

January 2012

Barcroft News

Vol 109, Issue 5

President's Report—Pat Williamson, BSCL President

January 2012

Joyous greetings were exchanged at the Dec. 1, 2011 Barcroft Holiday party. Many thanks to **Barbara Swart** for producing the event and the many wonderful narrators, readers, actors, musicians and neighbors who made the party a great success. It was a grand way to set off on our Community House Restoration Project.

Building permits are now posted in the windows and work will begin at the very end of December. Sadly we were forced to disrupt the schedules of our wonderful renters but we are sure that the marvelously renovated space will be worth the wait. At this time we are hopeful we will be back in the House in time to hold our February 2, 2012 regular monthly meeting there. See page 3 for more details about the renovation.

For the month of January we are very lucky to have been invited by Madison Manor Civic Association to join them and several other Civic Associations in a Candidates' Debate on January 10, at 7:30 pm, at McKinley Elementary School, 1030 N. McKinley Road.

Directions to McKinley Elementary School:

- By car: North on George Mason Drive, left on Wilson, right on N. McKinley Rd (four miles)
- By bicycle: up the W&OD trail past the Custis Trail intersection, under Patrick Henry, next left, then right and up short hill to N. McKinley Rd, turn left up the hill to the school. (three miles)

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

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www.bscl.org

Neighbor to Neighbor Ads

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FOR SALE: Casio fx250HC Fraction Standard scientific calculator \$5 and Casio CFX-9850GB Plus Color Power Graphic 32kb Graphic scientific calculator. \$20 or offer. Bill 703 969-3908

Teen Services to raise funds for People to People trip to Europe summer 2012: will scan/print photos or wrap holiday gifts for a donation. Call Alys 703-801-9877

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 dylanvega@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

Barcroft Playgroup 9:30-11:30am Fri AMs at the Community House. **Jenny Ditta** chrisjenny4@comcast.net or **Jason Kiker** jkiker@gmail.com, or just stop by!

Community House Renovation Update

By *Jim Kerr*

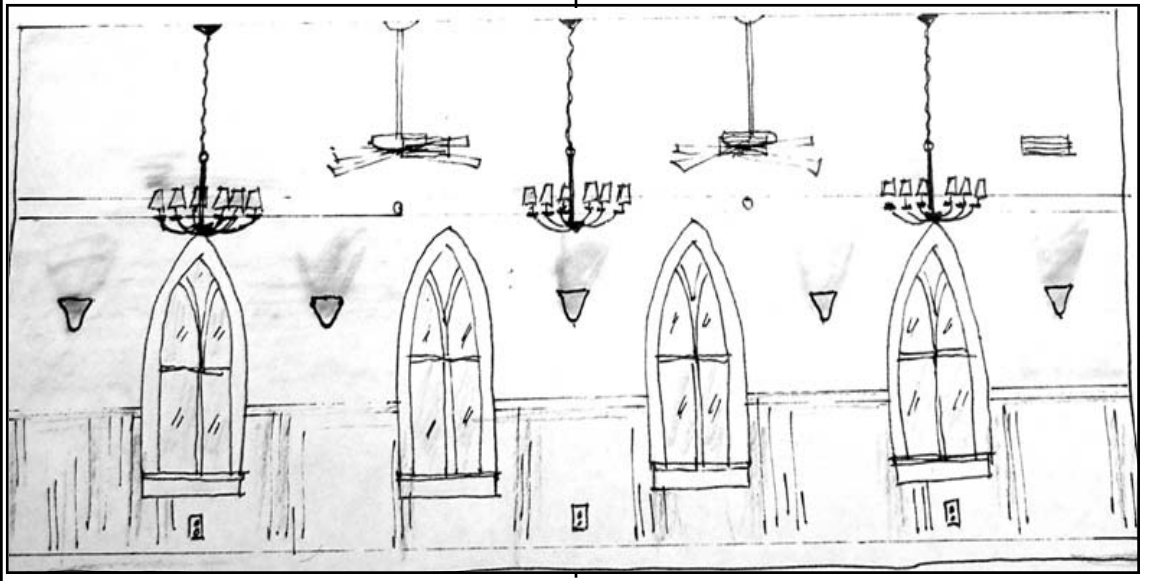
Commonwealth Restorations will be restoring the ceiling back to its original height with bead board composition rather than the current particle board.

In addition to adding three new chandeliers with light shades, there will be two ceiling fans installed for improved ventilation.

To increase lighting, we are adding light sconces on the side walls between the windows. See drawing below. To see it more clearly and with more detail, visit: www.bscl.org

The committee wants to thank everyone who has helped make this possible through donations to the Barcroft Community House Fund. Donations are still needed and always welcome.

Possibly, the next projects might be to restore the windows and to insulate the crawl space to make the building more energy efficient. It's possible that a shed will be constructed out back.



Farewell to Vel Spalding

Vel Spalding, age 58, passed away on November 10th from a long battle with cancer. Vel actually grew up near Randolph Elementary but spent a lot of time visiting relatives at 4639 4th St. S.

