

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

Real Estate Market Trends

For the local Northern VA & DC area, buyer traffic has increased as affordability improves; with entry level housing seeing the majority of activity. April increased with the traffic index improving to 66 from 54 in March (readings greater than 50 suggest traffic above expectations). Extremely low interest rates and lower prices are driving sales. Buyers are making the best of home prices, and many affordable properties are receiving multiple offers, especially Bank Owned and Short Sale listings. **The \$8,000 first time homebuyer tax credit** is also spurring traffic levels, especially at the lower end. Movement in the upper price ranges is still slower. Sellers are becoming increasingly realistic with their pricing, and are seeing price cuts to better match those of most recent sales in the last 90 days. Inventory levels have stabilized and in some markets there is a shortage of good housing stock.

Appraisals continue to be an issue, with many coming in lower than expected which is derailing some transactions, or causing sellers to drop their prices to appraised value, and new underwriting criteria and appraisal rules are creating huge challenges for all parties involved in residential housing sales.

Buyers: It's a great time to buy!

- * An \$8000 maximum tax credit for first-time homebuyers buying as their primary residence
- *FHA (3.5% down payment) to 729,750
- *VA loans 100% up \$812,500

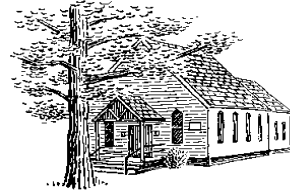
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June/July 2009

Barcroft News

Vol 106, Issue 10

President's Report

by Bryant Monroe

As we all know Barcroft is a wonderful neighborhood, and on July 4 it all comes together for the **21st Annual Fourth of July Parade**. Parade Czar **Andrew Hunter** continues his hard work and this year promises to be better than ever. Hope you can make it!

At the May meeting, the BSCL elected new officers, and I am honored to have the opportunity to take my turn as President. Without a doubt **Heidi Wicker** set a very high standard over the last two years, and I know I speak for our community when I offer our appreciation for her hard work on a whole range of issues.

Among the highlights of her busy term was the adoption and County Board acceptance of the Barcroft Community Plan. Many people pitched in, and the plan received many compliments on its way to the County Board. For this and many other achievements, thank you Heidi!

We have a great slate of new officers, including **Steve Wilson** (Vice President); **Jennifer Lis** (Recording Secretary); **Gary Lefebvre** (Treasurer for Life); **Wes Stein** (Corresponding Secretary) and **Peg Lefebvre** (Membership Secretary). In future issues I will introduce these generous people and the Board members who make the BSCL among the most respected of Arlington's civic associations.

In closing, Barcroft, and the Columbia Pike community is a vibrant and exciting place to be.



Barcroft News Staff

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

BSCL Officers for 2008—2009

President Bryant Monroe, 271-0944 Bryant@bscl.org
Vice President Steve Wilson 920-9410
Recording Secy. Jennifer Lis

Treasurer Gary Lefebvre, 521-0184 Gary@bscl.org
Corres. Secy. Wes Stien, wjstien@yahoo.com
Membership Secy. Peg Lefebvre, 521-0184 Peg@bscl.org

Board Members Jim Kerr, David Michaelson, Mike Behringer, Pat Williamson

Community House Facility Mgr. Christine Scullion clscullion@yahoo.com
Restoration David Michaelson
Fundraising JoAnne Barnhart, 920-0821
Landscaping Scott Brinitzer, 892-0308
Traffic Committee Elaine Squeri, 920-7014 Elaine@bscl.org

Parade Andrew Hunter, 979-8247
Columbia Pike Bryant Monroe, 271-0944 Bryant@bscl.org

Demeter Darlene Mickey
Crime **vacant**
Parks Shelley Fichtner, 486-0856 Shelley@bscl.org

Parking Committee **vacant**
Volunteers **vacant**
 Volunteers@bscl.org

Web Master Randy Swart, 521-2080 randy@bscl.org

All phone numbers are area code 703 unless noted.

The *Barcroft News* is printed on recycled paper with vegetable-based ink by the Stanley Adams Printing Company.

Neighbor to Neighbor Ads

FREE! Oak firewood, already split. Just have to come and get it. Call Jeff at 703-521-8545.

For Sale: Red, steel bunk bed set, frame only (no mattresses). Excellent condition. \$50. Call 703-521-8545.

Woodworking Equipment For Sale: Rockwell Shaper \$250. Delta Portable table saw: \$75. Call Ron at 703 920 7014

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 PM and weekends. Call Christy at (703)-300-1989.

Ongoing Need: For new or used baby items, clothing, books, educational toys, furniture, baby gates, household items, food, etc for the Even Start Program at Barcroft School. Call Jenny Lindenauer at 703-228-8846 or email jennifer_lindenauer@apsva.us

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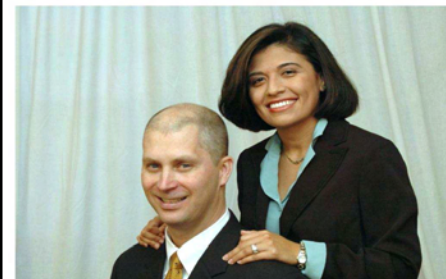
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*To get your free copy of this report,
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- Books
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- Cardboard boxes (unflattened is fine!)

