

October 2011

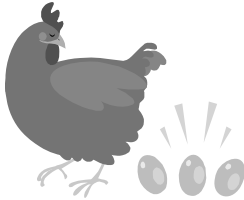
# Barcroft News

Vol 109, Issue 2

## President's Report—Pat Williamson, BSCL President

### REVISED AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 6 MEETING

- Welcome and presentation by **Gary LeFebvre** of the current year operation budget
- Brief presentation by Our Savior Lutheran Church about possible upcoming plans for their school on S. Taylor St.
- Presentation by Arlington Tree Stewards Nora Palmatier and Christina del Valle to prepare us for the upcoming Tree Give-away.
- Presentation and Q&A by the Arlington Egg Project representatives. This is the group that is working to legalize backyard hens in Arlington. So many pros and cons to discuss!



(Originally a candidates' debate was planned but there are so many in other venues we didn't want to be redundant!)

**Our Sept. 8 meeting was devoted to discussion of the impact of the expansion of the National Guard installation.** Many neighbors posed thoughtful questions, comments, thank yous and complaints to the presenters and we thank those neighbors for

braving the storms to make the meeting.

There has been progress thanks to Congressman Jim Moran's efforts through staffer Christopher Gaspar for better shuttle arrangements and ongoing efforts to get the State Dept and National Guard to work together on traffic concern solutions.

We are hopeful that Dr. Andrea Morris' efforts to get the County Dept. of Environmental Services to finally start cleaning up the sidewalk on the west side of George Mason Drive directly across from the Guard will continue and actually attack this long-time problem.

Neighbor **Joan Mulholland** broached a safety concern about trying to cross George Mason at 6th Street. She has received a response from Andrea Wilkinson of the Arlington Traffic Division from which I quote: "I believe that we will be moving the crosswalk to the south side of the intersection in order to straighten the intersection., and provide a ramp at either end for better mobility." Dr. Andrea Morris reported that WMATA had promised to start running the 22A bus on a timely schedule. We are awaiting answers to many other questions raised by neighbors that night.

**Hope to see you Thurs. Oct. 6 at 7:30 pm.**

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

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*Volunteers* **vacant**

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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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**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** - 12th 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 Katie Costar at 703-228-8846 or email:

[kathleen.costar@apsva.us](mailto:kathleen.costar@apsva.us)

**Barcroft Community Playgroup** 9:30-11:30am Friday mornings at the Community House. Contact **Jenny Ditta** [chrisjenny4@comcast.net](mailto:chrisjenny4@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](mailto:kathykerr@gmail.com) Do you have an interesting neighbor she should interview? Are you interesting yourself?? Is there a new baby at your house?

## Of Buses and Bus Stops

By *Mark Wigfield*

Barcroft isn't likely to get its bus stops on Columbia Pike at S. Buchanan back in place until the second half of 2012, according to the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization's director Takis Karantonis. That's at least a six-month delay. The stops were abruptly closed and moved in July 2010; the east-bound stop is now nearly at the 7-11 across Four Mile Run.

The stops were moved for a big construction project at S. Buchanan and Columbia Pike, which includes burying utility lines underground and realigning the intersection. But uncharted underground utilities stalled the project and the original contractor had to be released. Work could now resume but a new contractor still has to be hired.

So while you're waiting for heated seats, you'll get to warm up with a longer walk to the bus through next winter, it seems.

By *Judith Richter*:

Our bus stop by the Goodwill on Columbia Pike is on the list to eventually receive a **Super Stop**. Super Stops offer riders amenities such as seating, lighting, wind screens, enhanced weather protection and electronic schedule information. At one point there was discussion about them being heated but I haven't heard about the final design. (Bus stops in Minneapolis are heated. You have to keep pressing a button to get heat--that's how they ensure that homeless don't move in.) Construction on the first of four pilot Columbia Pike Super Stops has begun.



## Community House Renovation Fund

### Community House Renovation Fund at \$19,150 - Design to be Presented at November BSCL Meeting



On the agenda for the November BSCL meeting is a review of the design for the Community House renovation. Thanks to so many of you who have contributed to the fund. We have collected nearly \$20,000 as of September 11, with \$1,225 from 32 members just this past month!

Please continue to send in your BSCL dues with portions allocated to the Community House Fund. Since we are on pace financially to move forward with the design presentation, the renovation committee is planning to present their renovation design to the community for approval. In addition, the budget planning will also be presented for community approval.

