



Summer 2007

# Barcroft News

Vol 104, Issue 10

## Ready for the Parade?

by Annie Harold

You wake in your Barcroft home to the wonderful melodies provided by the local birds. They have come again this year and built a nest nearby. As you roll over toward your clock radio and open your eyes slightly, you notice that the view of the neighbors' house is obscured by the big green leaves of late spring. You are surprised to learn it is only 5:30 AM because it is as bright out as mid morning. Heat is already rising from the sidewalk. In your sleepy state, you realize it is almost summertime in Barcroft. You jolt upright in bed and scream, "I think I love you!" Then you shake your sleepy head and realize you need more sleep.

You wake later, at a more reasonable hour. The bird sounds are dimmer now because they are accompanied by the tune of your neighbors weed eater. You vaguely recall something on your mind - something about summertime in Barcroft. Then it comes to you. Slowly, at first, a smile creeps across your face. Then, your expression explodes with joyful anticipation of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities in Barcroft. Yes, you think, that's it! The 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade is just around the corner. You clear your calendar, decide not to mow your lawn and walk

past the pile of bills you planned on paying today. No, today is for preparations. Today, you will ready your entry for the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Barcroft 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade.

You know your time will be well spent because you remember last year's parade. As you prepare eggs and toast for breakfast, you remember the children down the street with their bicycles and tricycles decorated to the hilt. You wipe the jelly from your chin and think of the Barcroft playgroup with their wagons overflowing with red, white and blue children. As you take your first sip of coffee, you are cruising with Uncle Sam in his convertible wondering if his white beard is authentic. You put down your coffee cup to catch the beads that are flying through the thick summer air. You feel lucky because Mardi Gras has come to Barcroft. You take a bite of eggs cooked to perfection and think, "Who are these pregnant ladies dancing in the street?"

Now, you wipe the sweat from your brow and remember last year's pledge. You pledged that your parade entry will include spray bottles, battery operated fans and bikinis this year. It is hot, in Barcroft, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. You clear the dishes and get to work.

Start Preparing Now...

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Barcroft 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade is Wednesday, July 4, 2007 at 10 AM Sharp

Parade participants assemble at 9:45 AM.

Details Inside

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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****Lawn Mowing and Yard Care:**

Local neighborhood High School students Daniel Michaelson and Andrew Asmus offer experienced gardening and lawn mower service. Call Daniel at 703-296-6624.

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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.

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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### See you at the Parade.

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Mark your calendar and spread the word. This year's 19<sup>th</sup> annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July starting in front of the community house at 10:00 sharp.

A unicycle juggler will be on hand to entertain young and old in the community house after the parade and during the picnic. Bring a dish for the picnic, build a float, ride a bike, march in the parade, dazzle the neighborhood with your talent or just watch on the sidelines.

If you are interested in joining the Barcroft marching band call Jack Turner at 703-521-1256.

If you have any other questions please call Andrew Hunter at 703-979-8247. Hope to see you there!

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### Barcroft's Musical Garden

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If you listened close on a recent evening, you could hear the sounds of the Barcroft Musical Garden carried in the summer winds of spring.

The sounds were those of reading! You could hear the seasoned Kindergarteners searching for the correct pronunciation, proudly displaying their new reading skills. You could hear 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders reading to their younger siblings.

You could also hear the laughter from the playground and encouraging words from parents at the tee ball game.

Barcroft Elementary School hosted library night in its wonderful outdoor classroom and beautiful musical garden. Every student in attendance got a free book!

## A Smash Hit for the Barcroft Players

Something special happened in Barcroft on neighborhood day this May. Neighbors gathered in our historical community house and were delighted by community theatre at its best.

“A Thousand Clowns” by Herb Gardner was presented by the Barcroft Players led by neighbor Barbara Sewart who thinks it is impossible to have too many theatre groups in the world.

The play was a daring selection because of its complex topics and demands for excellent timing. The cast and crew pulled it off marvelously.

The play featured Ana and Phil Cackley, a neighborhood father / daughter team who played an uncle / nephew in the play.

They were surrounded by many neighbors who participated as cast members or off stage baking refreshments, helping with make up, directing, taking money, perfecting the sound, scene production and lights.

Speaking of lights, did you see Bubbles? If not, check her out at BSCL.org.

Thanks to everyone for a job well done!

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Thank You for Sharing with Your Community!

## BSCL MEMBERSHIP

It's Not Too Late to Join...

The form is available at BSCL.org.

## Who is Going to Spread the News?!

Your community needs you. The distribution of this fine community newsletter is in jeopardy. Contact Heidi Wicker to volunteer: 202.776.0717

### STORIES

### TAKE THE PLUNGE!

### CRAFTS

Make a Splash with Jesus at  
St. John's Vacation Bible School

**Who:** All kids Ages 3 (potty-trained) to rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to join us.

**When:** Sunday July 8<sup>th</sup> through Thursday July 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM.  
Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM. Program will begin at 6:30 PM.

**Where:** St. John's Episcopal Church, 415 S. Lexington St., Alexandria, Virginia

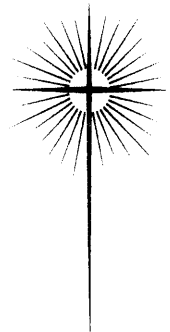
**Registration:** \$10 per child; \$25 maximum per family

### Songs

**For more information call:** (703) 671-6834  
or email: [stjohnsrector@verizon.net](mailto:stjohnsrector@verizon.net)

### Games

Sponsored by St. John's Episcopal Church and La Iglesia de Cristo Rey  
*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:5*





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**Seller Subsidies: Financial Incentives  
Help To Sell Homes Faster**

In the sellers' market during the past, seller subsidies totaled about 2 % of the sales. As the Northern Virginia housing market returns to a more balanced market, seller concessions are offered in an increasing share of transactions. In the last six months, seller-subsidized sales have made up 60% of the sales.

Seller subsidies can include help with closing costs, decorator allowances, and other up front cash offered from the seller to the buyer upon settlement. In most situations it is assumed that a buyer may include subsidy in their offer. Sometimes sellers offer subsidies to attract buyers and reduce the time their property sits on the market without reducing the list price. A \$10,000 subsidy might mean more to a buyer than a \$20,000 price reduction.

Sellers should realize that seller contributions have typically accompanied about a third of home sales regionally throughout all phases of the market. Second, the location, condition, asking price of the home all influence whether a home sells with or without a seller subsidy.

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