



February 2008

Barcroft News

Vol 105, Issue 6

President's Report

by Heidi Wicker

Join us at the next community meeting on Thursday, February 7 at 7:30pm at the Community House (800 S. Buchanan) for a presentation by former Barcroft neighbor Bryna Helfer regarding current aquatic options in Arlington and the timeline and plan for new pools in Arlington.

In response to several inquiries by residents about housing code enforcement, such as potential overcrowding in homes, abandoned or disheveled properties and other issues, we also hope to have a representative of the Arlington Code Enforcement office join us, and we will discuss how to file a complaint and the investigation process.

The County is planning two upcoming events relating to crime prevention:

1) **A Town Meeting on Preventing Youth Violence & Gang Involvement** Sponsored by the Arlington County Gang Task Force Saturday, February 2, 8:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Kenmore Middle School Auditorium
200 S. Carlin Springs Rd., Arlington, VA 22204

A discussion to raise awareness about gang issues in Arlington, inform about resources and services that are available to families and communities, and to begin to develop a creative, community-based action plan to reduce youth violence and gang involvement.

2) **Safety First**, Sponsored by the Arlington County Police Saturday, February 9, 11:00am-5:00pm Kenmore Middle School 200 S. Carlin Springs Rd., Arlington, VA 22204 Panels and presentations about fire prevention, emergency preparedness, identity theft, auto theft, pedestrian safety, gangs, and internet safety. Fingerprinting for children will be offered at the event.

Last but not least, thanks to everyone who turned out for the annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser. The event was a huge success, thanks in no small part to the Harold family who spearheaded the event and our other wonderful cooks and volunteers! This event raised money (almost \$200 was raised this year!) to help keep the Community House in good shape, for us all to enjoy.

February BSO Meeting

Thursday, February 7

7:30 PM

Barcroft Community House

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

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 All phone numbers are area code 703 unless noted.

Classifieds

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Teenage Babysitter - Week nights and weekends: Sarah @ 703-521-8756.

Babysitter: Red Cross certified eighth-grader available for neighborhood babysitting. Call Abby at 703-892-1090.

Rebekah's Pet Care (walking, feeding, sitting)....703-521-8756.

Part-time nanny. Our wonderful nanny will be available 20+ hours/week starting in February. Fluent in English, legal, valid driver's license and experience with newborns through teenagers. Contact Jennifer Lis for more information. 703-946-6926 or jjlis@comcast.net.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE To Become a BSCL Member

Check the Current Membership List on the BSCL web-page (BSCL.org).

If your name isn't there, print the Membership Form, and send it in with your dues (Still only \$3 for individuals or \$6 for a couple.) Everything you need is on the form.

If you can send along a contribution to the Community House Fund or the Tree Fund, it will be very much appreciated.

Step in as Barcroft News Editor

Barcroft News Editor, Annie Harold, needs a maternity leave for the March, April and May edition.

Contact Heidi at 202 489 6053

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



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Save the Date....

The bunny comes early this year.

Come to the Egg Hunt and visit with the Barcroft Bunny.

March 22nd

9 AM Sharp! - 10 AM



Barcroft Snow Brigade

The Barcroft Snow Brigade will be out clearing walkways for homeowner who cannot. Barcroft has two County snow blowers to use for clearing walks to Metrobus, for those who cannot clear their own, and of course our Community House.

If you are unable to clear your own walk and would like to be included on the Snow Brigade route please call Randy at 703 521 2080 or e-mail randy@bscl.org.

If you would like to volunteer please email Jim Kerr for the west side of the neighborhood (jim@bscl.org) or Randy Swart for the east side (randy@bscl.org).

A Book Club—For Boys?!

Kenmore teachers, Vicky Robertson and Leslie Stockton recently began the second year of Boys Book Talk. This club is for seventh and eighth grade boys to read and discuss literature by Black and Latino authors that focus on positive male characters, themes and interests.

You Hang It,
You Claim It!

If you hand a sign announcing an event,
Come back after the event and remove it.

If you do not, it becomes litter.

Help Keep Barcroft Beautiful!

