

# BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 90, No. 2

October 1992

## OCTOBER MEETING: Candidate's Night

The October meeting of the Barcroft School and Civic League will be the traditional Candidate's Night. We will lead off the evening with a brief description of the bond issues on the ballot. Next, the County Board candidates—Jim Hunter and Ben Winslow—will make introductory statements and then open the floor to questions. Finally, the three candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives—Jim Moran, Kyle McSarrow, and Alvin West—will make brief position statements, followed by a question-and-answer period.

This is your best chance to find out, if possible, where these candidates stand on the issues that are important to you. We need to elect responsible, responsive government officials. The only way you can feel confident in your choice is to know who these people are and what they stand for. The BSCL is offering you the ideal opportunity to find out whether the candidates know what issues count in our little corner of the country.

## Church Explains Plans

A delegation from the Unitarian Church of Arlington came to our September meeting to explain the church's construction plans and schedule. Among those present were Bill Riley, chairman of the church board, Richard Graham, chairman of the building committee, and Dave Voorhees, an active church member who is also active in the BSCL. The Unitarians had met twice with immediate neighbors of their site, but they agreed to speak to the BSCL after an exchange of letters, including those in last month's *Barcroft News*.

Mr. Riley said that the congregation plans to add on to its central building, beginning about the end of this year. When the new addition is finished, and when funds permit, the church will demolish the original 1948 church building that fronts on First Place and replace it with a landscaped parking lot. The new addition will improve the accommodations for current activities, rather than expanding the church school or other programs. The new parking lot will expand from the current 100

spaces to 150 spaces, so fewer church-goers will be parking on neighborhood streets.

The contractor, Hitt Construction, is said to be sensitive to neighborhood concerns. Hitt does not permit radios on site or early morning noise, and they will clean up daily around the site.

During the construction the church plans to keep open the playground used by many Barcroft parents with small children. The church's generosity in permitting use of the playground has generated considerable good will in the neighborhood.

The Unitarian presentation met with initial critical questioning, but there seemed to be a consensus at the end that the plans were reasonable. Although execution may vary from the ideal, there was no cause for alarm. (The author of the letter summarized in the last issue, Mr. Magyar, may still be concerned. He was not present.) We thanked the delegation after their presentation for permitting access to the playground. They intend to update us on their plans as construction funding and schedules are firmed up. For further information, call Dave Voorhees at 941-5541.

## ACE: Arlington's Greens

Have you met our ACEs? Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment is a broad-based community organization that promotes sound environmental practices. ACE has been in the forefront of educating County residents on recycling, composting, ozone, organic lawn care, automotive care to reduce emissions, and many other environmental issues. ACE publishes a newsletter on recycled green paper. (This page is also printed on recycled paper, by the way.) For a whirlwind intro to green issues, contact ever-enthusiastic environmentalist Ned Ruhe at 358-6427. Ned even has a green hat.

## Concrete Work Completed

The County has finished its extensive sidewalk renovation work in the neighborhood, and the evidence is everywhere. Most residents seem pleased with the work. Our Neighborhood Conservation representative, David Michaelson, has agreed to serve as a clearinghouse for any complaints about the new sidewalks. Call him at 553-3953 if you have a question. We will not have another full-scale visit from the sidewalk crews until 2009, so speak now if something is not right!

### Barcroft News Staff

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<i>Neighborhood News</i>	Kathy Kerr, 892-6458
<i>Contributions Editor</i>	Randy Swart, 521-2080
<i>Mailing</i>	Aileen Woods & Paul Metzler

Deadline for submissions: 10th of the month preceding the issue month.

### BSCL Officers for 1991-1992

<i>President</i>	Larry Goldschmidt, 521-3746
<i>Vice President</i>	Scott Allard, 521-0825
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<i>Arlington Hall</i>	Pat Roach, 920-8131
<i>Hospitality</i>	Could be you
<i>Transportation</i>	Could be you
<i>Crime Resistance</i>	Dick Carter, 521-5976
<i>Neighborhood Conservation</i>	David Michaelson, 553-3953

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## School Bonds

Early next month you will be able to vote on the school bond referendum. The County hopes to be authorized to issue bonds for \$24.4 million in school restoration.

