



# BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 92, No. 6

February 1995

## **FEBRUARY MEETING: Arlington Hall West Parcel**

*by Dave Voorhees*

The regular meeting of the BSCL on February 2, 1995, will feature two speakers. First, at about 7:45 PM, Elizabeth Cheyney will speak about possible relocation sites of Arlington County's Department of Human Services. Our second speaker is actually a group led by Christopher Munson, landscape architect for the County, and some coworkers from the Parks Department. They will present the current plans for the Arlington Hall West Parcel Park as agreed to by the County and State Department Memorandum of Understanding. The BSCL has had input into these plans up to this point. Although the major parts and functions of the park are set, some minor changes may be possible.

## **County Board Agenda for 1995**

*by Randy Swart*

In 1932 the County Board met on New Year's Day to adopt our County Manager form of government, known in every political science textbook as the "Arlington Plan." The tradition continues, and every year the Board holds its Organizational Meeting on January 1. The following were this year's themes:

- **Budget** Hold on to your hat. Revenue is falling short of projections for this year, and Richmond is under new management. The economies of the past five austere years, which Board Chairman Al Eisenberg said have cut \$95 million from the budget, may seem like easy choices in comparison with this year. In response to questions about the County's options, Board members ominously noted that when it downsizes, Arlington County "outplaces" employees rather than firing them. The proposed cut of the business tax would eliminate about 10 percent of the County's revenues. Nobody expects all the cuts now being talked

*Continued on page 3*



# January's BSCL Meeting

by Scott Allard

The January meeting was a busy one! In addition to the usual valuable reports from BSCL representatives, we discussed the Unitarian Church's proposed use permit and had a great discussion with "our" Arlington County Police officers.

The Unitarian Church had met with us in November to present their concept for a new use for Reeb Hall, which was vacated by the church upon recent completion of the addition. Because a use permit is required for the proposed new use, the church sought neighborhood input. After delaying the vote for two months due to short prior notice and our fervently nonbusiness December meeting/party, we revisited the topic and voted to support the application.

Four representatives from the Arlington County Police Department formed a panel and, after brief introductory remarks, participated in a lively question-and-answer period. Sergeant Ed Chapman freely dispensed advice and introduced his replacement, Corporal John Lane. Our representatives from the Community Resources Section, Detective Kelly Lichtenberg and Officer Ralf Meir, handled most of the questions pertaining to specific events in the Barcroft neighborhood. The BSCL wishes to

thank the Arlington County Police Department for making these four officers available. It certainly seems that our concerns are being well looked after!

## Leaf-Raker Unmasked!

Cold January days do not deter the truly committed, and Harold Howard was spotted in the Community House yard on one such day raking the leaves and cleaning up the yard. You can thank Harold any workday morning on the 7:10 Barcroft Bus.

### Barcroft News Staff

Editor	Sara Leigh Merrey, 521-0527
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Neighborhood News	Kathy Kerr, 892-6458
Contributions Editor	Kyle Walton, 521-3307
Mailing	Ira Belcher, 892-6929

Deadline for submissions: 1st (ads) or 10th (editorial material) of month preceding the issue month.

### BSCL Officers for 1993-1994

President	Scott Allard, 521-0825
Vice President	Dave Voorhees, 979-8287
Treasurer	Jim Kerr, 892-6458
Recording Secy.	Margaret Davis, 892-6742
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## County Agenda

Continued from page 1

about in Richmond to actually happen, but as usual the County will be left with the need for state-funded programs without the funds. The Board had already given the County Manager a tight budget for 1995 and 1996. This could mean an increase in the real estate tax. But this year will not be a simple exercise of balancing tax increases and program cuts: the scope of federal, state, and local government is being rethought, and the outcome is difficult to predict.

➤ **Tax Relief for the Elderly** Senior citizens with incomes below \$40,000 are eligible for tax relief from the County's real estate tax. Below \$30,000 the relief is interest-free. Below \$20,000 they are eligible for

complete exemption. About 350 households in Arlington are currently using this program, and about 75 percent of them are receiving complete exemptions. Call Human Services at 358-5220 for more information.

