

BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 93, No. 4

December 1995

Underground Lines Set for House Renovation

Neighborhood architect Matt Rohr has produced impressive new drawings of the Community House, including some of the interior of the back room to permit people to move around little cutout refrigerators and stove and sinks to find the best configuration for the revamped space. Call Jim Kerr at 892-6458 if you would like to help with the planning.

On Nov. 9, a crew dug a trench across the Community House grounds from the kitchen door to the power pole out front, installing a plastic conduit for electrical cables. As the restoration progresses, we will place the power line underground and remove the ugly electric meter from the front of the building. This also will spare our oaks some of the pruning they suffer to clear wires.

Members of the renovation committee had a meeting recently with the County regarding building codes. It appears our plans are acceptable. We will soon begin getting estimates from contractors.

Holiday Program to Feature Carols, Cookies

The whole family is invited to a holiday program and Christmas carol sing-along with the famous Barcroft Christmas Band at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 7 at the Barcroft Community House, 800 S. Buchanan. Everyone in Barcroft is welcome; you do not have to be a member. Bring a neighbor, a friend, your kids, or your musical instrument. Bring some cookies too.

This is the Barcroft School and Civic League's traditional program celebrating Christmas and other seasonal holidays. Santa is likely to appear, and the adults are fond of saying that this program is great for the kids. This is one meeting where we don't ask for volunteers for community projects or conduct any BSCL business--and one of the best to just meet the folks in your neighborhood. Come and join your neighbors in expressing the good spirits of the season!

Barcroft Vote Is Better Than County's Turnout

On the rainy, cold day of Nov. 7 more than 50% of Barcroft's registered voters turned out or voted absentee. That's much more than Arlington as a whole, where only 37% turned out this year. Again the news was good only for Democrats, but we suspect that political party plays a lesser role in voting for County positions than the newspapers would have you think.

The total was well above the 43% for a similar election in 1991, but fewer than 1992 (84% for the presidential year) or 1994 (73% to vote for or against Ollie North and George Allen).

Our precinct's vote nearly matched Arlington as a whole except for our own Barcrofters who were running. Darlene Mickey won her School Board seat with 65% in Barcroft vs. 61% for the County, indicating neighborhood support. Barcrofter Karen Darner again did very well here too with 67%, winning another term in the Virginia legislature. Barcrofter Dick Trodden ran unopposed for the office of Commonwealth's Attorney, but his Barcroft record of 77% for an opposed candidate (set last year) still stands. Even with no opposition Dick was at the polls this year in the rain with a big hat on, alongside county board member Al Eisenberg, who won reelection with newcomer Paul Ferguson.

All of these percentages are based on less than 850 voters who actually made their way to Barcroft School to cast a

ballot or sent in an absentee ballot. While better than the county as a whole, more than 800 of us still did not vote, for rain or apathy or whatever reason. (One non-voter said "If elections could change anything, they would be outlawed.")

Were you happy with the results this time? Yes or no, please resolve to be there and voting next time, when you will again see the BSCL's "Please Vote Today" signs up in the neighborhood. Besides doing your duty in a democratic society, the PTA bake sale alone is worth the trip!

Barcroft News Staff

<i>Editor</i>	Phil Cackley, 271-9743
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<i>Advertising Mgr.</i>	Pete Fitzgerald, 521-3307
<i>Neighborhood News</i>	Kathy Kerr, 892-6458
<i>Contributions Editor</i>	Kyle Walton, 521-3307

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

BSCL Officers for 1995-96

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<i>Signs Manager</i>	Jack Turner
<i>Traffic</i>	We need you!

The *Barcroft News* is printed by the Stanley Adams Printing Company.

Smaller Traffic Circle Coming to Pershing,3rd

County workers removed the controversial traffic circle at the intersection of Third and Pershing in late October. This complied with the BSCL request for action on revamping the circle within 30 days. We appreciate their rapid response! By the time you read this the replacement -- still a temporary circle -- should be in place, somewhat smaller and hopefully better integrated into the intersection than the original. This is still a test.

Letters Disagree With Traffic Circle Opponent

To the Editor:

While we share William Dolan's opposition to the new traffic circle, we cannot let pass without comment his suggestion that Arlington police set up blockades to ferret out illegal immigrants driving "beat up (sic) cars through Barcroft without obeying traffic and speed regulations."

