

October 2009

# Barcroft News

Vol 107, Issue 2

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## President's Report

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*by Bryant Monroe*

BSCL kicked off the Fall season with the September meeting that featured a very helpful update on the construction that continues on the National Guard Bureau and State Department facilities on George Mason Drive. The BSCL and the Alcova Heights Civic Association president heard a briefing from Arlington County staff on the current parking impact on nearby streets and other long term impacts. It was agreed that both Civic Associations will pursue an opportunity to meet with Guard Bureau staff to discuss better ways to accommodate the significant growth coming our way. More on this issue in the months to come.

The members also voted to authorize exterior painting and window repairs for the Community House. These repairs are very much in need, and are in fact required for historic properties like our Community House.

The **October 1<sup>st</sup> BSCL meeting** will be action packed. The Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH) will be present to request BSCL endorsement of their request for Zoning Tax Amendment for Buchanan Gardens (S. Wakefield St and Columbia Pike), which is scheduled to go before the County

Board in October. The BSCL has been supportive of APAH's effort to acquire and refurbish these apartments. If you have any questions or opinions about the APAH request please be sure to join us for this discussion. I anticipate that the members present will vote on a resolution of support after their presentation and BSCL membership discussion.

Another item that the members present will vote on is a proposal to increase BSCL dues to \$10 for an individual and \$15 per family. At the September Executive Committee meeting it was agreed that because the current dues rate is by far the lowest among all Arlington civic associations, and that costs associated with upkeep of the community house now outstrip our dues and rental income, an increase makes sense. It is noteworthy that BCSL dues have not seen an increase in many years.

The October meeting will also feature a "Meet and Greet" with County political office candidates on the November ballot. We will depart from our usual debate format and have brief remarks from the candidates followed by time for informal conversations. The November election includes a State Delegate seat, a County Board and School Board position. The candidates for Governor will not be joining us.

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

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*Arlington County Civic Federation*  
*Delegates* Eric Harold, Randy Swart,  
 Pat Williamson, Jim Kerr  
*Alternates* Karen Darner, David Michelson,  
 Elaine Squeri, Mark Wigfield

**Neighbor to Neighbor Ads**

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

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

**Rebekah's Pet Care** (walking, feeding, sitting)  
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**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,  
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 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

**Wanted:**

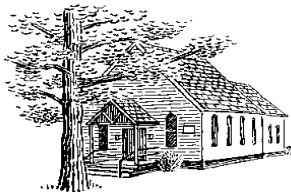
**Stories and ideas for the Barcroft News**  
 Contact Kathy Kerr 703-892-6458 or email  
 kathykerr@gmail.com. Do you have an interest-  
 ing neighbor she should interview? Are you inter-  
 esting yourself??

## NEW BSCL MEMBERSHIP YEAR

It's that time again! Become a member of the BSCL! Or renew your membership. Dues are **still only \$3 per adult or \$6 per couple.**

Membership is low-priced to encourage everyone to join! **Why join??** Only members are allowed to vote at meetings. Your membership shows that you are interested in our neighborhood. And the larger our membership, the easier it is to represent the neighborhood in dealings with the County and other organizations.

Any additional contributions you make are much appreciated. The Community House always needs upkeep and renovation. All donations go to the Barcroft Community House Fund and are fully tax-deductible.



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## AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

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### *Tales from Barcroft*

*By Kathy Kerr*

It was great fun speaking recently with former Barcrofter, **Linda Boten**. She is the daughter of **Mildred (Millie) and Lee Hoskinson**. The Hoskinsons arrived in Barcroft in July, 1938 to their newly built home on 4<sup>th</sup> St. South between S. Pershing and S. Abingdon. They designed the house themselves and had it built to their specifications. Linda and her brother, **Gary** have many fond memories of growing up in a neighborhood that was filled with “trust and honesty” and where many of their neighbors to this day feel more like relatives and still maintain contact with each other, no matter where they live now.

For Linda, Barcroft meant roller skates, bikes, outdoor games and parents calling the kids in for dinner. It meant any number of “Mommies” up and down the street watching out for you and who could help if you scraped your knee. On the down side, misbehavior was soon reported to your parents since the parents all knew each other too.

All of the little kids attended Barcroft School. After school, Linda often walked over to the Barcroft Community House for Brownies and Girl Scout meetings, as well as lessons in tap dance, ballet and acrobatics!

