

BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 93, No. 8

April 1996

Local Crime Resistance Tops April Meeting

Crime activity in the Barcroft neighborhood will be discussed at the next meeting of the Barcroft School and Civic League, on April 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Representatives of the Arlington Police Department will speak about what is happening with crime in the neighborhood and present an update on local Arlington gangs.

Chris Monek, chairman of the BSCL's crime resistance committee, said he recently has heard from residents who believe there has been an increase in minor theft incidents, especially in the southern half of Barcroft.

Monek said police officers should be able to talk about incidents such as the recent stabbing in front of a Columbia Pike restaurant and what people can do to protect themselves and the neighborhood from criminals.

The meeting will be held at the Community House, 800 S. Buchanan St. For more information, call Monek at 920-1287.

Traffic Committee Says 3rd St. Circle Must Go

The Barcroft Traffic Committee unanimously has recommended the removal of the traffic circle located at the intersection of South Pershing Drive, 3rd Street South, and South Wakefield Street.

It was noted that the traffic circle only slows traffic in the immediate vicinity and has not affected the volume of traffic passing through the neighborhood. Critics also have asserted that the traffic circle poses a safety hazards for cars negotiating the circle and for pedestrians on the sidewalks around the circle.

Due to the controversial nature of the traffic circle, a special meeting is planned the first Thursday in June to air both pros and cons, to be followed by another vote. Contact traffic committee chair Elaine G. Squeri at 920-7014 to obtain a copy of the committee's recommendation or if you have any insights or views you want represented at the meeting.

The Traffic Committee also made
(continued on page 9)

Hunter Speaks on Economic Development

Our February meeting featured a session with County Board Chairman Jim Hunter, who spoke informally on a range of issues but concentrated on the County's efforts in economic development.

He noted that the county appreciates the large share of total tax revenues coming from the business community (approximately half) and that the Board has stepped up the effort to woo new businesses. Local services such as dry cleaners, nearby restaurants, grocery stores, florists, and others will continue to be important for community convenience.

He said he was disappointed that Arlington had already had a homicide this year, and that it was gang-related. Although there are five known gangs active in Arlington now, problems with them have been primarily between gangs, not involving others. The County is responding through community-based police and church programs, although Hunter feels that the ultimate solution should be through parents offering alternatives to gang membership through family activities. He has recently met with the CPRO Board to discuss Columbia Pike issues, and is pleased that the County is appointing a new business-oriented Economic Development Commission to advise them on the Economic Development Plan.

4th of July Parade Committee Forming

We are pleased to announce that Mary Anne O'Rourke has agreed to serve as our Fourth of July Parade chair again this year. She does a bang-up job and we are lucky to have her! If you are interested in helping out with this event, which is one of the best-attended in Barcroft every year, please call her now at 920-5619. Don't wait until summer arrives!

Barcroft News Staff

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<i>Contributions Editor</i>	Volunteer needed!

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

BSCL Officers for 1995-96

<i>President</i>	Jim Kerr, 892-6458
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<i>Restoration</i>	Jim Kerr, 892-6458
<i>Signs Manager</i>	Jack Turner
<i>Traffic</i>	Elaine Squeri

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

Barcroft Service Lunch Needs Food, Helpers

The annual BSCL Service Luncheon will be held on April 12 at the Community House. This is the time when we thank the service people who make our neighborhood livable all year long: police officers, fire fighters, teachers, librarians, parks workers, solid waste management staff, mail carriers, UPS and Federal Express workers and others.

We need donations of salad, main dish or dessert for the luncheon. Home-made dishes make this a memorable occasion, give evidence that we really care and mean more to the honored guests than anything we can buy.

We also need two or three people to help out on the day of the luncheon from about 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Please call Daphne Miller at 920-5681 or Randy Swart at 521-2080 to let them know if you can make something or help out. You can also suggest service people for the invitation list. Thanks!

