

BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 90, No. 6

February 1993

FEBRUARY MEETING: Hi Cue Billiards

by Scott Allard

January's meeting of the Barcroft School and Civic League included a report on the letter sent to the Arlington County Board about Hi Cue Billiards. This generated a discussion of concerns and questions about the establishment. A *Washington Post* reporter who attended the meeting quoted some Barcrofters in an article that appeared on January 14. One quote was, "20 years ago this was a lily-white community. There's been a change, and people are afraid. A good way to deal with it is for us to play pool there." The reporter also wrote that when he interviewed patrons at Hi Cue, their impressions were that Barcroft was primarily a community of elderly persons whose objections to Hi Cue were racially motivated. The article also reported the November 17 FBI raid of Hi Cue and a police affidavit stating that the owner threatened a delinquent gambler with death if he failed to pay up.

A motion was passed to restart the Crime Resistance Committee to work with the BSCL Board to develop an appropriate meeting timetable and format. Several Barcrofters expressed interest in joining the Committee, and

discussions with the Board led to the decision to discuss neighborhood crime at the next meeting.

The February BSCL meeting will therefore focus on crime in the neighborhood. Jim Hunter, chairman of the Arlington County Board, has agreed to attend. We have also asked Corporal Sheridan of the Arlington County Police to come to discuss crime in the 900 block of S. George Mason by specific address and to present the facts surrounding the stabbing at Hi Cue that occurred soon after the recent homicide. The police report in the last issue of the *Barcroft News* stated that the stabbing was related to the homicide.

The meeting will be held as usual in the Barcroft Community House at 800 S. Buchanan on February 4 at 7:30 PM. If you are interested in joining the Crime Committee, please call Larry Goldschmidt at 521-3746, or speak with him after the February meeting. In a future meeting we may invite the manager of Hi Cue Billiards and the various other businesses at the shopping center located at intersection of S. George Mason and Columbia Pike to explore ways to make their shopping center a safer and more inviting place for Barcrofters to shop, do laundry, have their hair done, or ... play pool.

BSCL Tours New Library

by Larry Goldschmidt

The January meeting of the BSCL was held at the newly remodeled Arlington Central Library on N. Quincy St.—a departure from our usual custom of monthly meetings at the Community House. The purpose of this one-time change in location was to permit a very special event: a tour of the library led by Head Librarian Jayne McQuade, a Barcroft resident.

Jayne informed us that we were the first neighborhood association to visit the new library as a group. We met in the new auditorium, which can seat up to 175 and is available for the library and other groups to hold occasional meetings and special programs. After the business portion of the meeting, Jayne led our group of 20 Barcrofters on a tour of the new facility.

Although we talk of the new and newly reopened Central Library, most of us know that the old building was incorporated into the new construction and that many library services continued throughout the construction. Even now a few final touches and improvements remain to be completed. But the library is in full operation, with a bright, spacious, brand-new appearance.

The Central Library now includes a special enclosed room for children's programming (the Rabbit Hole). There is an expanded audiovisual section, eventually to include equipment for previewing disks, tapes, and videos before taking them home. The Virginia Room, still temporarily located at the Columbia Pike branch, will occupy its own space with paneling and other improvements provided by private donations. The main stacks are all on the second floor, along with periodicals and the reference collection. There is an elevator between floors and plenty of chairs and tables. Outdoor park-

ing off 10th St. N. has been expanded to 113 spaces, and the library now boasts a well-lighted underground garage entered from N. Quincy St. with spaces for an additional 175 cars.

Arlington's library system is organized so that the Central Library serves the entire county, though there are six small branches scattered around for convenience. Located between Ballston and Virginia Square, Central is not that far from Barcroft and "our" librarian invites us all to become frequent and satisfied patrons of the "new" Central Library.

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

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<i>Transportation</i>	Could be you
<i>Crime Resistance</i>	Could be you
<i>Neighborhood Conservation</i>	David Michaelson, 553-3953

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BSCL's Letter to the Board

November 18, 1992

We, the undersigned officers of the Barcroft School and Civic League, hereby petition you to revoke the business license of Hi Cue Billiards, at 940A South George Mason Drive. Hi Cue Billiards is located in the Barcroft neighborhood.

