

February 2012

# Barcroft News

Vol 109, Issue 6



**Come to the  
COOKIE PARTY  
at the Newly  
Renovated**

**Barcroft Community House  
Thursday Feb. 2  
7:30-8:30 PM**

The new year is bringing our beloved Community House, built in 1908, into the 21st Century. All work is going well and on schedule to be completed in time for us to hold our February 2 regular monthly BSCL meeting there.

Come see what wonders have occurred in our building. Let's thank each other for all the time, effort and money that have been put toward this renovation!

**Refreshments will be provided  
but extra treats are welcome!**

Eventually there will be a plaque on the wall with names of all who have donated \$100 or more to the renovation. If you are not sure how much you contributed, or to donate, you can email BSCL Treasurer, Gary Lefebvre: [gary@bscl.org](mailto:gary@bscl.org)

**Find photos of ongoing work at:  
[www.bscl.org](http://www.bscl.org).**

## Community House Concert



**Saturday, Feb. 25  
7:00 PM**

Doors open 6:30 PM

\$10 admission

*All proceeds will help*

*purchase a generator to provide electricity  
for a school in Southern Sudan*

The concert features *Hollertown*, a super lively local band, back by popular demand for more bluegrass, folk and fun.

Opening acts include *the Josh Drews*, a DC folk-rock band with former Barcrofter **Cecilia Cackley**. Also performing will be *Tim White and Friends* with traditional and original folksongs.

**Desserts and beverages  
will be available for purchase.**

For more info, contact Barcrofters **Alicia or Phil Cackley** at 703-271-9743.

*The elementary school in Leer, South Sudan is partly supported by a local Northern Virginia group, the Nova Catholic Community. It is run by members of the Comboni Missionary Sisters who appealed to Nova for help in bringing electricity to the school which serves 900 students.*

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

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*Restoration* David Michaelson, Jim Kerr  
*Fundraising* Chris Ditta  
*Landscaping* Scott Brinitzer, 892-0308  
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*4th of July Parade* Andrew Hunter, 979-8247  
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*Parks* Elizabeth Kiker  
 elizabeth.kiker@gmail.com

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*Parking Committee* David Peacefull  
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**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**

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**Neighbor to Neighbor Ads**

**FOR SALE:** BRAND NEW "Frigidaire Professional" refrigerator. Originally \$1200. Stainless steel w/ ice maker. Freezer on top. Doors hinge on right hand side. 66" high 30" deep 30" width. Model FPHI1887KF2. 1 yr warranty. \$650 OBO. Bill 703 969-3908

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

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

## Are You A Gardner?? We Need You!

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



Let's make this a successful fundraising event for our Community House Restoration Project as well as a fun day strolling our neighborhood, meeting new people, and enjoying the splendors of some of the beautiful and interesting gardens of Barcroft!

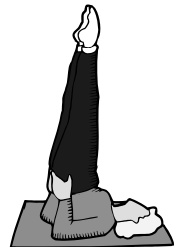
**We are halfway to our goal of 12-14 gardeners for our *Gardens of Barcroft Tour* so we need to include your garden as well!** Please help by participating.

Tickets for the tour will go on sale in April.

To make your garden available for the tour or for more info, contact **Noreen Atkinson** [703-979-4868](tel:703-979-4868) or [noreenatkinson@verizon.net](mailto:noreenatkinson@verizon.net)

## Attention: Parents of Elementary School Children -

The Barcroft PTA is launching an ambitious new effort to provide more after-school enrichment opportunities. The registration process is open to ALL elementary-age students who live in the neighborhood. Even if you do not attend Barcroft Elementary School, it's still your school!



All classes will take place once a week at the school from 3:45-4:45 PM starting the week of January 30. Opportunities include yoga, art, cooking, golf, basketball, 3D Lego design, martial arts and video game design!

Contact **Helene Stebbins** ([helene.stebbins@verizon.net](mailto:helene.stebbins@verizon.net)) for class availability, registration assistance or questions.

## Arlington Mill Community Center Construction Update

Arlington Mill Drive is now closed for the duration of this construction project. The jersey barriers have been relocated to Columbia Pike and S. Dinwiddie Street. Crews are installing sewer, water and other infrastructure on Columbia Pike, S. Dinwiddie Street and Arlington Mill Drive. Work is underway to excavate for the garage.

All piles required for the building and garage have been installed and the asphalt and concrete from the old parking lot has been removed.

In January and February, the following events will take place:

- A new traffic light will be placed at the intersection of S. Dinwiddie Street and Columbia Pike
- Two tower cranes will be erected at the site
- Work will begin on the garage foundation and walls



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## Are you missing a connection with God?

