

Barcroft News

September 2010

Vol 108, Issue 1

BSCL President's Report

From Bryant Monroe

Our long hot summer is nearing its end, and we start our fall meeting schedule on **Thursday, September 9 at 7:30 PM.** Please note that we'll meet the Thursday after Labor Day and not on the usual first Thursday.

Barcroft had a busy summer, with a fantastic July 4th celebration and picnic. As always we really appreciate **Andrew Hunter** and his team for pulling off yet another great parade and party at the Community House. This is a major undertaking, and he makes it all come together.

The summer also featured the kick-off of the Barcroft Community House Fundraising Drive. Barcroft is fortunate to have **Chris Ditta** leading the way. As you'll see in his article, we are already making progress. We'll need everyone's help to raise the funds needed to make the renovations to the interior of the house possible and we will look forward to your support through the months ahead.

Thanks to **Pat Williamson** and her scooping team for a wonderful Ice Cream Social at the Community House on August 3.

Congrats also to **Pamela Holcomb** and the staff at the Columbia pike Revitalization Organization for another wonderful Blues Festival.

Many friends from our Pike community enjoyed great music, activities and food. We'll keep you posted about the 2011 festival!

The September meeting will feature a discussion of Arlington County's planned improvements to the Glencarlyn Park at Columbia Pike. This is high profile part of our community, and Valerie Mosley and Christine Simpson from the County's Park Development Division will be talking about the next steps to move it forward. Many thanks to Barcofter **Shirley Gay** for her long term leadership on this project.

The October meeting will be our Fall election candidate's night as we look toward November's election day for a County Board and School Board seat. More to follow on this in next month's newsletter.

Finally, **I have received a number of emails about parking and traffic near the Barcroft Elementary School.** The School is a vital part of our community, and the Barcroft School and Civic League will be helping in any way we can to hear both School and neighborhood concerns, and working together will try to find ways to make things work better. Please let me know your thoughts and concerns, and I will share them with the Executive Committee and Parking/Traffic Committee. This will be a key agenda item at a future BSCL meeting.

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News Deadline: 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

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Neighbor to Neighbor Ads

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2) IMAC computer model G3/333 plus kids software. Very good working condition. \$25 or best offer.
Contact Barbara Vierow (703) 521 7822.

Mother's Helper and Pet Sitter - 6th grader, (includes: taking out trash and watering plants)
Call Tyler LaPointe at 703-979-1083 or 703-585-8507

Vacation-related help—Responsible teen can water plants, bring in the paper and mail, care for pets, mow lawn, handle trash cans, etc. 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

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!

DONATE TO RENOVATE!

Barcroft Community House RESTORATION: Stage Two



The Barcroft School and Civic League (**BSCL**) needs your help to raise **\$40,000**. In the second 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 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!**

We are well on our way to our goal of **\$40,000!!**

\$20,000 will be used immediately to **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 chrisjenny4@comcast.net

Around the Neighborhood

Barcroft Community House Going Green — with your help

By Chris Ditta

The interior of the Barcroft Community House will be renovated to increase energy efficiency and help the Community House to go **green**. We will replace ceiling and walls to increase aesthetic charm and acoustics, and also update electrical and lighting.

The BSCL raised nearly \$5,000 in the initial weeks of the House Renovation Fundraiser toward the \$40,000 goal. Tax-deductible contributions were received from 33 families in July as well as from cash and coins during the 4th of July Parade.

In only the first few weeks of the fundraiser, and with so many vacations and fun happenings to keep us all very busy, we are making excellent progress toward our goal to renovate the Community House.



PLEASE HELP!

Make Checks Payable to:
Barcroft Community House Fund

Mail Donations to:
BSCL c/o Gary Lefebvre, Treasurer. 812 S. George Mason Drive - Arlington, VA 22204-1555

For Questions

Please [email Chris Ditta](mailto:Chris.Ditta@bscl.org), Chair of the Community House Renovation Fundraising Committee, or call him at (202) 258-1240 if you have any questions or concerns.

For Fundraiser Details

www.bscl.org/fundraiser.htm

For Complete Renovation History

www.bscl.org/renovate.htm

For Community House Rental

www.bscl.org/bch_rent.htm

Around the Neighborhood

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Why is it that people don't pick up after their dogs? I do see many neighbor dog walkers carrying little plastic bags to pick up the doggie droppings. And I thank them for being so considerate. But other neighbors are not bothering with this. Another annoyance is that sometimes they have knocked the mess into the street gutter — right where I park my car. And then I step in it. .

I hear many other neighbors complain about the same things.

Dog owners — please clean up after your pets!

Signed,

Frustrated Neighbor (with stinky shoes)



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Barcroft Elementary

What's Happening at Barcroft School in September 2010

Barcroft Elementary School is back in session – the 2010-2011 school year began on August 4th. Welcome back, students! Barcroft is the only Arlington Public School (APS) with a Modified School Year Calendar. Barcroft starts school about a month before other schools, and each quarter takes a multi-week break. This October, the students can enjoy a two-week vacation or take interesting intersession classes. These classes are consistent with the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) and introduce students to new experiences, such as cooking, singing, and geology

Barcroft is starting this year on a high note, having **performed well on its SOL testing last year**. Barcroft, along with all other APS schools, is **fully accredited**, having met all state standards. In addition, **Barcroft is one of 16 APS schools that met all performance targets required for adequate yearly progress by the Federal Government's No Child Left Behind legislation**. Way to go Barcroft!

