



# BARCROFT NEWS

MARCH, 1987

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**BARCROFT WILL HAVE A  
NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION PLAN!**

More than thirty Barcroft neighbors turned out for the Big Decision Meeting on February 5 and voted with enthusiasm to begin the year-long process of preparing and approving a Neighborhood Conservation Plan for Barcroft.

The County Board has encouraged each neighborhood to draft a Plan, which sets forth what the residents want the neighborhood to be. Should Barcroft remain in single family houses, with apartments and townhouses just along Columbia Pike and Arlington Boulevard, or would the residents prefer apartment or townhouse development within the neighborhood as well? Should sidewalks, curb and gutter be completed on all streets? Are some streets too dark? Are there small improvements in landscaping which would make the neighborhood more pleasant? By participating in drafting the Plan, Barcroft residents will be answering these questions for our neighborhood. The answers will probably stand through the end of the century as the community's adopted objectives. If you have an interest in what happens in Barcroft, this Plan is for you!

We are just starting. Some basic decisions will be made on March 5, when the draft of our big Barcroft questionnaire will be worked over. After that we will split up into working groups to attack specific tasks, which will include circulating and collecting the questionnaire, as well as taking a survey of curbs, gutters, sidewalks and streetlights. It will be an important meeting.

To our great relief, Pat Roach has agreed to take on the big job of coordinating the preparation of the Plan, which will require a lot of time on his part. The rest of us intend to contribute well-defined and reasonable pieces of time for the specific tasks. If you want to be part of this historic effort and missed our February Big Decision Meeting, call Pat at 920-8131 or come to the March 5 meeting. Pat has copies of other neighborhoods' Plans at his house that you can see, and by the time you see this newsletter he will have copies of the first draft of our questionnaire if you want to see one before the meeting. Call now! Mark your calendar and come on the 5th! You can make a difference in Barcroft.

**ARLINGTON HALL REPORT**

Arlington's Best-Kept Secrets

Planning for new uses of the federal property at Arlington Hall continues at its stately pace. The Army's Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM) will be leaving for new quarters at Fort Belvoir in 1989.

The Army National Guard will use part of the site for a \$28 million office facility. The budget proposal faces political opposition in Congress from Rep. Helen Bentley of suburban Baltimore, who wants to keep some Guard offices in her district. The offices would be on 15 acres along the east side of George Mason Drive just south of the Masonic Lodge. Guard officials have said that the buildings will not be higher than 45 feet. The old (ugly) buildings will be carefully razed, with great care to avoid spreading the asbestos they contain through Barcroft. The Guard will choose architects for their project in the next month or so.

Meanwhile, the architects have been chosen for the State Department's new campus for the Foreign Service Institute, which will occupy the remaining 72 acres of the site. State Department officials continue to confirm their commitment to a parkland use for the seven acres of the site on our side of George Mason Drive.

In January LTC Menser, Post Commander of Arlington Hall Station, and the INSCOM staff briefed BSCL and Alcova neighborhood representatives on their plans for carefully maintaining the base until they leave. If you have a complaint about the condition of the base you are urged to call LTC Menser at 692-7310. He would like to improve the fenceline along George Mason, but finds it difficult to justify the expense when they are moving out in two years.

Pat Roach, VP of the BSCL, spoke to Arlington's Committee of 100 on February 11, telling them of Barcroft's view of Arlington Hall. For further information, contact Pat at 920-8131.

**WHAT IS THAT STONE?**

Last month's teaser asked what the stone is with the little fence around it in the median of South Jefferson St. between Columbia Pike and Route 7. Well, its the old Southwest Number 6 Mile Marker. When the original District of Columbia was surveyed in 1790-91 the County where we live was marked off as part of the District. There were stones placed every mile along the ten mile sides of the square, and a larger stone at each corner. Stone number one is in Alexandria at the waterfront, and the line from there runs out to the spot where Arlington, Falls Church and Fairfax meet at one point (in a little park on Meridian Street). The stones were fast disappearing when the DAR undertook a project to protect them, erecting the little fences around each one. Old Number Six has been relocated a little, or it would be underneath the apartment building next to it. The other stones can mostly be found if you look hard enough, but they remain one of Arlington's Best-Kept Secrets.

**NEXT MONTH: WHY ARE THERE SO MANY ROCKS IN FOUR MILE RUN WHERE IT GOES THROUGH BARCROFT?**

**NEWSLETTER STAFF**

- Advertising Manager: Karen Duff 979-2422
- Contributions Editor: Susan Sarcone 920-8131
- Editor: Randy Swart 521-2080
- Layout: Barbara Swart 521-2080
- Around the Neighborhood: Kathy Kerr 892-6458
- Calendar of Events: Anne Noll 892-6710

**COME ONE, COME ALL TO THE  
BARCROFT SCHOOL CARNIVAL!  
MARCH 14**

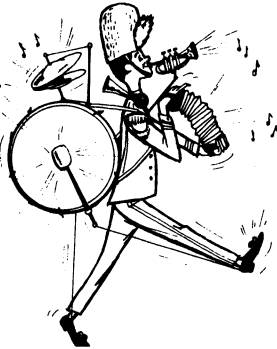


Barcroft School encourages the Barcroft community to attend its gala Carnival, which will run from 11 AM to 3 PM on Saturday, March 14. The school is on Wakefield between 6th and 7th Streets.

