

BARCROFT NEWS

April, 1989

APRIL MEETING: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE BY SENATOR HOLLAND AND DELEGATE STAMBAUGH

Our April 6th BSCL meeting will feature a visit by our two State legislators, Delegate Warren G. Stambaugh and Senator Edward M. Holland. They will update us on the new laws passed or rejected by the Virginia General Assembly in the session which just ended. Our meeting will take place the day after their final Assembly wrap up session, so you will be hearing up-to-the-minute news.

Among the major issues Senator Holland and Delegate Stambaugh will address will be the new authority for counties to charge income tax to pay for transportation projects (not likely to be used by the Arlington County Board) and new laws on vehicular homicide. Plus anything you want to ask about action or lack thereof on drugs, corruption, crime, the environment, you name it. (Due to the political flavor of this evening the questions will be limited to Barcroft residents to eliminate early campaigning!)

The program starts at 7:30 PM, April 6th at the Barcroft Community House, 800 South Buchanan Street. Come and hear what your State legislators have been doing on your behalf.

DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR COUNTY TAX DEFERRAL PLAN FOR SENIORS EXTENDED TO APRIL 15

If you are a senior with limited income and assets you may qualify for a County tax deferral on your real estate taxes. You have until April 15 to apply. Call 358-3030 for info.

WILL THE STATE DEPARTMENT BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR AT ARLINGTON HALL? STAY TUNED

After considerable bickering, the County and the Department of State are closer to resolving their disagreement on who will pay for site improvements around Arlington Hall. It may be you.

The County wants the Department of State to foot the bill for "streetscaping" along George Mason Drive and Arlington Boulevard. At a meeting in the Boardroom attended by BSCL officers the County Board members explained that any developer in Arlington is expected to install wide sidewalks, underground utility wires, streetlighting that meets the County standard, as well as paying for any changes in traffic lanes or signals at entrances. State says they have no extra funds and do not want to take the money from their new buildings to use it for improvements outside the site. State also is balking at constructing the bicycle path to connect to Thomas Jefferson Community Center. (This is in part because some Alcovia residents object to having the bicycles pass by their houses--separated from them by the chain link fence.)

How will this be resolved? Slowly. We Barcrofters will see the results eventually in whether or not George Mason Drive continues to be an eyesore, the lighting along Arlington Boulevard continues to be inadequate, and our tax money has to be spent to install a left turn lane or light at the entrance to the site. We also will see how far the bicycle path gets us toward TJ Center. Meantime, the West side (Barcroft side) is still planned for a nice neighborhood park, so there should be some improvement in any event. Stay tuned.

TAXES: WHY ARE THEY GOING UP?

The County Tax Assessor, Mr. Tommy Rice, spoke to our March meeting on how your home is assessed. If he is correct your assessment is about 80% of the selling price of your home if you were unfortunate enough to leave Barcroft this year.

Mr. Rice's office bends over backwards to be fair about tax assessments. They visit homes every 6 years. (No Barcrofter remembered a visit by an assessor, but we asked around the next day and found some Arlingtonians did.



The Barcrofters at the meeting noted that rising assessments are one thing, but wanted to know why the tax rate can't be lowered to keep their taxes from going up. Arlington's tax rate is lower than any of the other local jurisdictions. For a home assessed at \$165,300 the homeowner paid 1988 taxes of \$1,471 in Arlington County, \$2,066 in Fairfax, and \$2,149 in Alexandria. That makes Arlington sound good. But the increase in our taxes has still been very rapid, and much higher than inflation. At the Civic Federation's March meeting a member of the Budget Committee said that taxes rose 43% in the last 4 years while inflation was only 15%. Some Barcrofters at our meeting asked what the homeowner is getting for that increase. The group thought it would be a good idea to have a session with a County Board member to hear why tax bills keep rising. Stay tuned for the May meeting, where we will do just that.

You can appeal your assessment if you think it is too high. The assessors may have you down for an extra bathroom or a garage you tore down last year. You can call Mr. Rice at 358-3300 and ask for the "Carat Sheet" for your house, which shows the features that make up your assessment. You can also ask about the assessments of other properties around you to see if yours seems out of line. Or you can go to the central library and ask the librarian to help you find the information in the assessment records they have there. The library also has a book called Real Estate Sales where you can see what houses have sold for on your street.

