

# BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 89, No. 4

December 1991

## DECEMBER MEETING Annual Holiday Program

The whole family is invited to a holiday program and Christmas carol sing-along with the famous Barcroft Christmas Band at 7:30 PM on December 5 at the Barcroft Community House, 800 S. Buchanan. Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a member. Bring a neighbor, a friend, your kids; bring some cookies to help out Joyce Hutchins. This is the Barcroft School and Civic League's traditional Christmas program. It comes early in the month and provides a fine opening for this joyous season.

People from all religious and ethnic groups who celebrate a special day at this time of year are invited to share music from their heritage. Or just come to enjoy carols as an old Barcroft tradition, whether or not you observe Christmas.

This is the only meeting of the year that we don't ask for volunteers for community projects—and one of

the best to just meet the folks in your neighborhood civic association. Come and join your neighbors in expressing the good spirits of the season!

## Barcroft Luncheon to Thank Service People

Last year's holiday luncheon to honor the people who provide valuable services for our neighborhood was such a resounding success that we're going to do it again. Sponsored by the BSCL, the Women's Club of Arlington, the

K Club, and the Friendship Club, it will be held on December 19 at the Women's Club of Arlington, 700 S. Buchanan, which will provide more space and all the necessary equipment. Once again, Anne Noll and Susan Christopher are at the helm, making certain everyone who should be is invited and that ample provisions are requisitioned. If you would like to help or know service people who should be invited, call Anne Noll at 892-6710.



## Some of Barcroft Votes!

About 45% of Barcroft's eligible voters turned out for the November 5th election, fewer than normal for an off-year election but much higher than the overall county turnout of less than 38%. Similar elections in the past have turned out about 50% of the voters both in Barcroft and countywide.

The news was good only for Democrats. Barcroft neighbor Karen Darner won reelection with 58% of Barcroft's vote, increasing her lead from last January's special election by four percentage points. Her opponent, Alice Tennes, had campaigned extensively in the neighborhood, provoking some adverse comment by appearing at our nonpolitical 4th of July parade with a group of supporters and a basket of candies to hand out. This race drew the heaviest voting in the election, with 741 Barcrofters casting a vote.

State Senator Ed Holland won the highest approval rating of any of the candidates in contested elections, with 73% of the vote, and had the largest number of votes of any candidate, with 472.

County Board members Al Eisenberg and Bill Newman won votes from 60% of Barcrofters voting for County Board candidates. At least 8% of Barcroft's voters did not cast votes in the County Board race. The vote for

Eisenberg may indicate that many voters in the neighborhood appreciate his appearances at meetings of the BSCL to explain County policy, although on those occasions he has sometimes served as a lightning rod for criticism of county policies.

Please resolve now to vote in '92. A big turnout at every election ensures that the neighborhood is taken seriously. Every voter can find at least one candidate of some party who is worthy of support. Most of your neighbors are making the effort. Apathy is no excuse for not voting!

### 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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## November Meeting: Report on Parks

Alice Foster, director of the County's Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Resources, appeared at our November meeting and showed an impressive knowledge of the neighborhood's concerns about Barcroft's parks. She reviewed the status of the park to be placed on the piece of Arlington Hall west of George Mason Drive. This area is already open for use but awaits some refurbishment to reverse the orientation of the ball field and add picnic tables, a tot lot, and a bicycle path. Progress with the federal bureaucracy is slow.

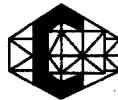
Ms. Foster discussed the park at Four Mile Run and Columbia Pike, noting that the County staff has decided that the area should be "a meadow" rather than mowed grass. This was the first mention of the word "meadow" for the site. When the BSCL proposal for a park was funded for \$12,000 under Neighborhood Conservation Funds, we were under the impression that the BSCL's design for a mowed area had been approved. Ms. Foster said she would check the matter with County staffers. The BSCL delegate to the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee, David Michaelson, said he would follow up with both Parks and Neighborhood Conservation staff to be sure they were communicating on this issue. The current meadow treatment has chest-high weeds, and vagrants are camping there again. Ms. Foster said they had not received reports of these homeless people causing problems and left her telephone number (358-4747).

Ms. Foster reassured us that the County is pursuing the purchase of VEPCO's former Barcroft substation, but progress in acquiring

the property for a park has been held up by questions about PCB contamination of the site. (VEPCO had informed us that their tests showed a level of PCBs in the soil that is probably safe for most uses but might be above the level permitted for a tot lot, for example.)