➤ **Housing** The County is working on a comprehensive way of dealing with neighborhoods like Buckingham and Colonial Village, where low-income housing is disappearing. Beyond housing, the program will pull in elements of transportation, human services, public works, parks, and other functional areas.

➤ **Human Services** The newly constituted Human Services Commission is a citizen group taking a comprehensive look at the whole of Arlington's services. It is particularly timely due to the budget crunch. Cuts

Continued on page 4



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## County Agenda

Continued from page 3

now proposed in Richmond would cost Arlington \$1 million in human-services funding. The Commission's work will not be completed until much later this year. Interested citizens should contact staffer Maria Lyda at 358-4796 or Commission Chair Elizabeth Cheyney at 241-3168. (Why does any title with "human" in it sound cold, bureaucratic, and inhumane?)

➤ **Transportation** The County and Metro have established a paratransit plan for people who cannot use the normal public transportation system due to any kind of disability. Taxi service is provided from home to destination anywhere within the region served by Metro. There is no requirement that the trip be related to medical care or any other specific purpose. Call Metro at (301) 588-8184 for details, or watch for an article in next month's *Barcroft News*.

➤ **Education** Cost-benefit analysis of parent-involved preschool programs shows that they pay off big in later years, with a much higher percentage of students going on to college and much less likely to be involved in crime. Childhood immunization programs are proving extremely effective in protecting school children from disease, but about 10 percent of the students are not yet immunized.

➤ **Tax Rate and Budget Day** The County is considering ways to bring the separate deadlines for setting tax rates and adopting the budget together on the same day.

➤ **Communications** The County now has at least some things up on the Internet, with an Arlington Home Page available for those with WWW (World Wide Web) access.

The economic development data are available, so a developer in Europe can check the availability of office space in Rosslyn or Crystal City, including details like metro access, parking, etc. Eventually, County Manager reports and other documents will be readily accessible to anyone with an Internet connection. At present County employees do not have Internet e-mail addresses.

## Voice Your Opinion About Human Services

by Elizabeth Cheyney

The Human Services Commission (HSC) is soliciting input from Arlingtonians about the County's human-services programs, including perceived problems and ideas for improvements. The HSC was appointed by the County Board earlier this year to conduct a major, broad-based review of Arlington's human-services delivery system and make recommendations to serve the citizens of Arlington better.

Hearing your views and opinions will help the Commission determine the focus and priorities of its work before it makes recommendations to the County Board in July 1995.

To address the broad range of its charge, the HSC has formed several program-area committees and has expanded membership to include non-Commission members. The subcommittee areas are Public Health to the General Population, Infant and Preschool Child and Family Services, School-Age and Teenage Child and Family Services, Services for Persons Who Are Elderly or Have Physical Disabilities, Services for Persons with Mental Disabilities and Substance Abuse, Income Assistance and Employment Services, and Homeless and Emergency Assistance.

The Commission wants to hear from the general community as well as the major stakeholders in the system. To do this, the Commission has undertaken an intensive outreach effort to involve a number of audiences. As part of this effort, the chair of the Commission (also a Barcroft resident), Elizabeth Cheyney, will speak at the BSCL March meeting. She will explain the charge to the Commission and hopes to hear Barcroft residents' views about human services in Arlington.

## Spaghetti Dinner Grand Success

by Randy Swart

The spaghetti dinner held on January 15 at the Community House was a great success. Nearly a hundred people came and partook of some of the best spaghetti ever eaten, all organized and prepared by Tom Palance, Lisa Palance, Tom's mother and father, James and Pat Davis, Annette Osso, David Michaelson, Barbara Swart, the Hall family, and at least two more bakers whose names I did not get.