There are numerous events happening in September that we invite our Barcroft neighbors to participate in. September is the Barcroft PTA's **Save the Arlington Planetarium Fund-raiser**. The PTA is asking all Barcroft parents and neighbors to donate money to keep Arlington's David M. Brown Planetarium open, and not become a victim of APS budget cuts. So far, 515 donors have contributed almost \$15,000, and much more is needed. To learn more, get involved, and make a tax-deductible donation, go to www.saveplanetarium.org/ or stop by

Barcroft's Office during school hours and donate your spare change.

If you have a **Harris Teeter VIC Card**, we hope you will link it to Barcroft Elementary School as part of the **Together in Education Program**. The PTA is raising money this year to purchase SmartBoards for classrooms, and we need your support! When you purchase certain Harris Teeter brand products between August 2010 and May 2011, a donation will be made to Barcroft. Go to www.harristeeter.com/community/together_in_education/link_to_your_school.aspx and use Barcroft code # 4238. Or you can provide the correctly-spelled last name of the VIC card holder along with the VIC card number to **Heather Sheire** at hsheire@verizon.net, and she'll link your VIC card to Barcroft.

Please join us at the school on Friday evening, September 10th, for our first **Family Fitness Night** of the year. And come again Saturday, September 11th, from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. for our annual **Chalk4Peace** event. Everyone is invited to create works of chalk art on the school's sidewalks and blacktop. On Friday evening, September 24th, beginning at 6:30 p.m., we will have our annual **Hispanic Heritage Night Celebration**. The evening will include special entertainment and outstanding food. And please save the date: Friday, October 29th, will mark the return of our PTA **Halloween Party and Dance**. There will a haunted house, and plenty of fun for the whole family. We hope you'll join us for the fun!

To learn more about What's Happening at Barcroft in September, go to www.apsva.us/15452010312423667/site/default.asp

New History of Barcroft —Online

Randy Swart reported that we have a new history of our Barcroft neighborhood on the BSCL Web site:

<http://www.bscl.org/walterhistory.pdf>

Elizabeth Walter wrote this Barcroft history as her thesis. She has revised it since and has permitted us to post it on the BSCL Web page. It is a truly remarkable document, titled "Barcroft: The Beginnings of a Suburban Neighborhood (1886 to 1920), Revised."

Elizabeth is the sister of **Anna Peterson**. **Anna and Scott** live in one of Barcroft's most historic houses, the inspiration for the history.

Here is an excerpt from page 6:

The future site of Barcroft, the land adjacent to Columbia Pike and next to an existing railroad station, was undoubtedly handy. It was also well situated on the high ground above the road, wooded, and amply watered. Four Mile Run flowed on its western edge, Doctor's Branch on its eastern, and an unnamed stream flowed from a spring between these two. The spring was known locally as the Dolly Madison Spring, from stories that she had liked to stop there when riding through this part of the countryside. There was also a creek running east-west across the property. (written in the late 1800s)

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Around the Neighborhood

What To Do On a Hot Summer Day??

From Paula Alcorn

Ahhhh....summer. A hot day with nothing much to do. Luckily Mom had been wasting the morning on Facebook when she came across a post from a friend about an organization called "Pets To Vets."

This terrific new organization works with two local animal shelters to match up shelter pets with vets from Walter Reed Medical Center and vicinity. The vets choose an animal, go to visit and socialize with the animal for a few months and then are given the pet free of charge once they are released from treatment. In the past 9 months, Pets To Vets has matched 52 vets with their new pets.

Inspired by this, and also the HBO documentary entitled "A Small Act", **Paula, Jenna and Dahlia Alcorn** decided to hold a lemonade stand in front of their house on 4th St. S to raise money for Pets to Vets. Neighbors **Anna Olkhovsky** and **Kate Sheire** joined in and made cookies.

The girls really did all the work, and just a few short hours later, they had raised \$94 dollars. They were delighted as were all the local neighbors and construction workers who got a cool drink and freshly baked cookie on a very hot day.

Paula emailed the organization asking if there was a place the girls could take the money – making it more meaningful than putting a check in the mail.

As fate would have it, there was a Happy Hour event the following week, and the girls were invited to present their donation.

So the girls got dressed up (their own idea - and it takes a lot to get these girls into skirts) and headed to Fairfax with their envelope of bills. They were very well-received and met the founder, Dave Sharpe, a young vet who experienced Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and whose life was changed after he got his dog. The girls were presented with certificates and an invitation to the next event.

There are probably plenty of hot days left this summer. We're wondering where to donate the proceeds from the next lemonade stand!

For more info on Pets To Vets visit the website: <http://pets2vets.org/>



The girls received certificates of thanks from Pets To Vets founder, Dave Sharpe.

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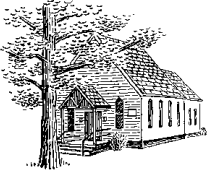
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How to Avoid 9 Buyer Traps

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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