

November 2012

Barcroft News

Vol 110, Issue 3

Monthly Happenings: President's Report

By **Pat Williamson**, *BSCL President*

Fall has been such a glorious season in Barcroft. A true turnaround from our very hot and miserable summer!

Hope folks took the opportunity to replant their lawns and maybe picked up a tree at the GiveAway in mid-October. Soon we will receive the annual call to action to assist neighbors with snow clearing.

Our October meeting brought out neighbors with questions about the S. George Mason Street Improvement Project. There are concerns about the new "hawk" signaling device planned for pedestrian crossing at the National Guard entrance, the changes to right turn corners at 4th and 6th Streets, the stopping of busses in the right travel lanes to pickup and drop-off passengers (seems this is the standard Arlington practice now), and other items. Randy has posted lots of info on our website at www.bscl.org. Please make comments directly to jrwatson@arlingtonva.us in the Transportation Office.

At our November 1 meeting, at 7:30 pm, we will vote to budget expendi-

tures for Community House maintenance projects. We will have a presentation by Juliet Hiznay, President, and Takis Karantonis, Executive Director, of the Columbia Pike Revitalization Office (CPRO).

We will get updates on Arlington Mill Community Center, undergrounding of utilities, the streetcar, the big projects further north at Glebe and Walter Reed intersections, and more. We will invite the members of the Alcovia Heights Citizens Association to join us.

Have a really fun Halloween time. And don't forget to VOTE!! In Person Absentee voting can be done right here in S. Arlington this year -- at the Barcroft Fitness Center on Four Mile Run Dr. Go to www.arlingtonva.us to see voting hours here and at Courthouse and Madison Center. ●

It's Time To Renew for BSCL!

Dues are \$5 per individual/\$10 per family. Drop off at Community House or mail to: Fay Cheung, Membership Secretary 618 S Taylor St. Arlington, VA 22204

Barcroft News

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Next Deadline Nov. 15th

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Visit Us Online: www.bscl.org

It's Dark: Light up Your Bike

By Bike Arlington

As the days get shorter, and the nights get longer, we all still have to go about our business. And daylight savings time ends on Sunday, November 4. That means we'll be walking, biking and driving in the dark more often, so it's very important to be a PAL when you're getting around Arlington after sunset. Being visible is a crucial part of being Predictable, Alert, and Lawful.

You can't be predictable if no one can see you, so if you plan to bike in the dark, you should wear reflective clothing and use bike lights. Lights also help illuminate your path so you can stay alert while you're riding, and Virginia law requires all bikers to use front white lights and rear red reflectors when dark (attached to your helmet, bag, or bike) and rear red lights are required on roads 35 mph and up. It's a good idea to be as visible as possible so we recommend always having rear red lights.

Visit www.BikeArlington.com/PAL for more information on being a visible PAL. •



The New House in the Neighborhood ...

By Roger S. Lin

We knew we didn't want to build just another home when we purchased 4616 8th Street. We believe building a “code home” is doing the bare minimum (any less, the builder ends up in jail). We wanted to build a home “for the future”. Home for the Future is not a building standard, it is a mission. We define it as a home that is healthy, comfortable, functional and very energy efficient. After some research, we decided to use energy efficiency as the base point. As it turned out, health and comfort follow energy efficiency and fall into their places.

Applying the Passivhaus approach, we designed a thermal envelope that is super-insulated and air-tight. This envelope reduces heating and cooling needs by 70-80% and provides a temperate and draft-free indoor environment that is extremely comfortable. By using a dedicated mechanical ventilation system, the home enjoys a constant stream of fresh air that is controlled and filtered. The result is a home with very high indoor air quality.

In addition to those goals, we added several sustainable features that are simple and fun. We built a green roof to mitigate storm water run-off. We used only Zero VOC paint and adhesives. We also worked with our neighborhood landscape genius Scott Brinitzer to create a beautiful garden that

surpasses county canopy requirements by at least 100%.



This was a great project that will always be close to my heart. We had our shares of ups and downs, from the initial problems that arose from the controlled-burn by the fire department to the eventual rebirth of this previously blighted home into one of the most energy efficient homes in the country. We are thankful for the support and encouragement from all the neighbors in Barcroft. We hope to build another one here or help a neighbor make their home healthier, more comfortable and energy efficient in the near future. In the meantime, here are a few low-hanging fruits:

- Lower water heater setting to 120 degrees
- Clean air vents to eliminate obstructions
- Weather seal all doors and windows
- Install rain barrels
- Grow deciduous trees to shade south-facing windows
- Get an energy audit
- Building science matters, don't just add insulation. The wrong insulation in the wrong place may rot your home. •

Long Branch Nature Center Turns 40!

