

April 2011

# Barcroft News

Vol 108, Issue 8

## **April BSCL President's Report**

*By Bryant Monroe*

### **Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH)**

At our March meeting APAH staff (joined by County staff) provided a briefing on the request to “encroach” on Four Mile Run Park to construct their fire truck turnaround and a fenced tot lot for their tenants. The discussion helped us understand the details and express our concern about the apparent loss of parkland that adjoins our neighborhood. While the affected “parkland” is actually County “road right of way”, this status did not assuage the frustration many of us feel. While I cannot speak for all who attended the meeting, there was a clear sense that we as a neighborhood had little say in the County process regarding losing the green, natural break between the Buchanan Gardens complex and the park.

The good news is that we provided input to the County Board’s decision on the APAH encroachment application, and the Board’s action included two important provisions:

1. APAH will not seek further encroachments in the right of way;
2. APAH will consult with BSCL on the landscaping plan for the area of encroachment, including maintenance of the encroachment area.

It is my feeling that APAH will need to rebuild the sense of trust with many in BSCL (myself included), and they did offer to provide updates on their renovation work and seek our input. When on the bike path, I will notice the open area that will be the fire truck turnaround, and keep in mind the need to be vigilant about unwanted changes to the park.

Randy Swart comments: “I was personally disappointed that parkland was lost, but it’s just part of the cost that we all pay to encourage affordable housing.”

An informed and active BSCL will play a key part in preventing repeats of this unfortunate episode. The County wants to establish a regular liaison with the BSCL. Volunteers should email me: [bryant@bscl.org](mailto:bryant@bscl.org)

### **Expansion of the National Guard Bureau/ State Department**

In February, we held a joint meeting with the Alcova Heights Civic Association to meet with representatives from the NFATC, ANGRG and Arlington County. The energetic discussion underscored the parking impact on Barcroft so far, and with 1200 new staff coming to these facilities on S. George Mason Drive in the next 6 months it will be imperative for us stay focused on this issue. As follow-up to that discussion I sent a letter from BSCL to **Congressman Jim Moran** and asked for his assistance

## President's Report (Con't)

(see letter on BSCL webpage). I talked with his staff to introduce our concerns, and hope our outreach to him will help focus attention on the very real impact this growth is having on our neighborhood. BSCL is also working with Alcova Heights and County staff to follow-up on specific efforts we can undertake. More to follow on this.

### April BSCL Meeting: Master Gardener in the House!

The **April 7 BSCL meeting** at 7:30 PM will feature a Master Gardener as our guest speaker provided by the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service. In addition to tips about composting, basic gardening, container gardening, lawn care and organic vegetable gardening, you'll learn about Extension Service help that's only a phone call away. Bring your questions, suggestions and get to work on those yards!

### Call for New BSCL Officers!

Your neighborhood association needs your help! The BSCL needs Barcroft neighbors to serve as BSCL officers and board members starting in June. If you are interested, please, contact me: [bryant@bscl.org](mailto:bryant@bscl.org) 703-271-0944. Your help keeps this neighborhood association strong, and this is a great way to meet new friends and to know your Barcroft neighborhood even better.

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

**Thursday April 7 at 7:30 PM**

## BNEWS Distribution

### HOW IS THE BARCROFT NEWS DISTRIBUTED?

Thanks to the various neighbor volunteers throughout the neighborhood who hand deliver the Barcroft News to your door. Here's how it works.

The editor, **Kathy Kerr**, emails the issue to Stanley Adams Printing. A few days later, **Linda Webb** drives over and picks up the 900 printed copies. She counts them out, then bags and labels them for each of the 27 volunteers who deliver the newsletter. She delivers the bundles to each of those volunteers. The delivery volunteers then distribute the newsletters door-to-door to 900 households throughout the entire neighborhood.

Many thanks to Linda and to each of the 27 volunteers who provide the door-to-door delivery service each month. Without this team, (including **Jim Kerr** the ad manager), this newsletter would not be possible.

More volunteers are needed. To help or even to serve as a substitute, please contact **Linda Webb**: [linda@bscl.org](mailto:linda@bscl.org) or call her at 703-969-6373.