What happens if you appeal and the assessors find a new bathroom you installed last year? No increase is made in your tax bill this year, to avoid penalizing you for helping out the assessor. But next year your tax bill will be higher. If your appeal is successful your bill is lowered, and you get the benefit immediately. In most cases where a mistake is found the tax bill is lowered by somewhere between \$65 and \$165.

Our Realtor panel provided some good discussion at the meeting too. Betty Jane Myers, Pat O'Brien and Sue Sarcone covered some interesting subjects like whether you should add on to your home or move to a larger one. Lots in Barcroft are now valued at \$65,000 each or more. Home values keep going up because more people want to live in Arlington.

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<p>Susan dee Cohen</p> <p>Realtor°</p> <p>979-5818</p>	<p>TALK TO o YOUR BARCROFT NEIGHBORS</p>	<p>Susan Sarcone</p> <p>Realtor°</p> <p>930-8131</p>
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Realtors° around your corner

BARCROFT SCHOOL HOLDS FIRST "ETHNIC HERITAGE NIGHT"

February 28th was a bitterly cold night but that didn't stop Barcroft School families from attending the first of what will hopefully become an annual "Ethnic Heritage Night." It was fantastically successful. Parents and children, many in their national dress, turned out in droves to attend the potluck dinner. And what a potluck it was. Dr. Ellen Kahan, principal at Barcroft, is not sure how many nationalities were represented but let's just say there was food from all over the world and it was a true feast.

The all too short entertainment segment included a Filipino song and stick dance, French songs and the Barcroft choir--of Arlington Cable TV fame.

Each class had been studying a different country and each room had lovely displays. Throughout the school hallways there have been more displays of art work and writing inspired by the great art of the world. Fifth graders wrote some lyrical "Chinese Truth Poems". First graders made Aboriginal Bark Paintings and painted Algerian desert scenes. Some 2nd graders did Bolivian weaving and designed some Chinese screens. Third graders painted Philippine seascapes while 4th graders decorated Turkish magic carpets! (Second and 3rd graders have also done some painting based on the styles of Monet and Georgia O'Keefe. Very impressive!)

February 28th was a memorable and exciting evening celebrating the multi-ethnicity of Barcroft school.



DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE NEW TAX LAW AND FORMS?

or

TROUBLE WITH THE IRS?

or

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OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

SEPTEMBER '89

3 Day program: Mon.- Wed.- Fri.

Time: 12:30 - 3:00 P.M.

Eligibility: Child must be 4 years old by September 30

Location: 825 S. Taylor Street
Arlington (Barcroft)

Phone: 892-4846



**ANOTHER FOUR MILE RUN CLEANUP DAY
ON APRIL 22**

Stocking Four Mile Run with trout is not just for fishing. The program brings out citizen volunteers to help with cleanup of the stream, providing a year-round benefit for all of us. Last year 10,000 people participated in the stream cleanup days, trout fishing and educational programs. When you count up the cost of the fish and subtract the value of the volunteer cleanup, the program actually saves the County money.

If you believed that one, let us tell you about the huge rainbow trout we almost caught last week when the fishing season opened on March 18. Seriously, the County spends \$6,000 on a trout stocking, and a lot of people get recreational benefits from it. The volunteers collected 6½ tons of trash last year and put in 1,300 hours of volunteer time, so we taxpayers end up paying \$4.62/hour for cleanup labor if you are still computing the benefits.

Another cleanup day is scheduled for April 22. The Editor will be there, along with a raft of other bicyclists who ride along Four Mile Run all year and would like to see it cleaner. Barcroft volunteers should go to Glencarlyn Park from 8 to 11 AM. A free picnic lunch (a "free lunch" goes with saving taxes and the fish story) will be served there from noon to 3 PM for cleanup folks. We Barcrofters have the opportunity to clean out the original Carlin Springs (both of them). It may be worth the trip just to find out where they are. For info call 358-6427. or the Trout Hotline at 358-4400.

The more volunteer laborers turn out the less the County pays per hour. So come on out and make sure the County saves lots of your tax money!



