

April 2009

Barcroft News

Vol 106, Issue 8

President's Report

by Heidi Wicker

As the summer election season is heating up, the Democratic candidates for our Virginia district delegate seat will join us for a debate at our next BSCL meeting, on **Thursday, April 2 at 7:30 pm at the Community House** (800 S. Buchanan). The Democratic primary is on June 9, 2009. Please bring your questions for the candidates to what is sure to be a spirited debate!

Following up on a couple of items from our last meeting, we were joined by representatives of the County Public Health and Code Enforcement divisions to discuss measures for rodent control. We also were joined by representatives from the National Guard. The discussion focused primarily on two areas--2nd Street South (rat/racoons/birds) and the area bordering Arlington Hall park (rodents fleeing construction at National Guard).

Regarding 2nd Street, the County has informed us that they are in the process of taking action to control the rodent issue on that street. This will take some time. The County representatives will join us again at our **May 7 BSCL meeting** for an update and also to discuss **mosquito control**.

The County continues to encourage folks neighboring the area to put out bait for rats (please use bait boxes so only rats can get the bait). Their inspection of the area found rats that have eaten the bait, so it is working. Rats are prolific procreators, so it is important to eradicate them completely.



Regarding the Arlington Hall area, we are working with Alcovia Heights to set up a joint community meeting (probably in the next month) with the National Guard and State Department, to discuss rodent and

other issues you may wish to discuss with those entities. We may not be able to get a notice in the next newsletter about when this meeting will be, depending on timing, but will put up signs in the neighborhood and send an email to the chat list (you can sign up for the chat list at Yahoo! Groups).

Looking ahead to our May 7 meeting, we will be holding elections for several positions--including President and Vice President. Please let me or one of the other existing officers know if you have an interest in serving the BSCL in an elected position.

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Deadlines: 15th day of the month preceding the issue month.

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 Shelley@bscl.org
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Volunteers **vacant**
 Volunteers@bscl.org
Web Master Randy Swart, 521-2080
 randy@bscl.org

Neighbor to Neighbor Ads

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

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

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

Yard Work: Teenager available for raking leaves and other yard work. Call Thomas at 703-979-5838

Babysitting: Brother and sister, ages 14 and 15, can babysit in Barcroft, nights and weekends. Call Thomas or Allison at 703-979-5838.

Mother's Helper/ Babysitting service available from 16 year old CPR certified girl, responsible and great with kids. Available every day after 3:30 and weekends. Call Christy at (703)-300-1989.

FREE: Sony Trinitron TV , 15 years old, 27" diagonal, fits in a cabinet 20" deep, 28" wide and 24" high with manual. **Teak Scandinavian cabinet** available with finished back so can be in full view of room or in front of window. Side drawer to store 39 VHS tapes or discs Call 703-920-7014

FOR SALE: Small Antique Medicine Chest natural wood with mirror door and brass dowel towel rack. Some discoloration in one mirror corner. Ideal for small space, measures 16 1/4" wide and 22.5" long. \$50. Call Carol at 703-685-9828.

FOR SALE: Antique Hanging Lamp Ivory globe, brass/gold colored filigree around rim . Hangs about 20" from ceiling with chain and cut glass just above the globe. Globe measures 12" wide and 4" deep. \$75. Call Carol at 703-685-9828.



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Old Bikes? Donate them to "Bikes for the World!"

Your old bike can change the life of someone overseas who needs affordable transport. The next Arlington collection will be on Saturday, April 4th, 10 am - 2 pm at the Langston-Brown Community Center, 2121 N Culpeper St. (corner of Lee Highway), rain or shine. The collection is an Eagle Community Service Project. Contact Sam Palmer at hornstoheaven@hotmail.com or call 703-525-0931 or visit: www.bikesfortheworld.org.



Note: \$10/bike donation suggested to defray shipping to overseas charity partners. Receipt provided for all material and cash donations. **BfW also accepts bike parts & accessories, operating portable sewing machines, and cell phones.**

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Barcrofter **Jenny Lindenauer** is the director of the a family literacy program called “Even Start” which is located at Barcroft School. The program reaches out to local families with children ages newborn to 8. It is funded by grants and by Arlington Public Schools.

Each day from 9 AM to 2:30 PM parents come to Barcroft to learn English, along with parenting skills. Care is provided for babies, and there is a preschool program. The curriculum for parents and children is integrated, so they all learn similar vocabulary and themes such as aspects of nutrition.

