



# BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 89, No. 3

November 1991

## NOVEMBER MEETING

### County Parkland

The featured speaker at November's BSCL meeting will be Fred Lewis, Chief of the Arlington County Parks and Facilities Division. He will discuss the County's long-term parkland goals and plans, with emphasis on how those goals and plans will affect new and established parks in our neighborhood. Come prepared for the subsequent Q&A. Also on the agenda is a discussion of LULU sites.

The meeting begins at 7:30 PM. As usual, it will be accompanied by tasty refreshments supplied by Joyce Hutchins.

## Responses to Crime Resistance Meeting

The BSCL has now received two responses from the County to the neighborhood's concerns expressed at our crime resistance meeting last April. The first response came from Lt. John Haas, Evening Section Commander for the Police Department. Dated May 30, it described actions taken, including 37 documented inspections of the Restaurant El Salvador and the surrounding area,

new patrols in the parks, and visible police patrolling in Barcroft. Neighbors near Columbia Pike reported some quieter times during that period.

The second response was a copy of a memo from County Manager Anton Gardner to County Board Member Al Eisenberg. The memo, dated September 5, reviews the well-known problems in the Columbia Pike area. Its most important paragraph states:

Larcenies from vehicles are not unique to the apartment buildings along Columbia Pike, but can be better controlled through improved education and awareness of the surroundings by neighborhood residents. ... It is important to note that although larcenies have increased, there has been virtually no change in the number of suspicious activity calls received by the Police Department. Citizens should be strongly encouraged to report suspicious or unknown persons loitering in the parking lots by calling the Police Department at 558-2222.

Gardner had the following comment concerning a meeting at Tanglewood Condos:

*(Continued on next page)*

Residents ... have discussed forming a Neighborhood Watch group. Members of the Police Department's Crime Resistance Section attended a recent meeting [there]; however, the meeting was poorly attended by residents.

Dick Carter, Chairman of the Crime Resistance Committee, attended the same meeting, ably hosted by Claudia Uyehara, on August 8. Dick, however, observed a lively group of residents passionately express their concerns for safety, especially about the presence of derelicts on County land behind Food Star. Police officials again urged citizens to call the police regarding any suspicious activity in the area. One police lieutenant announced a renewed emphasis on the Neighborhood Watch Program to deter crime. This program succeeded in the mid-1980s but may need bolstering in many neighborhoods to work in the '90s. The Crime Resistance Committee will be discussing with the Police Department how we can make the Neighborhood Watch program work effectively for us in Barcroft.

In short, the County's budget problems apparently preclude any new police resources to deal with the current increase in crime, and citizens better look out for themselves!

If you have strong opinions on this subject, contact Dick Carter at 521-5976.

## Transportation Committee Chair Needed

Tom Junker has moved to another neighborhood and resigned his position as BSCL Transportation Committee Chair. We thank Tom for his work during the past two years.

The committee's main issues currently are cut-through traffic and speeding, the future of Arlington Boulevard, and changes in traffic patterns on George Mason Drive when the new Arlington Hall facilities are finished. If you would like to have an impact on these issues, call Larry Goldschmidt at 521-3746 and volunteer!

### Barcroft News Staff

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

### BSCL Officers for 1991-1992

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## The Autumn Leaves Drift by the Window

And collect in your yard, your neighbor's yard, the gutter, in fact everywhere.

Once again, the County will provide a Leaf Collection Program. The crews are supposed to make several passes through each of the 13 neighborhood collection zones. (Some of you may remember that the "several passes" turned out to be only two in some areas last year. Hmm.) The program is scheduled to begin in November, depending on weather conditions.

Barcroft is in collection zone 11. If you want specific information about collection in our zone, call the Leaf Collection Hotline, 358-6565. A recorded message, updated daily, tells where crews are scheduled to be in three days. You can also tune in to Arlington Information Channel 31 at 11 AM, 2 PM, 5:30 PM, and 11 PM Monday-Friday; 2 PM and 5:30 PM Saturday; 5:30 PM and 11 PM Sunday; or—can you stand it?—6:30 PM and 9:30 PM seven days a week (when not preempted by County Board meetings).

