



BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 89, No. 5

January 1992

JANUARY MEETING: Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization

The January meeting of the Barcroft School and Civic League will feature a presentation on the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization by the new director, Valencia Cherry. We hope to discuss CPRO's near- and far-term goals, especially with regard to Barcroft's section of the Pike. The meeting starts at 7:30 PM. Everyone is welcome; you don't have to be a member. We'd like to see you there, especially newcomers to the neighborhood.

How Should County Facilities Be Located?

In November the BSCL formed a committee to respond to the initiative by the South Arlington Coalition of Civic Associations asking for a Countywide effort to develop guidelines for the placement of unwanted County facilities. These guidelines would be formulated by a "collaborative decision-making pro-

cess" coordinated by a paid facilitator and including County staff and as many different County civic groups as possible.

Following discussions by the committee, Sharon Tope has drafted the letter inserted in this issue. This draft will be discussed and revised at the January meeting of the BSCL. If you cannot make the meeting but want to register your views, please call Larry Goldschmidt at 521-3746.

December Christmas Program: Santa Visits

The BSCL's traditional December holiday program featured an appearance by the Jolly Old Saint himself, dispensing hearty Ho Ho Ho's and candy canes. Mistress of Ceremonies Margaret Carter kept the program moving along. Mary Ann O'Rourke read *The Night Before Christmas* to a (mostly) spellbound group of kids clustered around her on the floor.

Musical contributions included a harp and hammered dulcimer duet by Linda Titolo and Roger Cornell, international carols by Alicia Cackley and a duet featuring Alicia and Maureen Locke, a stunning classical violin piece by

Jeanne Roningen, and a rousing accordion number by professional musician Michael Nazaretz (of the group Loks and Vodka).

Others in the Band included Donna Anderson, Bob Doyle, Kathy Kerr, Jim Lande, Iles Minoff, Barbara Swart, Randy Swart, and Steve Wilson. One fiddle player (who does a column in this newsletter but shall remain anonymous) remarked that the band surpassed the Barcroft Fourth of July Marching Band, but admitted that it did not match the marching band's volume.

Incomparable refreshments by Joyce Hutchins, Phyl Kinsey, and a number of other volunteer bakers topped off a fine evening and a nice kickoff for the holiday season.

Barcroft News is printed by
Stanley Adams Printing Company.



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Barcrofter Victim Of Violence

Many who saw the *Washington Post* and TV news coverage of the shooting death of John Douglas while he was walking home one evening in early December may not have been aware that he was a Barcrofter and a long-time resident of 4th Street. Mr. Douglas was a craftsman and a valued neighbor. As we extend sympathies to his wife and sons, we reflect on the way violence seems to be permeating American society and threatening the values we as a neighborhood cherish. What can be done?

Barcroft News Staff

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

BSCL Officers for 1991-1992

President	Larry Goldschmidt, 521-3746
Vice President	Scott Allard, 521-0825
Treasurer	Deborah Wood, 892-1243
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Corresponding Secretary	Talmadge Williams, 920-7006
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Hospitality	Joyce Hutchins, 685-4921
Transportation	Could be you
Crime Resistance	Dick Carter, 521-5976
Neighborhood Conservation	David Michaelson, 553-3953

Holiday Luncheon


The BSCL, in cooperation with the Woman's Club of Arlington, the K Club, the Friendship Club, and Arlington Adult Education sociology students, put on the second annual Christmas Service Luncheon on Dec. 19. More than 50 police, firefighters, park maintenance workers, mail carriers, Barcroft School teachers, crossing guards, environmental services employees, and County officials attended.

This happy event, held in the Woman's Club dining room, was organized by Talmadge Williams (Chairman), Susan Christopher, and Anne Noll. The many generous contributors to this event will be recognized in the next issue of the newsletter. The attendees seemed genuinely pleased that Barcroft was again recognizing their contribution to the quality of life in our neighborhood.

