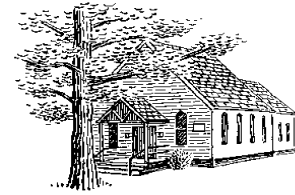


Barcroft School and Civic League  
800 South Buchanan Street  
Arlington, VA 22204



January 2013

# Barcroft News

Vol 110, Issue 5

## Spaghetti Dinner Returns After Brief Hiatus ...

*By Eric Harold*

Come and join friends and neighbors at the Community House for a lively spaghetti dinner on Sunday, Jan. 27.

Continuing the tradition started by former Barcroft neighbor Tom Palance (and unabashedly stealing Gramma Palance's Secret Spaghetti Sauce recipe), this winter event is a great time to get out of the cold and break bread with friends and neighbors.

And it's worth the price if only to hear the lovely music provided by the great Spaghetti Tones. We ask only that you bring a healthy appetite and a dessert to share. Vegetarian and take out are available.

**Where:** Community House (800 S. Buchanan)

**When:** Sunday Jan 27 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**Cost:** \$6 per person, children under 10 eat free. Donation requested for beer and wine.

**What Can You Do?**

We always accept help setting up tables and chairs. Setup begins at the Community House around 3 p.m. We also need help with take down and clean up after.

We can use a few hands in the kitchen during the event, to make sure everything runs smoothly, trays are full of spaghetti and salad, and bread is cut.

Anyone interested in helping out, please contact me at [eric@bscl.org](mailto:eric@bscl.org). •

**How's the Real Estate Market?** Sales surged in the Washington DC Metro area, up 21.5% from last November following the high demand trend from home buyers in a housing market with a shrinking housing inventory. Median sales prices are up 10.4% higher than this time last year. The low supply of homes for sale continues to drive down days on market. The average sale-to-list-price ratio rose to 96.6% from 93.7% last November.

In Arlington the average sold price for condos, townhouses and detached homes was \$558,976 this year compared to \$512,725 last year. Detached homes averaged a sold price of \$753,408 compared to \$708,915. 85 homes sold in 11/12 and 67 homes in 11/11 up 27%. There have been 28 properties sold and settled year to date in Barcroft with an average sales price of \$599,993 averaging 34 days on the market. Last year in Barcroft there were 22 homes sold & settled, average sales price of \$547,643 averaging 37 days on the market.

**Sprucing up your home** prior to putting it on the market is a wise investment although what does "sprucing up" entail for the current real estate environment? Unless you understand buyer's requirements today, your home will take longer to sell and may sell for less than its potential. There are distinct differences between how you live in a home and how it must be prepared for sale. *Before you place your home on the market* I can help you be as ready as possible. Contact me and I'll be glad to show you what to do (and more importantly what NOT to do) to increase the chance for obtaining a maximum price and a quicker sale.

**FREE Notary for Barcroft Residents!**  
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[www.SettingYourHomePrice.com](http://www.SettingYourHomePrice.com)

## Early Reconnaissance on a New Restaurant

*By Alyssa Ford Morel*

Barcrofters who mourned the loss first of Bob & Edith's Diner on the corner of Columbia Pike and Buchanan, and then its replacement Sauca (and Golden Chicken in between), now have the chance to try out the latest restaurant to inhabit the distinc-

tive building, El Tutumaso. Opening in  
(continued on page 3)

### It's Time To Renew for BSCL!

Dues are \$5 per individual/\$10 per family. Drop off with membership form ([www.bscl.org/memform.pdf](http://www.bscl.org/memform.pdf)) at the Community House or mail to Fay Cheung, Membership Sec'y, at 618 S Taylor St.

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**Next Deadline Jan. 15th**

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*Membership Secy.* Fay Cheung,  
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Jim Kerr

*Fundraising:* Chris Ditta

*Landscaping:* Scott Brinitzer  
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*Traffic Committee:* Heidi Wicker

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703-979-8247

*Columbia Pike:* Randy Swart  
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*Demeter House:* Darlene Mickey  
*Parks:* Elizabeth Kiker,  
Shirley Gay

*Signs:* Ken Edwards

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*Arlington Civic Fed. Delegates:* Eric Harold, Randy Swart, Pat Williamson, Jim Kerr  
*Alternates:* Karen Darnier, David Michelson, Elaine Squeri, Mark Wigfield  
Barcroft News is printed on recycled paper with vegetable-based ink by Stanley Adams Printing.