The funds will be used to modernize and replace school buildings to help the County deal with the current school crowding problem. About two-thirds of the money will be used to replace or repair heating and air conditioning systems, windows, ceilings, and lights. Another fourth will provide new and renovated classrooms, gymnasiums, laboratories, and cafeterias. Interior space will be redesigned in some cases to meet current program requirements. The remaining 9% of the funds will provide enhanced safety features and handicapped access improvements.

The average cost to you will be less than \$10 per year for each year of the bonds' life, or something under \$200 over the next 20 years. For more information on the bond issue, call David Rorick, the schools' public information officer, at 358-6000.

## Position Open

Our faithful hospitality chair, Joyce Hutchins, has been forced into retirement by a Thursday night class. You are qualified to take her place. Really you are! All you need to do is bring some cookies and punch or juice to the meeting and heat water for instant coffee in our big coffeepot. The BSCL picks up all your expenses. If you are interested in the position, please call Larry Goldschmidt at 521-3746 to volunteer.



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Arlington Forest Shopping Center

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Enjoy One Complimentary Lunch  
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Is Purchased

Monday-Thursday Only  
With This Coupon  
For Dine-in Only  
Maximum Discount \$8.00  
Not Valid With Other Promotions

Expires 10/31/92



## Third Street Block Party

On September 13, the prettiest Sunday of the summer, almost all the residents of 3rd Street S. (between Pershing and Abingdon) gathered in Mike and Dee Kirkbride's yard for a great-time block party.

Blocked by barriers provided by the Police Department, the street soon was taken over by children on all sorts of vehicles—bikes, roller blades, tricycles, and wagons. Parents enjoyed a blissful peaceful feeling, knowing that for once the kids could play safely in the street!

Meanwhile, the grownups got to meet each other, often for the first time after many years, and exchange stories about how the street used to look.

Estelle Weidman, who moved to her home 63 years ago, won the prize for having been a resident for the longest time. When she moved in, there were only two houses on the block—not counting the convict camp at the west end of the street, where the laborers and horses for the building of Route 50 were

housed! Ruth Clark, who has lived in her house with her husband for 55 years, remembers selling eggs to Mrs. Weidman. Mrs. Clark's father raised chickens on Wakefield Street—in fact, he also built the house that Mrs. Weidman lives in.



Estelle Weidman



Red Meadows remembers moving into his home with his wife, Mabel, on Christmas Eve, 1939, at the insistence of his builder, who had promised the house would be ready by Christmas. Mrs. Meadows died in July of 1987, but Mr. Meadows still remains on 3rd St., making award-winning baked beans for the enjoyment of his neighbors. Wendell and Helen Chesser moved into their home in July 1940. Mr. Chesser was a realtor in the area for many years and entertained newer neighbors with stories of the history of their houses.

Marcel Bloomquist remembers moving in about 50 years ago and still lives in the same house. The Peartrees came in 1950, as did the Sponsellers. Guy and Mary live next door to Mrs. Weidman; their home was built in 1938. Gladys Lane arrived in 1955 and remembers a farmer's wagon coming down the street to sell produce in the summer.

Nancy Howard moved to the street in 1967 and raised four children in her three-bedroom Cape Cod. Following her arrival, there seems to be a big gap, with just one family moving to the street in the '70s—Nora then-Myers now Rumpf in 1978.

Since the mid-80s, there has been a boom: Dick and Nora Trodden in 1983, Mike Kiernan and Judy Cusick in 1985, Barbara and George Schluderman in 1987, Sharon Pinnock-Fitz and William Fitz in 1987, and Mike and Dee Kirkbride in 1989. (Some believe that Sharon would have won one of the dessert prizes for her from-scratch pound cake, but her children ate half of it in the dark of night!)



Nora Rumpf (center) presents newest neighbors Mark and Lisa Rom with their prize: Tupperware! (Talk about coals to Newcastle!)