Speeders Beware

You may notice more flashing lights on the side of the road as Arlington's Finest crack down on speeding and other traffic violations. The County is leaving no stone unturned in its search for "revenue enhancement," and those who support our Neighborhood Conservation Plan's call for better speed limit enforcement are cheering. It is ironic that we had to wait for hard times to clamp down on speeding! A word to the wise is sufficient: Use your brakes going downhill to stay within the posted limit.

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Annette Osso
4820 S. 8th St., Arlington
(703) 553-3953

Retaining Wall on Columbia Pike

Our Neighborhood Conservation Plan calls for the construction of a retaining wall along the sidewalk on Columbia Pike from Taylor St. east to the shopping center. Mud now washes down on the sidewalk with every rain, which is particularly bothersome to seniors walking from Wakefield Towers to the shopping center.

The Plan envisioned County funding for the wall, which we had been assured was included in the upcoming capital improvements. That funding will not be there with the current tight budget unless we push the project, perhaps with Neighborhood Conservation bond funds. If you would like to register your views on the priority of this project, call David Michaelson, our Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee representative, at 553-3953.



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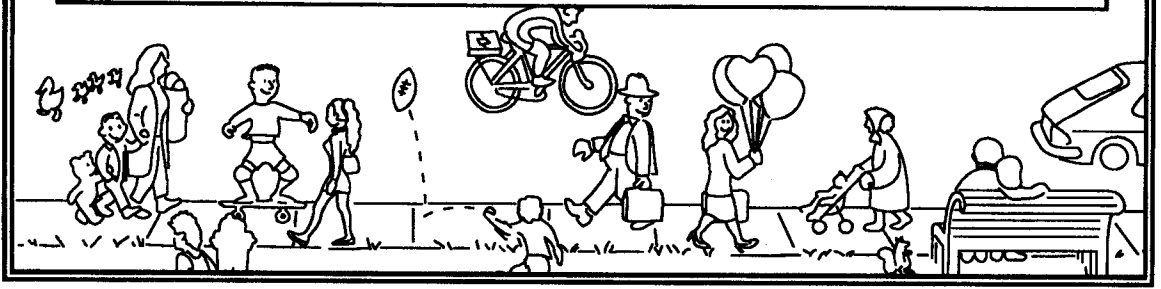
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Around the Neighborhood With Kathy Kerr



Congratulations to Jonathan DeMik on receiving his Eagle Scout award on Nov.17. All Eagle Scouts are required to complete a special project. Jonathan chose a project that would benefit our neighborhood. He worked closely with Greg Zell, a naturalist at Long Branch Nature Center whose goal is to nurture wildlife in our area and provide limited access for people to observe it. Greg suggested that Jonathan rebuild the dock at Sparrow Swamp as a platform for observers. Jonathan worked hard removing the old dock and building the sturdy and attractive new one, and Barcroft thanks you. Jonathan is the son of Liz and Tom DeMik, who live on 9th St.

The Great Beaver Mystery

An article in the November issue of the *Barcroft News* reported that the Barcroft beaver may have disappeared from Sparrow Swamp. Some readers may have gotten the erroneous impression that the beaver left because of the new dock. I asked Greg Zell about that, and he seriously doubts that the construction had anything to do with it.

According to Greg, beaver tolerate the presence of humans; there are even some living behind a highrise on Fairfax Drive! He suggested that the beaver may have simply moved on—possibly because of poor food quality—or died or become ill. There are actually more beaver in Arlington than the habitat can support, so there may have been a territorial dispute with other nearby beaver. Greg views the beaver's departure as a natural event and fully expects others to move into Sparrow Swamp

within the next year.

Since beaver are the most active at night and often best observed very early after dawn, it is hard to know for sure whether the beaver are there and how many there are. Greg says as many as two adults and two kits have been sighted at the swamp. Naturalists can watch for signs of increased dam building and feeding to indicate that beaver have returned. In the meantime, we can try to spot the muskrat that has moved in under the new dock.

They can be seen sunning themselves on the logs. Although it may appear to some that the wildlife has diminished, Four Mile Run actually supports a dynamic wildlife population. Greg has successfully planted a breeding population of turtles in the swamp. Migrating birds regularly pass through here, and birds that are here for much of the year go elsewhere for the winter. Members of the Virginia Society of Ornithologists have even seen great blue herons.