Recycle Electronics at the Curb

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

RECYCLING QUESTIONS:

Q: If plastic bags have to be placed together in a bag, does paper also have to be in something?

A: All paper can be mixed with the other recycled items. It just helps to have the plastic bags stay all together in a bag.

Q: What about plastic clamshell boxes that have a recycling symbol imprinted on them (triangle with a number in it)?

A: Clamshell boxes are too thin to be recycled at this time. It's possible they can be recycled in the future.

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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4th of July PARADE !!

Mark your calendar and spread the word. This year's **21st annual 4th of July parade** will be on the 4th of July starting in front of the community house at **10:00 sharp. Rain or shine** - although in 21 years we have only had rain once!

In past parades we have had space shuttle floats, Ukrainian dancers, Chinese dragons, lawnmower precision drill teams, astronauts, boyscouts, girlscouts, bagpipers, swimming pools on wheels, hula dancers, aerobic dancers, folk dancers, and always the perennials: Uncle Sam, tons of kids on their bikes and floats, the fabulous Barcroft Marching Band, the Virginia National Guard Color Guard, the Barcroft Marching Fiddlers, police motorcycles and the fire truck bringing up the rear....you just never know who will show up!

Preparations are underway. This year **The Great Zucchini** 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 Melissa Bishop at 703-379-7537.

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



AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Farewell to Julie Gorka

By Steve Wilson

Since coming to Barcroft in 1993, Julie Gorka has been the notochord of the community's music scene. Here are some highlights:

- For many seasons she has been the music director of the annual BSCL Winter Holiday program.
- She has unselfishly given of her time and talent to accompany many closet soloists at their recitals, schools and places of work. Most memorable were the timeless performances she brought to the BSCL Community House with the late Jack Turner. Few were left untouched by the fearless enthusiasm with which Julie and Jack shared their renditions of "Dance of the Toys" and "Bugler's March."

Julie founded the JulieYard International School of Music where she gently, patiently introduced her students to the magic world of music. She is responsible for transforming many of the area's youth and parents into fine pianists and aspiring artists.

Julie has accompanied amateur as well as internationally known musicians such as Scottish fiddle champion, Elka Baker.

She has provided rhythm and harmony to the cooking of the gourmet chefs who have hosted the annual BSCL Spaghetti Feast at the Community House. She joined with Barcrofter Mike Nazaretz and other wonderful DC area

musicians in the World Reknowned "Spaghetti Tones." Her suspended 9th and diminished minor 4th cords have turned a gustatory orgy into a sensory epiphany.

Julie was the founder and director of the "World Famous Marching Fiddlers" which has graced the BSCL 4th of July Parade for years with their musical virtuosity. The Marching Fiddlers won 1st place as the 'Best Marching Unit' numerous times, too many to count.

Since coming to Barcroft, Julie has been making a mark as a composer of jigs, reels and waltzes. Few can doubt her genius after hearing her tune " Barcoft House" which has become a standard at many traditional music sessions and local contra dances after being composed in 2000.

The Barcroft News is too short to recite all the contributions Julie has made to the music at Barcroft. Without question her presence has unassumingly shaped the quality of community life we enjoy here.

We wish her all the best in her recent marriage to Walt Robinson as they make their new home in North Carolina. She will be greatly missed and we hope she will come back for visits.

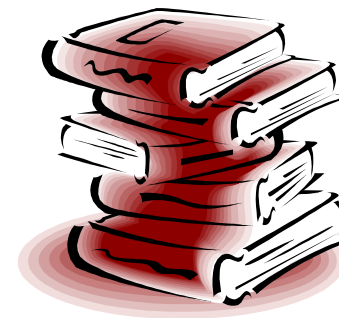
*Steve Wilson is currently vice-president of the BSCL. He is well-known throughout DC area Irish sessions where he plays flute, frequently accompanied by his wife, **Maureen Locke**, on guitar and bodhran.*

Around Town

When Elizabeth saw her own children's devotion to early TV shows such as Howdy Doody, she decided to use the new medium to expand children's learning. In the early 1950's she championed creating the Greater Washington Educational Television Association – WETA. With Elizabeth as its elected president, WETA took on a major role in the Metropolitan Washington community and in national public broadcasting. She worked tirelessly (with no salary) for more than 40 years, coming to the station on Four Mile Run every day when she was well into her 90's.

In 1984, I brought a group of Korean government training executives to WETA to meet Mrs. Campbell and learn how she created the station. They were transfixed by the tiny force of nature.

On your next visit to Shirlington, stop to read the historic markers in front of the public library and give silent thanks for the Campbell's.



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Around Town

What's In a Name?

