the AAC will host a Day of the Dead evening for adults and families, including a live mariachi band, a folkloric dance presentation, altar decoration, food, craft, and storytelling.

On Saturday, November 3, from 1 - 4:00 p.m., the Arlington Arts Center will host a free Day of the Dead/ El dia de los muertos workshop led by AAC resident artist Monica Stroik. This workshop is geared for middle school students, or ages 10-14. Activities include mask making, sugar skull decorating, and story telling. In addition to sugar skull decorating, the free workshop includes the creation of three-dimensional masks which will tell personal narratives. Participants are also invited to share stories about their loved ones as they work on the projects.

An interactive El día de los muertos altar will be on view at the downstairs gallery of the art center between October 31 through November 17. Any member of the public is invited to add flowers and mementos of the deceased to this installation, created by David Amoroso, Javier Escudero and Ernesto Gomez.

There is no fee for the events, but participants must register by phone at (703) 248-6800, by email at info@arlingtonartscenter.org with "EL DIA" in the subject area of your message.

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NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL NEWS

Barcroft Elementary School

Did you notice that Barcroft students were carrying those backpacks with ease during the middle weeks of October? That is because there was no homework at Barcroft and school was optional.

That's right! Mid-October is fall break for our local elementary school students, a reward for starting school earlier in the year than their county counterparts. Most students attend school anyway but with different classmates and teachers. It is inter-session! With no emphasis on homework students explore and discover topics of their choosing.

Kenmore Middle School

Kenmore gifted resource teacher Elaine Powers and sixth grade teacher Nancy Tiernan created a workshop entitled, "A Celebration of Who I Am."

They presented a brief overview of their work at the Kennedy Center CETA Celebration on Aug. 20 and the full workshop to teachers at Potomac Elementary School in Potomac, Md. on Aug. 21.

Wakefield High School

Several Wakefield student artists in Jina Davidson's photography class generously donated their photographs to be part of the silent auction fundraiser for the Arlington Pediatric Center.

The second annual celebration event, "It's A Small World", was held at the Clarendon Ballroom in September.

Columbia Pike Update

The following items were taken from the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization (CPRO) website. You can check in at <http://www.columbiapikepartnership.com/index.html>, and/or sign up to receive periodic updates on Columbia Pike redevelopment progress via email.

1. Excavation for underground parking is now complete at The Halstead (Columbia Pike and S. Walter Reed Dr.) The site boasts two large cranes that are being used to move construction materials. The building, which will ultimately include eight stories, has just recently risen above ground level. Real Estate leasing firm KLNb is now marketing the project's 34,000 sq. ft. of retail space.
2. Excavation is underway for the Columbia Village project (Columbia Pike at S. Greenbrier) which will be a 10-story mixed-use building. The developer, Fairfield Residential, is also in the process of relocating water lines that ran under the site and installing them under Columbia Pike. Fairfield is also interested in identifying a new name for the project. Suggestions may be submitted to jwhittaker@columbiapike.org.
3. Demolition of the former Safeway building at Columbia Pike and S. Wayne is now complete and will make way for the new 6-story Siena Park. The project's developer, Woodfield Investments, says a 24-month construction schedule is planned. Removal of debris and excavation are now underway. Utility work is also being performed on S. Adams and S. Wayne Streets. The east side of S. Adams St. below the entrance to the Giant will be closed. The site contact is Eric Resnik of Paradigm Construction who can be reached at 301-879-1231.
4. Carbon Thompson and B.M. Smith, the developers of Penrose Square (Columbia Pike and S. Barton St.) have hired a new architectural team to assist them with their final plans and designs. In addition, the County has hired a consultant to assist a public working group in the design of the new public square. The existing Giant grocery store will remain open through the holidays. Demolition is now planned for early 2008.
5. At Majestic Oaks on S. Glebe Rd. just below the Pike eleven new two-car garage townhomes are soon to be under construction and will be released for sale this fall.

Scouting for Food Drive

Saturday, November 10th is the annual Scouting for Food Drive in Arlington. The food you put outside your front door for the Boy Scouts goes directly to The Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC), a nonprofit that has provided supplemental groceries to Arlington families in need for the past 20 years. The Boy Scout Food Drive is the largest annual food drive that directly benefits AFAC. We currently serve approximately 600-700 families per week. Please give generously.

Can you volunteer that day? Individuals and groups are needed to unload, sort and crate donations at two sites (AFAC's warehouse/main distribution site 2708 S. Nelson Street & at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 825 S. Taylor Street). Three shifts are available (10 am-1 pm; 1- 4 pm; 4 - 6 pm). To register, contact: Nancy Cude at afacnancy@aol.com or 703-845-8486.