Ms. Foster also agreed to check on the status of the repairs to the two bridges on the old Four Mile Run trail opposite John Carlin's Springs. The older trail has been barricaded since the railings were washed off the bridges in a storm several years ago.

Ms. Foster drew praise for her knowledge of conditions in the parks around the neighborhood and her previous responsiveness on parks issues, including the initiation of a regular schedule of sweeping for the pedestrian overpass at Shirlington Circle, which is helping to keep the area glass-free.



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## It's Done!

Take a look at the newly painted Barcroft Community House. What an improvement. Returning the front doors to their original white color required the approval of the Historic Affairs and Landmark Review Board.

Our Building and Grounds Committee is considering its 1992 project—painting the interior of the building. You can look forward to the Committee's call for volunteers to help at some point.



## Arlington Hall Construction Growing

The large buildings under construction along George Mason Drive are the new headquarters for the National Guard and its two parking garages. Behind those buildings, on the State Department's part of the site, more large buildings are under construction. They are not visible from George Mason Drive but are clearly visible from the parking lot of the Evans store on Arlington Boulevard at Glebe Road. After protests by historic preservationists, several buildings originally constructed by the women's college that had the site before it was snatched by the federal government during World War II have been preserved.

For information about Arlington Hall construction call Pat Roach, chairman of the Arlington Hall Committee, at 920-8131.

### **BROOKE RENTAL center.**

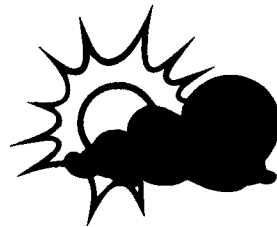


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## Are the Beaver Gone?

Joyce Hutchins, our hospitality chair and chief beaver watcher, reports that she has not seen the little animals down in Sparrow Swamp for some months—not since the Nature Center built the new wooden walkway beside the pond. Other wildlife seem to be scarcer too. Joyce is checking with the Nature Center to find out if they have news of the beaver family.

## New Historic Marker at Carlin's Springs

A new historic marker was installed earlier this year at the site of John Carlin's two springs down by Four Mile Run, with the following inscribed:

In 1872, John F. Carlin developed here a popular resort which could be reached by train from Washington and Alexandria. His establishment included two springs, an ice cream parlor, a restaurant, and a swimming hole at the confluence of Four Mile Run and Lubber Run. It remained popular until about 1887, when the property was sold to the developers of Glencarlyn. They demolished the resort buildings, but preserved the natural park, which was acquired by Arlington County in 1942. Erected by Arlington County, Virginia.

According to the 1903 *Barcroft News*, the swimming hole was used for many years thereafter by the young lads of the neighborhood, sometimes even when they had forgotten their bathing suits. One of the developers who donated land for the park was Walter O'Hara, who built many homes in Barcroft. The others were the developers of Carlin Springs, later renamed Glencarlyn. The county was initially unwilling to take the donation but finally did so in 1941.

You can see the springs and their new marker by going up the W&OD trail to a sharp left about 100 yards past milepost 2.5, just before the Arlington Boulevard bridge. You will see a mossy picnic shelter and just beyond it the marker, unfortunately turned at right angles to the W&OD to make it nearly invisible. Just beyond that are the two springs. While you are down that way, look for the trail to the Nature Center, a fun place to visit.

## Barcroft Christmas Band to Rehearse!

Dust off the tuba, blow the stale air out of your bagpipes, shine up the old trombone, and come to Randy Swart's house (4611 S. 7th) for practice on Sunday, December 1, at 7:30 PM. Any and all Barcroft musicians are urged to attend! The BSCL Christmas Party will be on the following Thursday, December 5, at 7:30 PM.