Visit Us Online: [www.bscl.org](http://www.bscl.org)

## Monthly Happenings

### President's Report by Pat Williamson

Happy New Year's to everyone in our wonderful Barcroft neighborhood. With high hopes that the weather will be less wild than 2012, we are excited about 2013. We ended 2012 with our phenomenal-as-always Holiday Party (see more: [www.bscl.org/hparty12.htm](http://www.bscl.org/hparty12.htm)). Such great music, stories, food and a visit from old St. Nick! We will start 2013 off with a meeting on Jan. 3 and the all-time favorite Spaghetti Dinner on Jan. 27.

At the Jan. 3 meeting, the Arlington County Code Enforcement Department staff will present updated information on changes in Code Enforcement policies, including new noise ordinances. Second, Barcroft neighbor and parent activist Fred Millar will present his views on the need for socioeconomic integration of schools through the boundary-drawing processes.

Many thanks to Sharon Tope for organizing the Barcroft Snow Brigade again this year. It is a blessing to know that neighbors have a place to turn for assistance with snow clearing if they are unable to do it themselves. Contact Sharon at [stope3@verizon.net](mailto:stope3@verizon.net) to volunteer or ask for help. •

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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.*

**Pet Sitter + Mothers Helper:** Emilie "Emma" Monroe, a very trusting 12 ½ year old. Available to work as mothers' helper or pet sitter. For more information, call 703-271-0944 or 703-919-3069.

**Tutor Senior at Wakefield,** I can tutor math (from middle school to calculus), physics, and french up to level 3. Call Bou at 703-909-5057 or E-mail at [aboudia9@gmail.com](mailto:aboudia9@gmail.com)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:tylerchanlapointe@gmail.com)

**Babysitter:** 8th Grader Rebecca Bean is Red Cross Certified. Call 571-344-4134 or [beccab50@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jennifer_lindenauer@apsva.us)

**Barcroft Community Playgroup** 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Friday mornings at the Community House. Call Jason Kiker at 703-216-9728 for more information or just show up! •



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## Barcroft Elementary: Iron Man & Ace Clean Visit ...

*By Jenny Ditta, Barcroft Elem. Liaison*

Happy New Year from Barcroft Elementary! Students return from the **Winter Break** on January 3, and it will be busy. **Second Quarter Report Cards** will be sent home. And several classes will receive a visit from Iron Man and "Ace Clean" to learn about preventing illness during the cold and flu season. **PTA Winter After-School Enrichment Classes** will begin during the week of January 7.

There are several events this month that our neighbors are invited to attend. At the **PTA Meeting on January 8 at 6 p.m.**, parents can learn about saving for college.

The school will host **European Heritage Read-In Day on January 11** during Language Arts classes. Volunteers will read stories involving European authors, settings and/or characters. To volunteer, contact Dora Sue Black at [dorasue.black@apsva.us](mailto:dorasue.black@apsva.us).

Neighbors with young children, please save the date. The school will host a **Kindergarten Information Night for the 2013-2014 School Year on January 15, from 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.** All are welcome to come to this event, meet our Principal, and learn more about Barcroft Elementary.

Other special events in January include a weekly **Coffee and Chat on the Corner with our Principal, Mrs. Miriam Hughey-Guy. Beginning at 8:15 a.m. on Fri-**

**day mornings**, Mrs. Hughey-Guy will be at nearby bus stop locations meeting with interested parents and neighbors. Locations include Arlington Blvd. and S. Aberdeen St. on January 18, and 3<sup>rd</sup> St. S. and S. Glebe Rd. on January 25.

Finally, on **January 24**, the school will host its second annual **European Heritage Night Celebration beginning at 6 p.m.** Join us that evening to taste delicious food and enjoy exciting entertainment from our School Orchestra and Band.

To learn more about events at Barcroft Elementary, go to [www.apsva.us/Page/13363](http://www.apsva.us/Page/13363) or like us: [www.facebook.com/BarcroftElementary](http://www.facebook.com/BarcroftElementary). •

### IN-HOME DAY CARE

Bordering South Arlington, Columbia Pike, Carlin Springs and Falls Church. I'm Bishrul, I live in Falls Church, and I am a child care professional with more than 10 years of Nanny experience. I'm certified in first/Aid and CPR. I have a child care permit by the County. I am honest, caring, patient, loving and trustworthy. I have always loved being around children. I have two grown up sons and I'm looking for to take care of infants/toddlers in my home in Falls Church (22041). My single family home is ideal for children, with lots of toys and I enjoy cooking, crafts, painting, reading, singing and playing outside activities with kids. I can provide your child with special one-on-one attention. I have cared for multiple children in the same family including twins and babies in Nanny Shares. Mostly, your child will have a home away from home in a safe and loving environment. It is a great alternative to a Nanny Share. My rate is 225/- per week. If interested email me at [bishrul786@gmail.com](mailto:bishrul786@gmail.com) to discuss further, and to schedule for a visit.