Without embarking on a denunciation of Mr. Dolan's view (though we fervently hope they do not reflect a common neighborhood sentiment), let us first say that his assertion there are a "number" of such people is logically inconsistent with his claim that excessive speed is not in fact a problem on Barcroft streets. Either traffic is a problem or it is not: One cannot have it both ways. The inconsistency suggests the strong

likelihood that Mr. Dolan's real concern is the fact that putatively illegal immigrants are present on our streets at all.

To fix this problem, Mr. Dolan proposes that Arlington police officers should stop drivers to see if their papers are in order. Perhaps he is being half-facetious; we surely hope so. The constitutionality of such a plan would be highly dubious at best, and one wonders how the police would decide whom to stop: appearance? year and model of the car? That residents and non-residents alike could be detained and questioned by police to see if they "belonged" is a truly frightening prospect, reminiscent of police behavior under present and former totalitarian regimes. The day that such hateful and horrifying arrangements, which are what truly "do not lawfully belong either in the neighborhood or in the nation," are instituted, we start house hunting elsewhere.

Alex and Christie Sens
Second Street South

To the editor:

While we do not view the traffic circle as the only solution, we do see a strong need for some remedy to slow speeding traffic on South Pershing Drive. For the safety of our two-year-old child and other children that play here, we hope our neighbors and the County will seriously consider what can be done.

Let us address the letter of William Dolan, which dismissed the need for a traffic circle. It would not be surprising if Mr. Dolan has not "personally observed the problem" of speeding traffic, as he has
(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

the luxury of living on a quiet cul de sac. We, however, live on the street at issue, where we daily observe not just cars, but also school buses and County trucks ignore the speed limit on South Pershing.

We believe we have a right to expect reasonable controls to encourage traffic to pass by our home at safe speeds.

Most disturbingly, Mr. Dolan's hypothesis regarding "illegal immigrants" is blatant ethnic stereotyping -- not based in fact -- that should be soundly denounced.

Jessica Cogen and Joel Newton
South Pershing Dr.

Apologies on Letters

While filling in for Phil as editor last month, I apparently did not make it clear enough that the Pro and Con letters on the traffic circle (November issue, page 11) were not solicited by the Barcroft News and in no way were reflective of the views of the BSCL. Nor were they intended to represent views of neighbors other than the two persons who wrote the letters to the editor. (Several people were incensed by the "green card" comment.) I apologize for any distress caused by that.

Randy Swart

County Inmate Work Crews to Clean Parks

Gleaned from a letter sent by the Arlington County Sheriff to county citizen groups earlier this fall:

The Sheriff's Office and the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Resources have begun using inmate labor to clean up county parks.

Selected nonviolent offenders will clear vegetation, pick up trash, maintain hard surfaces, clean up stream channels, rake leaves, and remove snow.

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ESL Night Program at Barcroft Draws 150

It's a Monday night at Barcroft Elementary School. All of the children have gone home, yet there are many cars parked along the street and the school appears to be a hub of activity. What is going on?

Each evening, Monday through Thursday, Barcroft School becomes a center for English as a Second Language classes given by REEP, the Arlington Education and Employment Program. The program is sponsored by Arlington Public Schools and has adult students literally from all over the world.

One teacher, Jennifer Slater, has had a short commute -- two blocks! She lives

on 8th Road South and taught until last month, when she went on leave for the birth of her daughter, Abigail.

In a recent class, her students came from Central and South America, Iraq, Cambodia, Vietnam, Cuba, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia. In the past, students have come from Russia and European countries. Many of the students live here in Barcroft.

The Barcroft site is a satellite for the larger REEP program located in the old Sears building in Clarendon. There are 500 students in the program county-wide during an average three-month period.

About 150 students come to Barcroft where there are six classes offered at all levels from literacy to pre-academic. A test is required of all students to determine the
(continued on page 9)



Bobbi Bradley, GRI

Barcroft Resident for a Decade.