Female Voices Wanted

Potomac Harmony Chorus, Sweet Adelines International, is looking for women who like to sing.

Potomac Harmony Chorus is composed of women of all ages, from all walks of life. We provide the opportunity for women in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area to develop their vocal and leadership skills through education and performance. Members reside in Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia. We welcome all women over the age of 13 -- come visit us and learn more about us.

For more information, directions, and specific rehearsal dates, go to www.potomacharmony.org or email us at potomacharmony@yahoo.com.

Innovators at your Middle School


Cassidy Nolen's technology education students at Kenmore Middle School are participating in a national engineering and design competition called *Innovator of the Future*.

This is the first-ever entry by a middle school in this national event. This alone, makes the teacher and students true innovators!

The competition is designed to identify outstanding CAD and CNC students in colleges and high schools. The design challenge is to create a half-scale steering wheel and make a physical model using a CNC machine.

Thanks to all the neighbors who are still lighting up Barcroft with festive winter lights for this dark season! They are appreciated.





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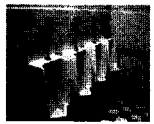
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Community House Lights Under Control

Meditation is relaxing and rejuvenating. Still, have you ever tried to meditate under bright lights?!

Yoga classes held in the Community House have been asking for a dimmer control for the main lights. They are a little too bright for meditation. We had a dimmer once, but the load was too heavy and it burned out. Good dimmer controls can be expensive. Meditation was underway under bright lights.

Barcrofter Louise Shutler decided to do something about it.

Louise donated a heavy duty dimmer switch and the services of her electrician to install it. Participants at the spaghetti supper on January 20 enjoyed soft lighting courtesy of Louise, and now she will have the pleasure of using it every week in yoga class. She joins a long line of neighbors who have seen a need and responded, making our Community House a better place.

Thanks, Louise!

Don't Delay... Get a Mammogram

The GW Mammovan will be at Kenmore on Feb. 12 from 9:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Women who are age 35 and over, who have not had a mammogram in the past 12 months are encouraged to make an appointment for a mammogram. Call 202-741-3252 for an appointment. Mammograms are free for those women who meet financial eligibility requirements.

Beyond the Simple Present

The Clarendon Education Center Multi-cultural Drama Ensemble of the Arlington Education and Employment Program (REEP) presents: *Beyond the Simple Present* under the direction of REEP teacher Maggie Cleland.

The program is based on the life stories and experiences of adult students from many countries as they endeavor to learn English as a Second Language (ESL), reshape their identities, and piece together a new life.

Performances will be held at the Kenmore Black Box Theatre at 8 p.m. on Feb. 8 and 9 and at 2 p.m. on Feb. 10. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

Spaghetti Dinner 2008

**Thank You,
Thank You,**

to everyone who helped make spaghetti, served spaghetti, played music in honor of spaghetti, collected money for spaghetti, loaned pots for spaghetti made signs about spaghetti, hung signs about spaghetti and ate spaghetti.

A fun time was had by all.

NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL NEWS

Barcroft Elementary School

On Jan. 15, Barcroft math and science teachers, Theresa Chapman-Miller, Caitlyn Miller, and Betty Reid held their annual math and science night for parents. They had stations set up with different math and science activities for grades K- 5 so the families could take part in math and science games that their children participate in.

Kenmore Middle School

Kenmore technology education teacher Cassidy Nolen and seventh grade social studies teacher Lilo Stephens partnered to present an integrated assembly line lesson to students. Using an assembly line students made wooden tic-tac-toe games. While working on the assembly line, students discussed what assembly lines were like in the 1900s and the issues the workers faced such as quality before safety.

Wakefield High School

Wakefield co-chaired the forum *Future Quest: A College and Career Forum for Students with Disabilities, Parents, and Professionals* held at George Mason University in early December.

This is the largest transition forum in Virginia and is a collaborative effort between area public school systems, colleges, and Department of Rehabilitative Services. Laura Murray of the Career Center presented "Careers You Can Learn in Two Years or Less" at the forum.

