

September 2011

Barcroft News

Vol 109, Issue 1

President's Report

By **Pat Williamson**, BSCL President

Join us on **Thursday, September 8 at 7:30pm** for the BSCL regular monthly meeting at the Community House. This entire meeting will be devoted to continued consideration of the impacts of the National Guard expansion. The expansion was completed in July. Guests will include the County parking manager, our 3rd District Arlington police commander, traffic department staff, representatives from the National Guard and State Department, staff from Congressman Jim Moran's office, and our Alcova Heights neighbors. Acting as moderator we welcome back Andrea Morris, the BRAC Coordinator for Arlington County. **Please email questions to me (pwilliamson@weta.org) in advance, or you may write down your questions when you arrive at the meeting.**

This very hot summer was punctuated by at least **three great events in Barcroft**. **First** was the fantastic Fourth of July parade and cookout. An outstanding success as always! **Second** was the Ice Cream Social held August 2nd to celebrate National Night Out. We had the largest attendance ever. A **third** event was a wonderful one woman show starring **Ana Cackley**. The show was presented by the Barcroft Players and the

proceeds were generously donated to the Community House Fund. Thanks so much to everyone involved in planning these wonderful events.

Looking ahead, the **October 6** meeting will offer a debate platform for the candidates in our 47th District Virginia State Delegate Race, 31st District Virginia State Senate Race and the Arlington County Commonwealth Attorney race.

The **November 3** regular monthly meeting will have presentations and discussion of the plans for restoration. The Community House Restoration Committee, under leadership of **Jim Kerr**, has been meeting and considering design options which we can afford. **Chris Ditta** continues our successful fundraising efforts.

I hope to see you at the meeting, **Thursday September 8 at 7:30pm** at the Community House.



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

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Alternates Karen Darner, David Michelson,
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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 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 --7th grader , Red Cross certified. Petsitting too. 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

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** chrishjenny4@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?? Is there a new baby at your house?

A Most Entertaining Evening

By **Barbara Swart**

Ana Cackley, the star of the play “A Most Notorious Woman”, wowed audiences with her two performances on August 4th and 5th at the Community House .

Ana not only performed the one-woman show for 90 minutes with only one break between acts, she also played multiple characters with various Irish and English accents. Her characters were both men and women, young and old, high and low class. It was a tour de force.

The play that Ana chose to perform was written by Maggie Cronin, a modern Irish actor/playwright. It told the story of the Irish diaspora, through the extraordinary life of Grace O'Malley, a real life 16th Irish woman, known as the pirate queen. The play had humor, drama, and made a lot of folks in the audience want to go back and find out more about that intriguing time in history.

At the end of the performance, the audience stood and cheered. Several people asked where the Barcroft Players had found such a talented actress. Their reaction was, “you mean she lives right here in the neighborhood?” Yes, but not for long. She’s soon headed to the University of Virginia, where to no one’s surprise, she will be continuing her interest in theater.

Congratulations Ana, and enjoy your college experience!

*See more photos from the show on the BSCL website:
www.bscl.org/notorious.htm*



Around The Neighborhood *with Kathy Kerr*

Something wonderful is always blossoming at **Bonnie Cobos'** house on 8th St. S. One August morning I was lucky to have a tour of her beautiful yard and home.

In the early 1990's Bonnie saw some orchids hanging in bags on the wall at Merrifield Garden Center. She had no idea what to do with them but thought it would be interesting to see what might happen. Her fascination for orchids has only increased. Growing them just for fun, she now has dozens of orchids—all shapes, sizes and colors. Some are inside the house, some are outdoors during the summer under a grape arbor and others are protected in the backyard greenhouse. She says the best time for lots of blooms is Spring and Fall. Most orchids will bloom at the same time each year, but it varies for each plant category.

I asked about dormant orchids because in my limited experience, sometimes they bloom for awhile and then just look dead. She says if they are green, they are alive. Brown, dead parts can be removed.

Bonnie's green thumb is also apparent in their yard. They have many beautiful plants and trees, quite a few bearing edible fruits such as blueberries, kiwis, persimmons, apples, pears, pawpaws and even "Egyptian walking onions." I have never seen a northern kiwi tree before. The fruit

does not have the fuzzy shell as seen in the grocery store, but Bonnie says when the fruit is cut in half, it becomes recognizable.