The house was built in 1934, one of the oldest of Barcroft's original homes. The first owner was Velma "Nannie" Hudson. Nannie's nephew, Russell Spalding and his wife Libby lived over near Randolph school. They had five kids who loved to come over to Nannie's house to play. Vel was the oldest of the kids. Her siblings are Darlene, Barbara, Russ and Muriel.

The kids loved to play in the stream that ran alongside the house next door (4633 4th St. S). At that time the stream was called "Barcroft Creek" and used to flood frequently. The stream had lots of tadpoles to chase and frogs and fish to try to catch. It wasn't deep enough to swim but plenty of fun for wading.

Nannie had a little fort in the backyard with a steering wheel like a boat. The big lot next door is still undeveloped to this day. The kids loved to play games there. In the summer, the lot was full of lightening bugs that were fun to catch and put into mason jars until parents made the kids release them.

That block of 4th St. S has a small hill and the kids all liked to use it for sledding.

Nannie had an apple tree out back, so the family always enjoyed eating those fresh apples. But one day, when Nannie was well into her 70s, the kids came over for a visit and found her back there chopping down that tree with an ax!

The kids also enjoyed trips down to Barcroft Park, along Four Mile Run. There was a fun playground there. Even more exciting were the railroad tracks. It was especially exciting when a freight train went by!

When Nannie died, she left the house to Vel's parents, Russell and Libby. When Russell and Libby passed away, Vel's sister Darlene purchased the house in 2005. Darlene still resides there with her son Matthew, age 23 who also grew up spending a lot of time at that house and playing in that great yard!

Even before their mom passed away, Vel was already like a second mom to everyone in their family. She was the go-to person who just knew everything and if she didn't know, she found out and got back to whoever was asking. She had strong faith in God and an amazing gift for offering comfort to others. She was much loved by all who knew her.

So, while Vel wasn't technically a Barcrofter, she spent many wonderful hours throughout her life in the neighborhood. Barcroft Creek is now tamed, controlled and mostly underground so it can flood now only very rarely but Nannie Hudson's relatives still enjoy her home and all have a great appreciation for Barcroft neighborhood.

Neighbors often wonder if the empty lot next to the house will ever be sold. The family is in no hurry to sell it and they do enjoy leaving it undeveloped.

Want to know more about what's going on in Arlington? Each day at 4pm you can receive an email that briefly tells you all the latest news— and it's remarkably interesting! Visit:

www.arlnow.com/email-subscription/

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What's Happening at Barcroft Elementary

By *Jenny Ditta*

Happy New Year from Barcroft Elementary! Students return from the Winter Break on January 3.

The **5th Grade won the November 2011 Caps@School contest**, and as a result received a special lunch and a visit from Caps Hockey player Joel Ward in December. In addition, the Caps gave the students **100 complimentary tickets to the Jan. 3 game versus the Calgary Flames** at the Verizon Center. What a way to return to school!

At the Monthly **PTA Meeting on Jan. 4**, the PTA will host Barcroft Math Coach, Theresa Chapman-Miller. Ms. Miller will discuss the recently-adopted Math Expressions curriculum and its components. Also, on the 4th, **2nd Quarter Report Cards** will be sent home. Finally, on the same date, **PTA Winter After-School Enrichment Class Registration** will begin for the first time ever on-line. The PTA has partnered with the company Enrichment Matters, and students will be able to take fascinating after-school classes including computer design, art, cooking, golf, martial arts, basketball, and science. The PTA sponsors a **Family Fitness Skate Night** at the TJ Community Center, on **Jan. 7, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.** Please join us!

Neighbors with young children, please save the date. The school will host

a **Kindergarten Information Night for the 2012-2013 School Year on Jan. 10, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.** All are welcome to come to this event, meet our Principal, tour the school, and learn more about Barcroft Elementary.

Other special events in January include the **Early Release Movie and a Snack**, held after Wed. Jan. 11. **Family Academic Night will be Jan. 17** focusing on Reading.

We hope that our neighbors can join us for the following fun events! Visit **Sauca Restaurant** on Columbia Pike all day and evening on **Jan. 24** for the third month of the **“4 Days, 4 PTAs, Eat the World” Fundraiser**. This event is a partnership between the Arlington Public School PTAs of Barcroft, Clarendon, Campbell, and Randolph Elementary. When you eat-in or take-out that day, the four PTAs will share 15% of the receipts. The first event in November raised \$400, so many thanks for participating! In addition, on **Jan. 27**, the school will host the first annual **European Heritage Night Celebration**. Join us that evening, and expect delicious food and exciting entertainment!

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

Eat Out, Support PTAs

Barcroft, Campbell, Claremont and Randolph Elementary School PTAs have joined forces for **“Eat the World” Fundraisers! Dine at Sâuca:** lunch or dinner, eat-in or take-out on Tuesdays: Jan 24 and Feb 21. 15% of sales support the PTAs. (Each night supports all 4 PTAs)

The fundraiser has been so successful that the restaurant was at first overwhelmed.