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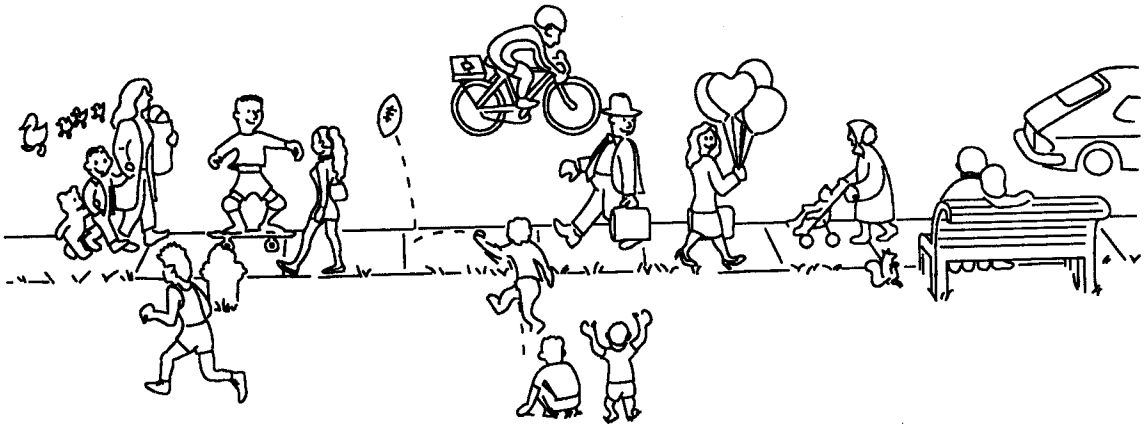
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Around the Neighborhood with Kathy Kerr



Ashby Williams, a 4th grader at Barcroft School, will dance in the Joffrey Ballet production of "The Nutcracker," at the Kennedy Center this month. Ashby will be an Arabian doll. She is the daughter of Tom and Harriet Williams, of Sixth Street South. She has been studying ballet for 3 years. Congratulations, Ashby!

Congratulations also go to Collin Wigfield Gorka who was recently accepted into Arlington's Junior Honors Orchestra. Collin, a 6th grader at H-B Woodlawn, plays the viola. Collin is the son of two other accomplished musicians, Mark Wigfield and Julie Gorka, of South Buchanan Street.

Barcroft School 2nd Grade teacher Dora Sue Black recently gave her students a rare treat -- the chance to meet their *teacher's* teacher. Black had some of her former teachers come to the classroom and read their favorite stories, as part of a

celebration of "lifelong reading." Sharon Steindam and Nancy King, her former teachers and also former principals at Barcroft, were among those who read.

Don't forget that kindergarten registration for Fall 1996 is now under way at all Arlington public elementary schools. Arlington residents with children who will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 30, 1996, can sign them up at neighborhood schools. Our local school is Barcroft Elementary. The phone number is 358-5838.

News Needs Publisher

Do you like to volunteer? Do you appreciate your neighborhood? Do you secretly long to have a fancy title? This is your big chance! The Barcroft News needs a publisher -- someone who helps prepare the newsletter for mailing. The time commitment is small: several hours, once a month. Call Phil at 271-9743.

School Yard Clean-up By Cub Scouts, PTA

The grounds at Barcroft School are looking better these days thanks to a November clean-up effort sponsored by PTA and Cub Scout Pack 629. Under the direction of Barcroft's Scott Brinitzer, of Scott Designs, trees were trimmed and beds were weeded, edged and mulched. Unfortunately, there were not enough volunteers to do more on the one-day Saturday clean-up, but a good start was made.

Since the school is such a focal point in the community, we hope we can recruit more volunteers -- not only scouts and students, but also parents, teachers, and other Barcroft residents. A spring cleanup will be scheduled and with a little more

help, a lot more will get done.

Because school and PTA funds are limited, any Barcrofters who would like to make a donation of time and/or money for this effort should contact Beth Lodsun at 979-1104. A special thanks to Scott for donating his valuable time and expertise. Scott has given us some wonderful ideas and has offered to continue to assist us with the school beautification, for which we are extremely grateful.

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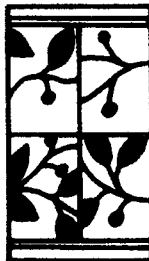
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Severe Fall Storm Cuts Power to Neighborhood

On the night of Nov. 11, during a wild and woolly storm, a big chunk of Barcroft east of Pershing Drive lost its electric power. A power line downed by a tree limb at 4th and Wakefield was the cause. It took more than 8 hours to fix it. People learned that things get mighty dark and quiet when your power fails. Even the Barcroft Neighborhood Home Page faded from the World Wide Web for the duration of the outage. The storm ended with our first light snow of the season -- a sudden and dramatic change.



