

Barcroft News

March 2011

Vol 108, Issue 7

March BSCL President's Report

By Bryant Monroe

Our neighborhood has been wrestling with several important issues in recent months. I'll outline the key points, and ask that you join us at the BSCL meeting on March 3 at 7 PM for discussion of all three issues! First, our heartfelt thanks to *Eric and Annie Harold* for bringing back the Barcroft Spaghetti Dinner. It was a packed house on Jan. 30 raising over \$350 for the Community House Fund! More important, it brought a full house of Barcroft neighbors together for a great afternoon.

4616 South 8th Street House Burning

As you know the burned house on South 8th was finally taken down. With the demolition complete, we are looking to the Arlington Civic Federation to continue their efforts to change the County's policy on burning vacant homes for training purposes. *Randy Swart* and *Scott Brintzer* will keep us posted on their progress.

APAH Request for Fire Turnaround on Four Mile Run Park Property (Buchanan Gardens)

On Nov. 14, 2009, the Arlington County Board approved the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH) application to acquire and refurbish the Buchanan Gardens apartments (located near the Pike on Buchanan Street). The County provided financial assistance and approved a "Use Permit" in 2009 enabling the project to proceed. As many of you know the BSCL passed two resolutions supporting this project, and our neighborhood conservation plan encourages improvements to this site. APAH has now further requested approval to "encroach" on Four Mile Run Park to construct a fire turnaround. The County's Fire Marshall has levied this requirement.

I have begun to understand some of the details, and am glad we'll have a chance to talk with APAH and County staff at our March meeting. Barcroft neighbors, while supportive of this project, are concerned about the apparent loss of parkland. Please see the BSCL website for additional material on their request and community concerns. The APAH request is scheduled to go before the County Board at their March 12 meeting.

Expansion of the National Guard Bureau/State Department

Last month's meeting focused on the growth of the National Foreign Affairs Training Center (NFATC) and the Army National Guard Readiness Center (ANGRC) at Rt. 50 and George Mason Dr. We held a joint meeting with the Alcovia Heights Civic Association to meet with representatives from the NFATC, ANGRC and Arlington County. The energetic discussion underscored the parking impact on Barcroft so far. With 1200 new staff coming to these facilities in the next 6 months, it will be imperative for us stay focused on this issue. As a result of the questions and points made by neighborhood residents, a committee will be formed with Barcroft and Alcovia Heights residents, and key staff from the County, ANGRC and NFATC. I appreciate the great work done by *Heidi Wicker* on these difficult issues and coordinating with County and the State department and National Guard. Our thanks also go the County, ANGRC and NFFATC staff who will help find ways to address our concerns. More details to follow!

**I hope to see you at the
BSCL MEETING**

Thursday March 3 at 7:30 PM

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 Mike Behringer, Pat Williamson

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Fundraising Chris Ditta
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 Bryant@bscl.org
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Crime **vacant**
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Signs David Peacefull
Parking Committee **vacant**
Volunteers **vacant**
 Volunteers@bscl.org
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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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.bscl.org

Neighbor to Neighbor Ads

Mother's Helper —6th grader would love to do any odd jobs you can think of! Rebecca Bean 703-553-4093
 beccab50@gmail.com

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
 dylanrvega@gmail.com

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

Babysitter - 11th 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 11th 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** chrisjenny4@comcast.net or **Jason Kiker** jkiker@gmail.com, or just stop by!

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

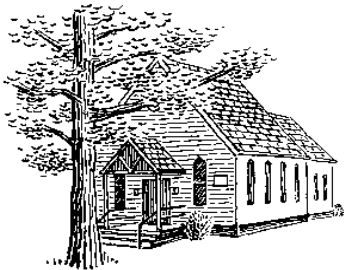
BSCL Officers Needed

WANTED: Nominees for next year's BSCL officers

The Barcroft School and Civic League is looking for people who are interested in being nominated for next year's BSCL officer slate. The election for new officers and board members will be in June. Several of the current officers, including president **Bryant Monroe**, cannot run again due to the end of their term limits.

If you would like to be a nominee for office or would like to nominate someone you think would make a good officer, please contact **Bryant Monroe** at 703-271-0944.

Being a BSCL officer is a great way make new friends, get to know your neighbors, and to have a voice in the affairs of our community.



County Will Straighten Buchanan

By Randy Swart

After more than two years of negotiations, Arlington County has purchased a piece of the Goodwill parking lot. Sometime this year they will straighten out the intersection of Buchanan and the Pike. There will be a big improvement in pedestrian safety by eliminating the offset.

Barcrofters had initially been concerned about increasing cut-through traffic by straightening the intersection, but that was before traffic calming in the neighborhood. Traffic calming reduced our cut-throughs by about a third. We asked that the south side be restricted to one lane, but the County is installing two lanes--one for right turns and straight-through up the hill on Buchanan, and the other for left turns onto Columbia Pike toward Baileys Crossroads.

