



June / July 2010

Barcroft News

Vol 107, Issue 10

Come Celebrate

Our Nation's 234th Birthday & the 22nd Annual
Barcroft 4th of July Parade

Barcroft Community House
800 S. Buchanan Street

Parade begins at 10:00 AM SHARP

Participants should arrive by 9:45 AM

Anyone can join the parade. No registration required.



Food, BBQ, Drinks
Bring a dish to share!



This Year's Event will feature:

The United States Marine Corps Color Guard, Grand Marshall Uncle Sam,
the Fabulous Barcroft Marching Band, and much much more!

Special Entertainment by:

Magic Mountain Puppets and ***Frank Cassels***, the Banjo Man

*Come and join in the fun and see why this is
Barcroft's main community event!
Sponsored by the Barcroft School and Civic League*

***For more information or to help, call Andrew Hunter at
(703)979-8247***

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News Deadline: 15th day of the month preceding the issue month.

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Neighbor to Neighbor Ads

Record & Cassette Transfers Turn those dusty old records and tapes into CDs and digital copies! Adam Hunter 703-408-5916 a.hunter817@gmail.com

Vacation-related help—Responsible teen can water plants, bring in the paper and mail, care for pets, mow lawn, handle trash cans, etc. Reasonable rates. Contact Dylan Vega 703-271-5987 or dylanrvega@gmail.com

Alexandra's Babysitting - teen available week nights and weekends. Alexandra @ 703-892-6712

Babysitter - 10th grader available after school and weekends. Please call Jenna at 703-685-1071

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

Babysitter: Red Cross certified 10th grader available. Call Abby at 703-892-1090

Babysitter --6th grader , Red Cross certified. Jenny Claire 703-998-5338

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

Yard Work: Teen available for mowing, raking and other yard work. Call Thomas at 703-979-5838

Babysitter: 16 year old for evenings and weekends. Call Allison 703-979-5838

Ongoing Need: Baby items, books, educational toys, household items etc for the Even Start Program at Barcroft School. Call Jenny Lindenauer at 703-228-8846 or email: jennifer_lindenauer@apsva.us

The Barcroft Community Playgroup 9:30-11:30am Friday mornings at the Community House. Contact Jenny Ditta chrisnjenny4@comcast.net or Julie Smith jds342000@gmail.com or just stop by!

Wanted:
Stories and ideas for the Barcroft News

DONATE TO RENOVATE!

Barcroft Community House RESTORATION: Final Phase



The Barcroft School and Civic League (BSCL) needs your help this summer to raise \$40,000. In the final phase of Community House restoration, the interior of the Community House will be renovated to increase energy efficiency and aesthetic charm. The BSCL will hire a contractor to complete the following construction projects:

1. Raise the Ceiling in the Main Hall: The current ceiling will be raised and replaced with a wooden beadboard ceiling. New electrical wiring will be installed, ceiling fans with light fixtures will replace the old lights, and all surfaces will be painted.
2. Replace Wall in the Main Hall: The current wall surfaces will be replaced with mold- and moisture-resistant drywall. New electrical wiring will be installed to support additional stage lighting, and the walls will be insulated.
3. Insulate the Kitchen and Stage Attic: All exposed ductwork and the ceiling will be insulated to make the Community House GREENER!

The BSCL currently has funds held in reserve to commit to these final phase renovations. An additional \$40,000 is needed for the following: \$20,000 will be used immediately to bridge the current gap and pay the estimated construction costs, and the remaining \$20,000 will recapitalize the reserve to offset any maintenance emergencies or unanticipated construction costs.

HELP THE COMMUNITY HOUSE GO GREEN!

Make Checks Payable to: Barcroft Community House Fund
Mail Donations to: Barcroft School and Civic League
c/o Gary Lefebvre, Treasurer
812 S. George Mason Dr.
Arlington VA, 22204-1555

Include Name, Address, Phone and Email Address

The BSCL is asking each Barcroft household to donate \$50 - \$100 to meet our construction goals. All contributions are fully tax-deductible. Contributions of \$100 or more will be memorialized on a plaque inside the Community House.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Chris Ditta, Chair of the Community House Renovation Fundraising Committee: phone (202) 258-1240 or email at chrisnjenny4@comcast.net

Around the Neighborhood

The Barcroft 4th of July Parade 2010

By Andrew Hunter

This year's 22nd annual 4th of July parade will start in front of the community house at 10:00 sharp..on the 4th of July of course. Rain or shine - although in 22 years we have only had rain once! The parade starts and stops at the Barcroft Community House and passes in front of the reviewing stand at Barcroft School. The Marine Corps Color Guard will lead the parade this year.