The Renovation Design Committee has been meeting throughout the past few months in order to pave the way for the next phase. A structural engineering review was commissioned and a building analysis report was delivered to the committee by a local contractor.



Please continue to send donations to our treasurer: **Gary LeFebvre** BSCL Treasurer 812 S. George Mason Dr. or drop off at the Community House

## EARTHQUAKE!

Where were you on Tuesday, August 23, 2011, say, around 1:51 PM? Few of us failed to notice the 5.8 earthquake!

**Randy Swart**, along with **Mike Collier**, **Susan Cohen** and **Barbara Swart**, set up the polling place early that morning in the Barcroft school gym for the Democratic Party primary election. NOTE: Barcroft Elementary is on a year-round schedule, so unlike most Arlington schools, students were in the building. Here is **Randy's story**:

When the earthquake hit there were no voters present. We poll workers ran outside the gym, where the metal roof was visibly moving and sounded like giants were rolling trash cans on it. Then we were brought back inside for the school's shelter-in-place routine. It was very impressive.

All the kids moved quickly but in very orderly fashion to the central hall, where they knelt down on both sides with their heads toward the wall in what was obviously a well-rehearsed routine. The kids were calm and quiet. Teachers were with their classes, carrying room number placards. Principal **Miriam Hughey-Guy** thanked everyone for their cooperation, letting everyone know that the Principal was there. It was so well organized that we all felt safe. Kids at Barcroft were probably much better off than people in downtown buildings. I guess we should have expected

that the school's emergency preparedness would be top notch.

We did not process any new voters for about 16 minutes, but then it was business as usual, with a wary eye on the gym ceiling. We were ready to move our operation outside if aftershocks made it necessary.

Among our last voters were two women who walked home from downtown DC--one in high heels--unable to get back into their office buildings to get purses and walking shoes. Metro was jammed and running at 15mph, and one of the women said she did not feel good about crossing under the Potomac on Metro anyway.

Voters continued to arrive, all with stories. A chimney cracked, and another may have, although the owner thought it could have been cracked already. Somebody saw things coming off the shelves at Rite Aid. Traffic was a mess--would closing the polls be delayed? No, we got the word to close at 7pm.

We headed home after our 15 hour day, some of us wondering if we are getting too old for this. A memorable day at the Barcroft polling place!



# BARCROFT REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY FROM 8/16/11 - 9/15/11

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STATUS	ADDRESS	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE	BRs	LIVING AREA*
ACTIVE	812 Dinwiddie St	\$350,000	—	3	1,044
ACTIVE	4149 6th St S	\$429,900	—	2	1,288
ACTIVE	17 Abingdon St S	\$549,000	—	3	1,728
ACTIVE	4204 7th Rd S	\$568,000	—	3	1,440
ACTIVE	914 Taylor St S	\$617,500	—	4	1,428
ACTIVE	4812 8th St S	\$624,900	—	4	2,100
ACTIVE	809 Buchanan St S	\$725,000	—	4	1,744
CONTRACT	4608 7th St S	\$435,000	—	4	1,683
SOLD	4753 6th St S	\$559,000	\$560,000	3	1,140
SOLD	4407 6th St S	\$449,900	\$449,900	3	1,045
SOLD	4409 1st St S	\$529,950	\$513,000	3	1,344
SOLD	118 Pershing Dr S	\$630,000	\$620,000	3	1,657
SOLD	4200 Arlington Blvd	\$800,000	\$775,000	5	3,372

\*In Sq Ft, per tax records

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## What's Happening at Barcroft Elementary

By *Jenny Ditta*

October is always great at Barcroft Elementary School. Barcroft operates under a Modified School Year Calendar, which means that classes begin about a month before other schools, and each quarter there is a multi-week break. This October marks the end of the first quarter of classes. Between October 3 -14, students will enjoy a two-week vacation or take interesting classes during Fall Intersession.

We invite our Barcroft neighbors to join us for several events and programs after regular classes resume on Monday, October 17. On Friday, October 28, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., you are invited to attend the **Barcroft PTA's Halloween Costume Party and Dance**. The night promises to be fun for the entire family. Come tour the Haunted House, enjoy light refreshments, admire the costumes and decorations, and dance the evening away! Please join us.

And what is October without candy! Once again, the Barcroft PTA will participate in the local charitable candy drive, **Treats 4 Our Troops**. Between October 28 and November 9, Barcroft families and neighbors can drop off bagged candy, surplus Halloween candy, cards, letters, and recycled magazines into the orange bin at the Front Office. Treats 4 Our Troops will send our donations to U.S. military personnel and to our Wounded Warriors. If you prefer to make a cash donation, your money will be used to defray shipping expenses. So please enjoy the Halloween festivities, and if you end up with more candy than your family needs, we'll make sure it goes to deserving people.