BSCL Board Proposes \$1 Hike in Yearly Dues

The BSCL Board will propose at the May meeting that we raise annual dues from \$2 to \$3. This is the first dues increase in a decade, and the recommendation was made after rejecting calls for much higher dues. In effect, those who wish to contribute more for such projects as the Community House renovation can do so by enclosing a larger check.

Renovation Committee To Air Plans in May

The Renovation Committee is making good progress and hopes to present a renovation plan for the Community House at our May meeting for a formal vote. This will be the BSCL's biggest project in many years, so you may want to be there to participate. If you are reading this issue in time, you might still be able to make the committee's meeting on March 28th at 7:30 at the Community House.

In related news, Bill Huddleston, a new arrival in Barcroft who lives on First Road, has agreed to chair the fundraising drive for the renovation.

If Bill's name seems familiar, it may be because he comes from a family of Arlington activists, so this is not a new experience for him. Barcrofters who already knew him were pleased when he moved here and had expected that he would be helping out.

Bill may have already called the first meeting of the fundraising committee by the time you read this. To help out, please call him at 920-2011. and look for our Community House fund drive to rev up soon.

Call the Barcroft Neighborline

521-1116

Get the latest information

Barcroft on the Internet: <http://www.bhsi.org/barcroft.htm>

“Harmonie” to Perform Classic Music April 19

What is a wind octet? Come to the Community House on Friday, April 19 at 7 p.m. to make the acquaintance of this unusual musical group. In the 18th century, these 8-piece ensembles of oboes, clarinets, French horns and bassoons entertained guests at the courts of Europe with charming minuets, marches and serenades.

“Harmonie,” the group that will perform April 19, will showcase classics of the wind octet repertoire, from a cheerful “Minuet and March” by Schubert to the sublime “Serenade in C Minor” by Mozart. Join these eight professional musicians from Washington’s premier military service bands and orchestras for “a little night music.” Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for children 12 and under. For more information, call 301-262-4539.



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Barcroft Home Page Marks 1 Year on WWW

In February the Barcroft neighborhood home page had been on the Internet for a year, a long time in World Wide Web terms. We have a Great Snow page, some history, upcoming events, a directory of Barcrofters' email addresses, a graffiti page, links to Barcrofters' personal Web pages and more.

In early March, we had links to the personal Web pages of five Barcroft families. They are the Evans family on 2nd Street, Sara Leigh Merrey and David Orgel on 4th Street, Scott Allard from 4th Street, Walt Belknap from 4th Street and Randy Swart from 7th Street. Randy recently got a message starting out "Hello, my name is Randy Swart and I found you on the Internet." He and the second Randy have discovered a number of others, and may have a meeting of thirty or more massed Randys some day. The mind boggles.

When you get on the Web, check for "Barcroft" in any of the Web indexes for our address. To be listed in the directory, send an email message to randy@bhsi.org.

Yard Sales, Anyone?

Spring is here, and yard sales can't be far behind. Anybody interested in organizing a Barcroft sale? Possibly to coordinate with the annual Arlington Forest sale in May? Please call Jim Kerr at 892-6458 if you have an urge to organize.

Mouth-watering Date Set for April 28

Barcroft Barbecue is on its way! Sunday April 28 at 4:00 p.m., the BSCL will hold its spring barbecue and barbecue contest. We invite you to try your hand at preparing your favorite barbecue treat or to just come to taste the contestants' specialties.

There will be the contest, a live band, refreshments and a variety of local barbecue delicacies for consumption. There will be a nominal fee for the food and refreshments.

To register for the contest or for more information, please contact David R. Michaelson no later than April 21, at 553-3953. We also are interested in hearing from anyone interested in preparing a side dish or dessert. We are waiting for the phone to ring, so let's hear from you.