The wonderful violinist who played in the Barcroft Christmas Band, and treated us to a beautiful solo, was Jeanne Roningen. Jeanne is a junior at H-B Woodlawn, Arlington's alternative middle/high school. Jeanne is currently a member of the Northern Virginia Youth Symphony, which toured Scotland last summer. She also plays in a quartet that is available for weddings and parties!

Jeanne's mother, Jane, is a private tutor and sings in the church choir. Her father is an economist with the USDA who enjoys listening to

January Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 BSCL, 7:30 PM, Community House. Call 521-3746 for info	3	4 Winter Plant Hike, 1:30-3:30 PM, adults; reservations, 358-6535
5	6 MATCH, 7:30 PM, Dunn Loring United Methodist Church; call 791-6264	7 Civic Federation Mtg., 7:45 PM, Arlington Hosp.	8 Wednesday Bird Walk, 9:30 AM-noon, adults; 358-6535	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Birding Trip, Point Lookout State Park, 7:30-5, adults; reservations, 358-3403	17 Cub Scout Pack Meeting, 7:30 PM, Arlington Forest United Methodist Ch.	18 Winter Plant Hike, 1:30-3:30 PM, adults; reservations, 358-6535
19	20 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR'S BIRTHDAY	21 Winter Tree Identification Walk, 10-11:30 AM, adults; reservations, 358-6535	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

music—and he has plenty of beautiful music to listen to at his house. For the past year or so, Jeanne has been practicing for two to four hours each day!

Jeanne began playing violin in the second grade as a student of Barcrofter Beth Evans. This summer she will attend music camp, which will help her decide whether to major in music at college. Jeanne also enjoys school, especially history this year.

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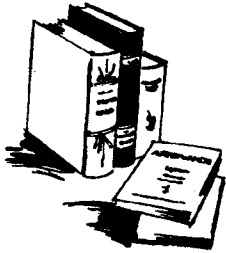
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Barcroft Crime Report

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

- 11/1 4400 S. 8th TV stolen from car
- 11/4 4300 S. Columbia Pike T-top, cassette tapes, & camera stolen from car
- 11/5 4400 S. 1st Rd Burglary; basement window broken; electronic equipment, cash, & jewelry taken
- 11/7 300 S. Pershing 3-4 teenagers reported loitering in front of residence
- 11/9 4600 S. Columbia Pike Failure to pay for gas
- 11/10 4300 S. Columbia Pike Larceny
- 11/11 900 S. Buchanan Maintenance shop broken into; tools & stereo taken
- 11/12 800 S. George Mason Suspicious/unknown person knocking on door; resident later found a ladder beside house
- 11/16 4300 Columbia Pike 2 fire extinguishers stolen; recovered
- 11/19 4200 S. 4th Car window broken
4300 S. Columbia Pike Tire stolen from car
900 S. George Mason Car vandalized
- 11/21 900 S. Buchanan Stereo stolen from car
4600 S. Columbia Pike Stereo stolen from car
- 11/23 4300 S. Columbia Pike Antenna removed from car
- 11/24 4200 S. Columbia Pike Stereo stolen from car
- 11/26 900 S. Utah Stereo stolen from car
900 S. George Mason Shoplifting
- 11/27 4300 Columbia Pike Clothes taken from hallway
900 S. Buchanan Stereo stolen from car
- 11/28 4300 S. Columbia Pike Suspicious person attempting to get money from people

- 900 S. Wakefield Car window broken
- 900 S. Buchanan Citizen turned suspected drugs over to police
- 11/29 900 S. George Mason Car window broken
4300 S. Columbia Pike Burglary; no sign of forced entry; electronic equipment & gun taken
- 11/30 900 S. Buchanan Arrest for public drunkenness

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 892-6820 after 5 PM.

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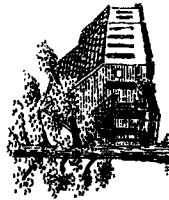
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