

BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 88, No. 9

May 1991

Funds Approved for Park Renovation

In March the County Board approved \$12,000 in Neighborhood Conservation funds to finish the renovation of the park at Columbia Pike and Four Mile Run. The project will include grading, removing the concrete pad where the recycling bins are now located, adding a split-rail fence along Columbia Pike, and replanting the area in grass. The transformation will be completed by a landscaping project of the Women's Club of Arlington. The park will look like somebody cares, and we hope it will improve the tone of that section of Columbia Pike.

Arlington County has designed the new recycling site across the Pike from the present one; the move will permit better and safer access to the bins. Now they need detailed engineering designs, a land use permit from the Northern Virginia Regional Parks Authority, approval from the Planning Commission, approval by the County Board, and a contractor. The process is slow, and we cannot finish our park renovation until the bins are moved. Keep your eye on that spot, though. Things will happen there.

MAY MEETING

The BSCL's Annual Meeting includes the election of new officers. This year we will also vote on the new Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. There must be a quorum—at least **42 members**—to approve the new documents. If there is **not a quorum**, we will have to live with such embarrassments as the language limiting membership to members of the caucasian race (voided by the Supreme Court and by the BSCL, but never corrected in the Bylaws). Come and help us bring these essential documents up to date. Pat Roach has done a great deal of pro bono legal work on the two documents and deserves support.

The Bylaws were read in their entirety at the April meeting, and copies are available from Randy Swart (521-2080). The Articles of Incorporation were inserted in the April *Barcroft News*. This meeting should, therefore, be reasonably short. As an added inducement, Joyce Hutchins has promised her special brownies for refreshments afterward.

**Don't Miss the
Annual Meeting on May 2**

Parade Committee Gears up for the 4th

The Parade Committee met in April to plan for this year's Fourth of July Parade. Several volunteers are writing letters to corporations to ask for prizes, including Natalia Lord, Kathy Kerr, and Phil Cackley.

Barcroft School children may exhibit artwork on "What America Means to Me." Deborah Wood (892-1243) is working on registration; look for a registration form in the *Barcroft News*. Ethel Shafer (892-5913) is in charge of Decorations, and Joyce Hutchins (685-4921) is chairing Cleanup. Susan Christopher (892-6265) is chairing Food. Tom Floyd will be our Parade Director, and Anne Noll has been helping with arrangements. Call any of them to volunteer.

The biggest need now is for Block Captains to take the parade flyer around and pick

up registration forms. Mary Anne O'Rourke is determined to find one for every block in Barcroft. Call her now at 920-5619!

The parade is a welcome home for our Persian Gulf veterans and a thank you to veterans of all previous conflicts. So you vets need to get out those old uniforms, or whatever you have left of one. (At least one Barcrofter will be in the black pajamas uniform of a long-forgotten "Pacification Program." This is his first welcome home.) There will be a color guard and lots of flags waving—and the incomparable Barcroft Marching Band. Excitement is rising. Call to volunteer to help put on a fun parade.

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2049 Wilson Blvd., 524-6600.

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Deadline for submissions: 5th of the month preceding the issue month.

BSCL Officers for 1990-1991

President	Randy Swart, 521-2080
Vice President	Laurie Kelsch, 920-9429
Treasurer	Larry Goldschmidt
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NCAC Delegate	Could be you!
Civic Federation	Anne Noll, 892-6710
Arlington Hall	Pat Roach, 920-8131
Land Use/Zoning	Laurie Kelsch, 920-9429
Hospitality	Joyce Hutchins, 685-4921



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Final Tally: Computers for Classrooms


At the end of the Computers for Classrooms campaign, Barcroft Elementary School exceeded its goal of \$500,000 in Giant and Safeway register tapes by about \$80,000. This enabled us to order two Apple IIGS computers, two printers, two 5.25" drives, and some software from Giant. We expect to order more software from Safeway.

The Arlington Women's Club donated a very fat envelope full of receipts, and Wilson School donated about \$40,000 worth of receipts. A special thank you to all of our dear Barcroft neighbors who saved their grocery tapes so faithfully for Barcroft School. You put us over the top and we are very grateful.

