

BARCROFT NEWS

NOVEMBER, 1987

FIRE CHIEF DOCUMENTS RESPONSE TIME, OFFERS FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAM

We mentioned in the article about a fire in Barcroft last month that some neighbors were not impressed with the response time of the Arlington County Fire Department. Fire Chief Thomas Hawkins, Jr, has responded with a letter detailing the response time, which was exactly six minutes and one second from the time the call was received until the first units arrived at the fire. He provided a printout of the record of the activities related to the call, which Pat Roach will bring to the next meeting for anyone who wants to see it. Chief Hawkins noted that a minute seems like a long time if you are waiting for a fire engine to arrive. He also offered to send Lt. Stephen Henson to present a fire prevention education program to the BSCL. We accepted, and the program will take the first 45 minutes of our November 5 meeting. Come and find out how to avoid your own six minute wait.



LET'S QUIT TALKING ABOUT MEMBERSHIP

Please pay your dues so we can put something else here! It's only \$2 per person, and you meant to do it last month. There is a coupon on the back cover for your convenience.

AND ITS TIME TO REVIEW PROGRESS ON THE NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION PLAN

The second part of our program on November 5 will be a review of progress on the Neighborhood Conservation Plan. There will be a copy of the big printout of the responses for anyone to look at, and reports by the Committees on the work they are doing. If you are not yet on one the committees, now is a good time to find out which one might interest you. Mark your calendar and look for the "Barcroft Meeting Tonight" signs on November 5.



YOU CAN NOMINATE A "NOTABLE TREE"

Arlington County is compiling a ledger of "Notable Trees" as part of a campaign to preserve the beauty of the County's grand old "urban forest" giants. The County has printed up a form called a Notable Tree Nomination. If you know of a notable tree you would like to see recognized and protected you can pick up a form at the next BSCL meeting. You fill it out and send it in to the Landscape Coordinator of the Department of Public Works. Do it now before your favorite tree is "hidden."

EARLY FEEDBACK ON YOUR RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRES

We have now entered into a computer 407 forms you filled out. Some early views:

PEOPLE

Residents all over the neighborhood responded, but 87% were from single family houses. A full 91% owned their home. Three fifths of the households had no more than two persons. Twenty-two percent were under the age of 24, and 20% were over 65. Thirty eight percent had lived in Barcroft more than 25 years, while only 28% had lived here less than 5 years. The longest resident has been here 65 years! These answers show stability, but also show who cares enough to tackle 64 long questions!

LAND USE

There was a clear consensus against building more housing in Barcroft, with 76% opposed and only 9% in favor.

TRAFFIC FLOW

The worst traffic problem is speeding on Buchanan, Pershing Drive and Abingdon. "Cut-throughs" are using Barcroft as a short-cut between Arlington Boulevard, Columbia Pike and George Mason Drive. There were many ideas for solutions, including speed bumps, stop signs, enforcement, and closed off intersections. Most drivers use the intersection at Arlington Boulevard and Abingdon - Henderson Streets, and 56% opposed closing it off. (One person found the wording of the question was confusing, so the transportation committee will take a close look at the results of this one.)

Sidewalks promise to be an active topic for discussion. Some are strongly in favor of having sidewalks everywhere for pedestrian safety and comfort, but others oppose spending for sidewalks or do not want to lose a nice chunk of grass, shrubs or trees from their lawn. Of the 44 who have no sidewalks, 43 do not want them. But 120 others wrote in locations where they thought sidewalks are needed. The most frequent spot was on Buchanan near the Vepco substation.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Half (48%) said we do not need more parks in Barcroft. But many asked for better access to Four Mile Run from the Vepco substation or from 7th Street S. down to the bike trail. Walkers on the trail said that speeding bicycles are a problem. Nearly everyone wants to keep trees and open space. Dog droppings were a problem for only 33%.

SERVICES

The County was most often rated Good on library service (62%) and water & sewer (72%). It was most often rated Poor on snow removal (35%). Some (18%) consider crime a problem in Barcroft, and 31% want more police patrols, often to enforce traffic laws. The majority favor strict enforcement of County regulations on junk cars (81%) and pet control (66%). Views were mixed on car repairs, and evenly split on small home businesses.

OOPS!

We forgot the snow shoveling question, and the car use questions were biased toward public transportation, which some do not consider justified. We were surprised that some people do not seem to feel like participants in doing the plan, and sometimes said "they" are writing it. Come and participate. You live here, and it's your neighborhood. You belong to this effort, and you will be welcome. It's we, not they.

