

BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 92, No. 9

May 1995

How Well Is Our Environment?

by *Dave Voorhees*

The next regular meeting of the BSCL will host Steve Coffee, executive director of Arlingtonians for a Better Environment. Steve has a master's degree in environmental planning. He will present a slide show about Arlington's environment and the future of our community. Steve will save some time to answer questions about our Barcroft environmental problems, such as, "Where do Barcroft's rats come from? How do we get rid of them? Is Four Mile Run polluted? Should I let my child play in the water? Should I put insecticide on my lawn?"

Set aside May 4 at 7:30 to attend an interesting meeting about our environment. We'll also try to reschedule State Delegate Karen Darner for a brief presentation on the activities in Richmond this year. Reminder: The May meeting is also our election meeting. Most of the current officers must leave office due to term limits, so the elections are wide open. Call Scott Allard at 521-0825, who will put you in touch with the nominating committee. Nominations can also be made from the floor on the night of the meeting.

BSCL's April Meeting

by *Scott Allard*

Last month's meeting ran a little shorter than usual — we wound up at about 8:45. The main reason was that Delegate Karen Darner could not make the meeting as planned because the veto session in Richmond ran later than expected. We will try to reschedule her for a brief appearance at the May meeting. Due to Karen's absence, we took a little more time than usual at the beginning of the meeting to discuss committee actions and new business.

Treasurer Jim Kerr then led a discussion of the planned renovation of the Barcroft Community House. The group agreed with the general plan and approved the expenditure of up to \$3,500 of community funds for repairing the foundation and improving drainage around the building. Also approved was \$2,000 for the services of an architect of the Renovation Committee's choice.

At the close of the meeting and after refreshments, we rearranged the Community House for the next day's Service Luncheon, which was a great success, mainly due to Randy Swart's efforts (see related article).

Service Luncheon Held

by Randy Swart

The annual BSCL Service Luncheon was held on Friday, April 7, at the Community House to thank the service people who make our neighborhood livable all year long: solid-waste management people, mail carriers, police officers, fire fighters, teachers, librarians, parks workers, and more. Between 60 and 100 of them came (we lost count), and as always they seemed very pleased to be honored.

Along with the service people came County Board Chairman Al Eisenberg, who responded to our invitation despite a very tight schedule that day. And we had a visit from the Father of the Service Luncheon, Talmadge Williams, who came although he has left Barcroft for Arlington Forest.

The menu included honey-baked ham, smoked turkey, roasted turkey, fried chicken, orange chicken, broccoli chicken, fried rice, vegetarian lasagna, pasta with mushrooms and garlic, macaroni and cheese, baked beans, potato salad, taboule, tossed salad, bean salad, homemade bread, rolls, corn muffins, gingerbread, cookies, cake, poundcake, cupcakes, fruit, cheese, and a variety of soft drinks, fruit drinks, tea, coffee, and milk. There was a little left over, but the volunteers ate some and the rest went to the women's shelter. (If you like the sound of the menu, volunteer next year!)

Our Barcroft neighbors who contributed food for the event included Margaret Davis, Pat Davis, Sally Doucette, Claire Hunkin, Pennie Kinsey, Kathy Kircher, Maureen Locke, Froma Lippmann, Sara Leigh Merrey, Tom Palance, Lisa Palance, Jane Roningen, Carole Ann Rosen, Barbara Swart, Randy Swart, Evelyn Wilcox, and Steve Wilson. (We still had to buy some food — we get a lot of people!) The volunteers helping out on the day of the luncheon includ-

ed Scott Allard, Margaret Davis, James Davis, Pat Davis, Jim Kerr, Lisa Palance, Tom Palance, and Randy Swart.

We are especially indebted to Ginger Beef Restaurant and Carryout down on Columbia Pike, who contributed three large platters of their fine Chinese cuisine. And to the Uptown Bakery on Washington Boulevard across from Virginia Square, who contributed a generous quantity of luscious baked goods. And finally to Pines of Naples on Columbia Pike for a partial donation of the huge platter of vegetarian lasagna. Thanks to all of you for supporting the BSCL.