Although the timing of this petition is driven by the most recent murder at Hi Cue Billiards, our concerns extend back in time over the course of approximately two years. When the first murder occurred at Hi Cue Billiards, which was followed by an attempted murder in the parking lot, we began a strenuous effort to attempt to minimize further illegal activities. Clearly, we failed.

Our efforts began with a series of conversations with the owners of the shopping center. We believe we were misled by the owners. After initial conversations, the owners stated that they would install observation cameras and a guard at Hi Cue Billiards. When neither of these actions occurred, we again contacted the owners, who expressed surprise that their alleged direction had not been carried out, and we were told that cameras and a guard would be placed at the location. This never happened, to our observation.

We also had a series of discussions with Lieutenant Haas of the Arlington County Police Department, culminating in his being the featured speaker at one of our monthly open meetings. One of the primary discussion areas at the meeting was our concern over Hi Cue Billiards, and we were assured by Lieutenant Haas that law enforcement on the premises would be stringent.

Lieutenant Haas's dedication to strenuous law enforcement at the property has been evidenced by a steady stream of monthly crime reports which cite a continuing pattern of arrests

at the shopping center for theft, public drunkenness, assault, and urination in public.

Unfortunately, last weekend's second murder at Hi Cue Billiards happened despite these efforts. Subsequent newspaper articles citing the arrest of the owners of Hi Cue Billiards for running a gambling operation on the premises and other arrests resulting from the recent late-night raid have apparently revealed substantial additional criminal activity.

For these reasons, we request that Arlington County revoke Hi Cue Billiards' business license due to a continuing pattern of illegal activity.

County Board's Response

December 11, 1992

I am responding on behalf of the County Board to the letter signed by you and the other officers of the Barcroft School and Civic League, expressing your concern and opposition to the operation of Hi Cue Billiards on South Glebe Road [sic].

Since the operation of Hi Cue Billiards is permitted by-right in a "C-2" (General Commercial) District, the business did not require County Board approval. The owners have obtained the proper licenses and followed the correct procedures to operate their business.

The Commissioner of the Revenue has the authority to issue business licenses, provided taxes are current, but no regulatory authority to revoke them.

Other than the gambling activity which is currently pending court action, there have been no criminal charges made against the owner of the business. In response to your concerns and those of other local residents, the Police Department will again increase its patrols and surveil-

Continued on page 4

Board's Response *(Continued from page 3)*

lance of the area through a directed patrol program.

Thank you for bringing this matter to the attention of the County Board. I appreciate your interest in combatting crime, and thank you for your laudatory remarks about the efforts of Lieutenant John Haas of the Police Department.

Ellen M. Bozman, Chairman

All the Leaves Are Gone

The second and last County leaf pickup occurred in mid-January. Under the two-pickup system, the leaf piles seem to last forever. If that irks you, consider composting or using the free biodegradable bags next year. Information is available at the library and the Courthouse.

Mail Carrier Frank Pelino Departs Barcroft

For eight years Barcroft's carrier route 15 has enjoyed the service provided by Frank Pelino, a competent, conscientious, and personable carrier who ensured a high level of service for the area bordered by 9th Street, Wakefield, and Buchanan. Foot problems recently forced Frank to bid for a shorter route, and he is now assigned to a route in Shirlington with less walking. We will miss Frank, who always got the *Barcroft News* around the day after we mailed it and never left us someone else's mail. We look forward to getting acquainted with his successor, who has big shoes to fill but we hope will be just as competent.

To volunteer to write an article about your mail carrier, call Randy Swart at 521-2080.



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Barcroft Elementary School News

Peanut Butter and Jelly

Principal Ellen Kahan still makes sandwiches for Barcroft School students who come to school without lunch or the money to buy one. How would you like to teach hungry children every afternoon? Ellen needs your donations of peanut butter and jelly for the sandwiches. Please drop them off at the school.

And don't forget to keep saving your Safeway and Giant cash register receipts for the school for the free computers program. You can drop them off with your peanut butter!



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486-3467

2421 Columbia Pike, South Arlington

New Math Program

Beginning in January all Barcroft School families will be participating in a new activity to promote math achievement. Each month a family math activity will be sent home with each student. The activities are designed to have students work with parents or grandparents in applying math skills to real-life situations. To accommodate busy schedules the family will have several days, including a weekend, to complete the activity. The school hopes that these activities will serve to involve parents and children together in an enjoyable and valuable learning experience.

