

BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 93, No. 9

May 1996

Traffic Circle Vote, Officer Election in May

In May, we will make a final decision on the demonstration traffic circle at Wakefield, 3rd, and Pershing. The demo period is over, so come to the monthly meeting and vote it up or down.

There are articles inside this issue giving arguments in favor of and against the circle. Read, reflect and then come take part in the decision.

We will also be electing officers for the 1996-97 year. The slate of incumbent BSCL officers has been nominated for a second term. The nominating committee has recommended retaining: president, Jim Kerr; vice president, David Michaelson; treasurer, Dave Voorhees; recording secretary, Lisa Palance; corresponding secretary, Mark Wigfield; board member, Scott Allard.

Because all of the officers are incumbents, this would be their final year in their position. League bylaws limit officers to two terms.

Further nominations can be made from the floor at the meeting, which will be held Thursday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community House, 800 S. Buchanan.

County to Acquire Old Safeway for Schools

The old Safeway store on Columbia Pike will be getting a new landlord soon -- Arlington Public Schools.

Students from the Hoffman-Boston School should start having classes at the site this fall, following a vote in April by the county board to acquire the Safeway store by eminent domain.

A furniture store occupying the property has only a short-term lease. The county plans to buy the property and then renovate the structure to house the Hoffman-Boston program, which is for continuing high school students.

The move will enable the school district to ease overcrowding at Oakridge Elementary School, which will send some students to the Hoffman-Boston building.

Local news reports said the county plans eventually to switch the teen program out of the old Safeway site and put other county programs there. Either way, it will be interesting to see how Arlington County is as a neighbor and what the move does for such a key location on Columbia Pike.

More Police to Begin 'Pike' Patrols in May

The good news on crime at our April meeting was all in the future. A new team of six additional police officers will begin operation on May 23, covering the West End of Columbia Pike, from Buchanan to the county line.

The bad news was 1995, when robberies and aggravated assaults rose in Arlington by substantial margins. More bad news was revealed by residents of Buchanan around 9th Street, who said that there had been an armed robbery there recently and that parked taxis and loitering people made it unsafe for them to return home late at night.

The two officers who attended (Cpl. John Lane and Officer Cabrales) advised us to upgrade the lighting in that area and noted that we could request additional patrols. Barcrofter Scott Brinitzer has already circulated the paperwork to begin the lighting upgrade.

Members present at the meeting voted to ask the county to develop a plan for zoned parking at 9th and Buchanan to alleviate the taxi problem and give thugs fewer places to hide. We will also be requesting more patrols there, more bicycle patrols on the trails in Four Mile Run park, and something to discourage vagrants from living under the bridge at Columbia Pike, where they are lighting fires very close to a gas main.

The gang discussion was more routine. Officer Lane says that Arlington gangs are unlike those in some other areas, and can be described more as teen social groupings than crime-oriented drug and theft rings. Problems with them, apart from their

graffiti, are mostly limited to conflicts (sometimes violent) with other gangs. The county's response for our area is a proposal to develop a community center where the old Safeway store was located, in an effort to channel youthful energy into more socially acceptable activities.

Barcroft News Staff

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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
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Keep the Traffic Circle

In May, Barcroft neighbors will vote on whether or not to keep the traffic circle. I hope they will vote for it. Make no mistake about it: Barcroft has a problem of speeding and "cut-through" traffic. Here are some reasons why this circle should stay--and more circles should be added.

Circles slow cars down. While the county has not yet studied the present circle, the earlier, larger circle reduced top speeds in the area from 40 to 32 miles per hour, a 20 percent reduction.

Circles make intersections safer. That is the experience in Seattle, where 400 circles have been installed and 600 more have been requested by residents, says Jim Mundell, a traffic engineer with the city. While cars may indeed come closer to curbs, sidewalks, and crosswalks, the slower speed more than offsets that risk, Mundell says. A study of Barcroft's circle shows that average speed through it is 10-15 miles per hour. There have been no pedestrians hit.

Some Barcroft critics have complained that cars have run over the circle itself. However, experience has shown that once landscaped, circles are more visible and unlikely to be run over by cars.