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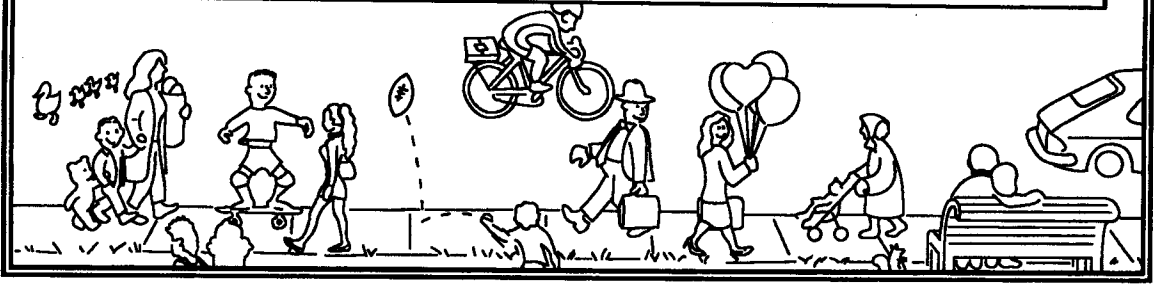
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## Around the Neighborhood With Kathy Kerr



The place to be this Halloween was John Gurche's large front yard on 6th near Wakefield St. What initially appeared to be an incompetent attempt to erect a fence was, in reality, an artistic and hilarious cemetery. Trick or treaters of all ages had plenty of time to read the gravestones as they waited for their tour of the rest of the yard. I especially liked the epitaph, "Here lie I felled from a sky rocket in my eye socket." At one grave, a human hand reached up through the ground, grasping whenever anyone approached!

A creepy guide led small groups past a coffin with a skeleton inside, which suddenly sat up! More creepy noises, more skeletons, decapitated heads moving on a tray—and then the headless man with the candy basket. As you reach for the candy ... Well, you'll just have to go next year—that is, if John doesn't move again.

John, recently married, moved to Barcroft last May. He was well known and is sorely missed in Arlington Forest, where he has set up Halloween extravaganzas before. It is reported that John selected his new home because of the large front yard.

Halloween visitors who don't know John will be relieved to know that he actually does have a head, and a handsome one at that. In real life he is an employee of the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, and he is the

artist who designed the dinosaur stamp for the U.S. Postal Service.

John's birthday is October 30, so although he has already celebrated it rather thoroughly, let's add a "Happy Birthday" from Barcroft.

Welcome to the Dulle and Carter families, who moved to Barcroft this summer.

John and Laurie Dulle live on Pershing. They have two daughters—Sarah, a kindergarten at Barcroft School, and Kristi, age 2. John is a Marine Corps Captain working mainly in computer systems. He plans to retire in less than two years, and they hope to stay in the area. Laurie, originally from Vienna, is a mother-at-home, enjoys sewing for her daughters, and does some beautiful smocking. Laurie is also a volunteer La Leche League leader, providing breastfeeding information and leading monthly meetings for breastfeeding mothers.

Married for eight years, the Dulles have lived in Japan, Florida, Maryland, and California. John also spent some months in Saudi Arabia after Operation Desert Storm was over. The family enjoys such family activities as hiking and loves living near the bike trails.

The Carters are also a military family. Bruce is a Navy Commander working at the

# December Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 <b>HANUKKAH</b>	3 <b>Civic Federation Mtg.</b> , 7:45 PM, Arlington Hosp.	4	5 <b>BSCL</b> , 7:30 PM, Community House. Call 521-3746 for info	6 <b>Festival of Latin American Dance</b> , Theatre One, Gunston, 8 PM; 358-6960	7 <b>Chanticleer</b> , Children's opera, Thomas Jefferson Theatre, 3 & 5 PM; 549-5039
8 <b>Arlington Metropolitan Chorus &amp; Arlington Symphony</b> , 3 PM; 528-1817	9	10	11	12	13 <b>Cub Scout Pack Meeting</b> , 7:30 PM, Arlington Forest United Methodist Ch.	14 <b>Messiah-Sing</b> , 1st Presbyterian Church, 5 PM; 836-4822
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
			<b>Living Nativity</b> , Arlington Forest United Methodist Church, 7:30 & 8:15 PM, presented in English, Spanish, and Korean			
22	23	24	25 <b>CHRISTMAS</b>	26	27	28
29 <b>Hansel and Gretel</b> , Bob Brown Puppets, Theatre One, Gunston, 920-1040	30	31 <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>	<b>12/2-12/28 Yule Tidings</b> , for audiences from 6 to 106, Washington Shakespeare Co., Theatre Two at Gunston, 8 PM, 739-9886 <b>12/20-12/22 The Nutcracker</b> , Classical Ballet Theatre, Thomas Jefferson Theatre, 20 & 21 at 7:30 PM, 22 at 3 PM, 506-8911 <b>12/14 &amp; 12/15 Rededicate</b> : Celebrating the spiritual essence of the Jewish people, Center Dance Co., Jefferson Theatre, 522-2414			

Navy Yard. Margaret is a mother-at-home who, like Laurie Dulle, loves sewing. The Carters have four children: Sean, almost 12; Sarah, 9; Grace, 6; and Matthew, almost 2. Sean and Sarah enjoy playing the fiddle and yours truly is their teacher. The children do not attend school because they are "home schooling." Margaret says she is not at all op-

posed to public school. It's just that with their military life style, which requires so much travel, home schooling allows her family the freedom to be a family when they need to be.