The Carnival will include a Country Store, Cake Walks, Baked Goods Sale, lots of food, a raffle (with a 10-speed bicycle as grand prize), crafts for all ages, fortune telling, clowns, face painting, games with prizes and the Moon Bounce.

Lots of Barcroft neighbors are already planning to attend. Kathy Kerr will be there. There will be a Special Recognition award for anyone who can recognize her from the picture in the Barcroft News. Ira Belcher will be there too, and may have his face painted purple. If it snows maybe Curtiss Werner will come and do one of his famous snow sculptures!

Barcroft School urges you to plan to come, bring a friend and have a good time.



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## HELLO BARCROFT! -- A LOOK AT COLUMBIA PARK APARTMENTS

by Rosalyn Serino

Twenty years ago in 1966 "South Buchanan Street was practically deserted," according to **Kay Turner**, a resident of Columbia Park Apartments. Built in 1965 by the Dittmar Company of Virginia, Columbia Park has long been a part of the Barcroft neighborhood. Kay describes the grounds of the apartments during those early days as "very safe" and "beautifully manicured." She remembers when the tenants were mostly single, and there were few cars in the parking lots. A lot has changed at Columbia Park in the last 20 years, but Kay and her husband **David** still enjoy it and feel it has aged gracefully.

The apartments consist of six buildings, four on S. Buchanan and two on Wakefield, which house about 350 people. According to the resident managers, **John and Ingrid Moore**, each year there is a tenant turnover of about 7%, mostly due to people leaving to buy homes. But the majority of tenants have lived in Columbia Park for two years or more, and the Moore's see the complex becoming more of a family community. The Moore's have four children (**Lisa, Nicole, Michelle and Danny**) and Ingrid believes that the number of children in Columbia Park has tripled in the last four years.

"What makes Columbia Park a good place to live is the wide variety of people who live here," says **Carmen Ocasio**. Carmen and her husband Tony have lived in the apartments since they moved to Arlington from New York. Their daughter **Jennie** especially likes the swimming pool during the summer and she's thrilled about her new younger sister, **Jessica**.

There are many different kinds of people at Columbia Park who help to make it a good place to live. **Jackie and Seiky Mendez**, for example, have seen the number of Spanish-speaking tenants like themselves grow from two families when they moved in eight years ago, to about twelve Spanish-speaking families today. The Mendez' live with their three children (**Jason, Emanuel and Joshua**) on Wakefield Street.

(See Cathy Kerr's column for more about both the Mendez and Ocasio families--this is Discover Columbia Park Month!)

Columbia Park Apartments have changed over the years and will continue to do so. Management expects to complete a re-roofing this spring, and to have a new cooling system in place for summer. Even more important than the physical aspects are the residents: families like **Jerry and Barry Savering** with their sons **Barry and Eric**; and couples like **Julie and John Urquhart**, who are all part of the Barcroft neighborhood. You can meet some of them at the regular meetings of the BSCL, or the Barcroft School Carnival on March 14. Discover Columbia Park--it's a nice part of our neighborhood.



### GYPSY MOTHS: MARCH BULLETIN

This month you should try to finish your outside check for the little fuzzy tan mounds about 1 to 2 inches across where the female gypsy moth left her eggs in the fall. They can be found on tree trunks, woodpiles, house eaves, fences, just about anywhere. Soak them in chlorox or burn them in your fireplace. Spring will be here soon, and you will have a much harder time catching the larvae than the eggs you find now.



### THE ARLINGTON COUNTY BICYCLE CLUB

Did you know that Arlington County has its own bicycle club? The group is a low-key club of people who are as interested in socializing a bit as they are in bicycle riding. They hold regular weekend rides, most of which you can keep up with, and a monthly pot-luck supper get together. Some of the rides are long--up to 25 miles--but many of them are short and easy, to a nice lunch spot or occasionally just to visit some yard sales! The club is based at Thomas Jefferson Community Center, and you can find out more about it by calling 550-2801. Or to join, send your \$5 dues to the Secretary, Charlotte Tachoir, at 5020 N. Sixth Street, Arlington, VA 22203. There are other bicycle clubs in the area, but this is the only one based exclusively in Arlington.

WANTED: Person to care for my infant in my home or yours, beginning in May. Please call 920-0763.

WANTED: Trumpet teacher for beginner, 10 years old. My house, or within walking distance of Barcroft School, afternoons. Call Jayne, evenings, at 521-6632.

WANTED: Part time worker for afternoons. Please call 920-0359 and ask for Joubin.

