



BARCROFT NEWS

OCTOBER, 1987

OCTOBER 1 MEETING : MEET THE ELECTION CANDIDATES AND HEAR ABOUT THE NEW TRASH CANS

October's BSCL meeting will be something special! The meeting will begin at 7:30 **SHARP** to discuss the new trash cans the County wants Barcroft residents to accept (see article on page 2). Trash collection is probably one of the guts issues for any neighborhood, and the first areas in Arlington to receive the new cans had big meetings beforehand to debate their merits. We will have comments from some of the early users to answer your questions about how well the cans work.

At 8:00 the meeting will change to Candidates' Night. The candidates for the County Board, State Assembly and State Senate will be on hand to make a short 4 minute statement and then answer your questions. This is your chance to be an informed voter this year with a face-to-face understanding of who you are voting for. Reading the Washington Post or the Northern Virginia Sun is certainly no substitute for asking that politician why he or she supports a certain view, and watching closely as they respond. We are keenly appreciative that all eight candidates for the various offices have agreed to attend, and hope that Barcroftians will turn out in numbers to make it worthwhile for all of us.

MEMBERSHIP

The Barcroft School and Civic League has a September to September membership year. So now is the time for everyone, including those who are already BSCL members, to join for the 1986-87 year. Dues are only \$2 per person. Please send in your dues with the coupon on the back cover. You can also join at any meeting of the League. And you are welcome at any meeting whether or not you ever send in your dues. We need your support to keep the Barcroft neighborhood spirit healthy. Please join today!



LAST CALL FOR QUESTIONNAIRES

If you have not returned your Neighborhood Conservation Plan questionnaire, do it by Halloween! If you do not turn one in, the Plan will be developed with other peoples' ideas instead of yours. Drop it off in the box at the Community House, 800 S. Buchanan. Lost it? Call Pat Roach at 920-8131 for a new one.

THE TRASH CAN COMETH -- DO YOU WANT ONE?

First there was Snow White and her Prince. Now there is the woman who has blissfully encountered an Eagle-cart trash can in her yard; obviously her Prince Charming. Such is the photo on the front of the brochure the County is sending to Arlington homes to promote the latest in trash collection. The brochure actually proclaims that with these new cans "A Dream Comes True."

For the past year, a number of Arlington neighborhoods have been using a new kind of trash can called the Eagle-cart. Perhaps you have seen the large, 2-wheeled carts lining the curbs in various neighborhoods outside of Barcroft. (Alcova is the nearest to us, between Glebe Road and George Mason.) The Utilities Dept. plans to eventually offer the trash carts to everyone in Arlington. So far most people seem to prefer them to the old cans.

Residents in the northwest corner of Barcroft will be receiving the option to use the cans very soon (not in April, as the "Prince Charming" brochure states). Why not the entire neighborhood? Because refuse collection "Route 5" is next on the County list, and it includes only a part of Barcroft. (This explains why trash on one side of certain streets may be picked up in the early morning while the other side is not collected until afternoon.) If you are not on Route 5 your Eagle-cart conversion time will come later on, perhaps next year.

There is no cost for the first Eagle-cart; people wishing to have more than one will have to pay \$3.00/quarter on their utility bill. Residents will be given an Eagle-cart unless they notify Public Works they don't want it. The County will notify you that the carts are coming by mail--first the Prince Charming brochure and then apparently something else with more specifics.

In the brochure, the County promises quieter and faster trash pick-up. The light-weight, wheeled carts are said to reduce back injuries for both residents and trash collectors; there is a special "power-hoist" on the garbage trucks to lift the Eagle-carts. The carts hold the equivalent of 3-4 ordinary refuse containers. The latch is designed to discourage animals. The tops are attached to the cart so no more trash can tops would be strewn on the sidewalk to trip unwary pedestrians or blow down the street. The new carts will "virtually eliminate SPILTH--the spilled refuse that constitutes most of the litter in the County."

The brochure does not tell you how to get the cans up and down steps, or if the wheels will roll across a muddy yard. The carts are large and may be difficult for elderly persons to handle. A woman at the County Utilities Department did admit that some residents find the carts difficult to store during the week due to their size. For example, people in townhouses may not have a discreet place to stash the king-size can.

You can keep using your old cans if you prefer to. You can also try one of the new cans and later decide to return it and go back to your old one. And services such as setting out cans for the handicapped or elderly will continue unchanged. So this decision is not going to change your life, but you might like to know more about it.

