

BARCROFT NEWS

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EDITOR 892-6265

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SPRING 1975 PROGRAMS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6 - TAX ASSESSMENT OF ARLINGTON COUNTY REAL ESTATE --- a program by GERALD ERNST, DIRECTOR OF REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENT, ARLINGTON COUNTY.

Now is the time to learn the whys and wherefores of the property tax assessment. Don't be in the dark! COME ON THURSDAY NIGHT. Let's have a good audience for Mr. Ernst. Please support your civic association and community --- by coming and knowing.

Thank you.

Be ready with your questions you always wanted to ask, but didn't know who to ask.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5. "Your Vegetable

Garden"--- by Mr. Francis Lay, your Arlington County Extension Agricultural Specialist.

We must have 35 in the audience for Mr. Lay's presentation according to their regulations, for free lessons, so please come!

Come and learn more about the best way to make the vegetable garden of your life.

Mr. Lay said that Arlington County Residents may sign up for 10 free lessons on gardens and yards which will be sent out by the extension throughout the year and apply to the particular month's problems and ideas for your yard and garden.

NOTE--- this meeting will be on WEDNESDAY instead of Thursday because Mr. Lay is not available on Thursdays.

THURSDAY, 3 APRIL CONSUMER PROTECTION

A representative from the Arlington County Consumer Protection organization will speak on who you can turn to for help and advice for the varying consumer problems in the area. He will also summarize the major problems and isolated issues which prevail and could be your problem here in Arlington and in the Metropolitan area. He will also relate solutions which may help you with your problems.

THE NEW COMMITTEE FOR BARCROFT BEAUTIFICATION --wants your suggestions, advice, and help.

DREAM A LITTLE. IDEAS ARE WANTED. Then practical selection and application of beautification to our area will follow with your help-- hard work and a little cash to each of our areas-- and probably to other areas through suggestions.

We all know of areas where the dogwood, weeping cherry, cherry trees or other touches create a fairyland of beauty. Let's put our ideas and hard work to this end. Let's be distinctive, practical, neat and beautiful in our Barcroft.

We will consult our local county or state specialists.

Write down your ideas and bring them to the next meeting. If you cannot come, send them to DP Anderson, 122 South Pershing Drive, Arlington, 22204.

If you are interested in being involved, please join in. We need you.

THE SPRING WALK OF BARCROFT

The brainchild of our imaginative president, Anne Noll --- a spring walk of HISTORICAL POINTS IN OUR BARCROFT AREA-- is being organized. If you are interested in being involved in this project-- we need you. Come to the next meeting. Let your interest be known.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings everyone. At our January 2 meeting we focused in on new concerns of our community. It was brought to our attention that a very danderous swamp, on county property, had developed in our area. We informed the Director of Transportation and officials responded, examined the area and Mr. John N. Hummel, Chief of the Systems Planning and Evaluation Division, reported back to us: "A field inspection of the affected area has been performed by my staff. The flooding and creation of the swamp is the

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COME AND SUPPORT YOUR CIVIC ASSOCIATION AND LEARN TO BETTER SOLVE YOUR CONSUMER PROBLEMS AND ADVISE OTHERS YOU MAY KNOW WHO DON'T KNOW WHO TO TURN TO.

PETER PAN

The Children's Theatre of Arlington is presenting Peter Pan at T. J. Community Center Feb. 22, 23, Mar. 1, 2, and 8, 9. Tickets in advance through Barcroft School are 50¢ and Barcroft P.T.A. will get a share of the profit.

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Are there other concerns? If so, bring them to your civic association, that's what we are all about. I look forward to seeing all of you at our next meeting - Thursday, February

BOOKS FOR NEWCOMERS

TORPEDO FACTORY - Art Center

The Torpedo Factory is a place for artists and fine craftsmen to work and the public to observe. The Art Center was initiated by the Alexandria Bicentennial Commission and established on a 3-year trial basis by the City of Alexandria. The Center will be self-supporting - rents paid by artists will pay for annual maintenance and capital costs of renovation.

The Torpedo Factory, build in 1917, was re-used for the same purpose in the 1940's. After World War II, Nazi war records were brought there for study and cataloging. The complex was then known as Federal Records Center. Later, government furniture was stored there until 1974.

Now 142 artists and craftsmen inhabit 95 studios and workshops in the Center. According to rules, they can exhibit and sell there only what they create in the Torpedo Factory. There are 4 juried-show galleries run by non-profit organizations of artists and craftsmen. The final component is the 350 student Art League School offering day and evening classes in almost all fields of fine art and a number of crafts.

The Torpedo Factory - art center - is located in Alexandria, 101 North Union St. (At the end of King St.) and is open seven days a week - 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For information call 836-8564. Tour information call 524-0483 in the evening.

HOFFMAN-BOSTON PROGRAM by Anne Morris

The Hoffman-Boston Program students are compiling a yearbook for the first time in it's three year history. Alumni of Barcroft Elementary School are active in the project. Chip White of 210 S. Abingdon is the editor. Other staff members from Barcroft are Barnaby Keer, Cathy Lykes and Anne Morris. The staff is currently running a candy sale. The candy is Reese's Peanut Butter Cups. The price is 20¢ a package. If you would like to purchase some call Chip White at 979-9072 or Anne Morris at 892-6823. You may also purchase two lines of type in the yearbook with any message you like. The cost is \$3-contributor, \$5-patron, and \$10-sponsor. The Hoffman-Boston Program is Arlington County's Model

Junior High School, serving the entire county. If you would like to know more about the school, visitors are always welcome.