The spaghetti was special—angel-hair pasta and a rich tomato sauce with Italian sausage and other wonderful tastes. The cakes, given as

door prizes, were won by the excited O'Rourke family, the now-overweight Saracino family (the Halls' mega-caloric Turtle Cake), and the ever-chocolate-addicted Roger Cornell.

Music by Steve and Paul was made a trio by Barcroft's own Jim Lande on his contra-alto clarinet, the biggest, deepest clarinet ever made. Chief Cook and Bottlesher Tom Palance even came out of the kitchen to entertain with renditions of jazz classics like "In the Mood." Paul's versatile guitar filled in the group's sound with a walking bass line seemingly embroidered on his jazz riffs, a technique that Roger Cornell vowed to learn even as he stuffed his face with the chocolate coconut cake he had won. It's a treat to hear live acoustic music from talented musicians who are having fun in a lively room with neighborhood atmosphere and no smoke.

A shy Barcrofter who was born in the neighborhood in the early part of this century was there, putting away two helpings of Tom's great spaghetti and remembering other fine times over the years in the Community House. There were dances, ice cream socials, plays, a whist club. ... Perhaps some of the many children at this dinner will show up at an event in 2087 and talk about the good old days back in '95. Who knows, maybe they will even remember Tom Palance and the others who made this event fun for all!



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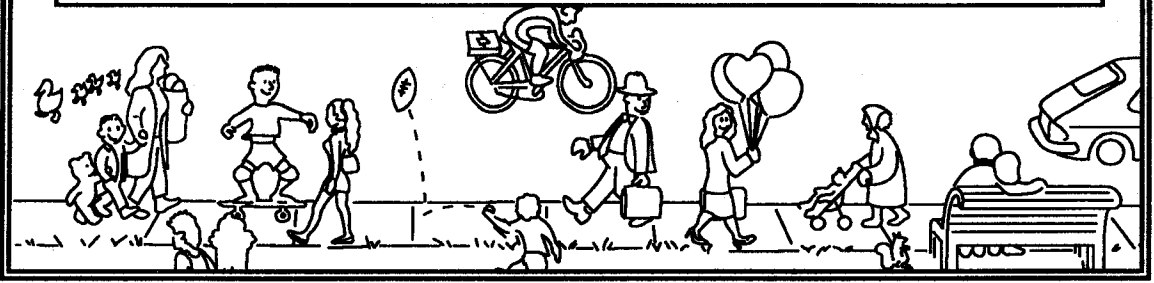
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# Around the Neighborhood With Kathy Kerr



Bon Voyage—I mean Buen Viaje—to fifth-grader Vicki Millin, who will be traveling to El Salvador for two weeks in February. She will be part of a student exchange program. Vicki attends Arlington's Key Elementary School Spanish Immersion program. She was selected as one of six Key fifth graders who will stay with a family in El Salvador and attend school there.

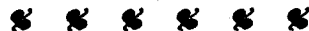
Later in the year, Salvadoran students will be visiting the Arlington families and going to school here. Vicki is fluent in Spanish, having entered the Key Spanish Immersion program in second grade. She is the daughter of Vinnie and Anne Marie Millin of 4th St.



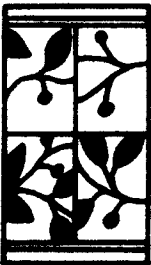
Congratulations to Michele Newman and Michael Behringer on 6th St., the proud parents of new baby Jenna Rita Behringer, born July 26, 1994. Jenna has a big brother Matthew, age 5, who attends the Arlington Unitarian Pre-school.

Michele owns a custom picture-frame gallery on Capitol Hill, Newman's Custom Frames. She takes Jenna to work with her, and it's been working out great! However, Jenna has stopped sleeping so much now and will soon become MUCH more active . . . . Michael works for Capitol Hill Management on Capitol Hill.

The Behringer/Newmans have lived in Barcroft for nine years. They rented a house for eight years and then bought the house across the street about a year ago. They love Barcroft, especially their neighbors and their quiet, dead-end street.