Should you accept one of the new cans or stick with your old ones? The BSCL will hold a half hour discussion on that topic at the October 1st meeting featuring comments by residents of one of the neighborhoods who have been using the new cans. The trash can discussion will begin at 7:30 sharp and end at 8:00 to begin Candidates' Night.

For more information from the County, call the Utilities Department at 558-2321. We will ask the County to send a representative to the meeting on October 1st as well.



Arlington's Best Kept Secrets

THE OLDEST HOUSE IN ARLINGTON

Did you guess where the oldest house is? Did you guess Mount Vernon, or Arlington House? Of course not. You knew all along that the oldest house in the County is the John Ball house, now known as the Ball-Sellers House, located just across Four Mile Run in Glencarlyn neighborhood at 5620 Third Street South.

John Ball, an early Arlington settler, built the house about 1750. He was a tailor for, among others, George Washington. The house is prized as our only example of an ordinary working person's home from that period. The original section was a log cabin, and you can still see the original logs through a glass cutout in the board siding which was added later. The floors are worn, and the doors are low. The original roof was of boards, not shingles, and has been covered by another roof above it to preserve it.

The Ball Sellers House is preserved by the Arlington County Historical Society. It is opened at various times during the year for special occasions, or may be seen by calling the caretakers, Jay and Lynn Windsor, at 998-7686.




The Ball-Sellers House


And about last month's "Secret"

At least one Barcroft resident, Dick Williams, found that last month's directions to John Carlin's Springs were confusing. Better, perhaps, to approach the springs from the north, starting at Arlington Boulevard and heading south (toward Columbia Pike) on the W & OD bicycle path. Take the first right fork just 30 or 40 yards below Arlington Boulevard, then make an immediate left past the picnic shelter and continue on a few yards to the base of the hill. There you will find the two small stone springhouses. Thanks, Dick, for letting us know that clearer directions were needed!

Next month: What is the nearest library branch to Barcroft?



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**COUNTY POLICE ENCOURAGE
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

Streets in Barcroft which have not yet organized Neighborhood Watch but feel it is needed should take advantage of the Arlington County Police Department's new push to encourage the formation of Neighborhood Watch groups.

REGISTER TO VOTE

Are you registered to vote on November 3rd? There will be two County Board members elected this time, with a big influence on the course of Arlington County government over the next four years. You can do more than gripe--you can vote on November 3rd. Registration tables are scattered here and there at shopping locations and such, or you can go to any library branch. Call the County Registrar's office at 558-2345 for more information on registering. And come to the BSCCL meeting on October 1 to see the candidates in person and decide who you will cast your vote for.

Neighborhood Watch is an organized program of looking out for your neighbors to prevent burglaries and other crimes. The police department conducts a security survey of the homes in the area, instructs on how to mark property with identification numbers to discourage theft, and encourages the residents not to hesitate to call the County police department any time you see suspicious characters around or observe what may be a burglary in the making. When the program is in place, the County will install those nasty Big Eye signs for a reasonable \$37 each, paid for by collecting small amounts from the residents participating.

The responses on the Barcroft questionnaire indicate that some who have Neighborhood Watch in their part of the neighborhood are impressed with the results, and some are not. Nobody regretted having the program, however, and some said with enthusiasm that they consider it an important first line of defense against crime on their street.

To find out more about organizing your street, call the Crime Prevention Unit of the Police Department at 568-2791.



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- Vice President.....Randy Swart
- Treasurer.....Ira Belcher
- Correspondence Secretary.....Karen Duff
- Recording Secretary.....Donna Anderson
- Board members.....Phyllis Kinsey
- Susan Christopher
- Bill Peine
- Howard Mumford

OCTOBER EVENTS

Saturdays Arlington County Farmers' Market. Courthouse parking lot. Saturday morning from early 'till noon. See you there!

Sundays "Arlington County Line" radio show with topics of interest to Arlington. WMZQ radio (AM 1390). 9 to 9:30 AM Sundays.

Oct 1 **BARCROFT SCHOOL AND CIVIC LEAGUE 7:30 PM. The New Trash**
THURS. Cans. Hear from a user how well they work. Then at 8:00
PM, Candidates Night. Come and ask the candidates for
office in the November election the questions you want
them to answer. For info please call 920-8131.

Saturday Last day to register to vote in the November election. You can register at the Central Library or a branch library, or call the Registrar at 558-2345. But do it before the 3rd!

Saturday Community Garage Sale of the Arlington Civitans. 7:30 AM to 1:30 PM at the parking garage over I-66 (enter at 15th St N. and Quincy). Shoppers 25¢, Sellers \$4. 558-2475.