Halloween was great fun. Trick or treating was very safe. Linda remembers that at many houses, the kids got homemade treats. Everyone knew who made what. She remembers the lady across the street who made wonderful ginger cookies. Millie’s brownies are still legendary.

In the winter, the kids loved sledding in the street, down the thrilling little hill on 4<sup>th</sup> St. S.

In 1968, Linda’s father passed away, but her mother continued to live in the house. Millie was well known for her green thumb. She had incredible hydrangeas and some of the prettiest azaleas in Arlington. She was often found working in her yard and ready for a lively conversation. Millie was very active in in our community and also the Arlington Forest Methodist Church.

On Sunday, September 13, 1987 Millie went to church as she always did. While she was gone, a fire started inside her house. To this day, no one knows exactly what was the cause. Maybe it was faulty wiring on an electric alarm clock? Neighbors noticed smoke coming from the house. A heroic neighbor broke down her door to be sure that she wasn’t home. However, another neighbor felt certain that Millie was not in the house because he peeked into the garage. Her car was not there and he knew that if the car was gone, she was gone.

The house was extremely well built with a brick exterior and solid, plaster walls. But everything inside the house was ruined either by fire, smoke, water or from the fire fighters efforts. Eventually the house was restored, sold to another wonderful Barcroft family and is still extremely well built! And many of Millie’s plants yet reside in the yard, especially the hydrangeas.

In 1988, Millie moved to Leesburg to live with her sister. She passed away June 13, 2009 at the age of 98. Her son Gary currently resides in Falls Church. Her daughter Linda now lives in North Carolina but visits Barcroft friends from time to time and stops by to see her former home.

It’s wonderful that much of what Linda remembers still goes on here in Barcroft!

**AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD**

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On Saturday, October 17, the **Ditta girls** of 3rd Street South -- **Jenny** (age unspecified), **Julianna** (age 7), **Lauren** (age 2 1/2), and **Pooh Bear** (age 63 in dog years)-- will walk in the Church World Services 10K CROP Walk to help stop hunger worldwide. The Ditta girls have participated for years. In fact, for the first time last year, Julianna completed the walk on her own two feet!

The money raised is used to help hungry people worldwide, to meet both emergency needs and to address root causes of poverty. Part of the money also stays locally to help the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). To donate, contact Jenny Donaldson Ditta at (703) 486-2268 or [chrisjenny4@comcast.net](mailto:chrisjenny4@comcast.net). (*Editor's Note: Kudos to other Barcrofters who also participate in the CROP Walk!*)

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Former Barcroft neighbor and metal sculptor, **Peter Wood**, invites everyone to a **two day Fine Art and Craft Sale at the Barcroft Community House**. On **Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 7 pm** there will be seven local artists displaying jewelry, woodwork, metal sculpture, paintings, drawings, book binding, pottery and clay sculpture. Enjoy live music and a raffle for original pieces of art to benefit Miriam's Kitchen. As a bonus, you'll receive delicious fresh baked cookies from the Miriam's Kitchen with each raffle ticket donation. For more info call 540-454-9119 or visit [www.lightinocotber.com](http://www.lightinocotber.com)

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Condolences to the family and friends of **Bill Molloy** who was featured in last month's issue of the *Barcroft News*. He passed away on Sept. 17. He was 91 years old and lived in Barcroft for MANY years.



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***Barcrofter In Triathalon***

**Candice Kaup** of S. Abingdon St. participated in the Nation's Triathlon to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The race included a 1.5K swim in the Potomac, 40K bike course through DC and a 10K run through DC.

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**ALL THE LATEST NEWS**  
 is available when you join the Barcroft chat group and news email lists!

**Go to:**

**[www.bscl.org/chatlist.htm](http://www.bscl.org/chatlist.htm)**

## Barcroft Elementary

### *Students Open Credit Union*

Barcroft Elementary is one of the few schools in Arlington with a student-run branch of the Arlington Community Federal Credit Union. Selected 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are trained to work as tellers, and students, staff and families can open an account and make deposits on Thursdays throughout the school year.

This year, the PTA is sponsoring two incentives to increase participation: a \$5 bonus for new accounts and a “cash match” program for regular depositors that will allow kids to earn up to \$5 if they deposit \$20 over the school year.

To help families teach their kids about money and saving, the PTA will host a Family Financial Literacy Night at the October 6<sup>th</sup> PTA meeting.