The '90s have been busy, too. Third Street welcomed Bruce and Lori Gagne in August 1990, Mark and Mary LaFalce and Peggy and Richard Keller in June 1991, Leslie and Tom Morris in October 1991, and our newest neighbors, Mark and Lisa Rom, in April 1992.

We all had a lovely time meeting each other, talking about our homes, and seeing how connected we really are—some of the newest neighbors are living in homes once occupied by families and friends of older neighbors. We have been happy living on our quiet street and now are happier that we know more of our neighbors. This party may turn into an annual event!

*Nora Myers Rumpf*

## Barcrofter Wins at Fair

Visitors to the Arlington County Fair in August had an opportunity to see some quality craft work by Barcrofter Tonie Copeland. Tonie submitted entries in a number of categories, including ladies' summer suits, bathing suits, a jacket autographed by Doc Severenson, a man's pea hat, other ladies' apparel, and a needle punch of her neighbor's dog, Nicky Steinmetz. (Nicky was described as a parade entrant "with dog" in last month's *Barcroft News*. We should have recognized from the paw-writing on the entry form that Nicky was the dog.) You may congratulate Tonie when you next see her: she won a ribbon on each entry! Just don't ask how her squash did . . .

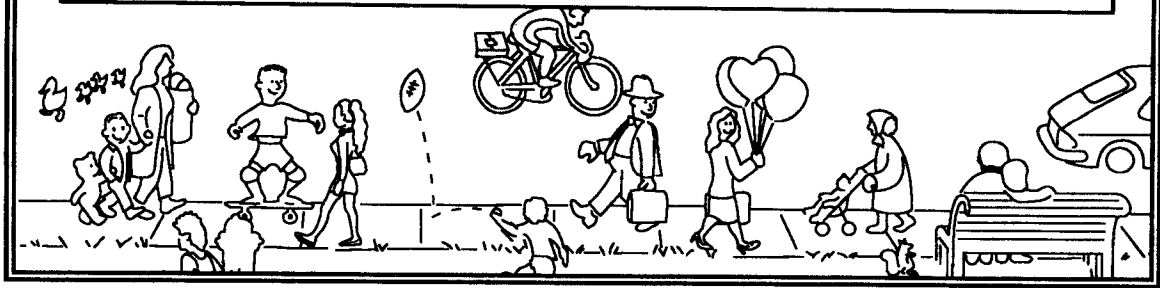


2421 Columbia Pike, South Arlington ♦ 486-3467

### Your All-American Neighborhood Restaurant

Come see our new menu selections, or try some of our old favorites (homemade chili, onion rings, etc.). Remember — our burgers are half price all day Mondays!  
*(Formerly Fins Bar & Grille)*

# Around the Neighborhood With Kathy Kerr



The next time you think you are having an overly challenging day, think of Molly Mengebier at home with her three children under the age of 2!

Molly and her husband, David, were blessed with twin girls on June 3, 1992. Although premature, the babies, Kate and Lindsay, were good sized and healthy. Big sister Clare will turn 2 years old in November. Molly sounded cheerful and said that the family has enjoyed getting out for walks. Keep an eye out for them on S. Taylor St.

David Mengebier's brother, Bill, lives in Barcroft as well, on S. 6th St. Bill and his wife, Françoise, have three boys, Scott, Thomas, and Benjamin. David and Molly have now nicely covered the girl department.

Molly reports that among four of her neighboring houses, there have been eight babies born in the last three years, including another set of twins! Is it the water?



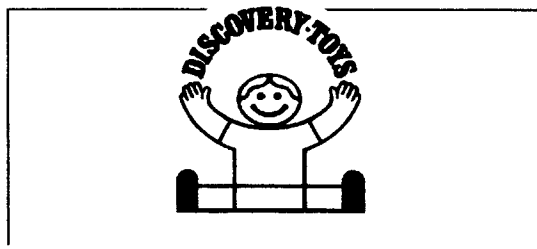
The newest wing of Barcroft School was opened just in time for the start of school and is receiving rave reviews from everyone—students, teachers, and neighbors. First grader Ashby Williams of 6th St. S., says that her classroom is big, and she especially likes having a bathroom right in the room. Her mother, Harriet, says that everything is “just beautiful.”