(Have you ever tuned in to Channel 31? It's repetitive, naturally, but occasionally has an interesting piece or two about Arlington. The County Board meetings prove a little tame when compared with a confirmation hearing by the Senate, but they can be informative if you want to know more about the Board's handling of an issue of interest.)

Back to the leaves. Rake them to the curb-side but not into the gutter. If you rake them into the gutter, the storm drains will get blocked, causing water backups in the streets and neighboring homes. They also make parking impossible and, sometimes, maneuvering along the neighborhood's narrower streets. Of course, this brings up the problem

of what happens to the sidewalks if the leaves are allowed to amass on the curb too long.

When you rake your leaves, "keep piles free of debris." Collection crews cannot collect piles with debris in them. To prevent debris from collecting in them after raking and while waiting for collection, cover the leaves with a tarpaulin. This means, of course, you better keep track of when the crews will be in the neighborhood. If you don't uncover those leaves, our guess is they won't get collected (although the brochure from which all of this information was gleaned did not touch on this situation).

"Leaves cannot be collected when they are left under a parked vehicle." Again, here is where the importance of keeping up with the progress of the collection crews is important.

*(Continued on next page)*



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If you somehow miss a collection sweep, a special-request collection may be made if the Police or Fire Department determines that there is a safety hazard. Be realistic when it comes to making a special request; don't waste the County staff's time and the taxpayers' money to have someone come out and inspect the leaves unless there is a real hazard.

Finally, leaves may also be stuffed in biodegradable bags and left at the curb for collection. The free bags will be available during normal working hours at the following locations: County recreation centers; nature centers; the Arlington County Trades Center, 4800 Taylor St. S.; and the information desk at #1 Courthouse Plaza.

## David Michaelson Appointed NCAC Rep

President Larry Goldschmidt has appointed David Michaelson to be the BSCL's delegate to the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee. David was an active participant in the drafting of the Plan and is a member of the Building and Grounds Committee. His wife, Annette Osso, is our representative to the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization and advertises her Discovery Toys business in the *Barcroft News*. They live with their three children on 8th St.

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David's responsibilities will include attending the monthly NCAC meetings, working on the qualification of NC Plan projects in our neighborhood, and representing Barcroft on a range of neighborhood conservation subjects that NCAC considers. He will be assisted by Randy Swart, who continues as our NCAC alternate delegate.

## Last Notice About Dues

The annual BSCL dues harangue is about to end. Please complete and return the coupon on the dues notice enclosed. The dues are \$2 per person. Remember, only paid members can vote for officers and on issues and resolutions affecting the community.

You are welcome to attend any meeting, even if you don't pay your dues. And you get this dynamite newsletter too.

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## What Is a LULU and Where Should It Be?

LULU is the acronym for Locally Unwanted Land Uses—you know, the public service sites that prompt the response, “Not in my backyard.” The South Arlington Coalition of Civic Associations has sent a letter to all civic associations in the County requesting comments on a proposal for a new process for siting LULUs.

The initiative was inspired by the difficulty in locating the County’s detox/homeless shelter, which took more than a year and was very divisive. The Coalition has been working with the staff of the Conflict Clinic at George Mason University on a proposal to use a collaborative problem-solving process to establish community-supported guidelines for sit-

ing public facilities in Arlington. The goal would be to involve as many citizens, organizations, and county decision makers as possible in the process. Guidelines produced by this consensus-building approach would spread new County facilities across all neighborhoods by established criteria, rather than dealing with each new facility as it arises, in the inevitable emotionally charged atmosphere. The proposal is not to choose sites but to establish a process for site selection. Loudoun County recently used this approach to revise its zoning ordinance. The Conflict Clinic would charge a fee estimated to be just under \$20,000 for its services in facilitating the planning and the many work sessions needed.