Barcroft News Staff

Editor Sara Leigh Merrey, 521-0527
Publisher/Mailing **Could Be You!**
Advertising Manager Pete Fitzgerald, 521-3307
Neighborhood News Kathy Kerr, 892-6458
Contributions Editor Kyle Walton, 521-3307

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

BSCL Officers for 1993-1994

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Vice President Dave Voorhees, 979-8287
Treasurer Jim Kerr, 892-6458
Recording Secy. Margaret Davis, 892-6742
Corresponding Secretary David Michaelson, 553-3953
Board Members Susan Christopher, Pat Roach, Randy Swart, Talmadge Williams
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Neighborhood Conservation David Michaelson, 553-3953
Restoration Jim Kerr, 892-6458
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The firemen and firewoman ate enough to justify their reputation for chowing down, then just as they finished dessert they received a call. Off they went in the big yellow truck, siren screaming. Their truck was closer to the fire than the stationhouse, so they beat the other trucks there by at least two minutes.

This worthwhile event will come up again next year if you are regretting that you could not participate this time.

Ecofest a Big Hit

by Kyle Walton

Environmental concerns and a beautiful spring day proved good partners for enticing scads of pedestrians to Ecofest, Arlington's celebration of Earth Month, held along the W&OD trail Saturday, April 8. Judging from the traffic along the trail, turnout for the event was strong. Folks of all descriptions, on two feet, two wheels, and in-line skates checked out booths and exhibits all along the trail from Bluemont to Barcroft Park. Lucky kids sat back in comfort in wagons and bike trailers, while bigger kids enjoyed brisk rides in pedicabs, one of which was pedaled by our own Randy Swart!

Variety abounded along the trail. Along our stretch the curious could participate in an alien-plant scavenger hunt (who can pick out a Purple Dead Nettle?) and join in a swamp tour among sunning turtles. Also along the trail were futuristic cars, pollution and runoff demonstrations, environmental history lessons, games, crafts, and more.

Barcroft's environmental enlightenment continues at our May meeting, with a presentation by Steve Coffee of Arlingtonians for a Better Environment. Hope to see you there!

4th of July Parade Committee

by Mary Anne O'Rourke

As April showers and May's first flowers open around Barcroft, it may seem a little far-fetched to think of the 4th of July — but not to the ever-diligent Barcroft 4th of July Committee. We have already begun work on this year's parade, and it promises to be great!

One of the ideas for this year includes a Fun Run from the Community House to Route 50 and back. All of the physically fit will want to take a quick run while the rest of us can walk or cheer them on. Call the Barcroft Neighborhood at 521-1116 in June for more information.

Are you a Yankee Doodle Dandy? Were you born on the 4th of July? We would love all these special birthday folks to walk together in the parade. We are also looking for Barcroft artists to show their work inside the Community House on parade day. After all, why should Barcroft musicians have all the fun every year? It is time for other artists or sculptors to share their talents. The quilt show we put on a few years ago was a big hit. It's time to let the talents of other Barcrofters shine! If you would be willing to show your work, call Mary Anne O'Rourke at 920-5619.

Continued on page 4



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Parade *(continued from page 3)*

UNCLE SAM NEEDS YOU! We have assembled an unusual cast of characters to begin work on the parade, but they will need some help. This is a great time to volunteer because this is truly a one-day job! Here's how you could help:

Be a Barcroft Band Member — Bring your instrument and enjoy!

Set Up — Help place tables and chairs outside the Community House so your neighbors can rest their weary bones after the parade.

Help with Food — Can you pass out hot dogs and watermelon to the crowd?

Be a Parade Monitor — Have you ever wanted to be a policeman? Join Arlington's Finest and help direct traffic around the parade route and on the Fun Run.