Second grader Julia Siple is still in a portable classroom but says, hopefully, she'll be in the new wing in October. She describes the new gymnasium as being bigger and much brighter than the old one. She likes the colors—white and pink. Julia is the daughter of Deborah Wood and Chris Siple of 4th St. S.

When this issue of the *News* went to press, the school had scheduled an open house for the evening of September 23 so that curious neighbors could have a closer look at the new Barcroft Elementary School. I hope they had a good turnout.



Stay tuned to this column for some interviews with former Barcroft teachers. Former teachers who would enjoy sharing their life stories can contact me at 892-6458.



**ROBERT DIELMAN**

4421 S. 9th Street  
Arlington, VA 22204-1320

521-3018 (home)

# October Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> BSCL, 7:30 PM, Community House. Call 521-3746 for info.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Columbia Pike Artist Studios Open House, 11 AM-4 PM, 932 S. Walter Reed Dr.
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Civic Federation Mtg., 7:45 PM, Arlington Hosp.	<b>7</b> YOM KIPPUR	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> COLUMBUS DAY 	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Daylight Savings Time Ends	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> HALLOWEEN 

## Library Boosters Begin Fund-raising

The Friends of the Arlington County Library are raising funds to assist in equipping the Central Library, which is expected to reopen later this fall. The library's budget is strained, and the results of this citizen group's effort will be used for books, equipment, and other needs.

The "campaign for excellence" is ready for your tax-deductible donations. It is chaired by Barcrofter Talmadge Williams, and the honorary chair is the Hon. Mary Marshall, former Virginia State delegate. For more information, call 358-5955.

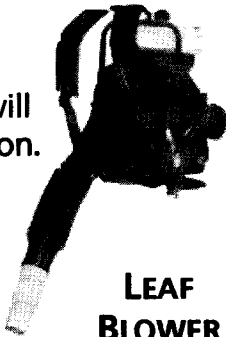
## Arlington Schools Seek Advisors

The Arlington County School Board relies on citizen review of the schools' curriculum for advice. Fifteen curriculum advisory committees meet regularly on all the usual subjects plus such areas as Pupil Personnel Services and Adult Education. If you are interested in serving on a curriculum review committee now or in the future, call 358-6008 during business hours, or call Ann Felker, who chairs the Advisory Council on Instruction, at 527-0529.



## DISCOVER RENTING

The leaves  
of autumn will  
be falling soon.  
Be ready by  
renting one  
of our leaf  
blowers.



**LEAF  
BLOWER**

**BROOKE RENTAL**  
**center**

Vienna  
938-4807

Arlington  
243-2122

## CPRO Update

The Columbia Pike Redevelopment Organization, or CPRO, has been drifting for several months. Board meetings have not been held since early spring. The president and vice president resigned for personal reasons, and few of the committees that oversee and implement the actual "work" of CPRO have been able to attract persons with sufficient dedication to either chair or serve on them.

In spite of this bleak record, I'm happy to report that things are beginning to look up. CPRO is forming a new, streamlined Board, and a nominating committee has located individuals willing to serve as executive officers. On October 13, Robert Wright of First Virginia Bank will be nominated as president; Ron Cohen of Cohen & Hottell, PC, as vice president; Louis Garza of the Cherry Blossom Travelodge as secretary; and Janet Loomis of Continental Federal as treasurer.

There should be many opportunities for interested Barcrofters to become involved. Neighbors Suzanne Foster, Steve White, and Scott Brinitzer have expressed an interest in working with CPRO. We hope they will be able to take on leadership roles in the organization once it gets moving again. In addition, if anyone else is interested in becoming involved, many opportunities should open up in the next several months.

I will continue to report on the status of CPRO in the *Barcroft News*; however, please feel free to call me at 979-1947 if you have any questions or would like to volunteer. The best way for Barcrofters to focus the attention of CPRO on "our" end of the Pike—and on other issues important to our community—is to have Barcrofters active at all levels of the organization. Until next month.