County staffers are apologetic for the condition of the paving as they work on the Wakefield to Four Mile Run streetscape improvements, but say they can't pave with the temperatures as low as they have been.

"Donate To Renovate" Campaign Update

\$16,000 from 200+ Families 600+ more to go

By Chris Ditta

Thanks to our neighbors and recent special events, we continue to collect over \$1,000 per month toward our goal. This month we've received \$178 from the Barcroft PTA Rummage Sale, \$___ from the Spaghetti Dinner, \$150 from the Grace Baptist Church of Arlington, and \$540 from 11 families. But, we need a big push from the winter into the spring from the 600+ families yet to donate to get us ready for the upcoming building renovation planning meeting next month. The initial 209 donations average \$75 each and if we get just \$40 each from the next 600 contributors, we will reach \$40,000. See the list below of our initial donations. Thank You to all!

All contributions are fully tax deductible. Funds will be used to renovate the interior of the Barcroft Community House to increase energy efficiency and Go Green.

Make Checks Payable to: Barcroft Community House Fund

Mail Donations to:

BSCL c/o Gary Lefebvre, Treasurer
812 S. George Mason Dr.,
Arlington, VA 22204-1555

For Questions or Concerns:

Please contact **Chris Ditta**, Chair of the Community House Renovation Fundraising Committee at (202) 258-1240.

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

Thank you to all households who have donated

\$100 and Over	Pollard	Carr	Morris
Alcorn	Price	Casey	Murphy
Barnhart	Quinlan	Chambers	Odegard
Bruno	Rischar	Chen	Olden
Bryer	Rogers	Clements	Olkhovsky
Cackley	Roll	Collins	Ornao
Clemens	Rom	Connors	Peaceful
Cook	Roningen	Darner	Pearlstein
Dendy	Rosanbaum	Dia	Pietroski
Ditta	Rotherham	Doane	Putnam
Duffy	Schaefer	Driscoll	Ratway
Fichtner	Schdrack	Dunavant	Reed
Finley	Sheire	Dunphy	Reese
Flanigan	Shuey	Dvorscak	Richter
French	Shutler	Dykes	Roberts
Fulgham	Stebbins	Edwards	Rumpf
Gagliano	Tenenbaum	Eichers	Sakri
Glenn	Tenhouse	Fram	Sanzen-
Gurian	Tesler	Frey	bacher
Harold	Wall	Gay	Schwartz
Harrison	Walsh	Geist	Schweser
Harshbarger	Walter	George	Sejas
Holcomb	Watkins	Gooding	Sheffer
Jobkar	Wieckoski	Goss	Shields
Junker	Wigfield	Granneman	Siple
Kenealy	Williams	Harris	Smith
Kerr	Williamson	Hartman	Sokolski
Kiker	Willocks	Howard	Southwell
Kronheim	Wood	Impink	Steinmetz
Lane	Yahn	Ioffreda	Stevens
Larkin	Benefit Concert	Jordan	Stryjewski
Lawson	Grace Baptist	Kearns	Sundial
Lefebvre	Church	Keating	Swart
Lynch	July 4th Cash	Kmeco	Sweeney
MacKnight	Collection	Kronheim	Taylor
McKeon		Labor Day	Taylor
McMahon		Lemonade Stand	Thompson
Magyar		Lawson	Tope
Mason		Lee	Turner
Melia		Lis	Valencia
Mishra		Locke	Waldman
Monroe		Lord	Weber
Murray		Love	Witzig
Nazaretz		Lykes	Wood
Nickerson		Mack	Young
Novak		Manning	
O'Keefe		McGwier	
Oresky		McMahon	
Peartree		McTaggart	
Piantanida		Merrey	
Perlmutter		Michaelson	
		Miller	

SPAGHETTI DINNER THANK YOU

By Kathy Kerr

Special thanks to **Eric Harold** for organizing the Spaghetti Dinner on Jan. 30 and to **everyone** who helped with the cooking, set up and clean up. Over 100 neighbors (plus lots of little kids) enjoyed Eric's "Secret Sauce." Thanks also to everyone who brought those fantastic desserts!

As I entered I thought the music was surely a CD playing. No! It was live music provided by the marvelous *Spaghetti Tones* with Barcrofter **Michael Nazaretz** and friends **Larry Robinson, Richard Seidel, Nikita Wells, and Ilhan Izmirli**. I especially enjoyed Nikita's singing. He is president of the National Lyric Opera Company and has composed an opera based on the theme of Dracula called "Two Counts at the Stake." Michael, Nikita and Ilhan perform together regularly as part of the Russian folk music group, **Samovar**.



Nature Notes

Four Mile Run Watershed Cleanup

Arlington County invites you to join the Park Rangers and Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment for the annual Four Mile Run stream cleanup on Saturday, March 12 from 9am to Noon.