**Barcroft News Staff**

*Editor & Neighborhood News Publisher / Mailing* Kathy Kerr, 892-6458  
 editor@bscl.org  
 Linda Webb  
 linda@bscl.org  
 703-969-6373

*Advertising Mgr.* Jim Kerr, 892-6458  
 Jim@bscl.org

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

**BSCL Officers**

*President* Bryant Monroe, 271-0944  
 Bryant@bscl.org

*Vice President* Barbara Clemens  
 barbaraC@BSCL.org

*Recording Secy.* Jennifer Lis  
 Jennifer@bscl.org

*Treasurer* Gary Lefebvre, 521-0184  
 Gary@bscl.org

*Corres. Secy.* Teresa Saunders  
 Teresa@bscl.org

*Membership Secy.* Peg Lefebvre, 521-0184  
 Peg@bscl.org

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

**Contacts and Committees**

*Community House* Barbara Swart  
*Rental Mgr.* barcrofthouserental@yahoo.com

*Restoration* David Michaelson, Jim Kerr  
*Fundraising* Chris Ditta  
*Landscaping* Scott Brintzer, 892-0308  
*Traffic Committee* Heidi Wicker  
*4th of July Parade* Andrew Hunter, 979-8247  
*Columbia Pike* Bryant Monroe, 271-0944  
 Bryant@bscl.org

*Demeter House* Darlene Mickey  
*Crime* **vacant**  
*Parks* Elizabeth Kiker  
 elizabeth.kiker@gmail.com

*Signs* Shirley Gay  
*Parking Committee* David Peacefull  
*Volunteers* **vacant**  
**vacant**

*Web Master & NCAC Rep* Volunteers@bscl.org  
 Randy Swart, 521-2080  
 randy@bscl.org

**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](http://www.bscl.org)

**Neighbor to Neighbor Ads**

**Lawn Mowing** - Spring, Summer and Fall - call Bou or Moussa at 703-521-1953

**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** [chrisnjenny4@comcast.net](mailto:chrisnjenny4@comcast.net) or **Jason Kiker** [jkiker@gmail.com](mailto: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

## Kids Raise Funds for Community House Renovation

### Neighborhood Kids Hot Chocolate & Coffee Stand Earns \$100 for Community House Fund

*By Chris Ditta*

On what must have been the warmest day in Hot Chocolate Stand history, the four young girls from the Smith and Ditta families along with several friends took to S. Abingdon Street on a quest to deliver fresh baked cookies and a hot beverage to every passing customer.

**Claire & Jane Smith, Julianna & Lauren Ditta, Anna Finley, Grace**

**Brougham and Emilie Monroe** managed the marketing and sales while a few parents kept the operation flowing for each friendly face. Thanks to **Hoke and Julie Smith, Bill Brougham, Anne-Marie Finley, Gert Wieckoski and Terry Pietroski** for assisting the the children.

In just over two hours the kids raked in a cool \$100 for the Community House "Donate to Renovate" Campaign Fund. Efforts like these supplemented the generosity of five new giving families who added \$390 to the pot giving us over \$16,600.



**Jim Kerr, Chris Ditta and Bill Brougham enjoyed coffee, cocoa and cookies**

## Kids Raise Funds for Community House Renovation (con't)

All donations over \$100 will be added to the Plaque to be posted on the wall the Community House. If we can get \$250 from 14 new households we'll pass the \$20,000 50% mark and be able to begin the planning design sessions that many of you are interested in joining. So, we need a big push from the winter into the spring from the 600+ families yet to donate. All contributions are fully tax deductible under IRS Code 501(c)(3). 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](http://www.bscl.org/fundraiser.htm)

**For Complete Renovation History**  
[www.bscl.org/renovate.htm](http://www.bscl.org/renovate.htm)

**For Community House Rental**  
[www.bscl.org/bch\\_rent.htm](http://www.bscl.org/bch_rent.htm)



Jane Smith holds a sign advertising  
"Hot Chocolate \$1.00  
+ cookies"

## What's Happening at Barcroft Elementary—April 2011

*By Jenny Ditta*

Join us for great events happening at Barcroft Elementary in April, including our special fitness program, **Monday Mornin' Movers(MMM)**. Depending on the weather, we meet at the outdoor track or the gym **from 8:30 – 8:50 a.m. MMM meets on April 25.**

Barcroft will host an **Orientation/Open House** for prospective parents on **Thursday, April 14 at 12:45 – 2:15 p.m.** Join us on this day for a tour of the school and learn more about Barcroft.