The Carters are natives of Maine and plan to return there on Bruce's retirement from the Navy. Bruce loves canoeing and biking. They presently love living on quiet Woodstock Ct.

# Barcroft Elementary School News

## Construction Update

The underground plumbing for the new classroom addition was completed in October, and the concrete footings for the addition and the new multipurpose room should have been poured by this time. Across the back lot of the school, the new and improved storm sewer should have been installed and the playground area covered with new top soil and seeded.

## Art Wish List

The Barcroft Art Classes can make treasures out of some of what we usually consider trash. If you have any of the following items to get rid of, send them to the school:

- ✍ Used clothes and hats for costume box
- ✍ Outdated calendars with art reproductions
- ✍ Old large shirts (for smocks)
- ✍ Margarine containers (with lids)
- ✍ Styrofoam trays
- ✍ Ice cream barrels (with lids)

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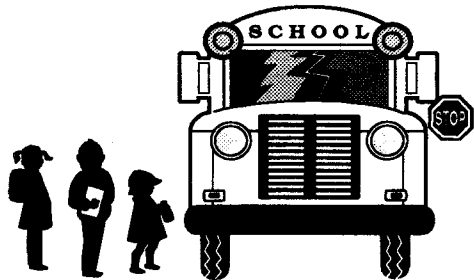
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- ✍ Old sheets
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- ✍ Telephone wire
- ✍ Wallpaper book samples
- ✍ Carpet square samples
- ✍ Cardboard tubes from wrapping paper, toilet tissue, paper towels

## Take Home a Brick

The staff and Safety Patrols gathered up the old bricks before the demolition rubble was hauled away. They have been cleaned and stenciled with the school's distinctive 1925 round window and arch. One of these refurbished bricks makes an attractive doorstep that is a piece of history. The bricks are being sold for \$3 each, and the proceeds will be used to purchase new rainy-day slickers for the Safety Patrols. If you would like one, contact the school office at 358-5838 to see if there are any left.



## Barcroft School Kids Court Neighbors

Neighbors of Barcroft School were surprised to receive a bundle of goodies from the school kids. There were cute notes and pictures drawn by the kindergarten and first-grade students and a small loaf of delicious pumpkin bread made by students in Miss Hardman's second grade and other volunteers. A note accompanied the goodies thank-



ing the immediate neighbors of the school for "your patience as we undergo the construction of a future" and for "enduring the impact on the streets of our needed parking ... We truly appreciate your cooperation."

The note and goodies were a nice gesture, but hardly necessary to justify the reconstruction of our neighborhood school. All Barcrofters have a stake in the renaissance of Barcroft Elementary, which will, depending on your viewpoint, provide a better place to educate your children, raise your property values, or turn out educated new workers who can understand English and provide needed services in your old age. A better school benefits all of our society. So far we are not hearing complaints from those adjacent to the construction, despite the noise. If you have thoughts about the school reconstruction please put them in an article for the *Barcroft News!*



## Improbable Jailbird

Friends and neighbors of Anne Noll were recently shocked to learn that she had been arrested and jailed! Concerned for her plight and anxious to see the improbable jailbird released, they generously offered their help.

They soon learned that Ms. Noll was being held by the March of Dimes. Her bail would be used to support the Foundation's prevention of birth defects and other deserving programs. Contributions poured forth. Everyone was happy to secure the release of their friend and help the March of Dimes. Arlington good will saved the day!

*Talmadge Williams*

## Light Up the Darkness, Turn Back the Floods

Is your street too dark? Barcroft can have additional streetlights installed under the Neighborhood Conservation program if it is. We can ask for the popular new carriage lights, which are not blocked by large trees like the traditional streetlights higher up on the poles. And how about that missing curb and gutter or sidewalk on your block. Neighborhood Conservation pays 50% of the usual homeowner's assessment.