A number of Barcroft students will run in the **Marine Corp Marathon Healthy Kids Fun Run**, to be held at the Pentagon on Saturday, October 29. This one mile Fun Run is open to children ages 5-12, and Barcroft students have run in it for several years. Wish them good luck!

**Highlights for November 2011** include the November 8 Election Day Bake Sale. The PTA will sell breakfast items, individually-packaged baked goods, and whole items like breads, pies, and cakes. Please be sure to come to the polls hungry. Prepare to do your holiday shopping early this year. During the week of November 14 – 18, Barcroft will host a Book Fair and Holiday Shop. Choose from a selection of books and other goodies for everyone on your list.

Thank you to everyone who has linked their **Harris Teeter VIC Card** to Barcroft Elementary. So far, we have linked over 1550 VIC cards to Barcroft. This year, the PTA is raising money to purchase SmartBoards and other technologies for the classrooms. Once your VIC card is linked, when you purchase Harris Teeter brand products between August 2011 and May 2012, a donation will be made to Barcroft. Provide the correctly-spelled last name of the VIC card holder along with the VIC card number to **Heather Sheire** at [hsheire@verizon.net](mailto:hsheire@verizon.net), and she'll link your VIC card to Barcroft.

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

[www.apsva.us/Domain/388](http://www.apsva.us/Domain/388)

## Wakefield High School

Do you shop at Safeway, Giant or Harris Teeter? Wakefield High School is looking for your support. It's time to renew your school affiliations to the area grocery store education programs. **You are allowed to link to multiple schools.** These programs have the ability to provide a substantial amount of money to your schools of choice without costing you anything. Wakefield uses the funds for Teacher Grants and the Tech Expo.

The instructions can be found by linking here [www.apsva.us/cms/lib2/VA01000586/Centricity/Domain/2021/Grocery%20Cards.pdf](http://www.apsva.us/cms/lib2/VA01000586/Centricity/Domain/2021/Grocery%20Cards.pdf) OR go to the school website at <http://www.apsva.us/site/default.aspx?domainid=2021>.

The Wakefield I.D.s are: Safeway 6582263, Giant 02215, Harris Teeter 4566, and Target 103262.

Thanks so much for your support!

### Wakefield Concerts



Everyone is invited to the following music events:

- Arlington Band Show-case, October 19th, 7:00 PM
- Orchestra Concert, October 26th, 7:00 PM
- Fall Choral Concert, Nov. 2, 7:00 PM
- Marching Warriors in Concert, Nov, 3rd, 7:30 PM

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## Lee Mansion

By *Carol Harvey*

“Would that it had been razed to the ground...”  
—*Mrs. Robert E. Lee, 1862*

When Robert E. Lee was forced to decide between his country, which he had served for over 30 years as a U.S. Army officer, or his Virginia heritage, he turned down President Lincoln’s offer to lead the Union troops protecting the Capital city and headed for Richmond.

He advised his wife Mary to pack their belongings and children and leave her life-long home for safety. A few weeks later, Union troops took over the house and it became the Army headquarters, with trees and fields cut and trampled to make room for troops, horses, and supplies.

The National Park Service is presenting a **special evening program** at Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial, on **Saturday, October 29, 2011 7:00pm – 10:00pm** focusing on the United States Army occupation of Arlington during the first year of the Civil War. Through living history, talks and tours the staff and volunteers of General Lee’s old home will examine the military use of the estate during the early months of the war and the effect it had on the ability of the Lee family to ever return to their home.

Program is free but reservations required. Call 703-235-1530. Arlington House is in the center of Arlington National Cemetery. Parking nearby is permitted with a reservation.

## Arlington County Tree Distribution

The summer heat is gone, we've survived earthquakes and hurricanes, so let's celebrate and plant trees this Fall! The Arlington County Neighborhood Tree Distribution is happening the October 15 & 16, 8 am to 5 pm. The County moved the giveaway to the Fall to increase the survivability of the young trees, which often don't make it through our summer droughts. There will be a wider selection of trees available to provide more diversity. County Nursery staff and Tree Stewards will be available to provide education.