Saturday Arlington County Board meeting. 9 AM. Watch them live on Channel 31.

Monday Book Discussion Group. Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. 7:30 PM. Call Doré Morse at 524-8662 for info.



WANT ADS

FOR SALE Four 36 inch aluminum awnings, black and white. Any reasonable offer. Dick Williams, 521-0731.

WANTED: Someone to jog 1-2 miles with, 7 or 8 AM any morning Monday-Friday, or some evenings. I live near 8th Street South and Wakefield. Call Stephanie at 920-4986.


WANTED: Responsible woman to look after a 16 month old girl. Two days a week, some light housekeeping. Must have references. Please call 920-1815.

FOR SALE: Personal Computer. 100% IBM compatible. 13" amber monitor, standard keyboard, 2 disk drives. Like new, still in box. One year guarantee. \$795. Please call 920-7006.

GIANT YARD SALE!! But they forgot to tell the Barcroft News where it would be, and missed a lot of sales as a result. Bring your ad to the BSCL meeting on the first Thursday of the month. Or drop a note to the Editor at 4849 Second Street South, Arlington 22204. Ads are free for members of the BSCL. October 10 is the deadline to get an ad in for your November sale.

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AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD
with Kathy Kerr

-7-

**NEW NEIGHBORS ON
PERSHING COURT**

Welcome to the 18 families residing on Barcroft's newest street--Pershing Court. The Hidden Oaks development at the bend of Pershing Drive is now peopled with new neighbors. At the September BSCL meeting, I had the pleasure of meeting two of them--Woody Torrence and Hugh Quinn.

Woody Torrence, an Arlington resident for 10 years, moved to Barcroft from Fairlington. He says he likes the neighborhood here and it is a little closer to his work at Bell Atlantic up on Court House Road. A graduate of Harvard, Yale and Stanford, Woody is an attorney and also has an MBA. When he spoke at the BSCL meeting, I couldn't help but notice his rich, full speaking voice. It wasn't too surprising that he sings bass in the Washington Choral Arts Society. Woody has also been active in the Big Brother program. He met his "little brother" 10 years ago. The boy, now 19 years old, has recently joined the Navy. Woody says he will probably be reassigned a new "brother" soon. Woody's many interests include photography, aerobics and weight lifting. He has served on the Arlington County Tenant Landlord Commission. He was a Tenant Representative for 6 months until he became a homeowner. Then he served as Public Interest representative for over 4 years.

Hugh Quinn and his wife **Ann** have lived all over the world. Most recently they were residing in Atlanta. This is their 4th time living in the Washington area and I am pleased to say that this time they plan to stay. The Quinns like Barcroft because it is a nice neighborhood; people care about it. Also, it is very close for Hugh's work downtown and at the Pentagon. He is Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Guard in Reserve for Readiness and Training. That's one of the longest job titles I've ever heard! Hugh claims that Ann would say his hobby is "work", but he does find time for racquetball and a little handball. The Quinns have 3 children--2 daughters in California and a son in Colorado. Hugh

and Ann have been married for 31 years but have known each other a lot longer than that. Hugh reports that they had their first date in Flushing, NY--in 4th grade!

Both Hugh and Woody mentioned that all of the neighbors on Pershing Court share the neighborhood concern for tree conservation. Everyone at the BSCL meeting was glad to hear that.

Welcome, welcome all of you to your new neighborhood!

TIDBIT: Alcova Heights playground has a new slide! It sure is a lot safer at the top than the old one was. Also, have you seen the fun, new orange playground equipment at Doctor's Run on George Mason just south of Columbia Pike? When you go, look for me, my 4-year-old Allen and baby Caroline, age 1.

GUESS WHAT -- A NEW BABY!



Katie Jane Kelsch was born July 29. Her parents, Laurie, a mother-at-home and Taylor, an economist, moved from Texas to Barcroft in November, 1986. Katie's big brother is Daniel, age 12. The Kelsch family lives on 1st Road South.

New neighbors, babies, grandchildren weddings, Bar Mitzvahs, anecdotes, anniversaries, talents, memories? Help Kathy keep up with Barcroft. Call her at 892-6458.



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NEWS

BARCROFT

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BARCROFT SCHOOL AND CIVIC LEAGUE
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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 c/o Kathryn Villegas
 4301 Columbia Pike
 Arlington, VA 22204

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Address _____

City Arlington, VA 22204

Phone _____

Please send with \$2 dues per person.

Bring your free want ad for the
 Barcroft News to our next meeting.