Do you have a new baby or other exciting event in your life that you'd like to share with fellow Barcrofters? Call Kathy Kerr, 892-6458, for a brief interview.




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# February Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 <b>BSCL Meeting</b> , 7:30 PM, 800 S. Buchanan. Call 521-0825 for info. <b>Groundhog Day</b>	3 <b>Beach Party</b> , 3:45-4:45 PM, kids grades 2-4, L.Br.Nat.Ctr. Call 358-6535 for reserv.	4 <b>Col. Pike Artist Studios Open House</b> , 11 AM-4 PM, 932 S. Walter Reed Dr.
5	6	7 <b>Civic Federation Mtg.</b> , 7:45 PM, Arlington Hospital.	8 <b>Creature Feature</b> , 2:30-3:30 PM, kids grades K-1, L.Br.Nat.Ctr. Call 358-6535 for reserv.	9	10	11
12 <b>Lincoln's Birthday</b>	13	14 <b>VALENTINE'S DAY</b> 	15 <b>Susan B. Anthony Day</b>	16	17	18
19 <b>Music, Dessert, and Coffee</b> , 7-9 PM, 800 S. Buchanan. Call 979-8366 for info.	20 <b>WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY</b>	21 <b>Bird Walk for Beginners</b> , 9-11 AM, adults, L.Br.Nat.Ctr. Call 358-6535 for reserv.	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

## Special Event at Community House

by Tom Palance

On Sunday, February 19, from 7 to 9 PM, the newly revived BSCL Coffee House will hold a special event featuring coffees from around the world and a variety of scrumptious desserts. The evening will also include a musical performance by the Tom Palance Jazz Trio and another performer to be announced. Poetry readers or folk singers please contact Tom. A small do-

nation of \$4.00 will be collected at the door to support this event, so bring your Valentine to this evening of delicious sweets and special music. Volunteers are needed to help with the event and donate desserts as well. If you are interested in being involved, please call Tom at 979-8366.

## Barcroft Elementary School News

### Grocery Receipts

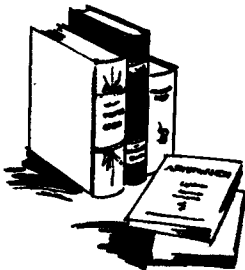
The Barcroft Elementary School PTA has a collection box for Giant and Safeway grocery receipts located in the administrative office, which is now at the front of the school, reached through the front door. The receipts are used to qualify for computer equipment. You can bring your receipts to the next BSCL meeting, drop them off at the school office, or even put them in an envelope and mail them to Barcroft Elementary School, 625 S. Wakefield St., Arlington, VA 22204. Safeway has announced that its program will end on March 4, so send in your receipts now.

## Celebrating Black History Month

by Fran Simms

To celebrate Black History Month, Barcroft teachers Gloria Graham and Lelia Roane are organizing a program and museum for the community. This is their fourth collaboration, encompassing students throughout the school. The program, "Still, I Rise," celebrates the past, present, and future of Black Americans. Daily biographies will be presented over the public address system and later with the closed-circuit system. A shared presentation of displays from classwork will be featured on Friday, February 24, at 2 PM, and an evening family and community celebration of displays and programs will begin at 6:30 PM. Other committee members include Mary Wright, Bernice Williams, and Vera Atkins.

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## Urban Hawks

by Dick Williams

Three years back I wrote a short note for the *Barcroft News* on hawks in Barcroft after seeing a Coopers hawk in my yard. At the time it seemed a unique occurrence, but now I'm not so sure. While putting up Christmas lights on December 11, I heard a loud rustling in the bushes beside my fence. In a moment out hopped an immature Cooper's hawk. The rustling presumably was the hawk pursuing some prey—like a sparrow—into the bushes; since the hawk emerged empty clawed, the prey must have escaped. The Coopers hawk flew to the spruce at the back of my yard, perched there a moment, and departed. Haven't seen it since, but more recently (January 8) there was a male sparrow hawk chasing sparrows beside 9th St. in Alcova Heights. About the same time a caller from the Maryland suburbs mentioned that he had seen an "eagle" on his bird feeder eating a sparrow. An eagle seems unlikely; it probably was a large hawk. There are plenty of eagles in the Washington area, but they catch ducks, not sparrows.