*Jack Christman*



## More Memories of a Late Barcrofter

Kathryn Villegas was reminiscing recently about Barcrofter Mrs. van Tilburg, who died in June. She had been a long-time resident of 6th Street, living there with her husband until he passed away. Kathryn remembers that he was 92 when he died and his wife must have been about that age as well.

Mrs. van Tilburg had been a Yeomanette in the Navy during World War I. She met her husband in the navy and, after the war, worked for many years in the U.S. government. At one time she worked with Robert Kennedy. She had full military honors for her funeral in Arlington Cemetery, including bugler, firing squad, flag, etc. She had been active in Arlington Forest church.

Kathryn's memories always convey a sense of history, and this time it seems that something of our history has been lost.



## BSCL Membership Highest Ever in '91-'92

Membership Secretary Kathryn Villegas informs us that last year's BSCL membership was the highest ever, with a final total of 563 paid members. Please remember to pay your dues, still one of the best bargains in the world at just \$2 per person. Send them, with the coupon from the insert in this issue, to Kathryn Villegas.

## Neighbors Keep Corner Beautiful

There is a little corner of Barcroft that shows what working together can do to improve your neighborhood. We have noted in the past the special attention that the corner of Abingdon St. and the Arlington Blvd. service road gets from its neighbors, but without any details. A reporter from the *Barcroft News* recently encountered a group surveying trees in the area and discovered more.

The North Barcroft Homeowners Association includes the 21 townhomes at the north end of Abingdon. Its president, Gert Wieckoski, and its grounds committee chair, Terry Pietroski, are officers in the association and take the lead in many of the groundskeeping activities. Gert and Terry run their own computer business from their home and are keenly interested in the appearance of their street. The Association had the original landscaping of the island in the middle of the intersection done professionally. Since then Terry has planted flowers in the beds when the spirit moves her and has tended the shrubbery. Other neighbors pitch in with watering, weeding, pruning, and picking up the inevitable trash and beer cans. The Association uses the Wright Lawn Service for grass cutting—and swears by them. They also use Chemlawn for the areas where the picnic benches are located. Funding comes from homeowners' dues.

The Association also maintains the short, narrow street leading from Abingdon to the Arlington Blvd. service road below the traffic light. Too narrow to be classified a County street, it remains a private drive.

The next time you pass by the corner of Abingdon and Arlington Boulevard, pause and note how nicely this corner of the neighborhood is kept by neighbors like Terry and Gert.

## Arlington Songbird Helpers Organize

The Arlington Songbird Helpers held their first organizational meeting in August. They hope to form a Songbird Sanctuary Committee to promote songbird sanctuaries in yards and common spaces. A sanctuary yard has a bird feeder, birdbath, birdhouses, native wildflowers (can I stop cutting the grass?), and no pesticides, insecticides, or cats. For more information call Brendon McQuade at 521-6632.



## Local Fauna Report

While driving west on the Arlington Blvd. service road one sunny afternoon, this reporter spotted what appeared to be a small dog trotting out of a driveway. A closer look revealed that this was not a dog at all; it was a red fox! I wished my 6-year-old daughter, Jane, was there because such rare events delight her so. It certainly brightened my day.

On another night Jane and I were rushing out the door (as usual) to pick her father up from work. I was locking the door when Jane suddenly squealed. When I looked around to see what the problem was, she was riveted to the spot. She had discovered a small snake slithering along our walk! Because it was dark and we had only our porch and street lights for illumination, we couldn't tell what color the snake was. It was so small, though, that at first I thought it was an extraordinarily large earthworm that had lost its mind. No earthworm moves the way this guy did, however.

Having grown up in a small town in a rural northeastern Maryland county, I made similar discoveries when I was young. The only snakes I saw, though, were dead black snakes—and much bigger. I was glad Jane could get this close to a live one outside the zoo.