WANTED: More ads! Put your April yard sale in our April issue by bringing your ad to the BSCL meeting on March 5.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR MARCH

- 1 Sun Opera Theater of N. Va. An Afternoon of Arias. Gunston Arts Center. 3 PM Information 739-2918.
- 3 Tues Barcroft PTA Planning Committee Meeting. 920-6423.
- 3 Tues Arlington County Civic Federation meeting. 892-6710.



5 Thurs **BARCROFT SCHOOL AND CIVIC LEAGUE 7:30 PM. Program on the Neighborhood Conservation Plan, including decisions on the survey to be sent out to all Barcroft residents, and organization of working groups under volunteer leaders--YOU! Info 920-8131.**

- 7 & 21 Sat Arlington County Board Meetings. 9 AM at the Courthouse. Carried on cable TV. Info 558-2261.
- 14 Sat **BARCROFT SCHOOL CARNIVAL. 11 AM--3 PM. See article on page 3 of this newsletter. Come one, come all!**
- 21 Sat Long Branch Nature Center film: Dinosaur (animated) and The Year of the Mountain Goat. 2 PM at the Long Branch
- 22 Sun Nature Center. FREE. Call 845-7640.

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**ALSO OPEN SUNDAYS: 11:30 TO 5:30.**



**AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD**  
with Kathy Kerr

The baby boom continues in Barcroft.

**Joshua Mendez** was born Oct. 23, 1986. His parents, **Jackie and Secundino**, have two other sons. **Jason** is a second grader at Barcroft school and **Emanuel** is age 2. The Mendez family has lived in the Columbia Park apartments for 8 years.

Jackie's childhood friend, **Carmen Ocasio**, moved to the Columbia Park apartments one year ago with her husband **Anthony** and daughter **Jennie**, now age 2 1/2. The Ocasio's second baby, **Jessica Linette**, was born November 5th, just two weeks after the Mendez's.

**Peg and Blain Butner's** first baby, **Sarah Thiel**, was born January 14. They moved onto 6th St.S about one year ago after a long search for the right house in the right neighborhood. The Butners are especially happy to have lots of children on their block.

**Mike and Marcia Bobal** live on S. Pershing Dr. Their daughter, **Christine** age 2, became a big sister on Jan. 26. The new baby, named after his Daddy, is the fourth one in his family line to be named **Michael Anthony!**

Congratulations one and all!

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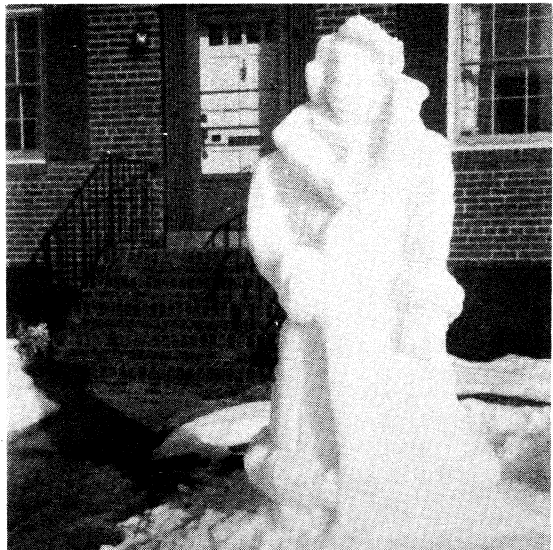
At least one person in Barcroft really likes snow--Mr. **Curtiss D. Werner**. He claims that he is not an artist, but as his neighbors know, that was no ordinary snowman in his front yard after the February storm. (See Photo!) It looked more like George Washington wearing a long coat. (The day before, it had been a woman, but she melted quite a bit and was thus transformed.)

Mr. Werner began his hobby as a child living in southern Ohio. His favorite snow subjects have always been George and Martha Washington. He says his two daughters wanted regular old snowmen a few times and he has also been known to snow sculpt Venus de Milo or The Thinker. One year he made a huge igloo. He has a photo of himself standing tall in the doorway--wearing bathing trunks and water skis!

Tools of the trade include snow, which has to be just right, rubber gloves and a table knife. Mr. Werner usually makes a couple of sculptures each year. This year he still hopes to make a Ferrari in the front yard.

The Werners are original owners of their home. Located on 1st St. S., near the corner of Utah St., their lot was once a Payne property cow pasture. Mr. Werner had an amateur radio station and wanted a high spot for his house. It was built in 1950 on a knob of land 10-15 feet high. Little did he know that the developer would later bulldoze flat the surrounding land. The Werner's house is the only one on their street with steps. There was a ring of apple trees out back. He remembers a horse, wagon and hay on the still-active Boswell farm. He says Pershing Dr. was then just a rutted road--a little bit of tar but mostly dirt.

Mr. Werner, a retired Senior Negotiator and Contracting Officer for the Navy, loves the snow. He says he even loves to shovel it. He does his own sidewalk and then helps out some of the neighbors too. The next time it snows, it will be fun to pass the Werner's yard at First & Utah and see what has manifested!



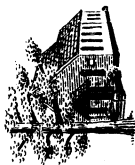
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# BARCROFT



# NEWS

BARCROFT SCHOOL AND CIVIC LEAGUE  
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