### *Kids Up And Running!*

The new track has quickly become an integral part of school life – with laps being run during PE, recess and after school. Students are signing up for the **Marine Corps Healthy Kids Fun Run**, to be held **October 24<sup>th</sup>**. This is a one mile fun run, held in connection with the Marine Corps Marathon, for kids ages 6-13.

Barcroft’s “Girls on the Run” Team is looking forward to training for the December 5K on a real track.

Other students from Barcroft included Bou Dia, Matthew Chen and Max Rosenberg.

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## Wakefield High School

### *President Obama at Wakefield*

The first day at **Wakefield** this year was marked by a school-wide assembly, featuring an address to the entire student body by President Barack Obama. The President visited Wakefield to deliver his nationwide address to students. His message was simple: stay in school, get a quality education and be the leaders and problem-solvers of tomorrow.

But before the President spoke to students and staff in the gym, he and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan met with a small group of about 30 freshmen who had the opportunity to ask the President a variety of questions.

Five Barcroft 9<sup>th</sup> graders were among those who participated. **Noelle Carlson** was one of them. She says the students arrived at school, went through security and then waited for President Obama in the library. They were not allowed to take any photos. Several of the students were able to ask questions. Barcrofter **Lilly Trone** asked who Obama might have dinner with if he could choose any famous person in history. His answer was Mahatma Gandhi. Other students asked about health care issues and how to prepare to become President of the USA. One boy from a single family home asked how not having a father in his life had made Obama the man he is today. The President conversed candidly with the students for about 40 minutes. Some clips from this session appeared on CNN and are available on the internet including when Lilly asked her question. Other Barcrofters in the group included **Max Rosenberg, Bou Dia** and **Matthew Chen**.

A number of Barcroft students who attend Wakefield also made national TV as they were filmed while listening to Obama's speech in the school gym.

### *Letter to the Editor:*

Dear Civic Association Members:

I am writing so that you are aware of the Wakefield Scholarship Foundation. Since 1986, the Foundation has awarded 196 scholarships and committed or paid out over \$966,669 in scholarship money to Wakefield students. In addition to outstanding achievement, many of these students have overcome challenging personal and family circumstances.

As a 1983 graduate of Wakefield, it is rewarding to see the achievement of these scholarship awardees. I have served on the Wakefield Scholarship Foundation for the past 14 years and because all of the work of the Foundation is done by volunteers, 100% of all donated funds go to our graduates.

Since Wakefield is our neighborhood High School, I am asking you to consider contributing to the foundation. I can assure you that the money will go to a deserving student and make a difference in their lives. You can contribute by sending a check payable to the **Wakefield High School Education Foundation** sent to: Wakefield Foundation, P.O. Box 41675, Arlington, VA 22204. Please note the name of your civic association on the memo line of the check. You can also contribute through the **United Way Campaign number 8707** or the **Combined Federal Campaign number 66600**. If you have any questions, please email me at [information@wakefieldalumni.org](mailto:information@wakefieldalumni.org).

Great things are happening at Wakefield. President Obama's recent visit highlighted what an outstanding school Wakefield is. Thanks for considering a contribution which may make the difference in whether a deserving student is able to continue their education.

Paul Ferguson  
Clerk, Arlington Circuit Court  
(former County Board Member)

## Around Town

**Columbia Pike Farmers Market** continues each Sunday through November. Check out the fresh produce 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.

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**"ACAPPELLA AUTUMN III "** -Kick off the colorful Fall season with the Arlingtones Barbershop Chorus and quartets performing a cappella barbershop harmony featuring the Full Spectrum Quartet. 2 p.m., Saturday, October 17. NRECA Conference Center, 4101 Wilson Blvd. Free garage parking-entrance off N. Taylor St. Door \$12 / Advance \$10 703-521-9331 / [www.thearlingtones.com](http://www.thearlingtones.com)

Watch for Barcrofter, **Carl Costanzo**, who is a longtime member!

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The Columbia Pike branch of the Arlington Public Library recently started a blog detailing events, updates, and other information about the branch. Visit the [blog at columbiapikelibraryarlingtonva.blogspot.com/](http://blog.at.columbiapikelibraryarlingtonva.blogspot.com/) or better yet, visit the library itself at 816 S. Walter Reed Dr. 703.228.5711.

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### 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](mailto:jjlis@comcast.net)) or Julie Smith  
([jds342000@gmail.com](mailto:jds342000@gmail.com)),  
or just stop by!