Cliff Fairweather, Park Naturalist

Long Branch Nature Center celebrates its 40th birthday on Saturday, November 10 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. and you're invited to join the party! We'll have crafts, a scavenger hunt, birthday cake (cake cutting at 2 p.m.), a chance to meet the centers' animals and other family fun. Above all, we'll celebrate Long Branch as a place where people enjoy and learn about nature. This is a free program, but donations are gratefully accepted!

In addition to being a place to discover nature, Long Branch has a long history of providing help to sick and injured reptiles. This history even precedes the nature center, which was originally the home of Bill and Mae Hickman. Not long after moving to their then country home in Glencarlyn, Mae began tending to injured, ill and orphaned animals. She eventually wrote one of the first books on the subject, *Care of the Wild, Feathered and Furred*.

The house and property were later acquired by Arlington County and the house was converted into a nature center in 1972. Since then, hundreds of thousands of kids and adults have come through our doors for nature programs, to view our animal exhibits and walk our trails. In addition, hundreds of volunteers have helped keep the center running smoothly for the last four decades.



Urban nature centers such as Long Branch play an increasingly important role in conservation as our nation and the world become increasingly urbanized. For city dwellers, nature centers provide opportunities to interact with nature and wildlife close to home and inspire stewardship of our natural places. •

Author to Speak

By Patricia Fisher, President, Women's Club

The Woman's Club of Arlington will have author Virginia Hansen Holmes as our guest speaker on Monday, Nov 5th at 1 pm She is the author of the book *Guerrilla Daughter*. It is a book about a Philippine family's extraordinary struggle to survive the Japanese occupation of Mindanao from the spring of 1942 until the end of the war in 1945. The monthly business meeting will be at 10:45 a.m. that day followed by lunch at 12 p.m. Everyone welcome! •

Virginia Co-Op Extension November Programs

Thursday, November 8, 2012

6:30pm - 8:00pm

Kids Marketplace – Volunteers Needed!

Kids Marketplace is adapted for elementary school age children. Students receive a job and a monthly income in play money and decide how to spend it at the animal shelter, fun station, grocery store, bank, and other expense stations. Students are encouraged to save a portion of their income and to contribute some to charity. Free.

We need several volunteers to make this event possible. No experience required; contact Jennifer Abel (jabel@vt.edu or 703-228-6417) if you are interested in helping.

Barrett Elementary School
4401 North Henderson Road
Arlington, VA 22203

Monday, November 19, 2012 -

Tuesday, November 20, 2012

8:30am - 3:00pm

Reality Store – Volunteers Needed!

It is becoming more important than ever for high school graduates to have sound money management skills and a clear understanding of financial decision making. Reality Store is a simulation in which students receive a hypothetical family situation with a monthly income and are then required to make spending decisions on housing, transportation, groceries, clothing, medical care,

entertainment, savings, and expenses without running out of money or going into debt.

We need many volunteers to make this event possible. This is a two day event, but we could use anyone who has availability for any part of these days. No prior experience is required; please contact Jennifer Abel if you are interested in helping.

Hammond Middle School
4646 Seminary Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22304

Tuesday, November 27, 2012

1:00pm - 2:00pm

Passing on Personal Possessions

An expert will provide guidance on passing on personal possessions for your estate.

Free.

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Who Are the People in Barcroft? The Hickmans ...

By *Lisa Piantanida* (e-mail lisapiantanida@gmail.com to be featured!)

Who are the people in your family?

Kari, Ed, Hazel (7), Ginger (5), and Poppy (2) Hazel & Ginger attend Barcroft (2nd and K). Poppy is in the Arlington Peewee Academy.

Where do you live?

On South Pershing near 1st Street (for 3 1/2 years). Before that we lived on South Taylor.



A Fun Fact about your Family

Every October, Ed goes on an elk hunting trip with his dad and brothers in Colorado. We help him train all year by going on family hikes together.

Your favorite thing about Barcroft

I love to walk through the neighborhood and admire all the different kinds of homes we have - there is so much variety, and a warm sense of community. Also that cool gnarly tree across from the Community House. ●

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Making Our Community House Beautiful

By Scott Brintzer

I guess it's a sign that you have lived in a neighborhood for a long time when a question about the origin and significance of the plantings around the Barcroft Community House catches you by surprise. Doesn't everyone know the story, I asked?