Old Photos of Arlington

Do you have photographs, slides, or home movies of the 1950-1970s Rosslyn-Ballston corridor and construction of the Metrorail? Arlington Virginia Network (AVN) is producing a video documentary about the building of the Metro in Arlington and the changes it brought. They will return anything you lend them. You will receive a DVD of the final documentary and credit in the video.

Contact AVN: avn74 (at) arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-3270.

KUDOS

Congratulations to Barcroft Resident and Wakefield student, Daniel Edwards, who was selected for the VBODA District 12 All - District band.

Daniel placed first in the district for the second year in a row and will once again get to audition for the All - Virginia Band.

CONGRATULATIONS for a job well done!

Health and Wealth

Want to improve your health and increase your wealth this new year using the simple steps below? Form a team (3 to 8 people) and take the FitArlington Health and Wealth Challenge. Info at www.co.arlington.va.us or call 703.228.6417.

- Eat three cups of fruits or vegetables
- Stay active for at least 30 minutes
- Eat breakfast
- Track steps with a pedometer
- Take action to reduce sugars, solid fats, sodium or calories
- Save or invest \$5 (or more!?!)
- Take action to save money or reduce your spending

Elementary School Boundary Changes

Several North Arlington Elementary schools have experienced overcrowding in recent years. For example, overcrowding at Tuckahoe Elementary has forced students there to learn in trailers and cramped their playground space. In addition, several other North Arlington schools anticipate overcrowding in the near future. To address this issue, the Elementary Crowding and Capacity Committee (ECCC), representing all APS elementary schools, gave recommendations to the superintendent.

These recommendations were received by the APS Superintendent, Dr. Robert Smith. He delivered a proposal, of his own, to the school board for approval. The superintendent's proposal affects all but three elementary schools and proposes to move more than 600 students from one school to another through boundary and program changes.

The two changes, included in the superintendent's proposal, that affect Barcroft Elementary are:

- Move two Montessori preschool classrooms to Barcroft. (Montessori preschool classes serve children 3, 4 and 5, including Kindergarten)
- Change the school of choice for parents who opt out of Barcroft's year around calendar from Barrett Elementary to Randolph Elementary.

Overwhelmingly, parents in the APS system have voiced their frustration with the process and disapproval of the superintendent's proposal. Many believe the content of the proposal ignores recommendations from the commission. These parents have packed three public hearings to ask the school board to reject the superintendent's proposal. Another hearing has been scheduled on Tuesday, February 12 at 7:30 PM accommodate all public statements.

For more information on the background of the issue, the superintendent's proposal and the commission's recommendations visit the APS website. (www.arlington.k12.va.us)



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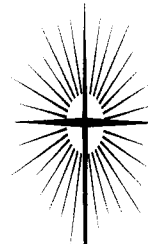
Reflect and pray with us on Wednesdays at 7:30 PM. Informal candlelight prayer and reflection.

Share fellowship and discussion in our book club: Tuesday, February 5, 7:30 PM: *The Jesus Family Tomb* by Jacobovici and Pelligrino.

Attend our Annual Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 5 at 6:00 PM. All are welcome. \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 6-12, free for children under 6.

Join us for Ash Wednesday services on Wednesday, February 6 at 12:00 noon and 7:30 PM. Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes.

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



Barcroft Players Children's Theater

The Barcroft Players are at it again – this time we're doing a children's play. There will be two performances, the first one on **Saturday, April 5th**, and the second one on **Sunday April 6th**.

The last time we did a kid's play, we had a great response and the kids loved it. So plan to bring your kids to the Barcroft Community House for an enjoyable afternoon.

Of course, we will also need lots of participants, both on stage and off. If you want to strut your stuff in front of the footlights or help behind the scenes, we are starting to gather a cast and crew together. Actors will read for the director, Cecilia Cackley, on **February 3rd and 6th**. If you are interested in acting or doing other helpful things, please call Barbara Swart at (703) 521-2080 or email her at barbara@bscl.org.

Wakefield Wrestlers are Victorious

The Wakefield Wrestling team competed over the holiday break at the St. Stephens / St. Agnes Holiday Wrestling Tournament.