Circles are working in Arlington Forest. That neighborhood has voted to make four circles there permanent. The circles have reduced speeds and daily volume on key streets. For example, on Second Street east of Abingdon, the circle has reduced volume by 15 percent.

It is important to note that one circle alone can not solve all of Barcroft's speeding and "cut-through" problems. A

series of circles would be required to ensure that traffic is not simply diverted to another route, and to slow speeders in other problem spots.

Some opponents of the Barcroft circles have suggested speed humps as an alternative. However, Seattle's experience favored circles. Circles slow cars more; fast-moving cars may not feel humps at all. Humps can be troublesome for trucks and emergency vehicles, and can cause car drivers to lose control.

The circles are an expense. The four in Arlington Forest will cost a total of \$60,000 to make permanent. Nevertheless, neighbors on that side of Route 50 decided the expense is well worth it for the gain in safety and the improved appearance of the neighborhood.

Mark Wigfield
South Buchanan Street

Circle is Dangerous And Must Be Removed

The traffic circle should be removed for the following reasons -- safety, cost, and the creation of unwanted traffic patterns through our neighborhood.

As to safety, the traffic circle poses several hazards. Some cars approaching the circle make left hand turns in front of the circle rather than going around the circle. Prior to the circle, cars were driving down the middle of the intersection at speeds up to 25-30 mph. With the traffic circle, cars now literally travel next to the curb at speeds between 15-25 mph. Clearly, cars traveling next to the curb at 15-25 mph pose more of a hazard to pedestrians. Moreover, entering the circle from Wakefield is dangerous because when one looks left onto South Pershing, it

(continued on page 4)

Circle . . .

(continued from page 3)

is difficult to see oncoming cars. For these reasons alone, the traffic circle should be removed.

As to the cost, each traffic circle will cost between 20 and 30 thousand dollars. That is absurd. Can't we use the money someplace else in our neighborhood?

As to newly created traffic patterns, cars wanting to avoid the traffic circle now use South 3rd, 4th and Abingdon. The traffic circle has now caused South 3rd, 4th and Abingdon to handle traffic that it was never intended to handle.

Vinnie Millin
South Fourth Street

Time for Kindergarten Registration at Barcroft

If your child will be five years old on or before September 30, now is the time to register for kindergarten for the fall. For more information please call 358-5838.



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Parade Ideas Needed Before July 4th Comes

Mary Ann O'Rourke has held the first Parade Committee meeting to plan for the 4th of July, and is in search of radical new ideas for activities at the parade.

Let her know if there was something about last year that you really liked (shall we read the Declaration of Independence again?), or you have an idea for a new event. We already know plans call for a computer at the Community House to be linked to the Internet so you can try out the Barcroft Home Page. Call Mary Ann at 920-5619 and give her your ideas.

Comedy Night Filled With Laughter, Music

A small but enthusiastic crowd enjoyed the first-ever Barcroft Comedy Night on March 17. While quaffing green beverages, they enjoyed the amazing talents of Yogen Patel, a truly magic magician who had the crowd enthralled. Then bagpiper Randy Swart entertained with Irish tunes to celebrate St. Patrick's Day (he insisted it was not a comedy act).

Standup comedian Candy Friedlander, a writer for some well-known TV comics, provided most of the evening's humor. She even got off a funny traffic circle joke! It was a good time with a lighter touch than usual, and the decorous language used did not actually require the "adult" we had put on the signs.

Workers for the event included Lisa and Tom Palance, Steve and Robin Eisen, Rusty Smith, and the entire Friedlander family, who turned out to support Mom.

Fundraising To Begin for Community House

Dear Barcroft Neighbors:

Although I've been a Barcroft resident just since Christmas, I'm already impressed with the friendliness and sense of community exhibited. (Indeed, that's why I looked for houses in the Barcroft area when house hunting). For those reasons, I've agreed to chair the fund raising committee for the Barcroft Community House renovation project.

As many of you know, the Renovation Committee has been working diligently in preparing documents that detail what will be done in the renovation. Bids are expected back from the various contractors by the end of April. The first meeting of the renovation fundraising

committee will be on Monday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community House.