## Around Town

### ***E-CARE Collection and Recycling Event***

Saturday, October 3, Arlington County's Department of Environmental Services is sponsoring an Environmental Collection and Recycling Event. In addition to collecting household hazardous materials, there will be opportunities to recycle bicycles, computer equipment, small metal items, shoes, clothes, and eyeglasses. Compost bins will be available for purchase for \$17.00.

Televisions can be recycled for a fee of \$20.00 and computer CRT monitors for \$15.00. Bicycles can be donated to Bikes for the World to send to a developing country with a suggested donation of \$10 to cover shipping.

Durable medical equipment is being collected at E-CARE. The Virginia Hospital Center Medical Brigade provides the wheel chairs, crutches, braces, walkers, etc to patients as part of their annual medical missions to Honduras.

The location of the fall E-CARE is at Thomas Jefferson Middle School. More information is available at [www.arlingtonva.us/des](http://www.arlingtonva.us/des). Phone: 703 228-6832 or email [Enocon@arlingtonva.us](mailto:Enocon@arlingtonva.us)

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## All About Trees

### What to worry about, and what not to worry about

County Tree Stewards are embarking on a new program of Public outreach.

On **Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup>** you are invited to a free walk and talk on all things trees from 3 – 4pm. This walk is open to the general public. Please meet at 3pm in front of the Barcroft Community House. Minimal walking will be required.

We'll show you examples of planting the right tree in the right place, and discuss, for example, what trees are appropriate for planting under power lines. How close to my house or to the street can I plant my tree? Will tree roots damage my home's foundation?

We'll show examples in the close-by neighborhood and share information such as: Why mulch around trees, and how much mulch is the right amount? Should I choose a native or non-native tree? How much water does my newly planted tree versus my established mature tree need? How can trees save money on my air conditioning bill?

County Tree Stewards will be available after the event to answer your questions.

Questions? Contact County Tree Steward  
alisonwillocks@hotmail.com



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From the July 5, 1903 issue of the Barcroft News:

*“President Roosevelt passed through Barcroft two weeks ago to-day just too late to get his name in our last issue. He knows a good thing when he sees it, and we would not be surprised to hear of his buying a site here.”*

—<http://www.bscl.org/1903news.htm>

## Arlington Forest United Methodist Church

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Sunday School 9:45 a.m., 8:30 Worship, Organ Music/Praise 10:45 a.m.

Traditional Worship 11:00 a.m., Vespers 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. 7pm,

Healing Service 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays 7pm

Animal Blessing Service, 10/24, 3 p.m.

**Join us for our 66<sup>th</sup> Homecoming Service and Lunch, 10/25, 11:00 a.m.**

Community Halloween Party for Children, 10/31, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Chesterbrook Montessori School: Drawing Seminar with Mona Brooks, 10/30-31



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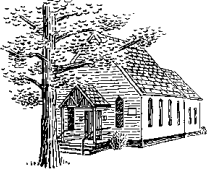
Mike and Claudia are now offering their special report “29 Essential Tips That Get Homes Sold Fast-- And For Top Dollar.” Vital reading for anyone selling a home now or in the near future.

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Barcroft School and Civic League  
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Arlington, VA 22204

### **Real Estate Market Trends**

The Northern Virginia Association of Realtors® reports on August 2009 home sales activity for Fairfax and Arlington counties, the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church and the towns of Vienna, Herndon and Clifton. A total of 1,813 homes sold in 8/09, a .06% increase above 8/08 home sales of 1,812.

Active listings decreased by 23.66% from last year, with 7,016 active listings in August 2009, compared with 9,190 active homes available in August 2008.

The average days on market (DOM) for homes in August 2009 decreased by 27.59% to 63 days, compared with 87 days in August 2008.

Sales prices remain lower than those realized last year. The average sales price in August 2009 fell by 3.17% from August 2008, to \$458,172, compared with last Augusts' average of \$473,183 in 2008.

The number of pending home sales in Northern Virginia in August 2009 shows an increase of 9.7 % at 2,070 compared to 1,887 in August 2008.

Consumer confidence has been strong for home purchases in our local market. Most of the activity involves first time buyers targeting affordable and bargain-priced properties in the lower price ranges.

#### ***Buyers: It's a great time to buy!***

FHA loans up to \$729,750 with only 3.5% down are available to all qualified buyers, not just first time buyers!

**Time is running out for the \$8000 Tax credit** for first-time homebuyers buying as their primary residence, expiring on 11/30/09.

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