There will be nine types of canopy trees: American sycamore, black oak, black gum, cherrybark oak, pin oak, red maple, river birch, poplar, and Virginia pine; and eight smaller understory trees, American hazelnut, arrowwood viburnum, Eastern redbud, serviceberry, staghorn sumac, sweetbay magnolia, winterberry holly, and American Witch hazel. (See [www.bscl.org/treeinfo.pdf](http://www.bscl.org/treeinfo.pdf) for info on each species)

The County is now asking homeowners to pick up their own tree(s) at the County Nursery behind the Barcroft Sports and Fitness Center on Four Mile Run Drive below George Mason Drive. This allows citizens to meet with staff and see the variety of trees and learn best practices for planting and care of the tree they receive. Volunteer Tree Stewards will also be available on Oct. 15 & 16, to answer questions on tree care.

You can reserve your tree(s) directly from the County, at [www.tinyurl.com/TreeDistribution](http://www.tinyurl.com/TreeDistribution)



**Yoga for Your Health**  
 Wednesdays 7:00 – 8:30 pm  
 October 19 to December 21  
 Barcroft Community House

Release tensions of day in weekly yoga classes. Open to students with beginners to intermediate yoga experience. Breath techniques and postures to stretch and strengthen muscles and foster proper body alignment and overall wellness.

Linda Dunphy, Barcroft Resident, 20 years yoga experience; 200 hour teacher training in Pranakryia Yoga©. Register to [Lindalee703@comcast.net](mailto:Lindalee703@comcast.net) or call 703-975-3816 by October 17 to reserve spot – limited to 12. \$75 for 9 week session or \$10 class.

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 or to join if you are not yet a member.**

**Dues are just \$5 per adult.  
 Drop off at the Community House  
 or mail to:**

**Gary Lefebvre, BSCL Treasurer  
 812 S. George Mason Dr.**



**Not sure if you paid this year?  
 Check the list at:**

**[www.bscl.org/members.htm](http://www.bscl.org/members.htm)**

**There is also a link there for the membership form.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **How to safely get rid of hazardous materials like paint, solvents, garden chemicals and items containing mercury? Where can you recycle electronics, bikes, metal items, shoes, eyeglasses, books, and medical equipment?** Take your items to E-CARE Sat., Oct. 15 at Thomas Jefferson Middle School 125 S. Old Glebe Rd. 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more info call 703.228.6832 or visit: [www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/EnvironmentalServices/EnvironmentalServicesEnvex.aspx](http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/EnvironmentalServices/EnvironmentalServicesEnvex.aspx)
- **Woman’s Club of Arlington Monday, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting 10:45 AM. Potluck lunch. 1:00 pm** Relief efforts in Haiti by Barcrofter **Liz DeMik**. Guests welcome.
- **Arlingtones Barbershop Chorus and quartets** including Barcroft’s **Carl Costanzo** performing a cappella barbershop harmony and featuring "Roll of The Dice" quartet, **2 p.m., Sat. Oct. 8**, NRECA Conference Center, 4301 Wilson Blvd. Free garage parking-entrance off N. Taylor St. Door \$12 / Advance \$10 703-521-9331 / [www.thearlingtones.com](http://www.thearlingtones.com) Kick off the colorful fall season with the Arlingtones!
- **NOTICE:** On Sat. Oct. 8, 4<sup>th</sup> Street S. between Abingdon and Buchanan will be closed to all traffic for a block party (sorry, this is not a neighborhood event).



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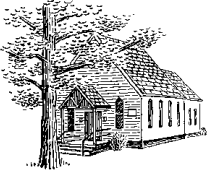
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Barcroft School and Civic League  
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### **Northern Virginia Market Trends**

The Northern Virginia Association of Realtors® reports on August 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.

1,685 homes sold in August 2011, about the same as August 2010. Active listings are down by about 9% with 4,695 active listings in 8/11, compared with 5,156 homes available in 8/10. The average days on market (DOM) for homes in 8/11 was up by just 8% to 56 days, compared with 52 days in 8/10.

Sales prices are about the same as those realized last year. The average sales price in 7/11 increased about 1% from 8/10, to \$498,128, compared with last August's average of \$492,565.

The number of new pending home sales in Northern Virginia in 8/11 increased 12% at 1,609 compared to 1,441 new contracts pending in 8/10.

### **Arlington County Statistics**

There are currently 651 resale and new homes in Arlington, as well as 123 homes in the pre-foreclosure, auction, or bank-owned stages of the foreclosure process. The average listing price for single family homes for sale in Arlington VA was \$767,560 in 8/11.

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