Anyone and everyone is welcome to join the committee. We will need help in order to reach our financial goals, which will be set to a specific figure once the bids are received. In addition, if any of you have experience with media relations (print or electronic), grantsmanship, event planning, or other aspects of fund raising, please consider taking this opportunity to be of service to our community.

I look forward to seeing you on May 13. If you have questions or suggestions, my address and phone are listed below.

Sincerely,
Bill Huddleston
4426 1st Road South
Arlington, VA 22204
920-2011



Bobbi Bradley, GRI

Barcroft Resident for a Decade.

SELLERS, SHOULD YOU NEGOTIATE WITH A BUYER'S 'LOW-BALL' OFFER?

Naturally, most buyers want to negotiate the best possible (lowest) price for the property they want to purchase. However, the sellers are interested in negotiating the best possible (highest) price as well. I help these parties arrive at a mutually agreeable selling price.

When you as the seller are confronted with a low-ball offer, here are some points to keep in mind:

- First of all, some buyers (by no means the majority) are not willing to negotiate in good faith and will only pay a price that they think is way below market value. If you counter the buyer's offer and they refuse to consider a fair price based on market conditions, then you're better off waiting for a more reasonable offer from someone else.
- In other cases, the buyers may think sellers will take a lower offer for some reason, such as the property has a poor location or the local economy is declining. Buyers are willing to negotiate with the sellers, but may first try to get a great bargain on the price.

Buyers should be careful about making a low offer, because they risk offending the sellers who may only counter with the full asking price or outright rejection of the offer. If you as sellers are offended by the buyer's first offer, try to remain objective. Remember, you have fond memories of your "home." Don't take a low offer personally. Counter with what you feel is a more reasonable price: most buyers will then respond favorably.

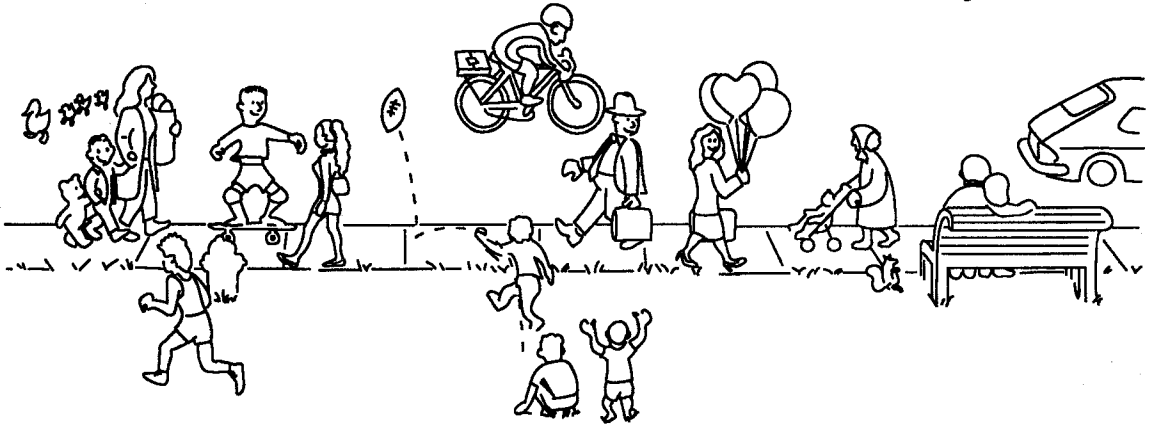
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Around the Neighborhood with Kathy Kerr



Condolences to the family, friends and neighbors of longtime Barcrofter Alfred Tugman who passed away in March. Mr. Tugman lived on 8th St. South near South Taylor since 1940. Born and raised in the D.C. area., Mr. Tugman worked for the U.S. Weather Service for over 40 years.

All three of his children, John, Cotton and Gwen, attended Barcroft Elementary School. John says his father always loved living in Barcroft. John remembers that the little playground behind Barcroft School used to be a forest, right there in the middle of the block. Back in the late 1940's and early 50's, neighborhood children loved to play in the woods, building forts and chasing each other on the trails. John realizes now that it probably wasn't a very big woods but it was just over the fence from his backyard! He thinks it may have all been chopped down in the early 1950s.