In April, Barcroft will offer **Spring Intersession Classes** from **Monday, April 4 through Friday, April 15**. During these two weeks, students have the option of taking a break from school or attending exciting intersession classes. Intersession classes are designed to integrate fun, creative activities with concepts recently learned in subjects such as Math, Language Arts, P.E., Art, and Science. Classes offered this Spring include "Crime Scene," an introduction to forensic science, fingerprints, and evidence; "Great Migrations," a study of animal migration patterns like that of the monarch butterfly; and "Art Studio" where students study art and art techniques from the Masters as well as modern artists from around the world.

During Spring Break, Barcroft will host a **Fitness and Nutrition Camp from Monday, April 18 to Thursday, April 21**. Student campers will spend the day exercising with their friends, cooking with local chefs, and sampling nutritious foods.

After school resumes, Barcroft is scheduled to host a **Family Academic Science Night on Tuesday, April 26**. Third Quarter Report Cards will be sent home to students on Wednesday, the 27<sup>th</sup>.

To learn more about What's Happening at Barcroft, go to:  
[www.apsva.us/15452010312423667/site/default.asp](http://www.apsva.us/15452010312423667/site/default.asp)



## Kenmore Middle School

President Barack Obama visited Kenmore on March 14th to talk about revisions to the “No Child Left Behind” law.

\*\*\*\*\*

SMART Technologies Inc., announced that Kenmore has been named the first SMART Showcase School of the Year. The school uses a wide variety of SMART hardware and software products including SMART Board™ interactive whiteboards and SMART Response™ interactive response systems. The school has four SMART Exemplary Educators on staff and, in 2010, hosted more than 300 visitors seeking information on how SMART products can be used in the classroom.

## Wakefield High School

Please join us for the Wakefield **Booster Club & the Education Foundation (formally the Alumni Association)** for the 4th Annual Golf Tournament to benefit the students, teachers, student activities and scholarships on May 7, 2011 at 12:30 PM. Paul Ferguson, class of 1983 and Wakefield High School Hall of Fame, will be the Honorary Chair.

The Wakefield Booster Club raises money for student grant/scholarships, teachers and student activities.

Participants will have a great day of golf at the beautiful Virginia Oaks Golf Club in Gainesville, VA. The event will include a 4-person scramble, box lunch and awards receptions following the golf.

Please invite your friends to play as well!



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### ALL THE LATEST NEWS !

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Go to:

**www.bscl.org/  
 chatlist.htm**

**Or send an email request to  
 kathy@bscl.org**



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## What's with all the construction on Columba Pike?

*From Heidi Wicker*

As part of the ongoing revitalization of Columbia Pike, construction is underway along Columbia Pike from S. Wakefield Street to Four Mile Run to relocate underground utilities. As of January 2011, construction crews have installed new water, sanitary sewer and gas utility lines in the middle of the road.

Work on the next phase of the project, which includes undergrounding the overhead telephone, electric and cable TV lines, has been temporarily halted in order to update the designs after a "subsurface conflict" was discovered. The County is actively working with Dominion Virginia Power and Verizon to redesign this phase and anticipates resuming construction on the utility undergrounding in late spring. The work will likely continue for about 6 months.

Streetscape improvements from S. Wakefield Street to Four Mile Run will be constructed after the utility phase is complete.

The County's construction contractor has restored the roadway pavement along this stretch of Columbia Pike. Base asphalt is being used and will allow for a safe driving surface. Upon completion of the street improvement phase of the project, Columbia Pike from South Wakefield Street to



South Four Mile Run will be milled and repaved.

The County aims to ensure the safety of all work crews and the community during this and other projects in the right-of-way. We can expect delays along the west end of Columbia Pike. Periodic lane closures will be necessary, however at least one lane in each direction will be open.

Several MetroBus and ART bus stops in the construction area have been temporarily closed and relocated. Although construction is temporarily halted in this area, the MetroBus and ART bus stops will remain in their current location to avoid confusion when the project resumes.