Merrill Lynch Realty
6134 A & C Arlington Boulevard
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Office: (703) 536-5300
Res: (703) 521-3254

AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO SPRING,
MORE HOME BUYERS WILL BE
THINKING OF PURCHASING A HOME.
NOW IS THE TIME TO START PRE-
PARING YOUR HOME FOR SALE. FOR
INFORMATION REGARDING THE SALE
OF YOUR HOME CALL

BETTY JANE MYERS

Off: 536-5300 Res: 521-3254

*If your home is currently listed with another broker, this is not intended as a solicitation of that listing.



LUTHERANS INVITE BARCROFTERS

We do not list church services in the Barcroft News for space and other reasons, but we think it is worthy of note that Our Savior Lutheran Church has taken out an ad again this year to invite Barcrofters to attend their Easter services. Their invitation seems sincere and deserves consideration by anyone moved to go to church here in the neighborhood during Easter week. Our Savior has taken a second ad to inform us of their pre-kindergarten program starting in September. It is nice to see the congregation looking to our neighborhood for closer contact.

KATHY KERR TO PLAY FOR SQUARE DANCE

Kathy Kerr, prolific columnist for the Barcroft News, has another talent--she plays fiddle. Her band, Tanglefoot, will play for a square dance at Arlington Forest United Methodist Church (Arlington Blvd. at Henderson Road) on Saturday, April 8th. The dance starts at 7:30 and is a benefit for the non-profit Arlington Food Co-op. Beginners are welcome and so are children. The cost is \$3.00 per adult. Kathy did not write this article--it would have been longer and had more people in it!

TESLER AND WERBLOOD

ATTORNEYS AT LAW



- * Wills and Estate Matters
- * Personal Injury Accidents
- * Business and Commercial Law
- * Traffic Court Cases
- * Domestic Relations

During April, come in for a will for yourself, or for you and your spouse. Then get a 20% DISCOUNT from our already low fee by showing this ad!

Located in the 900 block W. Broad Street
(Route 7) in Falls Church

534-9300

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APRIL EVENTS

Sunday Trout Video. Long Branch Nature Center 3 PM. Members of Trout 2nd unlimited will answer questions. Reservations required. 358-6535.

Tuesday Arlington County Civic Federation. Report on Virginia State 4th legislative session (similar to program at BSCL on 6th) 7:45PM. Come as an observer. For info call 521-2080.

Apr.6th BARCROFT SCHOOL AND CIVIC LEAGUE 7:30 PM. 800 S. Buchanan St. Thurs. What Happened in Richmond This Year Our State legislators will brief us on new Virginia State laws on taxes, vehicular homicide laws and more. For information see page 1 or call 920-8131.

Saturday Arlington County Board Meeting. 9 AM at the Courthouse. Watch it 8 & 29 on Cable channel 31. For agenda information call 558-2261.

Saturday Great cleanup of Four Mile Run. See article on page 4 or call 22nd Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment at 358-6427 for more info.

Saturday Christmas in April. Volunteers do home maintenance for senior 22nd citizens who can't afford home repairs. Info 528-5606.

Monday Book Discussion Group. Read Sol Bellow's The Theft and discuss it 24th at the Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy. 7:30PM. Info 521-2080.

WANT ADS

These ads are free, folks. Just drop them through the Editor's door or call him at 521-2080. Don't you have a yard sale coming up this spring?

THIS CAT NEEDS A GOOD HOME! Lovable, affectionate cat who really likes people and sitting in your lap while you pet her. Good with kids. Beautiful white female, spayed, shots. 9 years old. Likes outdoors when the weather is not too cold. Family member has developed allergy to cats, so our cat needs a good home. Please call 521-1487.

TUPPERWARE--La Leche League of Arlington is having its annual Tupperware fundraiser. If you would like to come to the party or just order out of the catalog call Kathy Kerr at 892-6458.


FOR SALE Whirlpool electric kitchen stove, black front, never used \$250. New 200 amp breaker box and breakers. Good used tires. 979-9021

BABYSITTING 979-9021. Part time. References available.

FOR SALE 1985 Renault Encore LS. 5-speed, air conditioning, power steering, 63,000 miles, AM/FM cassette. \$1200 or best offer. Call 892-2421.