Newcomers to Northern Virginia and history buffs can find several off-the-beaten path books that will help them become better acquainted with the area.

Two books that trace the history of the Washington and Old Dominion Railroad - "Rails To The Blue Ridge" by H.H. Harwood and "Washington and Old Dominion Railroad" by Ames W. Williams - offer fascinating glimpses into another area. The real drama of these books is the story of the death of a railroad - the mode of transportation that built America.

Bird watchers, arborists, entomologists and other nature lovers will use "A Field Guide to Potomac Overlook Regional Park" to explore new facets of the urban nature sanctuary.

These books can be purchased at regional park authority headquarters. For information, call 278-8880.

KENMORE JR. HIGH

by Patty Bradberry

February 14 Kenmore is having a dance. January 31 we get out for the teachers are having a meeting. There is going to be a girl's basketball team. February 17 will be a holiday for Washington's birthday. Wrestling matches start February 13, 3:15, Williamsburg at Kenmore. February 20 wrestling at Gunston, 3:15.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LINDA

Linda Harrison, an active member of our civic association, has been selected to serve as an Avon Team Leader. She is our neighborhood AVON Lady. Have you met Linda. (She would love to meet you - call day or evening 521-4528.)

BARCROFT SCHOOL PROGRESSIVE POTLUCK DINNER

All parents and teachers are invited to Progressive Potluck Dinner on Feb. 18th .

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DID YOU KNOW THAT THE BARCROFT BIBLE CHURCH
LENDERS ITS BUILDING TO BARCROFT SCHOOL FOR
SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Guide to Potomac Overlook Regional Park
to explore new facets of the urban nature
sanctuary.

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Progressive Potluck Dinner on Feb. 18th .
Call Ann Sparks 892-6831 or Eloise Felton
920-4274

CONSUMER PROTECTION FOR ARLINGTON COUNTY
(Since September 11, 1971)

Most businesses operate with high standards of integrity and fair dealing and with due regard for their customers, but the few who are guilty of deceptive, misleading, fraudulent, illegal or borderline practices have sometimes compromised the standing of the commercial community and diminished the confidence of consumers. This has given rise to the phenomenon of consumerism and resulted in demands for protection from all levels of government. Many experts in government, business and the consumer field believe that local consumer protection activity is an idea whose time has come.

After hearing public testimony and studying evidence presented to it by business and consumer interests, the Arlington County Board on September 11, 1971, unanimously passed a "Resolution of Consumer Protection," establishing the Arlington Consumer Protection Commission and charging it to provide assistance to Arlington consumers in the settlement of misunderstandings and prevention of improper practices. On October 25, 1974, the Arlington County Board approved Chapter 50 of the Arlington County Code known as the Consumer Protection Ordinance. Pursuant to that chapter the Office of Consumer Affairs was established by the County Manager. On the same date, the Board reconstituted and reestablished the Consumer Protection Commission.

The 15 Commission members currently serving by virtue of County Board appointment represent experience in business, law, government, teaching and consumer affairs. The Commission has subcommittees on public education and information, legislation, arbitration, and automobile problems. Each analyzes problems within its area of concentration and makes recommendations to the entire Commission. The Commission responds to requests for speakers who inform consumers of undesirable business practices and about desirable buying and contracting habits.

An Executive Director appointed by the County Manager is in charge of staff support for the Commission. He also serves as Executive Director of the Public Utilities Commission.

Basically, the County's consumer protection activity involves the following:

- 1) Receiving, recording, investigating, conciliating and mediating consumer complaints regarding the sale of goods or services, or the extension of credit. Conciliation efforts may include persuasion, conferences, hearings and arbitration.
- 2) Consumer education through the spoken or printed word (including "Consumer Alerts" released to the media) and through cooperation with other consumer agencies and the schools.
- 3) Recommending improvements in local and state laws and administrative procedures dealing with consumer matters, and report annually to the County Board on Commission activities.
- 4) Reporting suspected violations of laws to appropriate law enforcement agencies.

The Commission and staff consult with organizations such as the Consumer Affairs Office of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the Virginia Citizens Consumer Council, the President's Office of Consumer Affairs, the Better Business Bureau, the Federal Trade Commission, the Chamber of Commerce, the Extension Service of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, the Food and Drug Administration and other local consumer affairs units.

Many see the primary purpose of a consumer affairs agency as the protection of consumers, but its work should also benefit the business community by opening and improving lines of communication and complaint-handling procedures. Ethical and responsible businesses welcome the Agency's efforts to minimize the impact of those who operate on the fringes of illegality and impropriety through deceptive advertising and contracts. The efforts of honest businesses to establish and maintain consumer confidence in the marketplace are enhanced by the consumer agency's work.

Consumer complaints are handled by the staff at 2049 15th Street, North. Complaints from Arlington residents or against Arlington businesses are taken by phone, by letter, or in person. Letters should contain the complainant's phone number (office and home) so that staff members may readily contact them. The office phone number is (703) 558-2142. Hours are between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

This is a *Consumer* INFORMATION *Service* ₀₁
ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA
CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMISSION
2049 15TH STREET, N
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22201
(703) 558-2142

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