The Even Start program began five years ago. Currently 48 families are participating. Home visits are frequent. Although the program is available for all of Arlington, most participants walk to the school, even from as far away as Carlin Springs. Others come by metro bus. These families right now are experiencing the loss of jobs and income.

Barcroft neighbors can assist this program in a number of ways – by donating household items and also by volunteering.

There is always a need for new or used baby items, clothing, books, educational toys, furniture (especially shelving), baby gates, household items, food, etc. There is a huge need for car seats. Used is fine if they have never been in an accident and meet certain safety requirements.

Volunteers are needed to help care for the babies and toddlers, and to help participants practice their English.

To donate items or to volunteer, please call Jenny Lindenauer at 703-228-8846 or email her: jennifer_lindenauer@apsva.us

BARCROFTERS IN THE NEWS:

Eileen Melia was named by the Arlington County Commission on the Status of Women as a 2009 Person of Vision. The award will be made during a March 10 dinner honoring Women's History Month. Previous Barcrofters honored as Persons of Vision include Karen Darner and Barcroft School Principal, Miriam Hughey-Guy.

Linda Dunphy, Executive Director of Doorways for Women and Families, was awarded The Gelman, Rosenberg and Freedman 2008 EXCEL Award through the Center for Nonprofit Advancement. The Award spotlights nonprofit leaders in the DC area for outstanding leadership in the areas of innovation, motivation, community building, ethical integrity and strategic leadership.

Joan Mulholland was interviewed on Inauguration Day by ABC news. The reporter showed some sketched portraits from the Civil Rights era in the early 1960s and one of them was of a very young Joan! She was interviewed along with another Freedom Rider. Joan recounted some of her experiences on the Freedom Marches of the 60's and how remarkable it is that racial barriers broke down fast enough that Barak Obama could be elected just 40 years later. The reporter concluded with a statement that he was honored to be interviewing people who had changed the course of history.

The **Barcroft Community Playgroup** meets 9:30-11:30am Friday mornings at the Barcroft Community House. Children from birth up are welcome. Please contact Jennifer Lis (jjlis@comcast.net) or Julie Smith (jds342000@gmail.com), or just stop by!



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Barcroft Elementary

Upcoming Events

Annual Barcroft Book Exchange

April 15 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Bring your old books, exchange them for "new" books, listen to story-telling, drink coffee, eat cupcakes, celebrate Leonardo daVinci's birthday, catch up on news with your neighbors! Everyone welcome, especially those with pre-school age children. If you don't have books to exchange, come anyway! We always have hundreds left over.

Spring Concert & Silent Auction

May 6th

Come enjoy our great performers and bid on fantastic items at our Silent Auction to raise money for our new track

"Girls on the Run" Pancake Dinner

May 14th

The Barcroft GOTR team invites everyone to a Pancake Dinner to raise funds for the new track and celebrate their upcoming 5K!

Barcroft Goes Green this Earth Day!

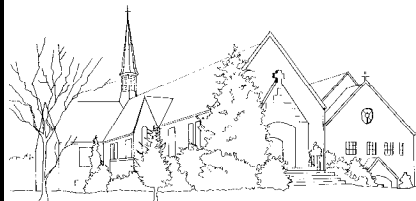
Following on the success of last year's Green Fair, Barcroft teachers and staff are challenging students to find new ways to reduce, reuse and recycle at the school. The Barcroft Green Committee is kicking off a contest called "How Green Can You Be", where the children write or draw a picture explaining ways to help the earth. Winners will be chosen based on how well the idea will help all the teachers, staff, and students at Barcroft learn at least one way to protect the planet right here at home.

The winners will be featured in a slide show presentation at Science Night, and any artwork or posters entered into the contest will be on display at Science Night, which is Earth Day - April 22nd.

If you are interested in being a judge, please contact Cathy Davis, a Barcroft neighbor and chairperson of the Green Committee at catherine_davis78@yahoo.com

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9:30 am Contemporary Worship
11:00 am Modern Traditional Worship
9:45 am Sunday School for all ages
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Barcroft Elementary

Students Walk to Fight Diabetes

Barcroft Elementary is gathering their students, staff, families and neighbors for their third annual 5K School Walk for Diabetes, an event of the American Diabetes Association. On **Saturday, April 18th**, registration begins at 7:45am. Then at 8:15am the warm-up and walk will begin from the school.

Approximately 20.8 million children and adults have diabetes in United States, and one in three babies born today will develop diabetes in their lifetime. Not only are students raising funds, but they are also actively learning life-long lessons about the seriousness of diabetes and how healthy eating and exercising can help prevent the disease. The school receives a percentage of the funds raised to purchase needed physical education equipment and school medical supplies.