This is just a light skimming. Your detailed comments provide more depth than just the statistics, and are now being used by the drafting committees working on various topics. All of your comments anywhere on the form were entered in the computer. You can still get your views in if you have not already done so. Drop your questionnaire off at the Data Entry Site, 4649 Second Street South. Call Pat Roach at 920-8131 if you need a new one to fill out. You can examine a printout of the responses so far at the BSCL meeting on November 5th.

**THE BEST LIBRARY BRANCH FOR BARCROFT
MAY BE TUCKED AWAY IN GLENCARLYN**

Does it seem to you that the main Library is too crowded, and the Columbia Pike branch too far? Why not try Glencarlyn?

The Glencarlyn Library is located at the corner of Third Street South and Kensington, in the heart of Glencarlyn neighborhood. It's just a half mile from Barcroft as the crow, the foot or the bicycle flies to the west, down into Four Mile Run valley and up the other side. Easy to find on a map, too.

Beverly Petersiel, Branch Manager, has extended a special invitation to all Barcroftians to visit the Glencarlyn Branch and make use of its complete range of adult, young adult and children's services. The branch emphasizes its bestseller collection, and has the shortest waiting list of any Arlington library. The branch welcomes ideas from anyone on books for future purchase. Ms. Petersiel is also on the lookout for anyone who has an interesting display for the library's exhibit case. Call her at 824-1681.

If you do not have a library card, just bring an ID along on your first visit to have a card issued immediately by one of the friendly staff members: Kay Britto, Eleanor Spears, Eve Bowman, Pauline Wood, Tan Van Nguyen, Sally Long and Mollie Hester. They hope to see you soon!

Next month: **Why do we say "South Taylor Street" but turn the words around to say "6th Street South" ?**


RADON: IS IT A PROBLEM IN BARCROFT?

Tom Floyd is working on an article on radon in Barcroft. If you have had your house tested please drop him a note or a copy of the results at 514 S. Abingdon Street, Arlington VA 22204 or call him at 892-6216.


**BARCROFT ELEMENTARY HAS BOOK FAIR AND
"THEY SING WITH THEIR HANDS"**

On Thursday, November 19, there will be a Book Fair at Barcroft Elementary School (625 South Wakefield Street) at 6:30 PM. It will be followed at 7 PM by a special family program featuring David Parker of Breakthrough, titled "They Sing With Their Hands," joining the beauty of sign language with music. Refreshments served. Bring family and friends. Free. For info call 521-3821.





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PARTS OF BARCROFT GET NEW TRASHCANS

On Thursday, October 8, Barcroft homes on refuse collection Route 5 received the new Eagle-carts. The cans had been discussed at the BSCL meeting on October 1, with Ken Hook and Pat Rowe from the Arlington County Public Works Department. Here are some comments from Mr. Hook and other neighborhoods who have been using the Eagle-cart, including Carol Rademaker, President of the Arlington Ridge Civic Association:

1. The Eagle-cart makes no change in basic trash pickup--you still have one weekly pickup, the County has the same rules about what they will take, there is still service for the elderly and handicapped to set their cans out.
2. There is no requirement that you use the Eagle-cart. You can take one for a trial and return it at any time just by calling the County at 558-2321.
3. The cart is big, but it is easy to maneuver due to its large wheels. It can hold up to 90 gallons and up to 200 pounds. You never have to lift it off the ground. Even people with steps or steep hills in their yards may find the cart is easier than the old cans.
4. One problem is the space you need to store the big cart between trash pickups. There are two sizes. You can call the County to get the smaller one.
5. The streets are cleaner after trash pickup than they used to be. The Eagle-carts seem to be dog and cat-proof, although the latch is not very good. The top is fastened on, so you don't find trash can tops scattered around.
6. Great can! You're going to love them. I can even get my wife to roll it out. Rolls easily on the big wheels, even if the yard is wet. Holds a lot. Much better than the regular cans.
7. We really like them. One holds most of our trash. They are durable. They can be hard to roll with too much heavy stuff in them, but normally are easy to move.

One can is free. You can rent another for a dollar a month. The can will be replaced by the County if it breaks in normal use or is stolen. It can be rolled around the yard to load leaves. You can still use your old cans if you prefer. If you decide at any time to go back to your old cans, you call 558-2321 and the County will take it back.

If you have not yet received a new Eagle-cart you are on Route 7, which will get the new cans next year.



Many changes take place in a neighborhood. As a child, I remember seeing jurors sequestered in Smith's Tourist Home, which belonged to my parents. Across the street stood apple trees

and horses. Fortunately for us, my Mom built a home there, which is now our home. I know how important our home is to each of us. Childhood memories linger on and adult memories become even more precious with time. If I can help you with any of your real estate, please call me, as I do care about your neighborhood and mine.