A growing number of Americans are providing education for their children at

home rather than at school. A Barcroft family is considering this option. Although Harold and ElizaBeth Evans on 2nd St. South are extremely satisfied with Barcroft School, they are thinking that homeschooling might benefit their daughter, Jewel. They are wondering if there are other homeschooling families in Barcroft. The Evans may be reached by phone at 892-6288 or by email at hevans@his.com.

Congratulations to math whiz, Julia Siple who was the Barcroft Elementary School winner for the 24 Math Challenge Math Program sponsored by the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian. On March 18th. Julia, a fifth grader, participated with students from around the region in more competition and awards. On April 10, she received a special recognition award for elementary student achievers at the Arlington County School Board meeting.

Service Luncheon Fetes Neighborhood Helpers

This year's Barcroft Service Luncheon on April 12 was well-attended by our friends from many of those who keep the neighborhood running year 'round.

Members of the police force, Engine Company No. 71 from Fire Station 1 on Glebe Road, the Solid Waste Management Division, the Post Office, UPS, Fedex, Barcroft School teachers, staffers and Principal Miriam Hughey-Guy, and others dropped by for some lunch and a lot of thanks.

Two County Board members graced our tables: Chairman Jim Hunter and Vice Chair Ellen Bozman, along with other County staffers from Neighborhood Conservation, parks, and other divisions. We were also pleased to have Delegate Karen Darner, home from Richmond but about to return for the "Veto Session" the next week. It was a happy day with beautiful spring weather.

The menu this year included a fresh turkey, ham, roasted chicken, vegetarian lasagna from Pines of Naples, foccacio and a huge variety of other baked goods donated by Uptown Bakers on Washington Boulevard, quiche, stuffed peppers, cheese sticks, macaroni salad, three-bean salad,

tabooli, tossed salad, potato chips, fruit, cheesecake, chocolate cake (with "Thank You" on top), apple pie, cookies, mints, coffee and fruit juices. After the volunteers helped themselves the leftovers were donated to the Arlington women's shelter.

Barcrofters who brought food or worked at the luncheon or both included Sally Breeden, Margaret Brown, Margaret Davis, Claire Hunkin, Joe Kennedy, Kathy Kircher, Froma Lippmann, Daphne Miller, Kathy Moreno, Adrienne Munroe, Lisa Palance, Tom Palance, Lou Powell, Jane Roningen, Carole Ann Rosen, Randy Swart, Kitty Wood, and Harry Wood.

Open House Set for Artists Studios in Reeb

We bet you thought Nancy Tankersley's studio on Columbia Pike was our nearest foothold in an art colony. But Barcroft has studios in Reeb Hall, on First Place behind the Unitarian Church. There will be an open house there on Saturday, May 11, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. when the 19 artists welcome visitors.

Look for Rick Weaver, who lived here on 7th Street in his salad days, or for the artist who puts bicycles in his paintings, or for any of the 17 others. If you need info, call Julia Jones at 532-9344.



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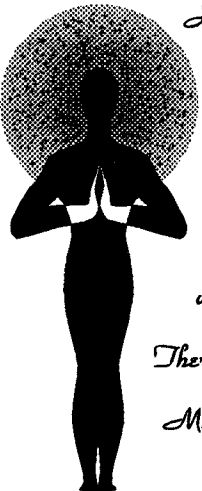
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Renovation Plan Delay, Meeting Set for June

The plans for renovating the community house are taking longer than expected. Look for a special June newsletter detailing the renovation plans. Barcrofters will have an opportunity to review and comment on the plans. A vote for whether or not to proceed with the plans will be taken at the June meeting (exact date to be announced.)

Barcroft Student Takes Wrestling Medal

Barcroft 4th grader Will Tucker of Ms Lincoln's class, received a silver medal for second place in the Northern region wrestling tournament on March 9th. More than 600 wrestlers competed in the important tournament at the end of wrestling season.



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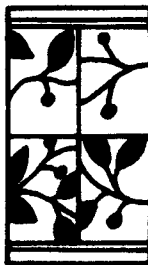
Will placed first or second in all the weekend matches during the year for the Arlington Tiger Youth Wrestling Program coached by Marshall Catoe of Williamsburg Middle School. Will also made many friends from other schools with his teammates and other wrestlers in Northern Virginia.