The idea for the walk was developed by the students after learning about a Barcroft parent who developed diabetes as an adolescent. Nearly 1,500 schools participated in School Walk for Diabetes last year.

Everyone is invited to participate in Barcroft's 5K walk through the neighborhood. For more information: Stephanie Jones 703-920-2116 or email Margie Farrar-Simpson at kenmarsim@aol.com.



Kenmore Middle School

7th graders celebrated Pi Day on March 14. Math teachers, Michelle Meehan, George Brown and Steve Burrow help students learn more about the irrational number, pi. Students brought pies and cakes to school and were asked to find pi with a pie. After finding the radius and area of their pies, as well as the area of their pie piece, they were able to enjoy eating their work!

Wakefield High School

Congratulations to the Symphonic Band for earning an "Excellent" rating at the District 12 Band Festival on March 14th.

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Around Town

“Rock the Red” at Kettler!

By Will Tucker

The most exciting team in town, the Washington Capitals, opens their doors to the public for practice. It's quite an experience to be a few feet away from powerful athletes as they power through drills and show off their skills. You truly will be overtaken by their speed and talent as you stand inches behind the glass or goal (if you're crazy enough) as pucks fly and superstars skate by. An experience that you won't forget and a great way to have family fun!!

Alex Ovechkin, last year's Most Valuable Player, is simply amazing!! His supersonic slap shots and childish antics will have your heart racing with anticipation as you can't wait to see what he will do next. So join the fun!! Come see Bruce Boudreau, voted best NHL coach last year, with the rest of the team, working hard before they get to the playoffs. Practices are free (\$1 for parking) and are held at 10:30 am to 12 at the Kettler Iceplex located on the roof at Ballston mall, but check the web site to see the latest schedule because practices change week to week. Visit website: www.washingtoncapitals.com and then click schedules.

GO CAPS!!

(from the Editor: Thank you, Will, for writing this great article!)

The **3rd Annual Arlington Home Show & Expo** will be **April 11th, 10 a.m-4.p.m** at the Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 S. 16th Street. FREE. Meet contractors and research ideas for home additions, remodeling , energy efficient windows, driveways, decks, gutters, "greening" your home, etc. Experts (including Barcroft's own **Faux and Fleur Design!**) will be on hand. Attend a variety of **FREE classes** to learn about home improvement, financing, permits and zoning, etc. Call 703-892-2776 or visit www.arlingtonhomeshow.org .

Columbia Pike Farmers Market Season will re-open for its 15th year on **Sunday, May 3** and return each Sunday through November. Come check out the fresh, ripe produce coming in from local Farmers **every Sunday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm** in Pike Park, at the corner of S. Walter Reed Dr. and Columbia Pike.

Barbershop Program at TJ

"LOVE IS (UP) IN THE AIR": Musical story of a young man in an airport waiting for a flight to visit his girl. Presented in the a cappella barbershop harmony style by the Arlingtomes Barbershop Chorus, chapter quartets and featuring "Bachelor Party", an Alexandria Harmonizer quartet.

Saturday, April 4, 2:00 PM (\$12) and 7:30 PM (\$12 and \$15), Thomas Jefferson Theatre. Advance tickets-\$10. Groups 10 or more-\$8.

NEIGHBOR NEWS

Barcroft's Annual Easter Egg Hunt !

Please join us on **Saturday, April, 11th** for egg hunting and fun **at the BSCL Community House, 10:00am**, rain or shine! Coffee will be served and any donated goodies you'd like to bring will be appreciated!

And, If you look carefully, you may spot a surprise visitor hopping around!

For more information contact Wendy at 703-892-6712.



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RECYLING Gets Easier in Arlington!!

Starting April 1st, residents can recycle more materials at the curbside and without sorting!. Residents will soon receive new wheeled carts for easier movement of materials.

More Recyclable Materials Accepted

- Plastic Containers # 1-7
- Rigid Plastics such as Margarine and Dairy tubs and yogurt cups
- Aluminum foil & trays
- Milk & Juice Cartons
- Aerosol Cans
- Books
- Plastic Bags (Place Bags in a Bag)
- Cardboard boxes (unflattened is fine!)

New Wheeled Carts will hold larger quantities of recyclables, keep contents dry, and make it easy to wheel out materials to the curb. Single family homes will receive a 65 gallon cart and townhomes will receive a 35 gallon cart.