This proposal will be discussed at the November 7 BSCL meeting, and we will vote on an official BSCL position. Be there to be heard! Call President Larry Goldschmidt at 521-3746 if you need further information before the meeting or want to register your views even though you cannot attend.

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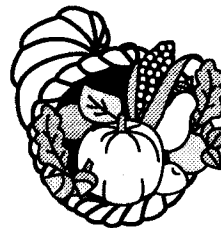


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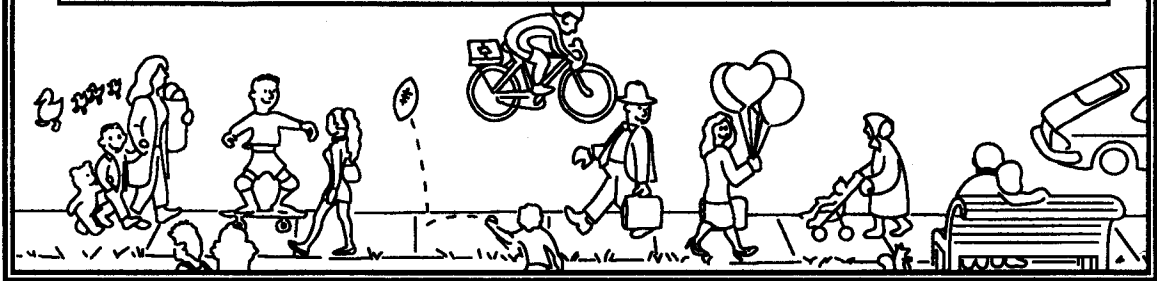


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# Around the Neighborhood With Kathy Kerr



[Editor's Note: While Kathy Kerr is out of town, another intrepid neighborhood reporter has volunteered to fill the void.]

## Susan Christopher: A Barcroft Pillar

For a number of years, you may have seen Susan Christopher's name among the Directors of the BSCL. You also may have seen her in action in the kitchen on July 4th, organizing the hot dog brigade. But this Barcrofter has deep roots in our community that may not be as evident.

Susan's father, Robert O'Hara, and grandfather, Walter, were master builders who built perhaps a third to a half of the houses in our neighborhood between the 1920s and the 1960s. (We will do an article on them soon.) Her brother, Waldo, and his wife, Janet, now live in the family home on 8th Street.

Susan left Barcroft for some years after marrying her husband Bob, who is a superintendent with the George Hyman Construction Company, now building the Howard Hughes Medical Center in Chevy Chase. They returned in the 1970s to another family home on Abingdon. Susan proceeded to revive the *Barcroft News* and organize Halloween parties for the kids at the Community House.

Susan has taught in Arlington's Adult Education program for more than 20 years, teaching math, psychology, sociology, and economics. Most of her students are either kids who have dropped out of the regular

school system or foreign-born residents. After school Susan is a member of the Board of the Friends of the Parks, a Commissioner of the Regional Juvenile Detention Home, and a volunteer at the Animal Welfare League shelter, where she "washes puppies." She is a lifetime member of Trinity Episcopal Church, where she has served on the vestry, and is currently one of the managers of the Columbia Pike Thrift Shop near the Shell station at George Mason. Closer to home, she is a member of the Friendship Club on her block and a member of the Women's Club of Arlington next door to the Community House.


Susan and Bob have one son, Robert, who is finishing up a master's degree in creative writing at George Mason University. Robert works part time at both the Arlington County Library and the Coffee Bean in Ballston. He has been writing poetry since the 4th grade and read some of it at the Barcroft Coffee House last year. An avid gardener, Susan's motto for both plants and kids is "let go and let grow."

Talk to Susan Christopher at any BSCL meeting and you will quickly appreciate her friendliness, integrity, and caring nature. She is part of what is good about Barcroft.