I am beginning to wonder if hawks, like crows, are becoming urban birds. With all the birdfeeders attracting and concentrating small birds, cities certainly offer ample food for birds of prey. Crows as urban birds are a recent phenomenon. When I was growing up in the '30s and '40s, crows were strictly rural. But sometime after 1959 (when I began living in little towns), they moved to the city; and when I returned to the Washington area in 1972, they were here in force.

The Coopers hawk is crow-sized and has short wings and a long tail. The immature, like most immature hawks, is brownish. The sparrow hawk is robin-sized and has long wings and a long, rusty red tail.

## No Christmas Service Luncheon

by Randy Swart

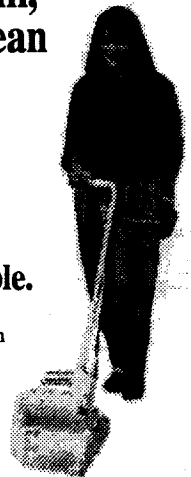
This year we did not have our annual Christmas Service Luncheon for our hardworking firefighters, teachers, police officers, mail carriers, librarians, and others who provide the services to make Barcroft a livable neighborhood. It just did not get organized. So we're thinking about one for April or May instead. Call Randy Swart at 521-2080 if you want to participate. We need food, beverages, servers. This has been a popular event for the service people, who really seem to appreciate being thanked.



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# Barcroft Crime Report

## Annual Crime Statistics: 1993 and 1994

The following information was compiled from reports supplied by Detective Kelly Lightenberg of the Arlington County Police Department. The figures indicate the number of incidents within Barcroft.

	1993	1994
Homicide/Manslaughter	2	0
Rape/Attempted Rape	2	2
Robbery	1	6
Simple Assault/Non-Family	27	26
Aggravated Assault/Non-Family	8	6
Simple Assault/Family	9	6
Aggravated Assault/Family	3	4
Burglary	19	15
Larceny	114	92
Vehicle theft	23	13
Forgery/Counterfeiting	0	3
Arson	2	0
Fraud	7	16
Embezzlement	0	1
Stolen Property	2	1
Vandalism	52	58
Weapons Offenses	2	1
Other Sex Offenses	5	1
Narcotics	8	3
Drunkenness	14	4
Suspicious Activity	1	1
Public Peace/Disorderly Conduct	13	12
Misc. Public	23	21
Runaways	5	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>298</b>

## Editorial

### Dog Noonies

by Virginia Reinecke

Not appropriate in a family newsletter, you say? Not appropriate on the front lawn either. Dog excrement by any other name is still dog s\*\*\*, especially if you inadvertently step in it crossing the lawn at night or with an arm full of groceries.

A Barcroft neighbor has become unneighborly in the 2nd Street area. If they are walking their dog on a leash, then they are not controlling where the dog relieves itself. If the dog is "well trained" and not on a leash, this good Barcroft neighbor is breaking an Arlington County statute.

There are plenty of neighborly Barcroft dog-walkers. I have even seen a couple of them with scoops and plastic bags, just like New York. It can be done, and their efforts are appreciated. Thanks.



## Barcroft Exchange

**FOR SALE** Exercise bike, \$20. Call Kathy, 892-6458.

**FOR SALE** Marantz High Definition Stereo Speakers; TEAC reel-to-reel tape deck; Pioneer cassette deck; Olympia Electric Typewriter. All prices negotiable. Please call Dave at 486-1096 after 6 PM weekdays, anytime on weekends.

**FOUND** In the Community House after the big spaghetti dinner: ladies' purple wool cloak. Please call Scott at 521-0825 or Randy at 521-2080 to retrieve.



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