Monitor Water — How cool are you? Keep

the cool water flowing for our runners and marchers.

Monitor Art — Help your neighbors see but not touch the beautiful artwork displayed in the Community House.

Clean Up — We all know what this means!

Put Up Decorations — Are you full of hot air? Do you have a friend who is? Why don't you both blow up balloons and decorate the Community House!

Be a Games Helper (Keeper?) — Can you say, "On your mark, get set, go!"? Can you herd kids (or adults)? We need you!

Are you going to be a Benedict Arnold, or are you going to contribute your talents and skills to the Barcroft Brigade of July 4th Volunteers? If you are willing to enlist, contact Mary Anne O'Rourke by phone at 920-5619, via e-mail at Barcroft@aol.com, or by mail at 4516 8th St. S. Looking forward to hearing from you!



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Restoration Progress

by Randy Swart

The Restoration Committee has approved a plan to restore the foundation joints on the Community House to their original condition and fix the stone that has been dislodged at the northwest corner. At the April meeting the BSCL voted to allocate the funds to complete this work and to hire an architect to consult on the design for the next phase, replacing the furnace and moving the bathroom upstairs where it can be handicapped accessible.

In April the Virginia State Review Board and the Board of Historic Resources will both consider the nomination of the Barcroft Community House to be included in the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register. The two registers are the

official lists of places in Virginia recognized as having architectural, archaeological, or historic significance at the local, state, or national level. We are hopeful that the nomination will be approved. Both the Arlington Historic Affairs and Landmark Review Board and the Arlington County Board have written to the state in support of the nomination. You can hear about the results at our May BSCL meeting or at the parade if you miss the meeting.

The Restoration Committee meets on the last Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Community House. You can be part of our planning and work on the Community House too. Call Jim Kerr at 892-6458 if you want to help out.

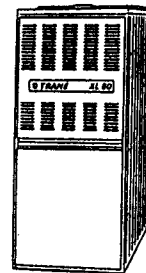


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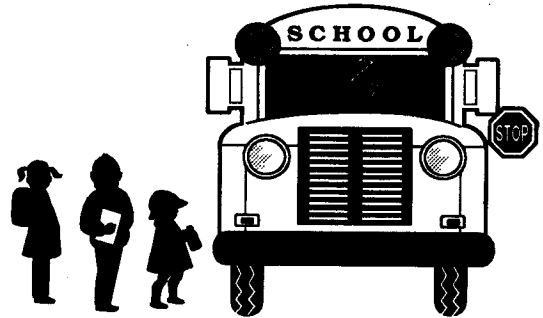
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Barcroft Elementary School News

Personals ... From Barcroft Elementary School

by Fran Simms

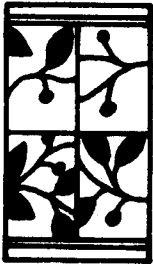
ISO: Barcroft School, 70 years old but looking like brand new due to recent facelift and internal replacement surgery, seeks multi-age former students, parents, and staff to share delightful afternoon on May 20 from 1 to 5 PM as **Birthday Celebration** needs guests. If you are between the ages of birth and 100 years, are



of any ethnicity or heritage, and have Barcroft Elementary School in your circle of friends, you are welcome in this public school that has served Arlington since 1925.

HELP: Call ahead of time if you have memories to share. We are making a book and planning a living history video, so we need a program of history and music through the decades. Your ideas are needed.

HELP: Call your friends, former neighbors, former staff, or students who have in common the Barcroft community. Share this opportunity to gather as a community of learners. Call 358-5838 for more information, or send your own 8½ x 11 "memory page" to be included in the bound book.



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Fifth-Grade Students Create Encyclopedia

by Fran Simms

Mrs. Keene's fifth-grade class created an encyclopedia after reading J.R.R. Tolkien's classic, *The Hobbit*. The students made a guide to the book, which deals with a created netherworld of creatures great and small. The guide will be available for future students. A bound copy will be placed in the reference section of Barcroft's library.