Principal Ellen Kahan reports that her young students are adjusting well to the con-

# November Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11/1-11/16 The Yeoman of the Guard, Arlington Players, Thomas Jefferson Theatre, 8 PM 11/3, 10 matinees at 3 PM, 549-1063 11/2 Arlington Symphony, Brahms, Bartok, Kodaly, Beethoven; Guest Conductor Steven Karidoyanes; Bishop O'Connell HS, 8 pm, 528-1817 11/5, 6 Yepeto, by Roberto Cossa, Teatro de la Luna, in Spanish; Theatre Two at Gunston, 358-6960					1	2 Fall Bazaar, 9:30 AM-3 PM, Arlington Forest United Methodist Church Social Hall; 525-0961
3	4 MATCH, 7:30 PM, Dunn Loring United Methodist Ch., 791-6264	5 ELECTION DAY Civic Federation Mtg., 7:45 PM, Arlington Hosp.	6 Bird Walk, 9 AM, adults, free; Trees & Leaves, 1:30-2:30 PM, kids 3-5, free, reservations, 358-6535 (also 11/7)	7 BSCL, 7:30 PM, Community House. Call 521-3746 for info	8 Swamp Stomp for Tots, 1:30-3:15 PM, kids 3-5, free, reservations; 358-6535	9 Fall Plant Hike, 1:30-3:30 PM, free, reservations required; 358-6535
10 Early American Songs, Arlington Metropolitan Chorus, Gunston, 836-4822	11 VETERANS DAY	12 Bird Walk for Beginners, 10-11:30 AM, adults, free, reservations; 358-6535	13	14 Birding Trip, Eastern Neck NWR, 7:30-5, adults, \$10, reservations; 358-3403	15 Cub Scout Pack Meeting, 7:30 PM, "Pioneer Days," Arlington Forest U. Meth. Ch.	16
17 Out On the Patio, by George Loukides, runs through 11/23. A contemporary comedy, New Works Theatre, at Theatre Two, Gunston, 524-7672	18	19	20	21	22	23 Fall Plant Hike, 1:30-3:30 PM, free, reservations required; 358-6535
24	25 I Am a Washington Actor, one-man show, mini-history of DC theater, Bart Whiteman, Theatre Two, Gunston, 358-6960	26	27	28 THANKSGIVING 	29 Ballad of the Difficult Man, works of Bart Whiteman, Theatre Two, Gunston, 358-6960	30

struction going on at Barcroft School. The new trailers are actually quieter than the old classrooms, and the kids just ignore the construction noise in the background. Each trailer has a bathroom, which helps, and the deck between them is convenient despite being exposed to the weather. Nobody I have talked to thinks the trailers are pretty, but we are all looking forward to the renovated

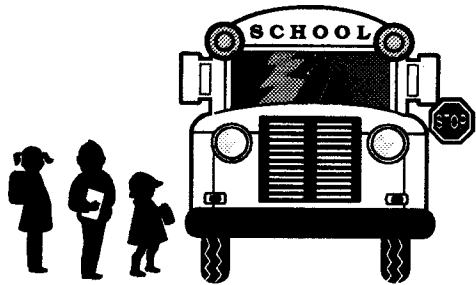
school. Dr. Kahan seems just as dedicated as ever to raising Barcroft School's standards and wants it to be truly our neighborhood school again. The kids are thinking about a program to adopt our neighborhood, so you may soon see them picking up litter or raking leaves for a senior citizen. If you have suggestions for the program, Dr. Kahan would like to hear from you at 358-5838.

# Barcroft School News

by Dr. Ellen Kahan, Principal

The construction project at Barcroft School has started in earnest. While it is exciting to see our dream school being built, the building process itself is full of challenges. A major goal in the renovation was to preserve the original front of the building and not extend the building farther back into an already small lot. This has resulted in almost all of the construction process taking place in the very front of the building, and the builders are having to work in a very tight space. The parking lot must be used for a staging and storage area, which has resulted in our staff's parking on the neighborhood streets. I regret any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your patience with it.