Sites include Bon Air, Bluemont, Glencarlyn, Barcroft and Shirlington Parks to help clean up stream banks and park areas along Four Mile Run. Several sites have areas that are accessible and safe for young children. For more info, contact 703-525-0168.

Long Branch Nature Center Programs

Satisfy your Spring Fever by celebrating the natural world at Long Branch Nature Center. Learn about and glimpse flying squirrels with a naturalist. Were you fascinated by the movie *Breach*? Learn about spy Robert Hanssen's drop offs that had the FBI conducting a round the clock stake-out at Long Branch. Have some anger to work through? Expend it by ripping out invasive plants to restore our woods and streams!

Need a place for a birthday party? Want to learn more about snakes, turtles, bluebirds, peepers or enjoy a puppet show? Call Long Branch Nature Center for details. 703-228-6535 Happy Spring!

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What's Happening at Barcroft Elementary—January 2011

By Jenny Ditta

Thank you to our wonderful neighbors and alumni for supporting the January PTA Rummage and Bake Sale. We appreciate the wonderful baked goods, including home-baked sourdough bread and coconut cupcakes. We had many wonderful donated household items to sell. Of course, we also appreciate all of our shoppers! The PTA raised over \$1700. A check for **\$178 -- 10% of the proceeds -- will be sent to the Barcroft Community House Fund.** The remainder of funds raised will support PTA programs, including funding for special field trips and school equipment.

In March, special fitness programs include our weekly **Monday Mornin' Movers**. We meet at the outdoor track or the gym **from 8:30 – 8:50 a.m. on March 7, 14, 21, and 28.** The PTA is also hosting a **Family Fitness Night with a free session of ZUMBA dance on Friday, March 25, 7-8 pm.** All are welcome to join the fun.

Tues evening, Mar. 1, the PTA will host the **Coffee House and Book Exchange.** Gently used books can be exchanged for an unlimited number of books new to you. Every year, the Book Exchange has a great selection of children's books that Barcroft families have outgrown. Desserts and hot drinks will be served as well, so please join us!

Thursday, March 3 is the annual **Dr. Seuss Day**, in honor of the birthday of the

beloved children's book author. Parent volunteers will bake birthday cupcakes for all of the Language Arts classes, and special guest readers in the classrooms will read favorite Dr. Seuss stories. Do you enjoy reading aloud to kids? To volunteer, contact Reading Specialist, Dora Sue Black, at dorasue_black@apsva.us

March 1 – 4, the PE classes will raise money for the American Heart Association as part of the annual **“Jump Rope for Heart.”** To support this wonderful cause, sponsor your favorite Barcroft student, or stop by the Office with your donation.

Barcroft will host two **Orientation/Open Houses** for prospective parents on **Tues. Mar. 8, from 9:15 – 11:15 am and Thu. Mar. 31, from 9:30 - 11:30 am.** Join us for a tour and learn more about the school.

The last week of **March**, Barcroft will host the **3rd Quarter Leonardo da Vinci Learning Day.** The school will be open all day for parents and neighbors to observe recent student learning. All are invited to see what is happening at your neighborhood school.

To learn more about What's Happening at Barcroft in 2011, go to:

www.apsva.us/15452010312423667/site/default.asp

Kenmore Middle School

Kenmore Middle School PTA
Silent Auction & Night of the Arts
Our 2011 Theme is "Go Green"
Friday, March 25, 2011, 6:30-9:00 pm
200 South Carlin Springs Road
Free. We hope to see you there!

Over 230 fabulous items available including hotel and restaurant gift certificates, local sporting and entertainment tickets, admission passes to outdoor excursions, museums, wine tasting, and much more! Our online bidding begins today through March 24 for these items below at www.apsva.us/kenmore.

Wakefield High School

The Regional Science Fair will be held in the Large Gym March 4-6

Recycling

Recyclable Materials Accepted — Mixed together in one cart

- 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 to help contain them)
- Cardboard boxes (unflattened is fine!)

Recycle Electronics at the Curb

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

Also try the Good Will! They are now recycling computers, etc. for free.



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***What's Going On
 In Barcroft??***

**Join the Barcroft
 chat group and news email lists!**

Go to:

www.bscl.org/chatlist.htm

In Memoriam

By Sharon Tope



On January 29, 2011, Barcroft lost one of our long-time residents. **William (Bill) Wyckoff**, celebrated his 99th birthday in January. He passed away in Louisa, VA, where he moved in late 2007 to be near his daughter.

Bill came to Barcroft in 1953 and lived at 4630 S. 5th St. with his wife, Irene, and three children: Judy, Chuck, and Nancy. His kids attended Barcroft Elementary and Wakefield High School in the 1950s and '60s.. Irene passed away in the 1980s. Bill enjoyed visiting with his grown kids, ten grandchildren and great-granddaughter, and for many years would travel to Louisa, VA., Florida, and New Hampshire to visit with them. He's remembered as being a helpful and caring handyman neighbor.