Preschooler Parents to Meet for Better Start

A meeting to help parents and their preschoolers learn about Barcroft School will be held Saturday, April 13 at 9:30 a.m. "Barcroft Better Beginnings" is being offered to suggest ways to prepare children for a better school experience. The meeting will be held at Barcroft Elementary School. If you have children of preschool age or others whose home school is Barcroft, please let them know about this opportunity. Teachers and specialists in reading, science, math and language will be available to share ways to improve learning and increase interactive exchange with young learners.



Bobbi Bradley, GRI
Barcroft Resident for a Decade.

TIPS TO KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE Your home is one of your most valuable assets!!

According to the latest FBI statistics, the greatest number of burglaries occur in July and August, with more than three million burglaries occurring in the United States, resulting in \$3.9 billion in losses to victims.

- Check the front and back of your home. There should be no obstructions such as shrubbery, hedges, or trees blocking a full view of the doors and windows from the street or sidewalk.
- Don't let a lack of adequate street or house lighting be an invitation to a burglar.
- When you are away, leave a light on as well as a radio to create the appearance someone is home.
- If you are away at a family wedding or funeral, especially if they were advertised in the newspaper, ask a neighbor to house-sit.
- It's a good habit to keep doors locked, particularly hidden entrances such as doors from the garage to your home. Deadbolt locks are the best type of locks because they can't easily be opened without a key.
- If you're going to be away from your home for a long time, stop all deliveries such as the newspaper and mail. Inform your neighborhood watch and immediate neighbors of your travel plans.

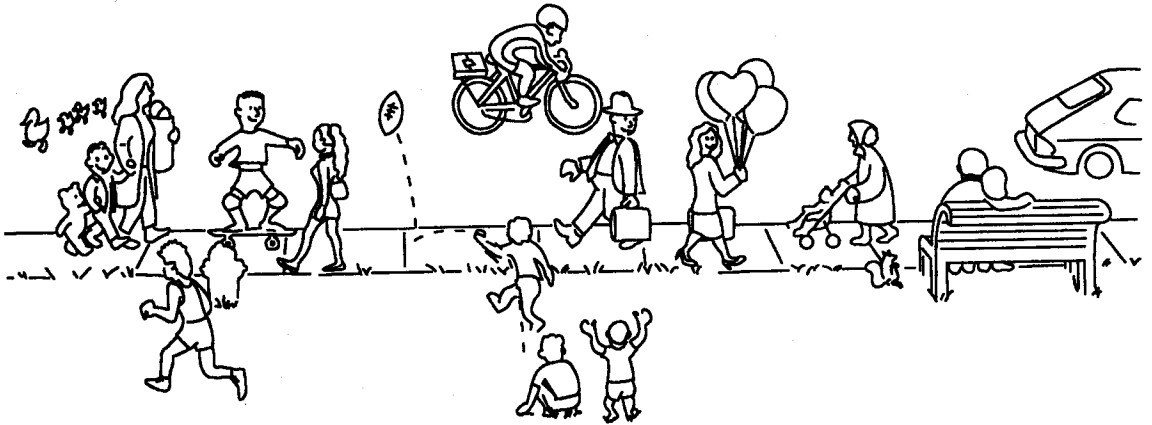
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Around the Neighborhood with Kathy Kerr



February 1996 brought Barcroft more than just a lot of snow. Within a 10 day period, three baby boys were born to Barcroft neighbors.

On Feb. 11, Dylan Ronald Vega arrived. His parents are Frank Vega and Janine Perfit. They live on 4th St. S. Frank is well known in the neighborhood because he's often seen walking his famous blond Labrador retriever, Trotsky. Trotsky also enjoys walking Frank, especially when Frank puts on his in-line skates! Frank works out of his home. Janine works at the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington.

Alex Trinkoff and Jeff Schor's baby, Benjamin Matthew, was born on Feb. 13. Benjamin has a big sister Kyra, age 2. Jeff is a pediatrician in the Emergency Room at Children's Hospital. Alex works as a lawyer at George Washington University.