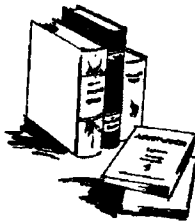
The opening and closing of school each day creates considerable traffic in front of the school building. Buses, cars, and walking children fill



the streets and sidewalks. The school staff is working effectively to keep the area well supervised. If you are driving about during the opening and closing hours of school, you might wish to avoid using Wakefield Street. It will make travel easier for you. If you do come by the school, please remember that it is a serious traffic violation to pass a bus when the red flashing lights are operating.

If you have any questions or concerns about the construction project, please call me at 358-5837. I would be happy to speak with you.

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## Who Built the First Mill At Barcroft?

We all know that Dr. Barcroft built his mill on the foundations of the old Arlington Mill, which now lie under two auto repair shops on 10th St. S. But who built the first mill there? Speculation is that it was George Washington Parke Custis ("Washington" Custis to his friends). Custis owned the Arlington Plantation, the northern third of the old Abingdon plantation, which included a part of Four Mile Run.

Barcroft is located on the fall line where the Piedmont geographic region meets the Tidewater region. Further north this produces Great Falls, and further south, the rapids of the Rappahannock and the James, where Fredericksburg and Richmond were founded. In Barcroft we have Huffman's Whitewater, a few little riffles in Four Mile Run. The fall line is the head of navigation, so Barcroft is the last spot on Four Mile Run where a mill can be built before the stream flattens out into its "run," providing access for boats (in earlier times) to reach the mill from the Potomac. So we are the logical spot for Custis's mill.

Custis filed an attestation in the deed records of (then) Alexandria County on May 3, 1836, signed by 10 neighbors who swore that the mill pond would not impinge unduly on neighboring properties. The deed records are vague about the spot where Custis built. It apparently was our own Barcroft Mill site. Custis's mill was dismantled by Northern soldiers during the Civil War and rebuilt by Barcroft about 30 years later. The mill graphic on the front of the Neighborhood Conservation Plan was drawn on a computer by Sara Leigh Merrey from a dim old photo. Along with our Community House, the Barcroft Mill is a symbol of our neighborhood.

*Randy Swart*

## Apples for the Students Plus!

Barcroft Elementary School will be participating in Giant's '91-'92 program to provide Apple and IBM computers as well as—an innovation this year—science equipment, math teaching aids, physical education equipment, audio-visual equipment, and more.

Giant has added another exciting (and complex) dimension: Double Credit Checkout Coupons. When certain items are purchased, schools can now receive double credit for them. When purchasing a participating manufacturer's product, the customer will receive a special checkout coupon for the amount of the product's retail price. Both the register tape and the special coupon must be donated for the school to receive the extra amount.

Remember, now we have two things to save for the school—register tapes and checkout coupons. Start saving now. Bring them to the school's drop box in the office, or have your child give them to his or her teacher. As always, neighbors are welcome to drop their receipts through the mail slot in my door at 4607 3rd Street S.

Let's set a record this year!

*Nora Myers Rumpf*

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## Barcroft's Best Kept Secrets

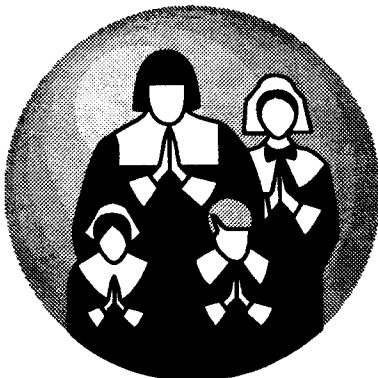


### Where Is the Path That Links Abingdon and Aberdeen?

Did you know that there is a secret path departing Barcroft at 500 S. Abingdon and coursing down through the woods, then back up to arrive in Arlington Forest at S. Aberdeen? For many who live in that part of Barcroft, it is the best way to get to the W&OD trail.