Nora Myers Rumpf

Wanted: Used Children's Books for BES Annual Book Sale

It's that time of year again. Barcroft Elementary School is gearing up for the annual used children's book sale on May 21. If you have children's books that you would like to donate for this event, please take them to the school's library or main office. Proceeds of the book sale go toward the purchase of multicultural books.



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BES Orientation

Orientation for parents of new kindergarten students will be held May 2 at 9:30 AM in the Barcroft Multipurpose Room.

Dr. Kahan and other staff members will be on hand to provide information about Barcroft Elementary School. Dr. Janice Adkisson, Supervisor of Early Childhood Programs, will talk about current trends in kindergarten curriculum and how Arlington schools are meeting the needs of today's 5-year-old.

A get-acquainted orientation for new kindergarten students will be held on August 30 at 3:00 PM. Each child will meet his or her teacher, see the classroom, and have an opportunity to become comfortable with the new school setting just before that all-important first day.

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Barcroft School Remodeling Report

Although you do not see any activity on the Barcroft Elementary School remodeling project, rest assured that the staff responsible for managing Arlington Schools facilities have been hard at work. Final plans are being submitted to the Commonwealth of Virginia for approval so that construction can begin immediately after the school year ends in June.

During the first construction period, the seven classes now in the primary wing will be moved to portable classrooms set up in front of the building. The unit will be a small enclosed building with covered hallways, an established entrance, and bathrooms. County officials are being consulted in the careful planning of this temporary structure.

The kindergarten program currently located in the primary wing will be moved to a

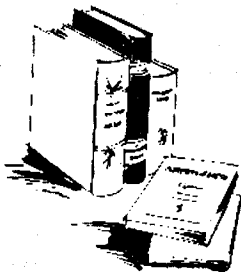
room off the library, keeping it in the main building.

For more information about the remodeling and construction plans, come to the June BSCL meeting. Dr. Kahan and other staff members will be the invited speakers.

Community House To Be Painted

The Barcroft Community House is in dire need of a paint job. The BSCL has been soliciting bids from painters for the work and hopes to have it finished before the Fourth of July parade. (It is hoped that the squirrel damaging the roof will be gotten rid of by then too.) If you are interested in the building and in helping develop the annual maintenance program, please call Randy Swart at 521-2080.

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Arlington's Best Kept Secrets

Where Was the Old Barcroft Mill?

In the 1830s, George Washington Parke Custis (known as "Washington" Custis), owner of Arlington estate and Arlington House, built a mill in what is now Barcroft neighborhood. He called it the Arlington Mill. There was more water in Four Mile Run at that time, and they were able to bring grain up to the mill by boat.

During the "War of Northern Aggression," the mill was destroyed by Yankees. Afterwards it languished—until the 1880s, when Dr. John Wolverton Barcroft returned to this area, rebuilt the mill, and named it the Barcroft Mill. He owned it until 1924, when he sold it to Robert Taylor. In 1926 the mill burned, set afire by hot cinders from a steam train passing on the W&OD Railroad. (That same year the BSCL decided to replace the roof on the Community House with asphalt safety shingles.) Later an icehouse was built on the old mill's foundation, then . . .

But where exactly was the mill? Our resourceful detective sought out Adaline Marye Robertson, a Barcrofter who remembers it. With some help from Earl Barbee, supervisor of the southern district of Arlington's parks, they pinpointed the location as the site now occupied by two car repair shops behind the new 7-11 across Columbia Pike from Safeway, now 4961 and 4969 10th St. South. Columbia Pike actually jogged a bit south of the current bridge, traversing what is now 10th St. You can see where it crossed Four Mile Run



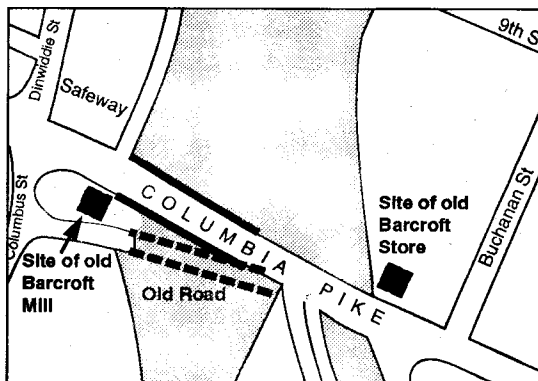
Photo by Eddie Haring, courtesy of Adaline Robertson

and rejoined the current Pike at the east end of the present bridge.