Evidently, a good deal of time has gone by since we transformed the garden at the Community House, with many new neighbors not knowing the history of how the landscape that you see now happened.

When my husband, Carroll, and I moved into my house in 1991 on 8th Street, the Community House grounds were quite different. The property was surrounded on two sides with chainlink fence, sections of which were bent, others sagging, showing the effects of time and years of neglect. There was no grass on much of the property;

most of the area was either mud or dust. On the good side, several huge old oaks stood on the grounds.

Within a few years, (1996?) I became the go to person to begin the process of changing and upgrading the landscape. A group of us began the process of developing a landscape master plan that would guide developing the site over a few growing and planting seasons. The early landscape plan that we came up with can be seen at the community house, hanging on the wall towards the kitchen. Thanks to Randy Swart for framing the plan!

In those early years of planning and fundraising we relied on a tremendous team of neighbors to begin to bring the plan to life. I remember well the weekend when we had over 50 neighbor's at the house, helping while I used a backhoe to dig up, *(continued)*

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www.arlingtonforestumc.com and on Facebook

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Thanksgiving Cover dish Dinner, 11/22, 12 noon

Breakfast with St. Nicholas, 12/1, 9am

Children's "Island Christmas" Musical, 12/8, 4:30pm

Children's Christmas eve service 4pm, Candle-light 7pm

Montessori Primary and Toddler Programs, Now Enrolling



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Community House Landscaping ... Continued

de-compact, and add soil amendments to the large lawn section of the grounds. Carroll was very involved in the process, but not always with the “work” side of things

Fundraising went slowly. As a result, our work on the garden didn’t exactly speed along. We were doing what we could, when we could, with money that we raised.

Unfortunately Carroll passed away suddenly in the winter of 1998. He was at the gym when he suffered a sudden and fatal heart attack. At his funeral, I asked that contributions be made to the Barcroft Garden Fund in his memory.

We raised enough money to pay for plants, but not enough to have the entire project professionally installed. Starting in the fall of 1999 and lasting until the spring of 2000 a group of neighbors and my friends (most of whom lived in DC) worked every warm weekend to build the fence, improve the soil, plant the trees and shrubs, and install the lawn, creating what you see today.

Many Barcroft friendships were forged over those months of mutual “labor” that last to this day. A fond memory: Bruce Adkins and I worked long hours every weekend creating the picket fence. I wasn’t very good at carpentry (ok, I couldn’t do any carpentry) and relied upon Bruce to direct the fence installation. We still look at the fence and reminisce about the work required to visualize and see it through to reality.

We dedicated the garden with a great party at the community house in June of 2000. Over the years, the garden has grown, morphed, changed, been revised, and been reinvented. A landscape, much like our lives, is not static. Some of the original members of the planting team are no longer in the neighborhood, only to be replaced with new neighbors who care as much about the garden now as those who saw to its inception.

Case in point: This past spring we had an amazing turn out for our community garden clean up. I stood in awe as I watched about 40 neighbors complete, in just 4 hours, the garden clean up that would have taken a smaller group several weekends to finish. I watched as neighbors met new neighbors, as through the process of manual labor, old friendships were renewed.

To top it off, when all the work was done, the community house looked great. So many people have helped me as I have cared for the grounds these past 13 years. While I can help lead the preservation of the grounds, there is no way that I can do it alone. To all who have been a part of keeping the grounds and Carroll’s memory alive, I say thank you. Watching my plant “children” grow, watching the change of seasons in the garden gives me great pride. It also serves as a fitting memory to a man who was irreplaceable, a true class act. ●

Barcroft Elementary: Busy Autumn Continues ...

By Jenny Ditta, Barcroft Elem. Liaison

Halloween is over, yet the candy giving continues. The Barcroft PTA will participate again this year in Treats 4 Our Troops. Through Nov. 16, neighbors can drop off bagged candy, surplus candy, cards, and letters into the orange bin at the Front Office. Treats 4 Our Troops will send our donations to U.S. military personnel. Cash is also accepted, and is used to pay shipping costs.

Highlights for November also include the November 6 Election Day Bake Sale. This is a BIG election, and the stakes are high. The Barcroft PTA will be there for you with delicious comfort food! Plan to purchase coffee, breakfast items, individually-packaged baked goods such as brownies and cupcakes, and whole items like breads, pies, and cakes. We plan to serve gluten-free and healthy items too. New this year, there will be entrées and savory treats that reflect the cultural diversity of our Barcroft families. Be sure to stop by early and often to support your neighborhood school!