Fourth Grader Selected RIF Reader of the Year

by Fran Simms

David Trang, son of Kok Lip Trang and Hun C. Ong, has been selected to represent Barcroft Elementary School as the Reader of the Year as part of Reading Is Fundamental's Celebration of Reading. David read for over 35 hours in a two-week period. He was chosen at random from the other students at the school who participated. His name has been submitted as the school's representative in the national selection process. Congratulations, David.

No. Virginia's Reading Teacher of the Year

At the Spring Conference of the Greater Washington Reading Council on April 1, Fran Bell Simms, reading teacher at Barcroft, was recognized as the Reading Teacher of the Year. Fran has been a reading teacher in Arlington since 1962, when she completed her master's degree at the University of Florida. Initially, she worked at what was then Williamsburg Junior High School and later at Jamestown and Glencarlynn Elementary Schools. She has been reading teacher at Barcroft Elementary since December 1980. Through four principals, the school renovation, changes in the community, and the planning and execution of many curricular changes and innovations, variety has been a way of life.

As Fran says, "Change is not an option; it will come. We can only control how we respond to it. I think we should always be equipped with good questions, know how to find answers, and have a poem in our pockets to be fully prepared for whatever new frontiers come our way. Barcroft is a very special place, full of world cultures, ideas, diversity, and some of the best staff it has ever been my privilege to know and work with. I am honored to serve you and enjoy my work and the sense of a vital and learning community."



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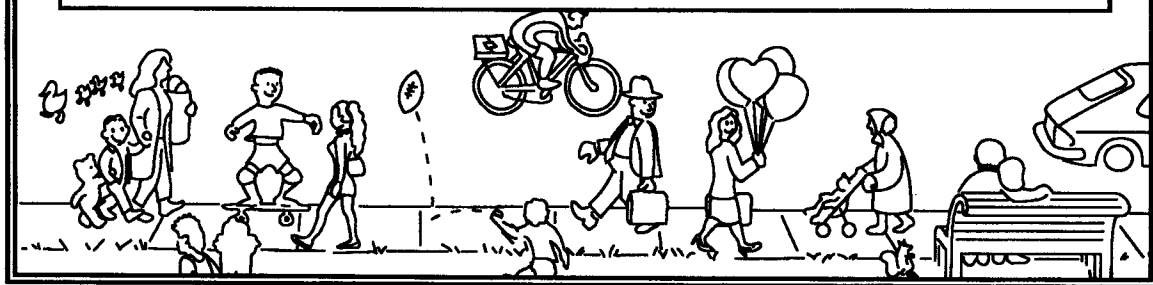
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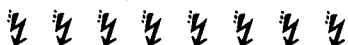
Around the Neighborhood With Kathy Kerr



Congratulations to May Wall and Walter Lynch on 1st St. S. They are the very proud parents of a new daughter, May Li. May Li arrived from China on February 18. She will celebrate her first birthday on June 27. May Li, at age 10 months, has adjusted beautifully to her new home but is still getting used to her two furry friends — golden retrievers Pearl and Bessie (yes, named for the jazz singers). May is an environmental lawyer and Walter is an architect. They look forward to meeting more Barcroft families as the weather improves.

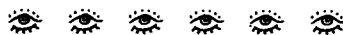


Are you interested in a beginner/intermediate bridge group? If so, Noreen Atkinson on S. Wakefield would like to talk with you! She's interested in putting together a low-key bridge club. You can reach Noreen at 979-4868. If you left a message last month and never heard back from her, it was due to an answering machine snafu. Please call again.



Your intrepid Around the Neighborhood reporter has just returned from a three-week adventure in Costa Rica. My children missed school but learned all about the rainforest, howler monkeys, toucans, quetzals (magnificently colored birds with tail feathers two to three feet long), huge electric-blue morpho butterflies, and plenty more. And I'm still able to

get my column turned in on time (more or less)!