In past parades, the parade has included space shuttle floats, Ukrainian dancers, Chinese dragons, lawnmower precision drill teams (inside scoop is that they really will be returning this year with dazzling new routines!), astronauts, boy scouts, girl scouts, bagpipers, swimming pools on wheels, hula dancers, aerobic dancers, folk dancers, the Barcroft Marching Fiddlers and always the perennials: Uncle Sam, tons of kids on their bikes, parents pulling wagons, floats, the fabulous Barcroft Marching Band, police motorcycles—and the traditional fire truck bringing up the rear. You just never know who or what else will show up!

Several of the Wakefield Madrigal singers will be singing the National Anthem. Also to beat the heat and give the children a show inside the Community House, this year Magic Mountain Puppets will join us for two special performances on Freedom and what

it means to be an American. Music will be provided by Frank Cassels the Banjo Man with lots of traditional Yankee Doodle Flair.

So, bring a dish for the picnic, build a float, ride a bike, march in the parade, dazzle the neighborhood with your talent and creativity — or just enjoy watching 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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

My name is Carmen Dunlap. I go to Kenmore Middle School. I am concerned about F.C.B. (Fecal Coliform Bacteria) in Four Mile Run.

F.C.B. is present in Four Mile Run. I know because my class did water testing last fall. F.C.B. is very harmful to humans and animals because it contains E. coli. If the water in the stream contaminates someone it could take their life.

There are three ways to prevent more F.C.B. contamination. First, ALWAYS pick up your dogs waste because that is one of the main causes of it.

Also you can help reduce the amount of runoff containing animal waste one of two ways. Plant trees or a garden to hold the water in. You can also buy or make a rain barrel to collect clean rain water.

The third way to reduce F.C.B. is to persuade the County Board to save money to replace and repair sewage pipes in the future. You can either attend one of their meetings or email them.

If you have any questions please email me at neonlversunite@aol.com



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Barcroft Elementary

Teachers are needed for the Fall intersession at Barcroft. Barcroft has a modified year-round schedule. Rather than a long summer break as other schools have, Barcroft has two Intersessions lasting 2 weeks in Fall and Spring.

The Fall intersession will be in early October .

During the Intersession children attend two different course sessions; one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Teachers usually teach the same course two times per day to two different groups of children.

You do not have to be a certified teacher to teach an intersession class. All teaching positions are paid. You just need a great idea that will help support the overall Standards of Learning (SOLs) and a willingness to work with wonderful children! An example is a cooking course focusing on food from Mexico. Children can learn about culture, science and math through hands on cooking projects.

To learn about how to submit a course proposal and application please contact Jenny Lindenauer JLindena@arlington.k12.va.us or Sandra Deysson, Assistant Principal Sdeysson@arlington.k12.va.us or call 703 228-8119 or 703 228-5838

Kenmore Middle School

On June 10, Kenmore families participated in their annual arts and technology festival. Activities included: fishing with MC Escher, racing an origami frog with Mark Twain, gluing with Gaudi, singing karaoke, and listening to great poetry, and music performances.

Wakefield High School

Dr. Chris Willmore was recently named principal of Wakefield High School. He has been an assistant principal there since 2002. Former Principal, Doris Jackson recently retired. She is remembered for her tireless innovative efforts to improve the school. More students are taking advanced placement classes and thanks to support programs for preparing students, the number of student passing the tests is twice the national average. Willmore looks forward to continuing and strengthening the programs.

Wakefield High School reports that this **years's seniors have earned over \$5 million** dollars in scholarship money! It is their highest total ever. The Class of 2010 will attended colleges all across the United States, the United Kingdom, Asia and Europe.

Wakefield High School

Barcrofters Shine in Wakefield Junior Varsity Softball

The Wakefield High School girls junior varsity softball team compiled an amazing 13-5 record during this spring.

The Sun Gazette newspaper recognized Barcrofter Bekah Peterson as the **Warriors'** top pitcher. Bekah began playing softball in 3rd grade. Even though she was only in 8th grade this year, she was permitted to play with the Wakefield JV team because Arlington has a rule that if a school, such as Kenmore, does not have its own team, then the students can play for other schools.

Bekah was one of the best JV pitchers in the league which includes Yorktown, W-L, and Mt. Vernon. She had 144 strikeouts on the season. She was also one of the teams best at the plate with 19 base hits, including a home run against Yorktown.

The Sun Gazette also referred to Barcrofter Javay Engelking-Scott as top outfielder. Javay is a rising junior at Wakefield and this was her first year playing softball!

The team was undefeated in its first nine games. They have some great new coaches this year so look for more great softball news next season!

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Barcroft's Living Treasure by Kathy Kerr

Barcroft's oldest resident is Mary Taylor on 3rd St. South who celebrated her 102nd birthday last January. She and her daughter Mary Jane Rasely shared a few of their memories about Barcroft and the Barcroft Community House.