November 13-16, Barcroft will host a Book Fair and Holiday Shop. Start your holiday shopping early and support a great cause – Barcroft Elementary! Choose from a selection of books and other goodies for everyone on your list.

In December, celebrate a wonderful 2012 with the PTA at the Clarendon Silver

Diner. On Monday, December 3, between 5 p.m. - 8 p.m., the PTA will host a Silver Diner “Moms, Dads and Grads” Night. Money raised during this event will fund new technologies for the school and field trips.

Plan to join us at the school on Thursday, December 13 for the Winter Concert. Performances will include: 4th and 5th Grade Chorus, Spanish Chorus, the School Band, the School Orchestra, and Individual Student Performances.

Many thanks to ALL of our wonderful neighbors who have linked their Harris Teeter VIC card to Barcroft Elementary. Help some more, by linking your Giant Card! Barcroft's ID # for the Giant program is 02199. The program runs from Oct. 5, 2012 - Mar. 28, 2013. Go to www.giantfood.com/aplus to register or call 877-275-2758. For questions or help registering, contact Meg Neill at meg.rob.neill@gmail.com.

To learn more, go to www.apsva.us/Page/13363 or like us: www.facebook.com/BarcroftElementary. •



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Neighbor to Neighbor Ads

These ads are free to BSCL members. The listings will be run for three months from the original listing.

Violin Teacher/Math Tutor: High school senior/musician (13 years experience), teaching beginner and intermediate violin. Also tutoring elementary and middle school math. Contact Austin at (571) 244-8102.

Babysitter + Pet-sitter: Mia Field, 15.5 year old Wakefield sophomore, available to sit evenings/weekends. References. 703-946-7188 or mia.e.field@gmail.com

Alexandra's Babysitting - teen available nights and weekends. 703-892-6712

Rebekah's Pet Care (walking, feeding) 703-521-8756.

College-aged Babysitter - holidays and summers: Sarah. 703-521-8756

Baby-sitter + Pet-sitter + Vacation Help: 8th grader, Tyler LaPointe, 571-244-7555 or tylerchanlapointe@gmail.com

Babysitter: 8th Grader Rebecca Bean is Red Cross Certified. Call 571-344-4134 or beccab50@gmail.com

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

Vacation Help—Responsible teen can water plants, bring in the paper and mail, care for pets, mow lawn, etc. Dylan Vega 703-271-5987 dylanrvega@gmail.com

Baby items, books, toys, household items needed for the Even Start Program at Barcroft. Jenny Lindenauer at 703-228-8846 or jennifer_lindenauer@apsva.us

Barcroft Community Playgroup 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Friday mornings at the Community House. Call 703-216-9728 or just show up! ●

Come Enjoy Music and Help Women!

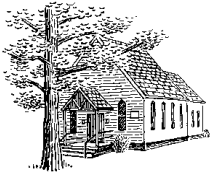
By Phil Cackley

A bluegrass concert to benefit a women's cooperative in El Salvador will be held Saturday, November 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Barcroft Community House.

Hollertown, a D.C.-based band that plays bluegrass and folk, will headline the show. Opening act is singer-songwriter (and

former Barcrofter) Cecilia Cackley. Doors open at 7 p.m. Admission is \$10 at the door. All proceeds go to help fund a women's cooperative in Ilobasco, El Salvador, through a Va. non-profit, Co-partners of Campesinas.

Desserts and beverages will be available for purchase. For more info, contact Alicia or Phil Cackley, at 703-271-9743.



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

Local Area Housing Market Update

September 2012 activity in the housing market has cooled slightly (typical seasonal pattern) although remains above Sept. 2011 levels. **Closed sales are up from last year, a 4.7% increase. The median sales price is up from last year, 6.5% higher and is the highest September median price in five years! New contract levels are strong, up 9.6% above last year although down 6.4% from last month. Declines in active and new listings persist, down 43.5%** from this time last year and will likely keep prices stable even as demand slows.

30 year fixed rate **conforming loan interest rates** in early October are between **3.25% and 3.5%**, and 3.875% for Jumbo loans over \$625,500. Some lenders are now offering **80/10/10 and 80/15/5** mortgage programs for buyers looking to put down 5% to 10% down payment and avoid PMI (private mortgage insurance).

Looking for more space? Consider 506 S. Abingdon St. priced at \$769,000
5 Br, 3.5 baths on wooded ½ acre lot.



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