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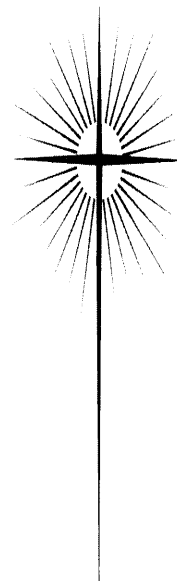
Reflect and pray with us on Wednesdays at 7:30 PM. Informal candlelight prayer and reflection.

Share fellowship and discussion in our book club: Tuesday, November 6, 7:30 PM:

God's Secretaries by Adam Nicolson

Attend our Speakers Series on Monday, November 19 at 7:30 PM. John Johnson, IV a Domestic Policy Analyst with the National Episcopal Church will lead a frank conversation about the church's role in politics.

Begin your Thanksgiving celebration with worship and receive Holy Communion on Wednesday, November 21, at 7:30 PM.



Become an Official Master Gardener

Has your garden thrived despite the draught of '07? Do you lose yourself when you are outside enjoying your plants and planning your next landscaping adventure?

Virginia Cooperative Extension and Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia will hold an Open House on Tuesday, November 13th, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the Conference Center in the Arlington County Parks Trades Center, 2700 S. Taylor Street, for gardeners in Arlington interested in the Master Gardener Training Class in 2008.

Residents who want to improve their gardening skills, enhance their knowledge and, most importantly, share what they have learned with others through volunteer work should reserve their place in the 2008 Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program quickly.

The program trains participants in practical gardening and landscaping techniques. Enrollment is limited to 40. Tuition is \$185 for Arlington County residents, with need-based scholarships available to cover some tuition costs. For information please contact the Virginia Cooperative Extension office at 703-228-6414 or e-mail

Real Estate Help for Seniors

The Arlington County Treasurer's Office is offering seminars to explain the options available to seniors who are having trouble paying their real estate taxes. They explain the homeowner grant, tax exemption and tax deferral programs, including eligibility requirements and how to apply. The program also covers reverse mortgages. The County is partnering with PNC Bank, who provide one staffer to help with the explanations but do not make a sales pitch.

The 45 minute seminars are available as presentations to civic associations and other organizations, and there is of course no charge involved. For scheduling and other info, please contact Crystal Dade in the Treasurer's office at 703-228-4016 or cdade@arlingtonva.us.

Wakefield Principal Honored

A top educator, the county's chief of police and Virginia's senior U.S. senator were recipients of honors at the 61st annual Freedom Fund Banquet, sponsored by the Arlington branch of the NAACP.

The top educator is Doris Jackson, principal of Wakefield High School. She was the recipient of the Community Service Award.

In her acceptance speech, Ms. Jackson spread around the accolades. She credited parents, faculty, administrators and especially the 1,400 *phenomenal, phenomenal* students at the high school.

Our goal is that all of our kids leave us good citizens, well prepared to make good choices, she said.

Thanks from Wakefield Music Depart.

Thank you to the whole neighborhood from the Wakefield Music Department. Fourteen groups of band members went through most of the neighborhoods that are in the Wakefield attendance zone last month for the annual Tag Day fundraiser. A total of \$5,060 in donations was collected that day.

The amazing part is that the two groups who just went around Barcroft collected just over \$1,600!!! Barcroft residents were all welcoming and generous and I just wanted to say thank you. If you were not home, the address for mailing a donation is on the brochure that was left in your door.

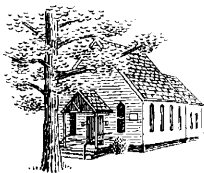
The music department participates in a music festival every spring in a different city. The last two years they went to Boston and New York. Those trips were costly, but the big one is the trip they will take in April to the Disney Music Festival in Orlando. The cost of the trip is about \$50,000. The students will continue to raise money for the trip throughout the school year. They will start a fundraiser in October selling cheesecakes, pizzas and cookie dough. There are 9 students in the music program who live in the Barcroft neighborhood.

Carol Hunter

Speaker's Corner

Look for *Zero Project*, an installation of a 300 foot long, 15 foot high banner which wrapped around the Arlington Arts Center. The image, based on a drawing created by Rosemary Feit Covey, shows a vast crowd of shouting faces, representing the silent screams of the masses.

The project will include a Speaker's Corner on November 17 from Noon - 4, an open mic opportunity for all to come and speak about causes that are important to them, and a blog for public comment.



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