Bill was born in NJ, spent his early years there, then moved to Washington, DC. He graduated from McKinley High School, participating in sports and serving as a major in the cadet corp.

Bill served his community and his nation as a member of the Metropolitan Police Force and then the Capital Police, and lastly as a member of the Uniformed Service of the US Secret Service, serving at the White House. After retiring, he worked in construction and then with the Small Business Administration, eventually retiring permanently.

Preparedness Training

Emergency Preparedness and Response Training Begins in March

This eight-session course, sponsored by the Arlington County Citizen Corps Council, Office of Emergency Management and Fire Department, covers disaster preparedness, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, team organization, disaster psychology, fire suppression and terrorism. It follows a FEMA/DHS curriculum being used around the globe.

To-date, over 480 individuals have completed CERT training in Arlington County. It is open to Arlington residents who are at least 18 years of age (16 if accompanied by a parent) and able to participate in all aspects of the training, some of which requires lifting and carrying. The training is free. All classes meet at the Arlington County Fire Department Training Academy in Shirlington.

Classes begin on March 16 and 22. Advance registration required. For more info contact Cynthia Kellams, at: ArlingtonCERT@aol.com

Around the Neighborhood

Congratulations to sixteen year old Barcrofter **Mary Lynn Clark** who won the Virginia Northern Region All-Around gymnastics title on Feb. 10. She is a sophomore at Washington-Lee high school.

Mary Lynn started gymnastics at age 4. In addition to competing for Washington-Lee, she competes club gymnastics in the Junior Olympic program for Apollo Gymnastics in Woodbridge, VA. She practices 26 hours per week -- year round! She is currently Level 9 in the Junior Olympics and has the goal of making Level 10, the highest of the Junior Olympic levels.

Mary Lynn was high school National District champion last season, and swept Districts this season, winning ALL events. Last year she was Northern Region runner up in the all-around, but this year she won! Her W-L team has many other great gymnasts, and they are really hoping to make it to State level competition next year. They were third in the region for the past two seasons, but they need to be in the top two out of eight teams.

This year's district meet was originally scheduled for a week earlier, but was postponed because of weather issues. Washington-Lee caught a big break as a result. If the meet had been held on its original date, Clark was sick and would not have participated.

As a freshman last season, Mary Lynn was chosen as "First team All-Met" by the Washington Post. Her picture was in the paper and she was invited to attend the annual luncheon in DC with her coaches and parents—a very memorable experience.

Mary Lynn's best event is the balance beam but clearly she is proficient in all events. She is considering college gymnastics, but thinks she might want to branch out into other activities. She also enjoys diving.

Her two brothers are Kevin, a freshman at Wakefield, and Justin, a 4th grader at Claremont Spanish Immersion Elementary.



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Arlington Forest United Methodist Church

4701 Arlington Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203

www.arlingtonforestumc.com

Casual Worship: 8:30am., Godly Play: 10am, Traditional: 11am. Sunday



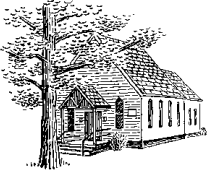
“O Jonah” Children’s Musical on March 20, at 5pm

Easter Egg Festival on April 23, at 10am



Join us on Main Street at Arlington Forest UMC for VBS! Registration begins in May.

“Your neighborhood church only a walk away”



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

How Much Home Can You Afford?

Many buyers are cautious and wary to make a mistake of buying a home they can't pay for. How much home can you really afford? Home affordability includes a range of factors:

Employment status: Do you have a stable job and income? Lenders will want to know if they can rely on you to make monthly payments for many years to come. **Credit Score:** Over your adult life you have built up a credit score. Every card and loan you have opened has figured into a 3 digit number from 300 - 850. The higher your number, the less "risk" you are perceived to be, and you'll be extended higher sums of credit at a lower rate. How faithfully you've repaid loan and credit cards and how many of them you have open, dictates your score. **Savings:** Some experts advise you put at least 20% down payment. Other loan programs allow from 3.5% to 10% down. Also factor in additional cash for closing costs, as well as maintenance and repairs (inevitable with home ownership!)

Emergency Fund: Do you have a separate savings account? Things do and will happen. Without this fund, you can't afford a house. You can "borrow" money for a house... but in reality you really can't afford one.

Interest Rates: Interest rates are still at historical lows (currently the 30-year fixed rate mortgage is 5%). "How much monthly payment can I afford?" or "How much credit am I approved for?" are common questions. You also need to think about what kind of home is appropriate for you and your family. *If you would like a free handbook explaining the home buying process, contact me for a free copy as well as a no obligation consultation!*

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