## Early Reconnaissance on a New Restaurant

*Continued from Page 1 ...*

November, the Bolivian restaurant has yet to demonstrate its full potential.

El Tutumaso is new only to its current location. It operated for four years on Annandale Road in Falls Church. Diners in the new location are given an extensive menu from the previous incarnation, but many of the items are not available at the new site.

Large photos of the dozen or so items which can be ordered are posted over the counter, and generally feature entrees of pork, beef or chicken, with sides of rice, potatoes and fried or hard boiled eggs. A staff member said they hope to expand the menu soon.

Diners who frequented Bob & Edith's and Sauca will see remnants of both in the decor, which has been updated with warm red paint and metal chairs with green vinyl padding. Service starts with a complimentary small loaf of faintly sweet bread and a dish of spicy green sauce.

Large plates heaped with zesty food are delivered in a timely manner. The generosity of the servings is particularly notable given the highly affordable cost. Most entrees are priced in the \$8 to \$12 range.

Yet to be worked out is the fact that the ordering process at El Tutumaso is a challenge for those who do not speak Spanish.

While the old menu has English translations, it is difficult to figure out which photo over the counter refers to which description. Waitstaff, while friendly, are of limited help in answering questions and orders easily get confused. Other drawbacks include a lack of options for vegetarians, and no alcohol.

For Barcrofters who want another choice for an easy walk to a restaurant, El Tutumaso will suit a hungry diner who wants tasty food without paying much. •

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**20 percent discount to Barcroft residents!**

## Barcroft Voted!

*By Randy Swart*

The November election turnout for Barcroft precinct was the highest anyone could remember: 1,511 voters, including about 400 who voted early or by absentee ballot. That was a 68 percent turnout. Our longest line was about 45 minutes early in the morning, also the longest anyone could remember. Here are the results:

President: Obama 1074 (72%), Romney 414.

Senator: Kaine 1103 (80%), Allen 381

House: Moran 993 (70%), Murray 412

County Bd: Garvey 844(62%), Wavro 363,

Clement 147

Eminent Domain question:

Yes 794 (55%), No 661

Legislative session: Yes 1258 (88%), No 178

Parks bonds: Yes 883 (60%), No 577

Schools bonds: Yes 1212 (82%), No 259

Transportation: Yes 1183 (81%), No 281

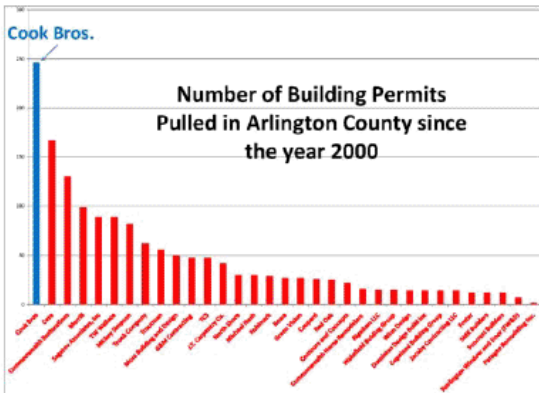
Infrastructure: Yes 1083 (75%), No 360

The PTA bake sale was stupendous! It took in \$2,400. And the election workers want to thank Tom Stratford, owner of Edible Arrangements, for the wonderful fresh fruit and chocolate "flower" arrangement he provided.


There are no long lines at off-year elections. Next November you can vote early if you are going to be out of Arlington at any time during election day. •

**You Don't Have to Interview the #1 Remodeler in Arlington... But... Why Wouldn't You?**

For a larger Graph image and more information about the Graph, visit our website at [www.CookBros.org/BarcroftGraph](http://www.CookBros.org/BarcroftGraph)



**Number of Building Permits Pulled in Arlington County since the year 2000**



## Local Nonprofit Visits Tanzania

*By Paula Levin-Alcorn*

In July 2012, seven local volunteers spent a week at the Kabanga School, home to 74 children with albinism in rural Tanzania. People with albinism in Tanzania are often cast out of their villages, and suffer from abuse and discrimination. The Kabanga School has become a refuge for children with albinism, and is severely overcrowded.