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NOVEMBER EVENTS

Saturdays Arlington County Farmers' Market. Courthouse parking lot. Saturdays 7AM to noon through Nov. 28. See you there!

Nov 5 THURS. **BARCROFT SCHOOL AND CIVIC LEAGUE 7:30 PM.** Fire Prevention in the Home. Arlington County Fire Department. Then Neighborhood Conservation Plan. Come and hear about the progress our Committees are making, and see how you can pitch in. For info please call 920-8131.

Saturday 7th 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.

Tuesday 10th Deadline for copy for all of your articles, ads, cartoons, artwork, and such for the Barcroft News.

Fri/Sat 13 & 14 Book & Record Sale. 10 AM. Opera Theatre of Northern Va. Gunston Center, 2700 S. Lang St. For info call 739-2918.

Monday 16th Bead Necklace Design workshop. 7 PM. Open to anyone 7 yrs old and up. Great ideas for gift-giving and make your own necklaces. Glencarlyn Library. Info 824-1681.

Monday 23rd Book Discussion Group. Arl. Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy 7:30 PM. November book: The Catcher in the Rye. 524-8662.

AN APPEAL FROM THE WOMEN'S CLUB

The Women's Club of Arlington (700 S. Buchanan) is pleased to be a part of the Barcroft community and hopes its residents will understand about the following reminder.

Our parking lot is private -- only for the use of our members. Our insurance does not cover others who might park there. Snow days have been a special problem. We pay for the snow removal, then others park there, often leaving their cars for several days. We need all the space for our own use. So -- sorry, but please do not park on our lot.

AND AN INVITE TO THE HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

But please do come to our Holiday Boutique on Friday, November 13 and Saturday, November 14, 10 AM to 3 PM. Arts, crafts, bakery, hand knits, crochet, stitchery, attic treasures, kitchen corner, plants, food and much more. For information, call 671-8818.

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AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD
with Kathy Kerr

-7-

**BARCROFT BACK YARDS CAN
BE INTERESTING !**

You just never know what you might find in your own back yard--especially if your property line ends at an army base. Our Barcroft community includes the houses on the east side of George Mason Dr.; behind them lies Arlington Hall Station. The first house from the George Mason Dr. gate is the home of history buff Jay Roy Sims who lives with his parents Joseph and Charlotte Simasek. In the summer of 1986 while digging a hole for the footing of a retaining wall, Jay Roy found what he thinks may be a World War vintage cartridge shell (which has clearly been detonated).

The empty shell is made of copper or brass and is about 3/4 inch or 40mm in diameter and about 5-6 inches long. Jay Roy says he has been meaning to go over to the base and see if anyone there can tell him more about it. He is also curious about a big concrete pillar his family found while digging several feet down in their garden about 10-15 years ago. They had to take it out piece by piece and wonder if it had something to do with the Army base.

Jay Roy and his folks share a strong interest in the history of Arlington and Barcroft. He showed me a copy of the beautiful, new book called Arlington County in Virginia: A Pictorial History by Nan and Ross Netherton. (Norfolk VA: Donning Co. 1987).

This lovely book referred to Barcroft relatively few times but page 129 was particularly interesting:

"BARCROFT

The post village of Barcroft was a stop on the Southern Railway's Bluemont branch. Besides a little cluster of homes, there was Oscar Haring's store...where the first telephone in the neighborhood was installed in 1916, the Barcroft mill, a blacksmith shop, cattle pens, and the Barcroft Community House, built in 1907.

Dr. John Wolverton Barcroft was a native of New Jersey who first settled on Holmes Run in Fairfax County in 1849, after he graduated from Philadelphia Medical college. He built and operated Barcroft Mill until the Civil War, during which federal troops damaged the building beyond repair. He went back to New Jersey, returning to the area after the war.

In 1880, Dr. Barcroft purchased the Custis Mill on Four Mile Run which he rebuilt and rented out to several different millers. The thirty-six foot water wheel was said to have been the largest on the East Coast. Called Arlington Mill, the name was changed to Barcroft. The post village of Barcroft was established in 1898."

As many Barcroftians know, the railroad stop, store and mill were located where Columbia Pike crosses Four Mile Run.

Anybody else out there ever dug up anything interesting in your yard? Let me know about it!

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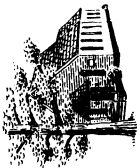
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BARCROFT NEWS



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