Bonnie's husband, **Bolivar**, was born in Ecuador but moved to the USA in 1954. He earned his Masters degree in economics. He worked for the Inter-American Development Bank and they spent 12 years in Latin America. In 1985, they returned to Arlington and spent 5 months searching for the right home to buy.



One day, while driving through Barcroft, they noticed some people moving out of a house on 8th St. S. They asked if the house might be for sale. Turns out that these were renters who

had no idea. The Cobos then went to the Court House to find the name of the owner to see if the house might be for sale. It was and they bought it. Later, their hard-working real estate agent called to say that she had found the perfect house for them and that it would be going on the market soon! The Cobos had to tell her that they had already purchased that same house.

The Cobos currently have 3 daughters, 7 grandsons and 2 granddaughters.

Bonnie is active with the National Capitol Orchid Society. Members meet to share information and plants. The annual orchid show and sale held at the National Arboretum will be Oct. 8-10 and is one of the best on the East Coast.

Neighborhood News

Barcroft Spring Garden Tour

Attention gardeners of Barcroft.

Several of your neighbors are planning a fundraising garden tour for May 2012. Proceeds would go to the Community House Restoration Fund.

We are looking for 12 gardeners who would like to open their gardens for a public tour.

To volunteer your garden for the tour or for further information, please e-mail Noreen Atkinson at: noreenatkinson@verizon.net or phone her at [703-979-4868](tel:703-979-4868)



Barcroft Goes Mobile

Take the BSCL website with you wherever you go! We now have a new webpage ready for those who access the Barcroft website using hand-held devices and phones with small screens. Visit: m.bscl.org

The new page is a simplified version of the regular web page. Some phones are smart enough to go to it automatically when you use the regular link: bscl.org



Woman's Club of Arlington

The next meeting will be held on Monday Sep 12th at 10:45 am. New officers will be installed. New members are welcome. Bring a salad, stay for lunch and socialize.

What's Happening at Barcroft Elementary

By *Jenny Ditta*

Barcroft Elementary School is back in session – the 2011-2012 school year began on Tuesday, August 2. Welcome back, students! Barcroft is the only Arlington Public School with a Modified School Year Calendar. Barcroft starts school a month before other schools, and each quarter takes a multi-week break. This October, students will enjoy a two-week vacation or take interesting **Intersession** classes. These classes are consistent with the Virginia Standards of Learning and introduce students to new learning experiences, through classes such as cooking, singing, and forensic science.

If you have a **Harris Teeter VIC Card**, please link it to Barcroft Elementary School as part of the **Together in Education Program**. Did you know that you can link your card to up to 5 schools? Please consider linking your card to Barcroft – your neighborhood school – as well as other schools of your choice. Go to: www.harristeeter.com/community/together_in_education/link_to_your_school.aspx and use Barcroft code # 4238. Or you can provide the 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. The Barcroft PTA is raising money to purchase SmartBoards

and other technologies for the classrooms, and we need your support! When you purchase Harris Teeter brand products between August 2011 and May 2012, a donation will be made to Barcroft.

Barcroft also participates in the **School My Coke Rewards Program**. Parents and neighbors may help by going to: https://secure.mycokerewards.com/register.do?WT.mc_id=EMSCHLREG, entering codes, and picking up points to donate to Barcroft.

There are several **upcoming events** in September that we invite our wonderful neighbors to attend. Please join us on **Sat. Sept. 3 from 9:30 – 11:30 AM** for our annual **Chalk4Peace** event. Everyone is invited to create works of chalk art on the school's sidewalks and blacktop. On **Fri. Sept. 23** Barcroft will celebrate our annual **Hispanic Heritage Night**. The evening will include special entertainment and outstanding food proudly prepared by Barcroft parents and local restaurants. And please **save the date: Fri. Oct. 28 is the PTA Halloween Party and Dance**. There will be plenty of fun for the whole family. Please join us.

To learn more about What's Happening at Barcroft, go to www.apsva.us/Page/13363

Kenmore Middle School

Four Kenmore students have broken the world record for the largest flower made out of duct tape. The record now stands at 34 inches in diameter.

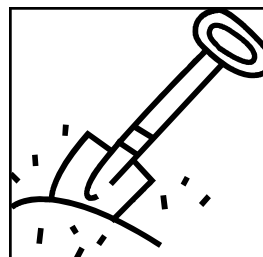
The partnership between the Ritz-Carlton Pentagon City and Kenmore was the Region IV winner of the Business and Industry Partnership 2011 Creating Excellence Award. This award, presented June 16th recognizes exemplary projects that promote career and technical education by the Virginia Department of Education.