Local Alcovia Heights resident and Barcroft Elementary parent, Susan DuBois, started Asante Mariamu in 2010. I was part of the trip, and organized art, music and dance projects with the students. The group brought sunscreen, hats, sunglasses, clothing

and school supplies to the school; and established a poultry-raising program and provided sewing supplies for a vocational project. A vision teacher worked with students on how to use donated low vision devices, and a dermatologist taught every kid how to stay safe in the sun.

Many Barcroft residents have supported Asante Mariamu, including attending a fundraising concert at the community house last spring. As a small organization, the group is very grateful for the warm and generous support from the Barcroft community. For more information, visit their website at [www.asante-mariamamu.org](http://www.asante-mariamamu.org)! •

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## In Memoriam ... Myra Harrod and Larry Oresky

### *Notifications Sent by Barcroft Neighbors*

Larry Oresky died in his home on Pershing Drive in late December, of natural causes. Larry was a long-time Barcroft resident, and a volunteer shoveler with the Snow Brigade.

Myra Harrod, another long-time resident of Barcroft, passed away recently. She lived at 519S. Abingdon St. This is an excerpt from her son's remembrance at her funeral.

"February 5th 1925, was the start of two amazing lives when unexpectedly twin girls were born to John and Clara Doyle, the youngest of four children. The twins were named Mabel and Myra and the bond they shared was strong and lasted Mom's entire lifetime, they spoke everyday right up to they day before she passed. They grew up on a small family farm, outside Marietta, Ohio.

"Then in 1942, at the age of 17, Mabel and Myra left the farm **together** and came to Washington, D.C. to work for the department of defense. They sat side by side and worked as typists for the Navy department. Mabel told me yesterday that they had to pass a shorthand test, and I always thought that Mom was pretty good at shorthand. Now Mabel told me that she passed the first time, AND the second time. Did I mention that they were IDENTICAL TWINS?

"The Navy brought her together with our dad, Francis, known by most people as "King" and they married in 1946. She had

three sons and they lived in Jacksonville and Norfolk where Mom was devoted to raising her sons, involved in PTA and a full time homemaker. She cooked so well, and growing up we ate dinner together every night.

"In 1962 they moved into the house at 519 Abingdon, where she lived in the same house for the last 50 years.

"Mom was an avid reader, and loved to do crossword puzzles, in pen, and she was active in the Barcroft friendship club.

"In the late 1960s she began working part time for the Arlington county schools as an Instructional Secretary at Wakefield and then at Washington Lee High School and finally for the Assistant Superintendent of the Arlington County Schools.

"This year for Thanksgiving we took dinner over to her house and had dessert with Mom. My daughter Clara had made the pumpkin pie and Mom commented about how the crust looked so nice, and Clara said, "Well, Grandma, that is how you taught me to make it."

"Mom saw an amazing amount of change in her lifetime from a small family farm with no electricity or indoor plumbing to the era of the microwave and the personal computer, she even had an email address!.

"So we celebrate lives well lived, and cherish the memories and the stories." •

## Under Construction: An Update from the Pike

### *Sent in by Judith Richter & Bryan Monroe*

*Fixing the Columbia Pike/Four Mile Run Intersection Update:* The County's contractor began the effort to underground utilities by installing duct banks. Construction to install the Dominion Virginia Power duct bank, which will be located under the middle westbound lane of this roadway segment, will require lane closures with one eastbound and one westbound lane open during work. Crews will perform some of this work during evening hours so there is less impact to businesses and motorists during the day. Residents can expect some construction noise associated with this work. County staff appreciates your patience during this time!

*Bus Stop Update:* Construction on the first Columbia Pike super stop at Walter Reed East continues. Work will begin on the Barton West super stop upon completion of Walter Reed East. The County will construct a total of 24 new bus stops to support Pike Ride bus service and serve as future streetcar stations along the Pike corridor.

*Bike Boulevards:* To better accommodate extensive bicycling facilities, the County will create two Bike Boulevards parallel to Columbia Pike on low-volume and low-speed (25 MPH) streets. Crews will complete placing street markings and signs on the 9th St. S. and 12th St. S. side of the bike boulevards this winter, weather permitting.

*HAWK Signal Update:* Prior to installing new HAWK (High-intensity Activated crossWALK) traffic control signals, staff will discuss residents' concerns regarding HAWK-related left turn restrictions with the surrounding communities.

*Streetlight Upgrade:* County crews completed the construction of 290 LED energy-efficient streetlight units along the Pike. These lights offer a 30-year life expectancy, reduce light pollution, and dim automatically based on time of day. The energy savings will pay for the cost of the lights and construction in five to 10 years.