Jonah Nicholas Sens was born Feb. 20. His parents are Christie and Alex Sens on 2nd St. S. Jonah's big sister is Emilia,

age 2. Christie and Alex are both educators. Christie teaches 1st grade in Fairfax but is taking off the rest of the year. Alex is a classics professor at Georgetown University. Alex enjoys playing bluegrass music on his dobro. The Sens live on 2nd St. S. where they maintain their lovely garden. They know quite a bit about shade plants since their amazing front yard garden is mostly "sun-challenged." The Sens are always looking to trade plants with other neighbors. Call them at 486-8399.

Congratulations to Mark and Mary LaFalce on 3rd St. S., whose baby, Daniel Zachary, was born Dec. 12, 1995. Barcroft residents for 5 years, Mark is a manager in business dining services and Mary is a hospital administrator at Mt. Vernon Hospital.

Condolences to the family and friends of two of Barcroft School's former teachers and longtime neighborhood

residents. Katherine "Kay" Loutzenheiser passed away on Feb. 24. She lived on 8th St. S. Aileen Woods, of 4th St. S., died in December 1995. They both taught for many years at Barcroft School where they were close friends and colleagues.

BARCROFT MYSTERY: Who has been planting the flowers down in the traffic circle? Sure, they are fake and, yes, the traffic circle is controversial but, thank you to whoever it is who is attempting to beautify our neighborhood and help us "think Spring!" Maybe next we'll see "lawn sheep"!

Local Pupils Honored

On Jan. 24, six Barcroft students received special recognition in the

countywide PTA Reflections Contest. The theme for this year was "Just Open Your Eyes and See." Jewel Evans of 2nd Street won first place in K-2 music (the musical Evans family now has it own Web page, too). She will represent Arlington in the state competition. Cara Wigfield-Gorka (from another musical Barcroft family) won honorable mention as a fifth grade representative.

In Art, Alex Krafckeck won second place for the county and first grader Kate Savkocvich won honorable mention. Third place for writing went to Folashade Ebele-Moldupe as a primary-grades entry. Honorable mention was awarded to Kristin Stankus, a fifth grader. Congratulations to all the winners, and to all who participated.

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Helicopter Task Force Forming in Shirlington

The Fairlington-Shirlington neighborhood association is still having problems with low-flying helicopters, since they are in the path between the Pentagon and Quantico. They are forming a helicopter committee to look into the problem again. If you are interested in representing Barcroft on the committee, please call Jim Kerr at 892-6458.

Streetlights Get Nod on South 8th Street

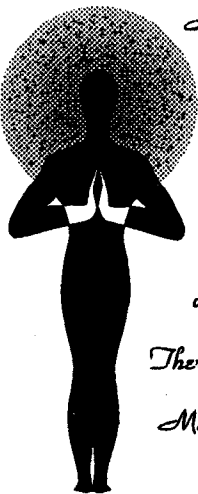
The new lights on 8th Street from Wakefield to Buchanan have prompted some inquiries about having similar lights installed on other streets. The process is simple if you need more light on your street and the new lights are much more

effective than the old ones. Call our Neighborhood Conservation rep, David Michaelson, at 553-3953 if you are interested in more info.

Traffic Panel Report

(continued from page 1)

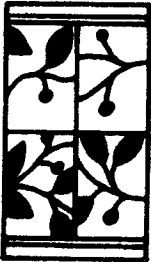
a recommendation that was approved by the BSCL board concerning pavement markings for the intersection of the southern eastbound service road to Route 50 and George Mason Drive at the Unitarian Church corner. A letter was sent to the Virginia Department of Transportation requesting that intersection be clarified by painted lane arrows and skip stripes. The left lane is recommended to be marked for left turn only. The middle lane is for left turn or proceeding straight through. The right lane is for straight through or right hand turns.