Carlos Bonilla (Soph) took 2nd place at 125 lbs.
Chris Ioffreda (Jr) took 2 nd place at at 160 lbs.
Sergio Salinas (Junior) took 3 rd place at 140 lbs
Rodolpho Ventura (Freshman) took 4 th place at 103 lbs.

Chris Ioffreda is a Barcroft resident!

They all wrestled very hard and made a great impression on the other coaches in attendance because Wakefield received the tournament's Sportsmanship Award.

Congratulations to the team and the coaches!

Barcroft Elementary Rummage Sale

On **Saturday, February 9th**, Barcroft Elementary School will be holding its annual winter rummage sale from 9am-1pm. Come and browse through furniture, household items, CDs, DVDs, books, games, toys and gently used clothing.

If you are organizing your house for the New Year, consider donating those unneeded items to the sale! They can be dropped off at Barcroft (**625 S. Wakefield St.**) in Room 101 (Teacher's Lounge) beginning Monday, February 4th. Please check in at the school office when you arrive. We are happy to accept anything that is in working order. All unsold items will be donated to the Salvation Army.

The Barcroft PTA is a 501c (3) organization so all donations are tax deductible. Receipts for your donation will be available in Room 101.

If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Vierow at (703) 521-7822 or bar_vierow@yahoo.com.

Black History Month at Barcroft

Look for details about a cultural program scheduled for the evening of February 28, 2008 at Barcroft Elementary.

Barcroft Elementary will host a program for Black History Month.

The community is invited and encouraged to attend.

Safety First

The Arlington County Police Department's Third District Presents an interactive afternoon of awareness seminars, safety tips, and crime prevention.

Safety First

Date: Saturday, February 9th, 2008

Time: Noon – 4:30 P.M.

Location: Kenmore Middle School

Join your neighbors at the Kenmore Middle School for an exciting afternoon of informative lectures and information on how to better protect yourself and your family.

Arlington County Police Detectives will be presenting information. Attendees will be able to choose lectures and seminars that best fit their interests and needs.

Scheduled topics of discussion include:

- Internet Safety
- Identity Theft
- Bait Car/Auto Theft
- Gangs & Graffiti
- K9 Lecture
- Emergency Preparedness
- The Emergency Communications Center – “Behind the Scenes”

In addition, there will be crime prevention information available as well as officers available to answer your questions.

For details visit the ACPD Web site:

www.arlingtonva.us/police

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Barcrofter Reaches the Century Mark

One of our neighbors was recently featured on The Today Show. She turned 100 years old and her birthday was celebrated nation wide with Willard Scott.

This Barcroft resident is one of the original owners of property on South 3rd Street. She grew up in Atlanta where her family owned a bakery. The bakery is still in operation, as a family owned establishment. This background is lucky for Willard Scott and the Today Show staff because they got to enjoy a baked good prepared by our 100 year old Barcroft neighbor. She sent them a cake!

Happy Birthday to any and all of our Barcroft Centenarians!



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.

In this special report Mike and Claudia share many of the tips that professional utilize to help maximize a home's potential and actual worth---and most importantly help you drive up the selling price. You'll learn many important things you need to do, but more important may be the things it tells you not to do, things that could cost you dearly at the negotiating table.

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New laws impact market in 2008

New federal laws and regulations have created major changes in the mortgage industry. The Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act - removes the tax burden on mortgage indebtedness, encourages market-based restructuring between lenders & home owners, discouraging foreclosures.

Previously, the tax code required a lender who forgives debt to provide a Form 1099 to the IRS stating the amount the borrower had been forgiven. If the property was sold at foreclosure or short sale the difference was considered income and subject to be taxed. The new legislation provides a temporary, three-year change to the tax code to eliminate taxes homeowners might face when banks renegotiate the terms of a home loan and forgive a portion of the outstanding mortgage balance. The change in the tax law will cap untaxable forgiven debt at \$2 million (principal residences only).

The legislative bill also extends the tax deductibility of FHA and (PMI) premiums over the next 3 years. Homeowners with adjusted gross incomes up to \$100,000 can deduct the full cost of their mortgage insurance premiums.

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