*Arlington Mill Community Center Update:* Construction work on South Dinwiddie Street of the Arlington Mill Community Center site is now complete. Dominion Virginia Power undergrounded power lines to Glen Park Condominium from South Dinwiddie Street, which allowed for construction of the Arlington Mill retaining wall. Construction teams are working on the interior finishes, building closure, and gym. The new Center is slated for completion in summer 2013. •

### **Want to Get Away From it All?**

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Your neighbors, Kate Brysselance and Rick Erler

## Flavors of the Season: Grapefruit

**By Kari Hickman** (read more at virtual-goodyplate.blogspot.com/)

I love the snow, but when you live in Virginia, where snow is a special occasion rather than a sure thing, you have to find other things to love about winter. Abundant citrus is one for me. When gorgeous Ruby Red grapefruit reach their peak, we eat them for breakfast, lunch, snack, and of course, dessert. Try these pretty-in-pink grapefruit cookies for a new twist on a winter favorite.

### **Pink Grapefruit Sandwich Cookies**

*Cookies:* Zest of 1 Ruby Red grapefruit

1/4 cup freshly squeezed grapefruit juice

1 cup sugar

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

3/4 cup cake flour (not self-rising)

1 tsp baking powder

1/2 tsp salt

1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened

2 large egg yolks

*Filling:* 2 T unsalted butter, softened

2 1/4 cups powdered sugar

2 to 3 T Ruby Red grapefruit juice

1. Zest and juice the grapefruit. In a small bowl, combine zest with 1 T sugar; set aside. In a medium bowl, whisk together flours, baking powder, and salt; set aside.

2. In an electric mixer bowl, beat butter and remaining sugar on med-high speed until light and fluffy, 2 minutes. Add egg yolks, and



beat until combined. Beat in zest-sugar mixture. Add flour mixture in two batches, alternating with the juice, and beat to combine. 3. Turn out half the dough onto a piece of plastic wrap, and shape into a 1-inch-thick disk. Wrap in plastic. Repeat with the remaining dough. Refrigerate disks until firm, about 30 minutes to 1 hour. 4. Preheat oven to 350. Line baking sheets with parchment or silicone. On a lightly floured surface, roll out one disk to 1/8 inch thick. Cut out 2-inch rounds and place on prepared sheet. Bake 10 to 12 minutes, rotating sheet halfway through if cooking unevenly. Allow to cool 2 minutes on baking sheet before removing to wire rack. 5. Place butter and powdered sugar in a mixing bowl and mix slightly. Add 1 to 2 tablespoons grapefruit juice and beat until frosting is formed. Spread 1 tablespoon filling onto cookie; top with another cookie. Enjoy! •

## The People in Barcroft ... Stebbins/Foley Family

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

Helene Stebbins and Ed Foley live on 8th Road between Buchanan and Wakefield. You'll see their children, Hannah (6th grade at Kenmore) and Aidan (3rd grade at Barcroft) frequently taking over the street while playing basketball, football or riding bikes.

Except for the 4th of July when the parade passes by, it is a quiet street, and helps compensate for their tiny back yard. Their yard used to be bigger, until Ed designed the two-story addition in 2002.

They were one of seven houses renovated on the street at that time, when there was always a dumpster nearby and con-

struction noise started at 7 a.m.

The new "Barcroft Ridge" construction at the end of the block will add two new houses, and raises the question of whether a developer can re-name a neighborhood, or maybe just their block? •



## Natural Disturbance

**By Cliff Fairweather, Long Branch Nature Center**

The woods around Long Branch Nature Center have taken a beating from the derecho and Hurricane Sandy. Especially hard hit was the area bordering the Glencarlyn neighborhood where numerous large trees were toppled. Additional severe tree damage occurred behind the nature center.

Storms and other forms of natural disturbance can promote biodiversity and shape ecosystems. Fallen trees create light gaps that are filled with sun-loving wildflow-

ers and create habitat for pollinating insects. Barring further disturbance, trees eventually fill the gap, restoring a forest habitat. Over longer time scales, larger, rarer disturbances such as meteorite strikes can reshuffle ecosystems on a continental or global scale.

We hope to have the trail from the Glencarlyn neighborhood to the nature center cleared by the time you read this. Managing other effects of the downed trees, will be a longer term challenge. If you're want to help us, come out to a Remove Invasive Plant (R.I.P.) event – the next one is on Jan. 20. •