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Graffiti Patrol Prowling Again in Barcroft

On March 13th the Arlington Journal published an opinion column by Barcrofter Karen Murray, one of their regular columnists, about removal of graffiti by the BGP. It is a fine column, and we have it on the Barcroft Neighborhood Web page. There will be copies at the next BSCL meeting on April 4. The column's main point is that it is natural to just take the stuff off whenever you see it.

Here are some recent removals:

Feb. 11. Removed LL graffiti from the back of the phone box where the W&OD crosses Columbia Pike and from a powerline pylon further up the trail just north of 7th Street S.

Feb. 19. Removed stylized LL graffiti from the shopping center wall on Buchanan at Columbia Pike.

March 1. Removed LL graffiti from a sign on the W&OD trail below Park Street. Removed "NP" and "Krazy Kevin" markings from another sign in the same location.

March 4. Removed LL graffiti from the traffic light control box at Columbia Pike and Taylor, from three places on the Metro stop a few yards further along Columbia Pike, and from the mailbox at 9th and Taylor. Removed a very small white logo from the school crossing sign at 9th and Buchanan.

March 7. Removed LL graffiti from a number of spots just below the first

trestle on the W&OD trail, including a trail rules sign and the signs pointing to the nature center. (Did not remove LL marks from a pylon further up the trail, since we don't do the trail above the first trestle.)

If you see graffiti appear, call the Neighborline at 521-116. We're quick.

Stabbing on Columbia Pike Injures Two

Now where would that have taken place? Pick one of the two spots where stabbings occur in our vicinity, and you can't miss. This time it was outside the Restaurante El Salvador in the Barcroft Shopping Center at 4850 Columbia Pike. It was past midnight on Feb. 25, and a crowd had gathered when the fight moved out of the restaurant into the parking lot. A second person was injured as well, either from the assailant's knife or by a bottle thrown from the crowd. Need we comment? The good news is that the police made an arrest just hours later.

Barcroft Exchange

CHILD CARE PROVIDER. Seeks full or part time position in the Barcroft area. Will come to our home. Have cared for children in Barcroft. Excellent references. Call 521-6947.

EXPERIENCED BABYSITTER. Available full time. Can start anytime between April to June. Excellent references from two Barcroft families. Will also consider part time with two to three families. Please call Carmen at 920-7620 in the afternoons or 528-4389 in the evenings.

VIOLIN FOR SALE. Half-size, German made, student violin. Available for \$250, including case and bow (appraised by Fox's and Brobst as \$350 used retail). Call 521-1851. Ask for Nicole.

EventsEventsEventsEvenAPRILtsEventsEventsEventsEven

April 2, Tuesday -- **No Foolin'**. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Long Branch Nature Center. For children, grades 1-3. April Fool's Day is over but some animals have to be tricky all the time to survive. Find out what tricks they use. Call 358-6535 for reservations.

April 3, Wednesday -- **Outdoor Survival Skills**. 1-3 p.m. Long Branch Nature Center. Grades 5-8. Have you ever wondered what to do if you get lost in the woods? From building a shelter to knowing what to eat, we'll cover it all. Call 358-6535 for reservations.

April 4, Thursday -- **BSCL Meeting**. 7:30 p.m. Community House. Arlington police will talk about neighborhood crime and crime-resistance efforts.

April 5, Friday -- **Natural Egg Dyeing**. 2-2:45 p.m. or 3-3:45 p.m. Long Branch Nature Center. For families. Bring a half-dozen hard-boiled eggs per participant and we'll dunk them in vegetable and other natural dyes. \$2 per participant. Call 358-6535 for reservations.

April 27, Saturday -- **2nd Annual Evening With the Stars**. 7:30 p.m. Arlington Forest United Methodist Church Social Hall, 4701 Arlington Boulevard. Community invited. Talent show, refreshments.

April 28, Sunday -- **Spring Barbecue Contest**. 4:00 p.m. Barcroft Community House. Food and refreshments for a nominal fee. Live band and a variety of barbecue delicacies.



Barcroft School and Civic League
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