Some good news — Second Childhood, a kids/maternity consignment shop at N. Pershing and Washington Blvd. is under new management. The new owner is extremely kid friendly, so take your kids there to play while you look at quality used clothing and toys. It's a great place to consign too! Call 276-7740 for the hours.



Do you have a new baby, a new neighbor, 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.

Medley '95 Outstanding Young Arlingtonian

by Fran Simms

Mrs. Gerre Medley, Barcroft's PTA president for the past two years and host for the Arlington Cable parent education program *Crosswalks*, has been selected by the Junior Chamber of Commerce as "Outstanding Young Arlingtonian of 1995." Through her volunteer and fund-raising efforts, students at Barcroft have funding for a schoolwide Reading Is Fundamental distribu-

tion, visits from authors such as Jerry Pallotta, and traveling exhibits. With her incredible panache, she created a Health Spa for Barcroft's staff during Teacher Appreciation Days and an evening of dinner and community sharing with a Taste of Barcroft. Serving both as cheerleader and extended community "faculty," she is a caring mother and friend. If "work is love made visible," we see her impact around us and salute her example. Citizens of the Barcroft community, be proud that we are so well represented in a larger sphere. Gerre Medley, we are very proud that we know you.

New Look in September

This is the last issue of the *Barcroft News* that I will produce. I have enjoyed working on it, but I just don't have the time to do it the way I would like to anymore.

Starting in September, Phil Cackley will be the editor of the *Barcroft News*. Many of you may recall that he was the publisher a short time ago. Phil has a newspaper background, but he was on the writing side there. With the aid of his new PowerMac, he's ready to take on the prodigious task of fitting in all the articles and ads Kyle and Pete can provide.

Good luck, Phil. And remember, I'll still be around the neighborhood when you need help.

Sara Leigh Merrey

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President's Message

by Scott Allard

The May meeting will be my final meeting as president of the Barcroft School and Civic League. I have served two consecutive one-year terms and, in accordance with the BSCL by-laws, cannot run for reelection. Prior to my tenure as president I served as vice president for two years and recording secretary for one year.

I'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of the people who have assisted me during my tenure as president, and I'd also like to name some of them. Dave Voorhees has been an invaluable vice president. He has consistently set up a fresh variety of featured speakers at the monthly meetings and has also generously contributed his time and thoughts on a variety of community issues. Treasurer Jim Kerr has been a diligent and careful steward of the communi-

ty's funds, and his recent efforts to lead the Community House renovation are proceeding well. Our recording secretary, Margaret Davis, has been a source of new ideas and has also done an excellent job of preparing minutes of the monthly meetings. Dave Michaelson has continued to be an able and proactive representative to the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee and took on the additional task of corresponding secretary for the past year. Randy Swart has continued to be one of the main sparkplugs in the community, as was made especially clear by his development of the Barcroft World Wide Web home page and his leading role in seeing that the Service Luncheon happened this year. Over the last year Kyle Walton took on the job of contributions editor for the *Barcroft News*, and he is doing a top-notch job. Sara Leigh Merrey has continued her long-standing role as editor of the *News*, and she and



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Kyle form a great team that provide a major service to the community. I'd also like to thank Scott Brinitzer for improving the Community House grounds and the Barcroft streetscape in general, Chris Monek for his continued presence as leader of the anti-crime committee, and James Davis for his 4th of July grill and level-headed input. Last and certainly not least, Tom Palance, his wife Lisa, and their entourage of volunteers, musicians, and entertainers certainly deserve praise for establishing a very successful string of events at the Barcroft Community House. I'm sure there are several others who deserve specific mention, and I apologize for not listing them here by name.

I have been honored to work with the specific individuals listed above as well as the community in general. I believe we are a neighborhood of pleasant individuals who know when

to relax and enjoy life and when to lobby for change. I have had no unpleasant experiences during my tenure. I plan on focusing my efforts in the near future on Arlington-wide issues and therefore do not wish to continue as an officer of the BSCL. Other capable individuals stand ready to serve as officers.