So what kind of wildlife have you seen lately? We may live in a large metropolitan area, but our nearby park affords us the opportunity to remember all the other inhabitants of our planet. We at the *News* would like to hear from others who have happened on one of the local park denizens out of its element.

## Milestone for Barcroft School

By the time you read this, the construction of Barcroft School will have passed an important milestone. The new addition has been completed and will be fully occupied by now. Although the addition adds much-needed space, it does not complete the renovation of the school. Work now starts on the interior of the old school building.

### Barcroft Exchange

**For Sale** Doll House, charming but needs work. Some furniture. \$5.00. Call 892-6458.

**For Sale** 21-cu.-ft. freezer (Wards Signature): 5 wire shelves (one adjusts 3 positions), 6 door shelves, wire basket, drain hose, key-lock door (key included), safety light outside door. Seldom used. Mint condition. \$299. Call 892-2124.

**For Sale** Twin 10" Sears window fan: separate on/off switches; reverse without removing from window; 2 sets of extenders; hardware included. Very good condition. \$22. Call 892-2124.

## Barcroft Crime Report

Here are the crime statistics for August. We apologize for the omission of the Crime Report last issue; it's always hard to get everything coordinated during the end-of-summer vacation period.

- 8/2 4300 Columbia Pike Car broken into  
900 S. George Mason Shoplifting
- 8/7 900 S. George Mason Car broken into  
900 S. George Mason Window in business broken  
900 S. Buchanan Car stolen  
900 S. Buchanan Theft from apt. storage bin
- 8/8 4300 Columbia Pike Ex-friend threatened to  
shoot victim
- 8/9 900 S. Wakefield Theft from apt. storage bin
- 8/10 4300 Columbia Pike Parts stolen from car
- 8/11 4600 Columbia Pike Videotapes stolen
- 8/14 900 S. Buchanan Peeping tom at apartment win-  
dow
- 8/16 4600 Columbia Pike Parked cars damaged by  
thrown rocks
- 8/18 4200 Columbia Pike Harassing telephone calls
- 8/19 4300 Columbia Pike Obscene drawing left  
under apartment door
- 8/20 900 S. George Mason Shoplifting
- 8/24 900 S. George Mason Pizza delivery person  
robbed of three pizzas
- 8/26 900 S. George Mason Drunk in public
- 8/29 900 S. George Mason Urinating in drugstore
- 8/30 900 S. Buchanan Suspect ordered food and had  
it delivered by taxi to third party without their  
consent
- 8/31 4600 8th St. S. Suspect threatened to kill victim  
and family  
4600 Columbia Pike Va. state inspection stickers  
stolen from cars

Our thanks to Detective Bob McFarland for this report. His comment: "Not much going on in the neighborhood."

## Got an Item for the Barcroft News?

We know there are lots of closet writers out there who would like to share their opinions, tips, and knowledge with the neighborhood. The problem is, to whom do you send what? Herewith, the list:

- ✍ **Letters to the editor**—Sara Leigh Merrey, 4669 4th St. S.
- ✍ **Articles, notices of events, etc.**—Randy Swart, 4611 7th St. S.
- ✍ **Commercial display and classified ads, Barcroft Exchange noncommercial ads**—Virginia Reinecke, 4636 2nd St. S.

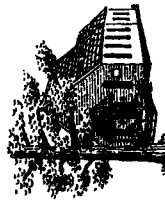
Now that you know *where* to send your material, you probably want to know *how* we want it? Basically, in any format you want to use. You can write it neatly by hand, type it on a typewriter, copy it onto your DOS or Mac diskette (either 5¼" or 3½"; high, low, or double density), or send it over the modem (call first).

We really do welcome unsolicited material. If you have an idea you'd like to discuss first, call Randy or Sara Leigh.

Call the  
Barcroft Neighborline  
**521-1116**  
Get the latest information

To have a notice announced on the line,  
call Larry Goldschmidt.

**1992-1993 BSCL  
MEMBERSHIP  
APPLICATION  
ENCLOSED**



Barcroft School and Civic League  
800 South Buchanan Street  
Arlington, VA 22204

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit #59  
Arlington, VA