Guided by Kenmore Family and Consumer Science Teacher, Beverly Coyle, students learned about the hospitality industry, giving back to their local community, how to give effective presentations and to run a small business.

Wakefield High School

The Arlington community was invited to the Ground Breaking ceremony for the new Wakefield High School on June 9. . The ceremony featured performances and remarks from school and county officials, parents and students.

The construction of Wakefield High School has been targeted to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Silver certification upon completion.



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Emergency Preparedness and Response Training Offered

What do floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, blizzards, building collapses, terrorist attacks, fires and hazmat situations have in common? They have all occurred in Arlington County within the past ten years. And they all illustrate the importance of being personally prepared for and able to respond to emergencies, large and small. It's everyone's responsibility.

That's what Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training is all about. This 8-session, 25-hour 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 all-hazards curriculum being used around the globe.

To date, over 500 individuals have completed CERT training in Arlington County. It is open to Arlington residents – and those who work in the County but reside elsewhere -- who are at least 18 years of age (16 if accompanied by at least one parent) and able to participate in all aspects of the training, some of which requires lifting and carrying. The training is free, but participants are expected to acquire certain supplies themselves, many of which you probably already have on-hand. All

classes meet at the Arlington County Fire Department Training Academy in Shirlington.

Some complete this training simply to be safer in their own homes and workplaces. Others choose to complete additional requirements necessary to become active members of neighborhood teams trained to assist in major disasters. All help make Arlington County a safer place to live, work and play!

Fall CERT classes begin on Sept. 15 and 20. Advance registration required. For more information, contact Cynthia Kellams at: arlingtonCERT@aol.com

A little training can make a huge difference in a disaster!



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www.arlingtonforestumc.com

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Study with us - Sunday Christian Education at 9 a.m.

Enjoy Fellowship with us - Coffee hour after 10 a.m. Sunday service

Upcoming Special Events at St. John’s

September 6 - Book Club at 7:30 p.m. - *Mornings on Horseback* by David McCoullough

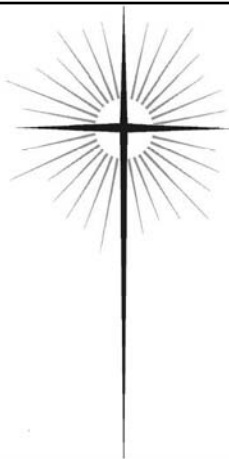
September 17 - Movie Under the Stars - check the church signs for starting time

September 25 - Service in the Park and Picnic to support Arlington Food Assistance Center

Service begins at 10 a.m. - Enjoy neighborhood worship and fellowship and bring a food item to donate to AFAC

October 2 - Blessing of the Animals, 5:00 p.m. Bring your pets for a blessing!

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:5



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All The Latest Neighborhood News!

Are you on the Barcroft chat group and news email lists?

Recent chat topics have included foxes, door-to-door solicitors, referrals for home maintenance help, traffic, good parks for kids, chickens, etc etc!

To join the list go to:

www.bscl.org/chatlist.htm
OR send an email request to
kathy@bscl.org



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

Northern Virginia Market Trends

The Northern Virginia Association of Realtors® reports on March 2011 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 1,437 homes sold in March 2011, a 7.71% decrease below March 2010 home sales of 1,557. Active listings decreased by 7% from 2010, with 3,975 active listings in 3/11, compared with 4,267 homes available in 3/10. The average days on market (DOM) for homes in 3/11 increased 39% to 71 days, compared with 51 days in 3/10. Sale prices rose compared with those realized last year. The average sales price in March 2011 increased 3% from March 2010, to \$448,957 from \$434,129 last March.

Arlington County Statistics comparing March 2010 to 2011: **Condos** - Avg. Sold Price was \$373,112 in 3/10 - up 13% in 3/11 to \$421,108. **Single Family Attached** - Avg. Sold Price was \$551,911 in 3/10 – up 18% to \$653,160 in 3/11. **Single Family Detached** - Avg. Sold Price \$712,483 in 3/10, up 3% to \$732,041 in 3/11. On 10/1/11 the current administration is *proposing* lowering the conforming loan amount from \$729,750 to \$625,500 for FHA, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac housing loans.

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