Recyclables no longer need to be separated! All materials may be placed into one cart.

Recycle Electronics at the Curb

Residents may now request a special curbside pickup of electronic recyclable materials. Requests are accepted at www.arlingtonva.us/recycle or by calling 703-228-6570. There is a \$10.00 charge for computer monitors and \$20.00 for TVs. Items should be placed at the curb next to the recycling cart on the scheduled pick up date.

Gradually, the **County will replace the yellow recycling bins with new wheeled carts over an eight week period.** A new curbside recycling guide will be delivered with the new carts.

Residents are encouraged to keep their yellow bins and make them an integral part of your home recycling system.

For more information please visit www.arlingtonva.us/recycle or call 703-228-6570.



PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW FOR FREE TREES

A friendly reminder to place your order by Thursday, April 24th with Barcroft civic association contact Elizabeth Rives for your free native trees from Arlington County!

The two species available this year are the Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) and the American Filbert, or Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*). The Bur Oak is a very large deciduous shade tree and the American hazelnut is a smaller multi-stemmed shrub with a rounded top and an open, often wide-spreading base. The trees will be delivered as small “whips” (unbranched young tree seedlings 1-3 feet tall and 2-3 years old that have been grown for planting in 5-gallon containers), making them easier to transplant with a greater chance for future growth success. Both specimens are ideal selections for starting your own Backyard Wildlife Habitat.

The main issue to consider with the Bur Oak is its size at maturity – up to 90’. Please be sure you have the space in your yard to plant such a large tree that is well away from buildings, overhead power lines, and larger trees. Otherwise, it is a great urban shade tree that tolerates a variety of moisture and soil conditions.

The American Filbert, also commonly known as the American Hazelnut, is a multi-stemmed, deciduous shrub that grows 8-10’ high and wide – often larger. It too does well in a wide variety of soil conditions and thrives under full sun or in light shade. It naturalizes well and makes a good hedge. Please note that there should be enough hazelnuts in the area for pollination to occur without having to order two hazelnuts for your own yard.

Contact Arlington-Alexandria Tree Steward Elizabeth Rives by email at: elizabeth_rives@hotmail.com or by phone at 703-486-1323 to place your order. Please note your name, address, contact information, species and quantity you prefer (trees may be limited to one tree per type per household).



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Causal Worship: 8:20 a.m., Traditional: 11:00 a.m. Sunday

Lenten Bible Study – "Evil and the Justice of God" – through 3/29 following 11:00 a.m. service. Soup provided, please bring a sandwich
Maundy Thursday Service, 4/9 at 7:30 p.m.
Easter Egg Hunt, 4/11 at 1:00 p.m.
Easter Services 4/12 at 8:20 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
International Potluck Dinner, 4/17 at 5:30 p.m.



FREE Special Report From Realtors Mike Webb and Claudia Webb:

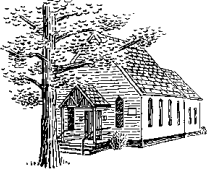
29 Essential Tips That Get Homes Sold Fast (And For Top Dollar)

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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Barcroft School and Civic League
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Arlington, VA 22204

\$8000 Home Buyer Tax Credit Basics

The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 offers an \$8000 maximum tax credit for first-time homebuyers buying homes as their primary residence between January 1 and December 1, 2009. A First-Time Home Buyer is anyone who has not owned a home within the last 3 years. The income number is always based on Modified ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME (MAGI). Single taxpayer: MAGI of \$75,000 or less, Married taxpayer: MAGI of \$150,000 or less. (Always seek competent tax advice!) There is also a provision for those single and married who EXCEED the income limits to claim a partial tax credit. A "tax credit formula" has been created to determine the dollar amount. For example, if a single tax payer's MAGI is \$82,000, their partial tax credit is \$5200.

A FTHB can borrow the dollar amount of the expected tax credit from a relative and pay it back when the tax credit is received. It could be used towards down payment and closing costs. FHA and VA loan programs allow a relative to cosign, with FTHB getting the credit.

VA 100% loans are now available to \$812,500 in the DC area. Higher loan amounts are also available with a down payment equal to 25% of the purchase price above \$812,500. The FHA has just implemented new limits in March 2009 for its loan guarantee programs that will allow it to insure mortgages of up to \$729,750 with only 3.5% down payment. This loan cap also applies to the FHA 203K renovation loan program, where you can purchase a fixer upper home with only 3.5% total down payment, and finance improvement costs into the mortgage up to the \$729,750 loan limit.

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