Thanks to everybody who has helped me out!

Summertime Hiatus

The BSCL takes its annual summertime break from June to August, with the grand exception of the 4th of July parade! Look for your next issue of the *Barcroft News* in early September. The deadline for articles and advertising for the September issue is August 10. For recorded updates on neighborhood issues over the summer, call the Barcroft Neighborline at 521-1116. Have a great season!



Bobbi Bradley, GRI

Barcroft Resident for Nine Years.

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Graffiti Erased!

by a Concerned Neighbor

Sometime during the dark winter months, the marks of the Latin Players appeared on a Barcroft stop sign at 8th and Buchanan Sts. and on three Barcroft sidewalks. We first thought the Latin Players were a thespian group specializing in putting on old Roman plays, but Arlington's finest eventually informed us they are a gang based across Columbia Pike in the Barcroft Apartments.

We called the police, and they said they would check it out. They no doubt did, but nothing happened to the graffiti. We called again. They said they had photographed the graffiti. The property owner is responsible for removing sidewalk graffiti, and they suggested we contact the Signs Division of Arlington County Public Works to have the sign replaced. We did, but nothing happened. We did not expect anything to happen, though, because the Signs Division is well known as the Achilles heel of the Public Works Department.

At about the same time, someone stapled signs all over the neighborhood for a barber-shop on Wilson Boulevard. We were annoyed. Pole signs are for yard sales, lost cats, leaf-collection information, and such, not for general business ads. Real estate agents push the envelope but usually restrain their signs to open houses and remove them at the end of the day. If all of Arlington's 15,000 businesses stapled signs to the poles at all our street corners, we would have a really ugly neighborhood.

Enter the BSCL Graffiti Squad. We removed the signs. More satisfying was removing the Latin Players' graffiti, which we did with a product called Goof Off. Reading the can showed that Goof Off is actually Xylene (Xylol), a solvent available by the quart at your local hardware store if you have a local hardware

store. With either chemical and a wire brush, we cleaned the sidewalks and actually got the paint off the stop sign as well. Xylene is probably a potent carcinogen, so we used rubber gloves. Then we discovered graffiti from yet another gang on the rock at the base of 9th Street, where you enter the park. We got that off too. What fun!

We understand that prompt removal of graffiti is important in controlling it. If you see graffiti appear in your corner of the neighborhood, be aware that those are probably not random markings, but gang related. Get them off. Or put a note in the mailbox at the Community House and we will pass the word to the Graffiti Patrol.

Taste of Arlington

Taste of Arlington celebrates its eighth year on Sunday, May 21, noon-4 PM, at the Village at Shirlington. Taste of Arlington is a street festival featuring nearly 40 area restaurants and entertainment for kids and adults of all ages. It is complete with great food, live music, and a kids' zone featuring face painting, games, and more! Proceeds benefit Arlington Housing Corporation and Arlington Community Residences. Free admission and parking. Tasting-ticket booklets good for seven tastes are \$12 in advance and \$14 the day of the event. For information or to charge tickets by phone, please call 979-3003.

Welcome Pete Fitzgerald!

by Kyle Walton

The *Barcroft News* has a new advertising manager! Pete Fitzgerald is out beating the bushes to bring in advertising revenue, and as you can see from this month's issue, he's been very successful. Pete has been a fan of the *Barcroft News* since he moved into the neighborhood in 1992 and is pleased to now be a member of the volunteer staff.


The *Barcroft News* depends financially on area businesses interested in reaching our readers. When visiting merchants who advertise with us, please be sure to mention you have seen their ad in the *Barcroft News*.

Anyone interested in placing an ad can reach Pete at 521-3307. Welcome aboard, Pete!