County staff will continue to work with businesses in the immediate area to ensure customers continue to have access during construction.

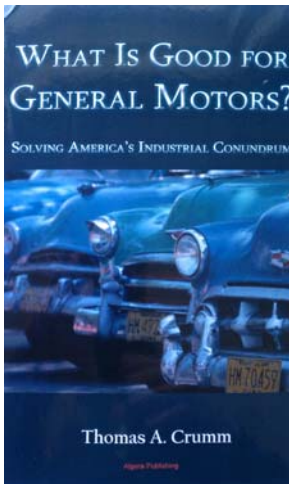
For more information about this project, please contact Kamal Taktak at 703-228-7527.

# Around the Neighborhood

## Barcroft Author

Born and raised in Michigan in the heart of the automobile industry, Barcroft neighbor, Thomas Crumm, recently published a book entitled: *What Is Good for General Motors? - Solving America's Industrial Conundrum*. The book describes the rise and fall of the U.S. auto industry — and what might be done to restore it to its former greatness.

A third-generation autoworker from Flint, Michigan, Tom's lifelong fascination with the auto industry began early. By age 10, he was already immersed in the blue versus white collar issues at family gatherings. Tom began as an industrial engineering student working in a tailpipe line. He rose through the ranks over the next 25 years. He was then asked to join the General Motor's think tank where he spent his next 11 years immersed in the struggles of succeeding Chairman of the Board all trying to alter the course of a collapsing giant.



Tom says he decided to write a book in 2003, when he returned to Flint for his father's funeral. When he saw the devastation left behind by the implosion of GM he realized that, if he didn't put down on paper what he knew, the day was coming when no one would

remember the culture that built the world's greatest industrial sector.

To find out more about Tom's book, visit Amazon Books on line to read the reviews. You can purchase a copy directly by calling Tom (703) 271-0268.

Tom and his wife Marel Sitron, have lived in Barcroft for 10 years on 8th Rd. S. Marel has been teaching art at Barcroft School the past 14 years. She came to Arlington from Chicago where, as an art therapist, she taught children with communication disorders at Michael Reese hospital. Tom and Marel have opened up a lot of the space in their older home by removing some walls. Marel did most of the design work for the project.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Congratulations To:

Barcrofter **Linda Dunphy** who was selected on March 10 as recipient of the Commission on the Status of Women's 2011 "Women With Vision" Award. Linda is best known in the community for her pioneering work as executive director of Doorways for Women and Families.

Linda led Doorways from 2003 until earlier this year. Before that she worked with Northern Virginia Family Service and co-founded the Arlington Non-Profit network and helped to fund Project PEACE (Partnering to End Abuse in the Community for Everyone).

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

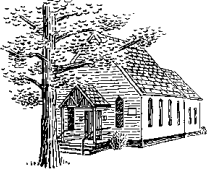
**“O Jonah” Children’s Musical on March 20, at 5pm**

**Easter Egg Festival on April 23, at 10am**



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

### ***Arlington Sales Prices are Up!***

Sales data for major jurisdictions across Northern Virginia, based on figures reported Feb. 10 by Real Estate Business Intelligence:

**Alexandria:** Home sales for January totaled 114, the same number that sold a year before. The average sales price of all homes that sold during the month was \$444,599, up 11.8%, while the average sales price in the single-family-home sector was \$749,943. Total sales volume for the month was \$50.24 million, up 11%.

**Arlington:** Home sales totaled 129, down from 134 a year before. The average sales price of all homes that sold was \$506,005, up 2.4%, while the average sales price of single-family homes was \$682,250, up 5.1%. Total sales volume for the month was \$64.77 million, down 2.2%.

**Fairfax County:** Home sales totaled 636, down from 732 a year before. The average sales price of all homes that sold was \$440,938, up 1.8%, while the average sales price for single-family homes was \$614,278, up 2%. Total sales volume for the month was \$279 million, down 13.5%.

**Falls Church City:** Home sales totaled eight, up from six a year before. The average sales price of all homes that sold was \$386,863, down 24.4%, the average sales price of single-family homes was \$660,000, up 26.5%. Total sales monthly volume \$3.09 million, up 6.7%.

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