Barcroft Exchange

GARDEN PLANT EXCHANGE: Avid but broke Barcroft gardeners seek other gardeners interested in exchanging perennials one Saturday in May. If interested, call Christie Sens at 486-8399 or Maureen Howell at 892-0208.

WANTED: Electric guitar and/or amp. Call Kathy at 892-6458.

FREE to a good home: queen-sized sofa bed. Fair condition. Good for a rec room. You move, it's yours. Jack at 979-1947.



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Crime Report

Here is the crime report for March, courtesy of Community Resources officer Rick Schoembs. Expect more next month as warm weather eventually must come.

All addresses are the block where the incident occurred, not a house number. In deference to neighborhood sensitivities we do not mention race, ethnic origin, sex, age, religion, or other preferences, although the original police reports have some of that information to aid in identifying suspects. Chris Monek (920-1287) has the full report.

3/5 900 S. Buchanan. Car stereo stolen.

3/6 900 S. Buchanan. Car stolen.

3/7 4300 Columbia Pike. Front license tag stolen.

900 S. George Mason. Car stopped, driver had concealed weapon, arrested.

900 S. George Mason. Items stolen from car.

600 S. George Mason. Air purifier stolen from car.

3/8 4800 8th St. S. Basement window broken into, stereo, jewelry, computer stolen.

900 S. Buchanan. Car tire cut.

3/11 4800 Columbia Pike. Purse stolen in laundromat while not looking.

3/12 4700 6th St. S. Back door of house broken into, video camera stolen.

3/13 4800 8th Road S. House broken into, items stolen.

4800 Columbia Pike. Two pay phones stolen from inside business.

3/14 400 S. Pershing. Tampering with window where air conditioning installed.

3/16 4300 Columbia Pike. Windshield broken.

400 S. George Mason. Drunk in public arrested.

900 S. George Mason. Two attacked by persons with pool cues.

900 S. Buchanan. Runaway child.

3/17 900 S. Buchanan. Car stolen, recovered after pursuit in DC.

4700 Columbia Pike. Drunk in public arrested.

3/18 4300 6th St. S. Car stereo stolen.

3/19 4200 Columbia Pike. Nails driven in car tires.

900 S. Buchanan. Car stolen from parking lot.

3/20 4600 Columbia Pike. Two drunks arrested.

900 S. Buchanan. Car stolen. Found burned and stripped in DC.

4800 Columbia Pike. Two-person fight.

3/21 4600 Columbia Pike. Gas station employee used stolen credit card.

3/22 4800 Columbia Pike. Known narcotics suspect arrested with cocaine and marijuana.

3/24 4800 Columbia Pike. Fight over asking someone to dance.

900 S. Buchanan. Assault.

4300 Columbia Pike. Assault by spouse.

4300 Columbia Pike. Car stolen.

3/25 900 S. George Mason. Lost Social Security card.

EventsEventsEventsEvenMAYtsEventsEventsEventsEvent

May 2, Thursday -- **BSCL Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Barcroft Community House, 800 S. Buchanan St. Votes will be taken on the controversial traffic circle and election of next year's officers.

May 4, Saturday -- **Arlington County Farmer's Market.** 7 a.m. to 12 noon. 14th Street N. and N. Courthouse Road. Baked goods, fresh seasonal fruits and vegetables, plants. Continues every Saturday through summer and early fall.

May 11, Saturday -- **Artists Open House.** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Reeb Hall (behind Unitarian Church on First Place), call 532-9344 for more information.

May 13, Monday -- **Renovation Fundraising Committee Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Barcroft Community House. Call 920-2011 for information.

May 17, Friday -- **Spring Campfire for Families.** 8-9 p.m. Long Branch Nature Center. Watch the park prepare for dark. \$1 fee per person. Call 358-6535 for reservations.

May 18, Saturday -- **Arlington Forest Neighborhood Yard Sale.** Morning to early afternoon. Various locations in Arlington Forest. The Foresters say they have never had rain...



Barcroft School and Civic League
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