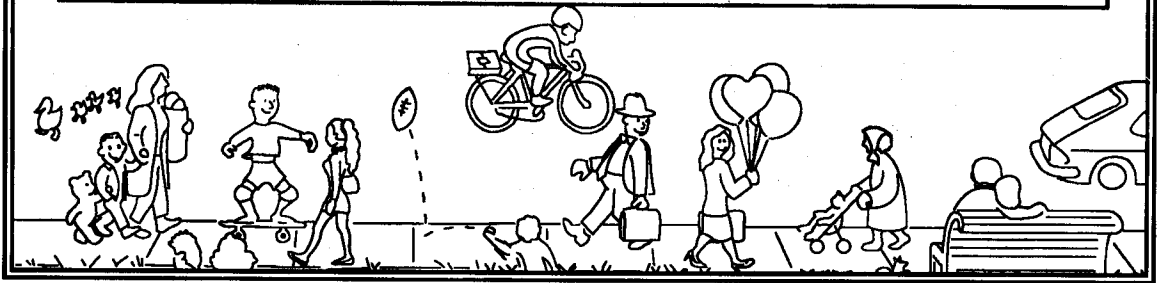
The mill stood between the old and new roads. If you search out its historical marker, you will find it across Four Mile Run from the actual mill site.

[Earl remembered his father buying ice at the icehouse. With the advent of refrigerators and cars, people no longer needed ice (but did need car repairs). No more icehouse.]

Our explorer's next task is to figure out where the old dam was that diverted water into the mill race. Adaline Robertson thinks it was about at Huffman's Whitewater. More on that in another column.



Around the Neighborhood With Kathy Kerr



Welcome to new neighbors Bruce and Laurie Gagne on 3rd St. Originally from Louisiana, the Gagnes moved here from Fort McNair. Bruce was in the army and served for a time in the honor guard at Fort Myer; he left the service about a month before the war broke out. Now a student at Georgetown University, Bruce is working on a graduate degree in business. Laurie is a litigation attorney with Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge in the District.

Bruce and Laurie share their home with a rather large 9-month-old golden retriever, Sandy. Maybe we'll see Sandy in the 4th of July parade.



Few of us on 4th St. who were around in the fall of 1987 will ever forget the fire that so severely damaged the home of a long-time Barcrofter. The fire was caused by a short in the wire to an air conditioner that was turned

off. The house sat empty and forlorn for several years with its burned, smoke-scarred door and boarded up windows. At long last, Bill Foster bought the house, and he is now nearly finished with a complete overhaul.

Bill decided to restore the house as close to its original condition as possible. He matched and replaced the woodwork, right down to the chair rails in the dining room. He even found a wooden mantelpiece exactly like the original.

Bill, obviously a handyman, was excited about the house in part because it has two garages, one behind the other. The back one would make a good workroom. He was planning to live in the house, but a change in plans is taking him to the West Coast. Watch for the "For Sale" sign to go up soon.

Fourth St. is looking a lot nicer these days. What was once a splendid home with one of Barcroft's prettiest yards is being rejuvenated. Thank you, Bill; we're sorry you won't be our neighbor for long.



If you love yard sales, you'll want to mark your calendar for May 18. That's the date of two of Barcroft's biggest annual yard sales—at Our Savior Lutheran Church (Taylor St.) and at Arlington Unitarian Church (Arlington Blvd. & George Mason). You name it, they'll have it. Don't miss the bake sale tables!

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Some of above on display at 4613 S. Second St.

May Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Wednesday Bird Walk, 9 AM-noon, adults, free; call 358-6535.	2 Barcroft School Orientation, 9:30 AM, for parents BSCL, Community House, 7:30 PM. Call 521-2080 for info.	3	4 Columbia Pike Artist Studios Open House, 11 AM- 4 PM, 932 S. Walter Reed Dr.
5	6 MATCH Meeting, 7:30 PM, Dunn Loring United Methodist Ch.; call 425-1948.	7 Civic Federa- tion Mtg., 7:45 PM, Arlington Hosp. Exec. Comm, Bar- croft PTA, 7:30 PM, Teachers Lounge	8 Preschool Acti- vity: A Duck May Be Somebody's Mother, 1:30-2:30 PM, kids ages 1-5 w/parent, reserv., free; call 358-6535.	9 Afterschool Special: Double Lives, 3:45-4:45 PM, kids grades 1-3, reservations, free; call 358-6535.	10 Preschool Acti- vity: A Duck May Be Somebody's Mother, 10:30- 11:30 PM; call 358- 6535.	11 Fire Station 1 Dedication, 12:30 PM; 500 S. Glebe Spring Plants Walk, 1-3 PM; call 358-6535; adults
12 Mother's Day Northern Virginia Folk Festival, 11 AM-6 PM, Thos. Jeff. Comm. Ctr.	13	14 Wings & Wildflowers, 9:30-11:30 AM; adults, free, reservations; call 358-6535.	15	16 Afterschool Special: Life Under a Log, 3:45-4:45 PM, kids grades 1-3, reservations, free; call 358-6535.	17 Cub Scout Pack Meeting, 7:30 PM.	18 Visit to Suitland Bog, 10 AM-noon; adults, free, reservations., 358-6535
19	20	21 Barcroft School Annual Used Book Sale	22 Adult Walk: Forest Giants, 9:30-11:30 AM; adults, free, reserva- tions; call 358-6535	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30 Birding Trip to Skyline Drive, 8 AM-4 PM; adults; call 358-3403	31	



Spring Sales!
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Arlington Hall Committee Meets

The BSCL's Arlington Hall Committee met April 24th to hear about progress in the construction there and to discuss with federal officials the plans for the park on our side of George Mason Drive. Call Committee Chairman Pat Roach at 920-8131 if you want information on the meeting prior to the June issue.



ACCF Forming High School Committees

The Arlington County Civic Federation is planning to form a committee for each Arlington high school to encourage participation in high school planning and development by the people whose children will attend in several years. The committee would consist of representatives from the civic associations within the high school's boundary, ideally the parents of elementary and middle school children.

The federation is in the process of matching school boundaries with civic associations, developing lists of civic associations at each high school, and contacting the PTAs to discuss the concept. The BSCL will be asked to select a representative. It could be you!

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Is the Fence Fixed?

Tom Sullivan, who repairs chain link fences, will have fixed the damage to the Community House fence caused by a drunken driver before you read this article. Check it out and see if you approve. The repairs cost the BSCL \$200, which we now have to try to collect from the uninsured drunk.



Crime Resistance a Rising Issue

New acts of theft and vandalism have occurred in the area of Barcroft from Columbia Pike to 8th Street. A special meeting was called for April 17th to discuss these problems. Look for coverage in the June issue.



From the President's Visit to Barcroft School

A flower arrangement sent to the school by Dr. Kahan's husband was positioned next to the podium where President Bush spoke. It was a flat display with the number "400" in red carnations on a background of yellow and white chrysanthemums. As the children filed out after the ceremony, one kindergartener asked, "Is he really 400 years old?"

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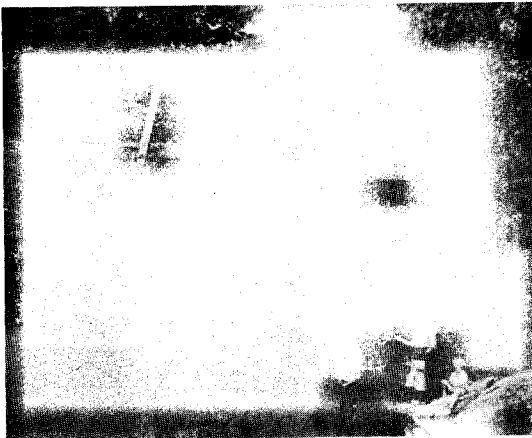
BARCROFT'S BEST KEPT SECRETS:

Where Are the Sears Houses?