Campbell Avenue and Historic Markers Honor Champions of Education & Equality
By Carol Harvey

Sometimes seemingly ordinary people take extraordinary action. At the curve of Campbell Avenue two new historic markers describe how Elizabeth and Edmund Campbell worked for the common good of Arlington, the greater Washington area, and Virginia. They could have led lives of quiet social and financial success based on Edmund's career as a lawyer, but they chose to pursue their vision of a community where discrimination, injustice, and unfulfilled potential were not tolerated.

Elizabeth was an educator. She met Ed at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, VA where she was dean. They married in 1936 and later moved to Arlington. Their sons say that they were both small town people who came from communities where you knew everyone and had a shared responsibility to look out for one another. They brought that attitude with them to Arlington, where Elizabeth followed her passion for education and chose to work for change by earning a seat on the new Arlington School Board — the first woman ever elected to a school board in Virginia.

Her leadership and commitment led to groundbreaking accomplishments that we take for granted today: seven new schools; hiring more teachers at better salaries; new programs like kindergarten and full-day sessions for first and second graders; music and art classes for African American students; programs for students with disabilities; and the first countywide school bus service.

Elizabeth and Ed Campbell worked tirelessly to ensure equal access to education for all children. Elizabeth supported her husband's successful legal campaign to end segregation in Virginia schools. After the State of Virginia chose to close all public schools rather than integrate them as directed by the Supreme Court, Elizabeth led the Arlington School Board in a close and controversial vote to begin integration.

Arlington schools broke the State law by staying open and integrating. Ed knew that he could lose his livelihood taking on highly volatile and controversial civil rights cases, but said, "I could not live with myself if I did not stand up publicly for what I knew was right." After successfully challenging school segregation practices, he argued the landmark 1962 Supreme Court case that ordered reapportionment of state legislatures on the basis of population ("one man, one vote")

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Signs Manager Needed

For many years our "Meeting Tonight" signs were posted monthly by **Jack Turner**, one of our mainstays, who passed away last year.

The BSCL needs a Signs Manager. It's a fun job. You post the signs the night before the meeting, or possibly the day before if we just change them to "Meeting Thursday Night." Then take them down afterwards.

There is a second set of signs that says "Please Vote Today" that really helps bring out voters in the off-year elections and helped us achieve nearly 19% in the recent primary while the rest of Arlington and the state posted miserable turnouts. The vote signs are only posted once or twice a year. The signs all go up easily with bungi cords and do no damage to the poles.

Please email or call BSCL President **Bryant Monroe** if you would like to volunteer for this exciting and fulfilling post with a reasonable and limited workload. bryant@bscl.org or call 703-271-0944.



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Around the Neighborhood

The BSCL park project at Columbia Pike and Four Mile Run was recommended for funding by the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee.

The Committee's recommendation goes to the County Board for final approval. You can see details on the project at <http://www.bscl.org/parkdesign.pdf>. The preliminary plan will be adjusted considerably before the final plan comes before the BSCL for approval.

Congratulations and thank you to Barcrofter **Shirley Gay** and the Parks Committee for moving this project along. It will be an environmentally friendly park built with environmentally friendly construction practices.

Email Shirley at shirley@bscl.org for further info.



You are invited to play with the **Barcroft Marching Fiddlers** in the Barcroft 4th of July Parade. It's not just for fiddlers! It's a band of various folkie instruments, including (but not limited to) fiddles, guitars, mandolins, percussion, flutes, whistles, and accordions. The music (reels, marches and jigs, all easy) can be picked up from 624 S. Buchanan Street or by email. For more info, contact **Julie Gorka** at practicealot@gmail.com or 703-283-6977.

Wakefield High School

Wakefield art teacher **Jina Yi Davidson** was selected as a Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction by the National Society of High School Scholars. She was nominated by a student as a favorite teacher and an educator who works hard to make a difference in the lives of students.

Davidson will attend an awards ceremony on June 19 in Washington, D.C.

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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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Come Celebrate Our Nation's 233rd Birthday & the 21st Annual Barcroft Parade Saturday, July 4th, 2009

The Parade begins at 10:00am sharp.
Parade participants should arrive by 9:45am
at the Barcroft Community House,
800 S. Buchanan Street

This Year's Event may/will feature:

The VA National Guard, Police motorcycles and AFD Fire Engine, The Barcroft Marching Band and fiddler band, Grand Marshall Uncle Sam, The Barcroft Precision Lawnmower Team, the perennial Harold family surprise, An act in the Community House for the kids this year features "The Great Zucchini", the singing of our National Anthem by several of our local High School students, Parade Medals, Food, BBQ, Drinks, Friends & More!!!
Anyone can join the parade or just watch it go by
Bring a dish to share after the parade!



*Make this the coolest year ever!!!
Turn your bike into a helicopter, put wheels on your surfboard, make a float or banner !!! Come and join in the fun!!!*

*Come see why this is Barcroft's main community event!!!!
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For more information, call Andrew Hunter at (703)979-8247