Barcroft Babysitters

We received three responses to our call for babysitters (one is an adult who likes to babysit occasionally).

Erin Shaw, 12 years old, 7th grade, S. 8th St., 920-5934

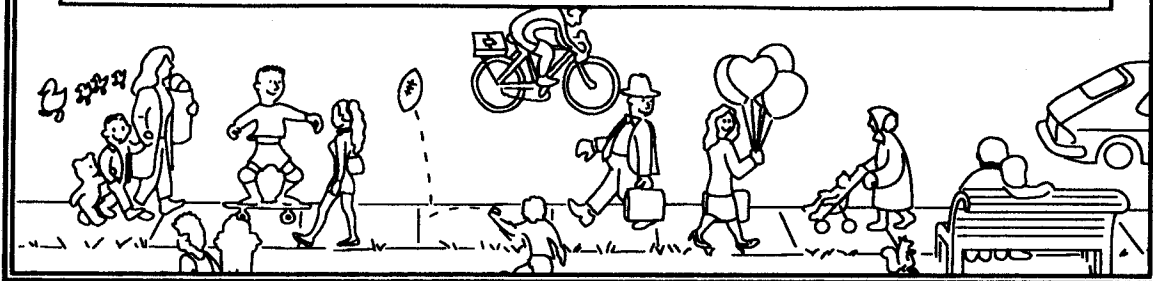
Kati Sharpe and Anne Roningen (available as a team), 13 years old; Kati, S. Buchanan St., 979-4520; Anne, S. 9th St., 521-1451

Terri Lahlou, 28 years old, S. 4th St., 979-9565 (home), 527-8484 (work)

Preschool Open House

The Unitarian Church at 4444 Arlington Blvd. has been generous through the years in permitting Barcrofters to bring their children to the nifty playground in the evening and on weekends. On February 6, the nondenominational preschool will hold an Open House for prospective fall preschoolers and their parents from 10 AM to noon. Call Belinda Osborn at (202) 488-7056 for more information.

Around the Neighborhood With Kathy Kerr



Congratulations to Kay and Don Loutzenheiser of S. 8th St., who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on December 27, 1992. Barcroft residents for 52 years, the Loutzenheisers will be moving to a retirement community in Lake Ridge this spring. They have seven grandchildren.

Kay and Don are both graduates of the University of Nebraska. Don worked for the Federal Highways and was transferred to the federal office here in Washington. The Loutzenheisers were among the first renters at Buckingham Apartments before finding their new home here in Barcroft.

Actually, their "new" home was not very new when they bought it. The house had just been updated to have indoor plumbing. The old, former outhouse still stood and, when cleaned up, served as a playhouse for the Loutzenheiser's three children. Kay says they still have the old well cover and use it to store wood.

At that time Barcroft had a country flavor. The children living on the block had lots of fun, often in the Loutzenheisers lot next door to their house, known as the "playground." A beautiful old oak tree, just right for having a picnic underneath, fell during a twister that hit Barcroft around 1970. Mrs. Loutzenheiser reports that the tree had 119 rings.

The Loutzenheisers have watched the neighborhood fill in with new homes. Kay remembers when the Barcroft Apartments were built and says they were quite nice then. Despite all of the changes over the years, Kay says that one thing has always stayed the same—the neighbors have always been friendly. People have come and gone, but she has always enjoyed the people living on her street.

When her youngest child was in high school,

Kay began teaching at Barcroft School and taught 6th grade for more than 16 years. She often sees her former students but has trouble recognizing them now that they've grown up! She retired from teaching in 1973.

Using some of the space in that extra lot next to their house, Don has enjoyed a big vegetable garden. As for preserving those tomatoes freshly plucked from the garden, the Loutzenheisers recommend washing them and putting them in the freezer with the skins on. When you want one for cooking, the skin comes off very easily when the tomato is thawed a bit under running water. Much easier than canning!

The Loutzenheisers have enjoyed living in this area. In past years they have frequented lectures at the National Geographic downtown. I join with all of Barcroft in bidding them a fond farewell. Come visit any time! Perhaps for the 4th of July parade? Best wishes to you both.

What will become of the extra land? The Loutzenheisers sold their home and extra lot to the same person and don't know their plans.