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*-Reverend Ann Barker, Rector*

### Sunday Worship Services

8 am and 10 am

### Sunday Christian Education

Adults 9 am - Youth 9:20 am

### All are welcome to all services and activities!

**February 7** - Book Club - *Big Short* by Michael Lewis - 7:30 pm

**February 10** - Family Happy Hour - movies for kids - social time for adults - snacks - 4:30 pm

**February 11** - Spaghetti Dinner \$5 adults - \$10 family - bring a non-perishable for AFAC - 6 - 7pm

**February 21** - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - pancakes & ham - adults \$5 - 6 - 8 pm

**February 22** - Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes 12:00 and 7:30 pm

## St. John's Episcopal Church



415 S. Lexington Street Arlington, VA 22204 703-671-6834 stjohnsarlington.thediocese.net

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## What's Happening at Barcroft Elementary

By *Jenny Ditta*

February at Barcroft Elementary promises to be exciting. Many teachers have planned special activities to celebrate the **100<sup>th</sup> Day of School**. During this month, the PTA will host an **Ethiopia Reads Service Project**. The **Feb. 7 PTA meeting** will feature a presentation from our Special Education PTA representative, and a presentation about fostering empathy in our children by School Counselor, Scarlett Williams. All are welcome to join us this evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Library.

The PTA will host a **Family Fitness Skating Night** at the T.J. Community Center on **Sat. Feb. 11**, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Please join us for fun family exercise. **Parent Teacher Conferences** will be held on **Feb. 15 - 17**, so students will have a 5-day long weekend to celebrate Presidents' Day.

To culminate its celebration of **African American History Month**, the school will once again host its famous **African American Heritage Night Celebration** on the evening of **Feb. 24**. Join us for a night of exciting entertainment, and a fabulous food tasting menu prepared by local restaurants and proud Barcroft families.

Finally, during the week of **Feb. 27 – March 2**, all students are encouraged to participate in the annual **Jump Rope for Heart** fundraiser. During P.E. classes this week, participating students will jump rope and raise money to benefit the American

Heart Association. All neighbors are most invited to sponsor a student in this worthy "exercise" of civic responsibility! .

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

### Eat Out, Support PTAs

On Feb. 21, consider participating in the **"Eat the World" Fundraiser! Dine at Sâuca**: lunch or dinner, eat-in or take-out. Barcroft, Campbell, Claremont and Randolph Elementary School PTAs have joined forces and 15% of sales on Feb. 21 supports all four PTAs.

#### Sâuca Restaurant

4707 Columbia Pike  
Arlington, VA 22204

Visit [eatsauca.com](http://eatsauca.com) to view the menu.

### Kenmore News

The Kenmore Middle School Silent auction is Fri., March 16 at 6:30-9 pm. All are invited to enjoy student music and dance performances including the orchestra and jazz band!

Kenmore needs adult tutors to help students reading and writing and basic math skills. Please contact Donna Budway to volunteer at: [donnabudway@aol.com](mailto:donnabudway@aol.com)

### Wakefield HS News

The four finalists for the Arlington County Vehicle Decal competition are all Wakefield High School Photo students! That means for a 3rd year in a row, a Wakefield student will win the contest.

The Arlington County decal contest is open to all Arlington County students and the contest winner's artwork will be displayed on over 155,000 vehicles registered in Arlington County. The photos of the four finalists are revealed here: [www.arlnow.com/2011/12/12/vehicle-decal-finalists-revealed/](http://www.arlnow.com/2011/12/12/vehicle-decal-finalists-revealed/)

\*\*\*\*\*

Wakefield Theater Arts teacher, Mr. C. Gillespie, received the Wolf Trap Foundation's 2011-12 Grant for Performing Arts Teachers. He will receive funding and support from Wolf Trap in this spring's productions of *Beauty and the Beast*.



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Yoga for Beginners – 4 week session  
(Tuesdays, Feb 21-Mar 13, 7-8 pm)

&

Yoga for Advanced Beginner & Intermediate Students  
(Wednesdays, Feb 8 – April 11, 7-8:20 pm)

In **newly renovated** Barcroft Community House!!

Release stress, build strength and flexibility, and enhance body posture and wellness with yoga. Teacher Barcroft Resident, 20 yrs yoga exp.; Registered Yoga Teacher 200©; Register with [Lindalee703@comcast.net](mailto:Lindalee703@comcast.net) or 703-975-3816. 4 classes @ \$52; 10 @ \$120; or \$15 drop-in. Mats, blankets & props available.



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**Barcrofters Dan Junker and Teresa Saunders recently paid their BSCL dues even though they are temporarily living in Germany!!**

**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.**





## Farewell to Four Special Barcrofters

**Grace Blundell**, the last surviving original resident of our neighborhood, passed away on Nov. 26, 2011. Grace and her deceased husband, Daniel, bought their home on 4th St. S from Walter O'Hara and lived there for over 60 years. She was also the last of the surviving original members of a local neighborhood club called the K Klub. The ladies celebrated at least 60 years of friendship. The "klub" was created by some of the newly married women on 3rd, 4th, 5th Streets southwest of S. Pershing Drive. Grace was an active neighbor and served as a brownie leader for our neighborhood troop as well as a Sunday School teacher at Arlington Baptist Church. She was an avid homemaker and gardener and a caring neighbor. A self taught pianist, the sounds of her singing as she played would fill her home with joy. Having grown up Loudon County, she remained at heart a country girl with a love of the outdoors and the simple pleasures of family. For the past 9-1/2 years she had resided at Sunrise at Bluemont Park until "called home" at the age of 98.