In the early part of this century, you could buy a house from Sears, Roebuck. It came in kit form, with all the boards, nails, shingles, doors, windows, and everything else needed to build a house. Each part was numbered and marked "Sears." Most owners hired a builder to put the house up, since John Hechinger had not yet discovered the do-it-yourself bonanza. The homes were good quality and the prices were reasonable.

There is at least one known Sears house in Barcroft, and another one looks like a Sears house. The known one is the Rightmyers' place at 812 S. Taylor, a beautiful home. There is a second home that strongly resembles one of Sears' models on 8th St. Only a check of the boards and beams to look for the Sears markings will tell the tale.

There are several prefabricated houses in Barcroft. The most interesting of them is Lily Mary David's Lustron home on 3rd St. The exterior walls are made of metal panels with a baked-on factory finish.



Four Mile Run Bridge

Photo by Eddie Haring, courtesy of Adaline Robertson

Barcroft Exchange

SUMMER MATERNITY CLOTHES FOR SALE Bathing suits (sizes 10 & 12), shorts, tops & blouses, sundress, jeans (sizes 8 & 10), white skirt (size 12), lime green dress (size 10)—\$3-\$15. Call Annette Osso, 553-3953.

HOUSEHOLD/OFFICE GOODS FOR SALE 4' computer desk, oak printer stand, 4-drawer letter-size file cabinet, 2-drawer legal-size file cabinet, floor lamp, swag lamp, desk lamp, GBC machine, 300-baud Hayes modem. Daytime: 528-6600.

Cub Scout Pack Meeting

The May 17 meeting will be a Latin American "Fiesta." It will be held in the basement of Arlington Forest United Methodist Church (Henderson Road and Rt. 50) from 7:30 to 8:30 pm.

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Wakefield High School Project Graduation

The parents of Wakefield seniors of the class of 1991, in cooperation with the PTA, are sponsoring an alcohol- and drug-free celebration immediately following the graduation ceremony on June 13. All seniors are invited to a cruise on the Spirit of Mount Vernon. To keep the cost reasonable and to provide financial assistance to those who cannot afford the cruise, the PTA is soliciting donations of money, goods, or services from individuals and organizations in the Wakefield area. Donated goods and services will be given as prizes. All contributions are tax deductible.

If you would like more information or want to have your donation picked up, call

892-2771. Checks should be made payable to Wakefield Project Graduation 1991 and sent to Linda Koeckert, PTA Treasurer, 2740 Fort Scott Drive, Arlington, VA 22202.



Northern Virginia Folk Festival '91

The Northern Virginia Folk Festival will be held at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center on May 11, from 10 AM to 9 PM, and May 12, from 11 AM to 6 PM. The festival will feature performances of folk music and dance, ethnic food, and folk art celebrating the cultural diversity of our area. Special children's programming will include storytelling, games, workshops, and crafts from many cultures.

Admission is \$3 for adults, \$1 for senior citizens and students, and free for children under 6. Call 358-6965 for more information.

Barcroft Outhouse Immortalized

We received this sketch, done in 1985 by Mildred Handy Richie, in response to our item about the Barcroft Community House outhouse.