Thanks to past efforts of Barcrofter Susan Christopher, the trail has a nice wooden bridge where it crosses the little stream that feeds into Sparrow Swamp. The County built the bridge, although the right of way belongs to Virginia Power. The trail is narrow, and you have to watch for poison ivy hanging over. It is okay for walking but not good for strollers or bicycles. Our Neighborhood Conservation Plan recommends that the County improve the maintenance of the trail.

Try out this new route to the W&OD for a change sometime.



### Painting the Community House

By the time this *News* reaches you, the Higham Company should have completed the new paint job on the Community House. The Building and Grounds Committee accepted their bid in September, since their methodology was the most consistent with the building's historic status and their price was in the same range as the other bid received.

It was time to return the front doors to their historic white, so because the property is an Arlington Historic District, we had to apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic Affairs and Landmark Review Board. President Larry Goldschmidt presented our request to the Board in September and it was approved. As an official of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Larry was on familiar ground.

The interior of the building needs some sprucing up too and could use better (historically appropriate) lighting. And we have yet to work out how we will provide accessibility for handicapped persons. If you have ideas or time to contribute to the Building and Grounds Committee, please call Randy Swart, 521-2080.

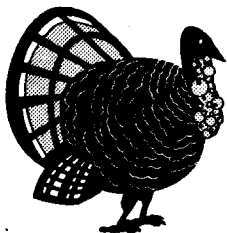
## Barcroft Exchange

**FOR SALE** Bike—20" girl's Ross Pirannah, good condition, \$45. Skates—girl's size 6, great condition, \$10. Baby Bed—Fisher Price Travel Tender, new in box, \$50. Baby Crib—Jenny Lind crib and mattress, \$45. Baby items. Call Karen, 920-1845.

## Barcroft Crime Report

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

- 9/1 900 S. Buchanan Car window broken
- 9/2 900 S. Wakefield Office building  
burglarized
- 9/8 4800 S. Columbia Pike Dispute after car  
accident; subject arrested
- 9/9 400 S. Taylor County trash can taken
- 9/11 600 S. Buchanan Burglary; jewelry,  
money taken; entry through kitchen win-  
dow; 4 subjects arrested
- 9/12 900 S. Wakefield Items stolen from car
- 9/15 900 S. Buchanan Unknown subject  
stabbed victim after harassing him  
4800 S. Columbia Pike Subject stabbed  
(continuation of preceding incident)
- 9/17 Unit block S. Pershing Car window  
broken
- 9/18 900 S. George Mason Stereo stolen from  
auto
- 9/19 Unit block S. Pershing Larceny; money  
taken
- 9/20 4300 S. Columbia Pike Tags stolen from  
car  
900 S. Buchanan Attempted burglary;  
no entry
- 9/21 4800 S. Columbia Pike Subject arrested  
for brandishing a firearm
- 9/26 900 S. Buchanan Windshield broken
- 9/27 900 S. George Mason Fight
- 9/29 4700 S. Columbia Pike Arrest; fight



## Crime Resistance Committee

If you are concerned about crime in Barcroft, drop in at the next meeting of the Crime Resistance Committee. The date of the next meeting was not available at press time, so please call the Barcroft Neighborline, 521-1116, to find out when and where.

## Park Project Languishes

While the County waits to move its recycling center to the other side of Columbia Pike, Barcroft's project to rehabilitate the park on our side is stalled. We have \$12,000 in Neighborhood Conservation Funds approved, but we will have to wait till spring to proceed.

Unfortunately, the County has not been mowing the area we cleared, and it has once again become overgrown by weeds. Bottles and trash are collecting, and unsavory characters are lurking in the area once more. (Could there be a connection with the recent break-in at a home on Buchanan that backs up to the park?) As an interim measure, some Barcrofters have been mowing the area with their own lawnmowers.

## Neighborhood Conservation Plan Still Available

If you did not get a copy of the Neighborhood Conservation Plan in the initial distribution to BSCL members and would like to have one, copies are still available. Call David Michaelson, BSCL delegate to the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee, at 553-3953.



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