Ice Cream Social

by Tom Palance

On Sunday, May 21, at 3 PM, the BSCL will hold an event for the entire family at the Community House. The afternoon will feature activities for the kids, including music, ice cream, and possibly pony rides. Donations will be \$4 per person, with kids under five free. Help will be needed to make this event successful. If you are interested in volunteering or have any ideas, please contact Tom Palance at 979-8366.



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Barcroft Crime Report

This month's crime report is for incidents March 6–April 10. **Please note that the addresses show the block where the incident occurred, not the individual house number.**

To report crimes or criminals, Arlington County police urge you to call them on 911 or at their non-emergency number, 538-2222.

- 3/7 600 S. George Mason Dr.** AM/FM CD player stolen from vehicle.
- 3/8 900 S. George Mason Dr.** Embezzlement of \$7290.
- 3/9 900 S. Buchanan St.** Laundry room painted with gang insignias.
900 S. Buchanan St. Laundry machine broken into and \$30 in quarters stolen.
900 S. Buchanan St. Window shot through with BBs. Window later broken out. Unknown subject entered and left beer bottle.
- 3/10 900 S. Buchanan St.** Runaways. Children did not return home from school.
- 3/13 4300 S. Columbia Pike.** Vehicle theft.
4300 S. Columbia Pike. Stolen vehicle recovered.
900 S. Wakefield St. Subject behaving in psychotic manner. Detained.
- 3/15 900 S. Taylor St.** Domestic dispute.
- 3/18 800 S. Wakefield St.** Vehicle windows smashed by rock.
- 3/20 4300 S. Columbia Pike.** Larceny.
- 3/22 4800 S. 5th St.** Vehicle vandalized with black markers.
- 3/23 900 S. Buchanan St.** Aggravated assault. Victim hit in head with bottle while playing cards in an apartment.
- 3/24 900 S. George Mason Dr.** Drunk in public.
4400 Arlington Blvd. Vehicle stopped for possible DUI. Subject smelled of marijuana. Small amount found in ashtray.

- 3/25 900 S. Wakefield St.** Stereo stolen from vehicle.
- 3/26 900 S. George Mason Dr.** \$2,412 stolen from Hi Cue Billiards.
900 S. Buchanan St. Vandalism. Hood scratched with knife, tires slashed, and windshield smashed.
- 3/27 900 S. Buchanan St.** Dispute.
- 3/30 900 S. Taylor St.** Stereo stolen from vehicle.
4400 Arlington Blvd. Unknown subject kicked in front door of home. Victim scared subject away and chased him. A juvenile was arrested near the scene.
- 3/31 4700 S. Columbia Pike.** Drunk in public.
- 4/3 4300 S. Columbia Pike.** Domestic dispute.
900 S. Wakefield St. Student reported rape that occurred in community.
600 S. Wakefield St. Fourth-grade student stole camera. Mother made him return it the following day.
- 4/4 4300 S. Columbia Pike.** Radio stolen.
- 4/5 4800 Arlington Blvd.** Juvenile threw rock from overpass. Struck and damaged vehicle.
- 4/7 4800 S. 9th St.** Vehicle broken into.
- 4/9 900 S. George Mason Dr.** Meat stolen from store. Suspect apprehended. Accomplice in possession of the stolen property and cocaine.

Thanks to Detective Lichtenberg of the Arlington County Police Department for providing these statistics.

Barcroft Exchange

CHILD CARE. We are interested in finding a Barcroft child to replace a 1-year-old in a neighborhood share-care setting. If you are interested in sharing day care with a Barcroft neighbor, please call Suzanne Foster and Robert Greenberg at 920-3439.

NEEDED FOR SCHOOL TERM PAPER: Back issues of *National Geographic*, October 1949 and January 1969. Please call Kathy at 892-6458.



The BCL Presents an

Ice Cream Social

Join the Neighbors at the
Barcroft Community House for

Ice Cream, Music, Pony Rides

Sunday, May 21, 3 pm

\$4 Donation, Kids under 5 free

For Information, call 979-8366



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