You must circulate a petition among your neighbors for either type of project. The County will provide the petition if you are interested—call Kenneth Hill at 358-3678. If you need more info call David Michaelson, the BSCCL representative to the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee, at 553-3953.



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## Committee Formed to Review Proposal on Placement of LULUs

At the November BSCL meeting, Barcrofters discussed a recent proposal that the County should use a mediator and a broad-based consultative process to develop guidelines for placement of any new county facilities. 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 an 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, and other communities have found it useful.

The members at the meeting decided that further study of the proposal was needed and created a committee to consider it. The committee will make its recommendations at the January meeting, and the BSCL will take its formal position at that time. If you have views on the question or want to serve on the committee, please call Larry Goldschmidt at 521-3746.

## Secret Santa

As the holiday season approaches, you may want to consider being a Secret Santa for one of the more than 200 families Arlington County has identified as in need of a Christmas dinner and gifts for the family. What better way to express the true spirit of the season?

If you are interested in sponsoring a family, please call 358-4731 by December 13. You will hear a recorded message about the project and then can leave a message stating the date of the call, your name and phone number (day and evening), and type of family requested (e.g., family size, age preferences of family members).

Within a few days, a volunteer will confirm your call, and you will receive a letter providing information about the family so that you can choose appropriate gifts.

Gifts can be delivered to six distribution centers between 8 AM and 7 PM on December 18, 19, and 20. Locations will be listed in your confirmation letter. Families will pick up their gifts directly from the site.

Don't miss out on a great opportunity to share the holidays with others who are less fortunate.

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## Barcroft Crime Report

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

- 10/1 4200 Columbia Pike Failure to pay for gas
- 10/3 800 S. Wakefield Two men, falsely saying they worked for Arlington County, attempted to do repair on victim's home; they were unsuccessful  
4200 Columbia Pike Bag of trash found containing drug paraphernalia
- 10/4 900 S. Buchanan Two subjects arrested for vandalism  
900 S. Buchanan Fight related to preceding incident
- 10/5 4500 S. 9th Obscene/harassing language and motions by two men
- 10/7 600 S. George Mason '87 Toyota stolen  
800 S. Wakefield Car windshield broken, milk can stolen
- 10/10 4700 Columbia Pike Purse stolen from shopping cart
- 10/13 200 S. Abingdon Fight between two individuals
- 10/14 4800 Columbia Pike Subject arrested for public drunkenness  
200 S. Abingdon Car and house egged
- 10/19 600 S. Taylor Burglary, VCR taken
- 10/21 900 S. Buchanan County tag stolen
- 10/24 400 S. George Mason Attempt to steal frame for removable radio
- 10/26 900 S. Buchanan '78 Olds stolen; suspect known
- 10/27 900 S. Buchanan Car windows broken
- 10/29 4300 Columbia Pike Car mirrors vandalized  
800 S. Taylor '83 Volvo stolen
- 10/30 900 S. Buchanan '91 Pontiac stolen

## Rats Sighted

The residents of Towne Pershing (the townhouses at Pershing Drive and Arlington Boulevard) recently suffered a plague of rats, resorting to an exterminator to get rid of them. During the process an officer of their homeowner's association, Priscilla Trujillo, discovered that there have been widespread rat problems in the neighborhood, including a pack who devoured an entire row of yams grown by the neighborhood's most famous gardener (who never wants us to mention his name). The County has been baiting the sewers along Pershing Drive and informed Priscilla that nearby construction may be a factor in the increase in the rat population. Keep your eyes peeled, and call the County at 358-6485 if you see rats invading your block.

## Barcroft Exchange

**FREE FOR PICKUP** 4 storm windows and 4 screens, old-fashioned type, roughly 2½' wide x 4' high; would make a good small greenhouse. Call 872-6820 after 5 PM.

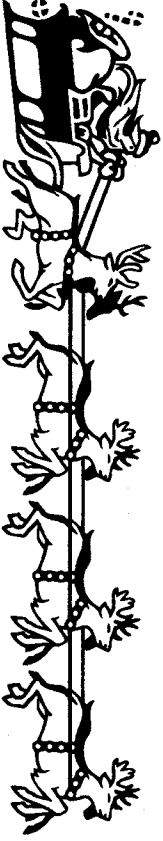
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**FOR SALE** Solid teak credenza/stereo cabinet from Scan; \$75. Call 685-7293.

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