—From *Danette Blundell Baily*

\*\*\*\*\*

Lifelong Barcroft resident, **Charles Taylor** of 4th Street South passed away Dec. 11, 2011. Charles lived in Barcroft his entire life; first on 9th St. S. and then for over 40 years on 4th St. S. He served in the Navy before joining the Arlington County Police force where he retired after 24 years as a Police Officer. He was an avid photographer and handyman and a self taught musician. His home featured an extensive workshop that he used regularly to help those who didn't know their way around

a tool. He specialized in wood and lucite. His photography skills took him across the area and into Canada to photograph military aircraft and trains. His photos were published in several books including one on Air Force One. Charles was a kind man; easy to talk to and well liked by all who knew him. He will be genuinely missed by those who knew him as a friend and appreciated him as a neighbor.

—From *Frank Vega, next door neighbor*

\*\*\*\*\*

Former longtime Barcroft resident **Ann Reed** died Jan 6, 2012. She had celebrated her 99th birthday on Dec. 17. Mrs. Reed lived at 4625 4th St. S where her amazing azaleas, dogwood and other plants flourished. For years she and her husband ran the shop *Reed's Florist*. She was also a member of the K Klub.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Jeane Frey**, age 87, moved to Barcroft about 3 years ago to live with her daughter **Kathy Kerr** on S. Abingdon St. Jeane passed away at home on Jan. 18, 2012 while receiving hospice services from Capitol Caring . She greatly appreciated Barcroft neighbors and children, gardens, flowers and birds. She was a retired medical researcher. She enjoyed playing bridge at Walter Reed Community Center and was an active member of Bethel United Church of Christ. She was committed to social justice and respect for all people.



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## Do your kids play outside enough?

### Time to Build and Play

*By Rachael Tolman from Long Branch Nature Center*

In recent years the term “nature-deficit disorder” (coined by Richard Louv in his book *Last Child in the Woods*) has become common in today’s youth. A recent study by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that kids over age 8 spend over 7 hours a day in front of a screen (computer, TV, smart-phone, etc)! To counter this, movements like No Child Left Inside and Children and Nature Networks have been started.

Recently Long Branch Nature Center and Friends of Arlington Parks have received a Park Enhancement Grant from Arlington County for a total of \$11,539 to put in a Nature Discovery Area! We’ve always loved being outside and taking you with us; fishing, birding, hiking, camping, and more. We now are taking steps to offer you more chances to be outside.

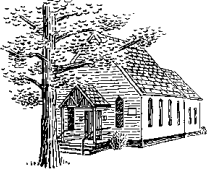
Right now there are no natural play-discovery areas in Arlington County Parks, so this will be the first. Our area will have no “play equipment” - the only furnishings will be natural materials, rocks, wood, water, and a child's imagination. The space is there for kids to explore, create, climb, and play in natural setting without worry about harmful plants or animals or getting lost.

We are very excited about this project and look forward to your support. The site is located below the Nature Center, steps from the stream crossing, with access from the paved trail and hiking trails. Some work has already begun in the space, with old trees being cut and cleared making way for further clean-up and new features being added.

We’d love for you to be a part in creating Arlington’s first natural play area! We need some helping hands. We’ll need volunteers to remove unwanted plants, put play features in place, come up with a great name, spread the word, maybe start a blog, and maintain the Nature Discovery Area once completed. As you can see, there is much yet to be done. To help in any way or to be updated on our progress, here’s where you can find us!

[www.arlingtonva.us/departments/  
ParksRecreation/scripts/nature/  
LongBranchNatureDiscoveryArea.aspx](http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/ParksRecreation/scripts/nature/LongBranchNatureDiscoveryArea.aspx)





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

**Happy New Year!** 2011 was another good year for real estate in the Metro DC area and Arlington was one of the better markets. In Barcroft there were 20 homes that sold and settled (per MRIS) with an average list price of \$568,000 and an average sold price of \$556,150 averaging 36 days on the market. Seller subsidies averaged \$3,000, with a high of \$14,000.

Mortgage interest rates have remained low. As of 1/14/12 the fixed rate for conventional loans is at 3.875% for Conforming loans up to \$417,000, 4% for Conforming Plus loans up to \$625,500 and 4.625% for Jumbo loans. FHA loans are at 3.875%, loan limit of \$729,750. VA loans up to \$625,500 are at 3.875%.

A new sales contract for the Metro DC area is in effect as of 1/1/12. On major change is that the seller now has no obligation to

repair mechanical, electrical, plumbing and appliance defects. The purchaser must request every item that is required to be repaired after having a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these items could cost your dearly in terms of repair. *That's why it's critical that you are prepared before you list your home for sale.* To help home sellers deal with this issue before their home is listed for sale, we have prepared a free report entitled "*11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection*". Contact me for a copy!

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