A to Z
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Barcroft Crime Report

This month's crime report is for incidents in December. If you see any of these things happening, Arlington County Police urge you to call them on 911 or at their non-emergency number, 538-2222.

Our report last month on the December 15 car theft gave the erroneous impression that the car had been selected because it was easy pickings. In fact, the thief broke a window to enter the car and had tools along to jimmy the ignition. The car was eventually recovered, somewhat the worse for wear. We hope to have an article soon on car theft, since this is not the first from our neighborhood.

We noticed a Santa missing on Wakefield before Christmas. The entry on December 21 explains why. Bah, humbug.

- 12/2 **900 S. Buchanan** Harassing phone calls from a person having an affair with complainant's spouse
- 12/3 **900 S. Wakefield** License tags stolen from car
- 12/4 **900 S. Wakefield** Victim struck in face by domestic partner; arrest made
900 S. Buchanan Suspect seen masturbating at complainant's window
- 12/7 **900 S. George Mason** Attempted robbery by three people at 2 AM; victim assaulted, car windows smashed
- 12/10 **4300 Columbia Pike** Vehicle vandalized
900 S. George Mason Subject reached across counter and grabbed stack of \$20 bills from register.
- 12/11 **4800 S. 8th** Guitar stolen by victim's child.
4300 Columbia Pike Car radio stolen
- 12/12 **4300 Columbia Pike** Attempted car theft.

900 S. Buchanan Thief took paycheck and cashed it.

- 12/13 **900 S. Utah** Car radio stolen.
900 S. George Mason Theft from car left overnight
- 12/15 **4400 1st Pl.** Car stolen (reported last month)
900 S. Buchanan Threatening phone calls
- 12/17 **100 S. Woodrow** Car ransacked
- 12/21 **400 S. Buchanan** Santa Claus stolen from front yard
900 S. George Mason Car emblem stolen
- 12/23 **900 S. Wakefield** Wallet and jacket stolen from churchgoer's car
900 S. Wakefield Car window smashed
- 12/27 **900 S. George Mason** Drunk in public, 3 PM
- 12/28 **900 S. Wakefield** Car radio stolen
- 12/29 **900 S. Taylor** Burglary; victim found door ajar on returning from work.
- 12/30 **4600 Columbia Pike** Tags and inspection sticker stolen from two cars.

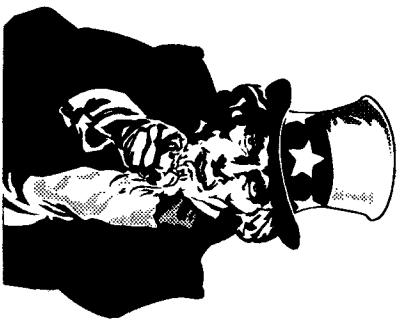
We are indebted to Detective Bob McFarland of the Arlington County Police for providing this information every month. If you want a photocopy of the actual police report, please call Randy Swart at 521-2080.

Barcroft Exchange

10 FREE ROSE BUSHES You dig 'em up and they're yours. Call Karen Cooper, 486-1877.

WANTED Experienced piano teacher to come to our Barcroft home to give lessons at night or on weekends. Potential students range from teenager with considerable experience, to adult with no experience, to 4-year-old. Call Sue at 685-4961.

CHILD CARE Looking for third child to join our two girls (27 mos., 3 mos.) for child care in our Barcroft home, four days a week starting February '93. Call Suzanne Foster, 920-3439.



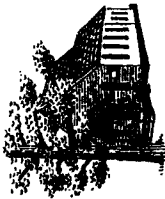
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Barcroft Needs You!

The Barcroft School and Civic League depends on volunteers to get things done in our community. The same people cannot keep doing all of the jobs. In most cases, all that is required is a few hours a month spent performing some mental task, organizing a meeting, making phone calls, whatever. We urgently need the following positions filled:

- Publisher of the *Barcroft News*—Pick up the newsletter from the printer, then collate, fold, tape, and take it to Aileen Woods and Paul Metzler for mailing.
- Hospitality Chair—Arrange for simple refreshments for the monthly meetings
- Transportation Committee Chair—Will Arlington Blvd. access be further restricted? What about speed traps in the neighborhood and on bounding roads?

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



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