Improvements now include:

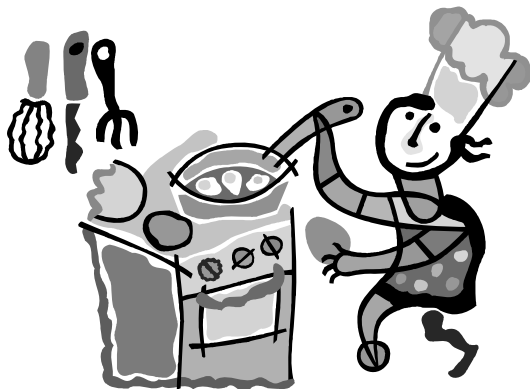
- more staff
- abbreviated dinner menu inside
- the food truck will be in the parking lot to fill the to-go orders
- the full menu will be available for lunchtime

Sâuca Restaurant

4707 Columbia Pike

Arlington, VA 22204

Visit eatsauca.com to view the menu.



Kenmore Student Help Others

Kenmore students, with support from the PTA, hosted a shoe drive that netted over 200 pairs of shoes. The shoes will be given to families in Honduras.

Kenmore Check-in students baked cookies to add to meals they bagged for A-SPAN. They included hand-written inspirational notes and candy canes for the holidays. They also held a used-clothing drive, with donations to the Sembrando Esperanza (Planting Hope) organization. The clothes will be sent to a small village in Guatemala to support 60 children in need of clothing. The adult clothing collected was donated to A-SPAN here in Arlington

Wakefield Students Help Others

Wakefield student outreach has included helping out victims of war in Central Africa by connecting with and raising funds for Invisible Children of Uganda.

Students also spent a Saturday morning clearing the debris from a devastating neighborhood house fire.

Wakefield students raised several thousand dollars for A-SPAN by holding a full-day mini-walk for the homeless, and collected over 1,300 canned food items for AFAC's holiday drive.

**It's never too late to renew your BSCL membership
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?
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www.bscl.org/members.htm

There is also a link there for the member-



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STATUS	ADDRESS	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE	BRs	LIVING AREA*
ACTIVE	412 Grge Mason Dr S	\$420,000	—	5	1,326
ACTIVE	914 Taylor St S	\$549,950	—	4	1,428
ACTIVE	4812 8th St S	\$584,900	—	4	2,100
CONTRACT	4608 7th St S	\$435,000	—	4	1,683
CONTRACT	701 Buchanan St S	\$569,900	—	4	1,224
CONTRACT	634 Buchanan St S	\$585,000	—	4	1,237
SOLD	4149 6th St S	\$409,900	\$386,700	2	1,288
SOLD	4204 7th Rd S	\$568,000	\$564,000	3	1,440
SOLD	4401 6th St S	\$569,900	\$525,000	4	1,656
EXPIRED	809 Buchanan St S	\$725,000	—	4	1,744
WITHDRN	914 Taylor St S	\$579,900	—	4	1,428

*Shown in square feet, data per tax records.

Interest rates have been at an all time low of less than 4%.

Feel free to call me with any real estate questions you might have. You can also visit my website for more statistics, photos and community activities.

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Barcroft Spring Garden Tour



Gardeners Wanted: Show off your beautiful garden and share your ideas with others. Be part of the **Barcroft Garden Tour** and show your garden on **Sunday May 20, 2012**. All gardens are welcome, no matter how humble.

All proceeds will go to the Community House Restoration Fund, so this is a great, fun way to support the neighborhood. For further information contact **Noreen Atkinson**: noreenatkinson@verizon.net or 703-979-4868.

What's Going On In Barcroft??

Join the Barcroft chat group and news email lists!

Go to:

www.bscl.org/chatlist.htm



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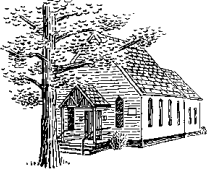
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Real Estate Market Update

In the “close in” Northern Virginia & DC market that I work we have actually seen an increase in sales activity in November and early December. Traffic from potential home buyers was up slightly in November, but still at low levels which is typical for this time of year. Interest rates have been averaging between 4% to 4.375% with no points for conforming conventional mortgages which is attractive to potential home buyers and home owners looking to refinance.

In Northern Virginia market, active listings are down by about 12% from last year, with 4,553 active listings in October, compared with 5,185 homes available in October 2010. The average days on market (DOM) for homes in October 2011 was up by about 8% to 65 days, compared with 60 days in October 2010. It is interesting to

See some homes selling within 30 days for certain neighborhoods and price points. The main driver of the lower housing inventory is that sellers take their homes off the market ahead of the holidays and until the New Year. Inventory levels should rise in in the first quarter of 2012 when these homes come back to market. The Spring housing market actually starts in late January and early February.

Contact me for our 60 page Seller Handbook which outlines the selling process, pricing, preparation and marketing strategies.

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