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GARDENING CONSULTATION

(continued from page 5)

correct class level. Most students pay \$160 for a 12 week cycle of classes. Some receive scholarships and newly arrived refugees are given 4 free cycles with government funding.

Most students come to class at 6:30 p.m. after having worked all day. Although the classes represent a financial strain for many and a tremendous time commitment (10 hours a week), there is often a waiting list for the program.

At the Clarendon building, classes are offered both day and evening. Barcrofter Phil Cackley (who is also editor of the Barcroft News) teaches English there.

The REEP program relies heavily on volunteers. There are a number of Barcrofters, such as Carla McTigh, giving their time, usually one evening per week. If you would like to help out or want to know more about this program, contact the REEP office at 358-4200. The next class begins Jan. 2 at Clarendon.

Barcroft Exchange

LESSONS. Folk harp and hammer dulcimer lessons available. Given by musician in Barcroft home. Call 892-2421.

FOR SALE. Little girl's white canopy bed with dresser and mirror. Good condition, \$100. Two metal bedframes, \$20 each. Two adult 3-speed black bikes, \$20 each. Girl's lavender bike with basket, \$10. Boy's red two-wheel bike with train wheels, \$10. Child's "Big Wheel", \$5. All in good condition. Call Judy at 920-5934.

PLAY GROUP. Join us! Children and their moms seeking playmates ages 10 months to 3 years for weekly get-togethers and outings. Call "fun mom" Carla at 892-6940 for more information.

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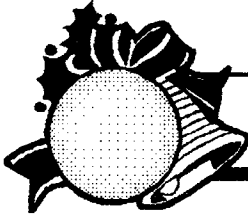
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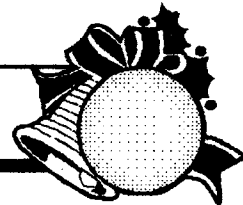
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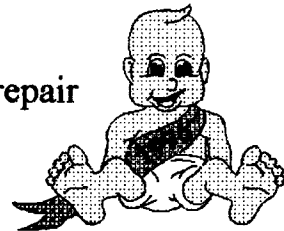
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Barcroft Crime Report

After a two-month lapse, the crime report returns. Locations given are the block number only, not the individual house number of the incident. Thanks for statistics to Arlington Police community resources officer Rich Schoembs.

10/2, 900 S. George Mason. Attempted suicide by Prozac, other drugs.

10/3, 4200 Columbia Pike. Drunk in public.

10/8, 4300 Columbia Pike. Attempted vehicle theft. 950 S. George Mason. Intoxicated suspect stole package of meat.

10/12, 100 S. Pershing. Larceny; jewelry stolen from bedroom. 4200 Columbia Pike. Vandalism; raw egg broken on car.

10/14, 800 S. Taylor. Hit and run car collision.

10/20, 4500 9th St. S. Robbery. Three persons entered a home office, produced a handgun and stole money.

10/22, 4300 4th St. S. Drinking in public; summons issued.

10/24, 900 S. George Mason. Vandalism; car hood dented.

10/26, 4200 Columbia Pike. Victim slapped and choked by a friend who found out victim had worn short garment to a club.

10/28, 4200 Columbia Pike. Vandalism; car badly scratched; suspect known.

10/30, 4200 4th St. S. Attempted vehicle theft; side window pried open, ignition tampered with.

Crime Flares in Park, County Clears Brush

The Arlington County police have filled us in on recent events down at Four Mile Run and Columbia Pike. There has been a deterioration in the situation there.

In August, a woman walking home on the bike trail was grabbed by a man. Fortunately a passing bicyclist was willing to get involved and drove the attacker off. The attacker was not apprehended. Some days later, a Barcrofter was jogging in the early morning and was flashed by an exhibitionist. Police searched well but did not find the man.

A third, more serious incident -- a homicide -- involved a group of men congregating in the parking lot near the shopping center and in the park itself. Alcohol was involved and a knifing ensued during a fight among members of the group. Police made an arrest in that case.

Teenaged gang members congregated in the park for a few weeks during warm weather. On the advice of the police, the County's parks division contracted to remove brush from under the trees from Columbia Pike to the 9th Street trail entrance. The effect has been to open up sightlines so the entire area is visible from Columbia Pike. This helped to discourage teen gatherings in the park. The return of cold weather will hopefully do the rest. For more information on the BSCL's Crime Resistance Committee, call chairman Chris Monek at 920-1287.