WANTED We are in need of a fireplace screen and hope a neighbor has one they are not using. The size we need is for an opening 30" high by 34" wide. Please call 920-6332.

FIX IT UP WITH WEEKEND RENTAL SAVINGS

<p>WALLPAPER STEAMER</p>  <p>Removing wallpaper is not a chore when you rent a handy wallpaper steamer. Saves backbreaking labor. Let the handy steam plate do the work.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">AS LOW AS \$18.00 per day</p>	<p>POWER HAND SAW</p>  <p>Rent the most popular saw requested for carpentry work. Powerful portable the rotary blade cuts easily gets the job done in less time.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">AS LOW AS \$10.00 per day</p>
<p>CONCRETE TROWEL</p>  <p>Concrete is easy to work when you rent a power trowel. Takes out all the steam gives a smooth professional finish.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">AS LOW AS \$32.00 per day</p>	<p>PRESSURE WASHER</p>  <p>For the tough cleaning jobs such as the siding on your home. Rent a pressure washer to do the job efficiently, conveniently. Portable.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">AS LOW AS \$45.00 per day</p>

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BARCROFT CLUB CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF GOOD NEIGHBORS

The "K" Klub of Barcroft will celebrate its 50th year on Sunday April 23 at a luncheon on the cruise ship Dandy down on the Potomac.

Longtime member **Grace Blundell** of 4th St. S reminisces that it was over a friendly cup of coffee that the first idea for the club emerged back in 1939. Club originators **Mrs. Ruth Clark** on 3rd St. S. and **Mrs. Gladys Frank** are still active members today, and befitting the occasion they are President and Vice-President for the year of 1989.

When the K Klub was first formed, the immediate neighborhood was new, being settled by young married couples eager to put down roots and start families. There was a need for women to get to know each other better. The club has served as an extended family as members have enjoyed seeing their children grow up and in turn raise their own families with many staying in this area.

The original club boundaries were Fifth, Fourth, Third and Abingdon Streets. (6th St S. did not exist at the time the club was formed!) The membership limit was 25 and at one time there was a waiting list to join. Meetings were held once a month in the homes of members. Dues started at 10 cents a month and have slowly increased to one dollar per month.

While primarily a social club, K Klub members have also assisted those in need. Sometimes a goodwill offering was collected to help a needy family in the neighborhood or one that was read about in the paper.

Over the course of 50 years the membership has changed drastically. Some members have moved from the area, a few have dropped out for personal reasons and, sadly, many have passed away. At present there are 11 members.

You may be wondering what the "K" stands for. Grace Blundell explains that the founders were rather lively

young folks and the "K" stands for "keen". (Does that mean that a club formed now might be called the "A" Club--for "awesome"?)

Congratulations to the K Klub members and their husbands as they celebrate a lifetime of friendship and neighborliness.

THE KELSCH'S HAVE A NEW BABY

Congratulations to Taylor and Laurie Kelsch on 1st Rd. S. who are enjoying their new baby Mary Rose born February 24th. Mary Rose has a sister Katie Jane, age 19 months, and a big brother Danny, age 13, a student at Kenmore. The Kelsches moved to Barcroft only 3 years ago but Laurie soon became well-known in the BSCL for her hard work and enthusiasm. Laurie also works at home for a magazine called "Middle East Insight". Taylor is an economist for ARAMCO.

**You are invited to celebrate
Holy Week and Easter at**

Our Savior Lutheran Church
Arlington, Virginia
825 S. Taylor Street
(corner of 9th & S. Taylor)
Phone 892-4846
The Rev. Roddy L. Braun, Th.D., Pastor

Palm Sunday March 19 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Service 9:50 a.m. Sunday School <i>Nursery available</i>	Good Friday March 24 7:30 p.m. Worship Service
Maundy Thursday March 23 7:30 p.m. Worship Service Holy Communion	Easter Sunday March 26 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Service 9:50 a.m. Sunday School Holy Communion at both services <i>Nursery available</i>

Church of the Lutheran Hour
(Missouri Synod)



NEWS

FORUM

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The deadline for articles or ads is the 10th of the previous month unless the editor is running late. Call to check.



BARCROFT SCHOOL AND CIVIC LEAGUE
800 South Buchanan Street
Arlington, VA 22204

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