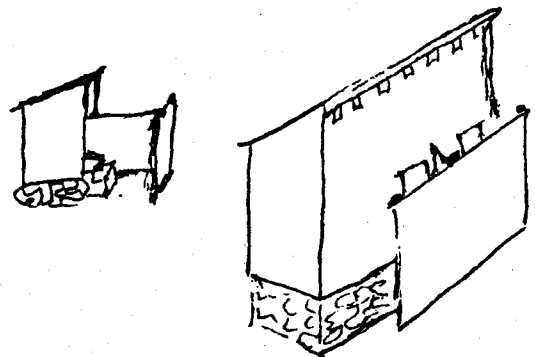


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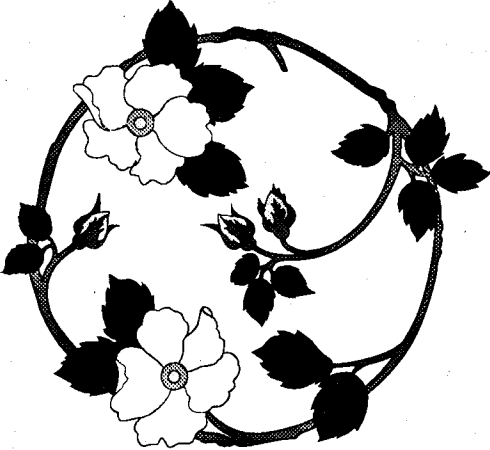
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Barcroft Crime Report

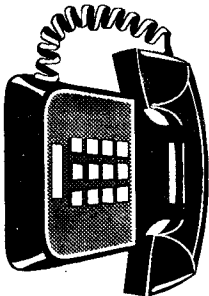
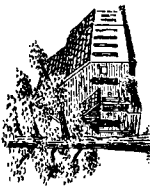
Crimes reported during March. If you have information about an incident, please call the police at 558-2222.

- 3/3 4700 S. 8th St. Stereo equalizer stolen from car
4800 S. Columbia Pike Shoplifting
- 3/4 900 S. George Mason Shoplifting
- 3/5 900 S. George Mason Shoplifting (3 times)
800 S. Buchanan TV found on Community House steps
- 3/6 600 S. Buchanan Car window broken
900 S. George Mason Shoplifting (3 times)
- 3/7 900 S. Buchanan Cassette tapes stolen from car
4300 S. Columbia Pike Convertible roof slit; car registration stolen
4300 S. Columbia Pike Gloves stolen; attempt to steal stereo from car
4300 S. Columbia Pike Car stereo & tapes stolen
900 S. George Mason Shoplifting (3 times)
- 3/8 900 S. Buchanan Stereo & tools stolen from car
900 S. Buchanan Car entered; glovebox ransacked, nothing taken
900 S. George Mason Shoplifting
600 S. Wakefield Assault; arrest made
- 3/9 900 S. Buchanan Stereo stolen from car
900 S. George Mason Shoplifting
4300 S. Columbia Pike Car window broken
- 3/10 800 S. Wakefield Car window broken
4600 S. 8th Rd. Stereo stolen from car
4800 S. 8th Rd. Stereo & tapes stolen from car
800 S. Wakefield Subjects seen breaking
- into car, stealing microwave; citizen reported it; subjects apprehended and arrested
- 3/11 4300 S. Columbia Pike Robbery; victim confronted by 2 men armed w/handgun who demanded wallet
900 S. Buchanan Car entered; nothing taken
900 S. George Mason Shoplifting (2 times)
- 100 S. Woodrow Flashlight stolen from car
4400 S. 1st St. Wallet & stereo stolen from car
- 3/12 900 S. George Mason Subject arrested for public drunkenness
- 3/13 600 S. Buchanan Subject arrested for trespassing
4300 S. Columbia Pike Unsuccessful attempt to steal car
- 3/16 4300 S. 6th St. '89 Dodge stolen
600 S. Wakefield Citizen witnessed two juveniles breaking school window; gone when police arrived
4300 S. Columbia Pike Car roof slashed; sunglasses stolen
- 3/19 900 S. George Mason Shoplifting
- 3/20 900 S. George Mason Shoplifting
800 S. Wakefield Car window broken
- 3/21 4500 S. 8th St. Car window broken
900 S. George Mason Shoplifting
900 S. Buchanan Unsuccessful attempt to steal car; stereo stolen
4600 S. 3rd St. Stereo stolen from car
- 3/23 4800 S. 9th St. Car window broken
- 3/24 4300 S. Columbia Pike Items stolen from car
4300 S. Columbia Pike Silver chain stolen from car
4300 S. Columbia Pike Windows broken on three cars
4800 S. Columbia Pike Attempted shoplifting
- 3/26 4400 S. 1st Pl. Jeep roof stolen
- 3/29 400 S. Abingdon Car cover stolen
- 3/30 900 S. George Mason Radio stolen from car



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