Mary moved to her Barcroft home in October 1940. Much of the surrounding area was farm fields and pastures for cows. Gradually more houses were built on their street and eventually there were 30 children living just on their block. Everyone knew everyone else. Most of the mothers were not working outside the home. Families had just one car and didn't use it all that much. Kids just ran around the neighborhood, rode bikes, played "kick the can" and dozens of other games. In the winter, they liked to ice skate on the creek. There were no sidewalks. In the summer no one had air conditioning. There were lots of fans running and doors and

windows were open. Folks spent a lot of time outdoors and all of this contributed to everyone getting to know each other.

A neighbor across the street from the Taylors was named Lillian Bloom. She lived in the house that is now the home of Chris and Jenny Ditta. Mrs. Bloom organized lots of activities at the Barcroft Community House. She passed away when her daughter, Cherry Lee Bloom, was only about 11 years old and the family moved away. In 2007, someone knocked on the Taylor's door. It was Cherry Lee. Now living in Florida, she was passing through town and wanted to see her old home. She spoke with the Dittas and mentioned her fond memories of her wonderful neighbor, Mary Taylor. The Dittas then said "Well, Mary Taylor is still there!" Not only that, but Mary and Mary Jane remembered that they had a photo of Cherry Lee wearing a formal dress. They



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were able to find the photo and gave it to her. They have all continued to maintain contact.

It's neat that from that same Bloom house, Chris and Jenny Ditta continue the tradition of helping our community. Chris is currently serving as Chair of the Community House Renovation Fundraising Committee. Jenny helps run the Barcroft Playgroup that meets each week at the Community House. They are both on the Barcroft School PTA.

Mary Jane remembers attending Barcroft School. She especially loved her 6th grade teacher, Miss Mann. Miss Mann asked the students if they would like to participate in a Safety Parade in Washington DC. The children decided to make a float about Iwo Jima and to learn marching routines. The principal, Mr. Hanigan, had a navy background and worked with them on the marching drills. The children wore sailor hats and white shirts and as they marched in formation down Constitution Avenue. They carried a sign that said "Barcroft Arlington, VA." They **won an award for "Best Marching in Arlington County."** Photos of their float were in all the local newspapers.

The Barcroft Community House was a gathering place for many clubs and activities such as square dancing, plays and talent shows. Mary Jane, then age 7 and her brother, age 10 were going to perform two piano duets. Her brother accidentally started one piece and she started another. It was quite entertaining.

Mary Jane recalls when the area that is now 2nd St. South was farm land. During WW II, that area became a location for Victory Gardens for the neighbors. A few more random memories include going horseback riding in Tyson's Corner and there used to be an air field at the end of S. George Mason near where the Target store now sits on Rt. 7.

The first Barcroft 4th of July parade was held in 1989. Bill and Ruth Clark lived two doors down from the Taylors. The Clarks were neighbors who had lived the longest in Barcroft. They enjoyed participating in the Barcroft 4th of July parade by dressing up in red, white and blue and riding in a convertible. Ruth had grown up in a frame house across from Barcroft School. Later, she and Bill married and built a home on 3rd St. S. which was one of the first houses built in that part of the neighborhood. Ruth, born in 1915, passed away in 1995. Bill passed away earlier this year at age 97.

Barcroft used to have a "country" feel and over time began to have a "city" feel. Mary Jane is pleased that the Barcroft Community House is still a center for neighborhood gatherings and activities for all the neighbors. **Let's all be sure to keep it that way for years to come!**



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How to Avoid 9 Buyer Traps

No matter which way you look at it, buying a home is a major investment. But for many homebuyers, it can be an even more expensive process than it needs to be since they fall prey to at least a few of the many common and costly mistakes which trap them into either:

- *paying too much for the home they want,
- *losing their dream home to another buyer
- *buying the wrong home for their needs.

9 Buyer Traps - This important report discusses the 9 most common and costly homebuyer traps, how to identify them, and what you can do to avoid them:

1) Bidding Blind. What price should you offer when you bid on a home? Is the seller's asking price too high, or does it represent a great deal. If you fail to research the market to understand what comparable homes are selling for, making your offer would be like bidding blind.

Without this knowledge of market value, you could easily bid too much, or fail to make a competitive offer at all on an excellent value.

2) Buying the Wrong Home. What are you looking for in a home? A simple enough question, but the answer can be quite complex. More often than not, buyers have been swept up in the emotion and excitement of the buying process only to find themselves the owner of a home that is either too big or too small. Maybe they're stuck with a longer than desired commute to work, or a dozen more fix-ups than they really want to deal with now that the excitement has died down. Take the time upfront to clearly define your wants and needs to measure every home you look at. *For the entire report in hard copy or online - call or email for a free copy*

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