



BARCROFT NEWS

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BSCL Moves to Oppose Demeter House Plans

After members voted to oppose a special use permit for a proposed group home, the BSCL is organizing residents to make their voices heard at an Oct. 5 County Board meeting on the issue.

"We are actively fighting the plan as proposed," said league President Jim Kerr. Rocco Saracina, a Sixth Street resident, and a group of other residents, will be organizing block captains to mobilize Barcrofters to show up at the Saturday county meeting.

Vanguard Services, which operates two adjoining group homes for recovering addicted mothers and their children, has an option to buy a six-bedroom house in Barcroft. The agency wants a special use permit to combine the two current group homes, in the Douglas Park neighborhood, into a single home, Demeter House, at 4317 S. Sixth. It would hold 22 residents and a number of staff members.

Kerr emphasized that although objections to the proposal range widely,

the major stumbling block is the size of the group home.

If Vanguard agreed to a smaller number of residents, many Barcrofters would accept the project, Kerr said. But Vanguard President Debbie Volz said at a BSCL meeting on Aug. 27 that the agency would not be willing to accept such a condition.

A Sept. 24 Planning Commission
(continued on page 6)

October Meeting to Host Local Candidates

In case you had missed it, there's an election next month! So the October meeting of the Barcroft School and Civic League will feature a candidate's night, on Oct. 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community House, at 800 S. Buchanan.

All three candidates for school board are expected to speak. In addition, at least some of the five candidates vying for the 8th Congressional District seat will appear. Virginia Del. Karen Darner will explain the state constitutional initiatives on the ballot. There will be a question and answer period.

“Why I Like Barcroft”

This summer's 4th of July Parade featured an essay contest on the theme, "Why I Like Barcroft." Here is one of the winners. Additional winners will be printed in succeeding Barcroft News issues through the rest of the fall.

I like Barcroft for many reasons. One reason is there are many friends close by. If I want to see my friends all I have to do is hop on my bike and POOF I'm there.

Another reason I like Barcroft is that everybody is so friendly. People wave and say hi to other people they don't even know. I often see people stop on the street and talk to each other or beep their horns at a neighbor passing by.

A third reason I like Barcroft is that we do things together as a community. We have many get-togethers like the 4th of July parade, the Spaghetti Supper, and the Christmas Carols, just to name a few.

These are all the reasons I like Barcroft. I'm sure there are many other reasons to like Barcroft. What are yours?

Claire O'Rourke, age 10

November Bond Votes Cover Metro, Schools

Arlington residents will be asked to vote on four county bond referenda in the Nov. 5 election. Each referendum focuses on a financial aspect of Arlington's ongoing multi-year capital improvement program. The bonds concern funds for Metrorail facilities, various capital projects for the public schools, funding for streets,

highways and community conservation and local and regional parks and recreation.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact the County Government at 358-3419 or the Public Schools at 358-6002.

Don't forget to vote!

Call the Barcroft Neighborline

521-1116

Get the latest information

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

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

BSCL Officers for 1996-97

<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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Good Weather, Food, Friends at Fall Festival

Once again the Barcroft community has come together in full force. More than 200 people attended the First Annual Fall Festival at the Community House on Sunday, Sept. 15. It was a great afternoon including a feast on barbecued pork, chicken, and hot dogs, live music from two great bands, a juggler and kids' events. Over \$500 was raised for the Community House renovation fund.

Community spirit made this first Fall Festival memorable. When Tom Palance began handing out flyers, people all over the neighborhood offered to help distribute them. Special mention goes to Alan Dickerson and Bruce Atkinson who stayed up all night on Saturday cooking the pork. They fell asleep once in a while but were awakened by squirrels dropping acorns on their heads. David Michaelson also spent the day Sunday cooking the delicious chicken.

Mary Anne O'Rourke and Annette Osso organized entertaining games for the kids. Conor and Claire O'Rourke and Sarah Anderson decorated the Yard. Brandy Walters, artist Laura Devin and husband Mick did face painting for kids and some of the adults as well, and provided a special "Decorate the Community House" project for the kids.

Three performing groups entertained us. John Blount and his Potomac Jazz Orchestra were super, with a

Big Band sound that amazed the crowd. Kathy Kerr, Julie Gorka and Maureen Locke provided old-time string music, including a lovely "Ashokan Farewell." And Donnie Hall did a juggling routine and made intricate balloon animals for the kids. A special rendition of the Macarena was provided by Emily Anderson and Vicky Millen.

Also memorable were Emily and Vicky being driven by Noreen Atkinson in Tom's big red convertible throughout the neighborhood announcing the festival through a bull horn, something we have not done for BSCL events since the 50's. Soon after, the community house yard was flooded with people.

A dunking tank that originally was advertised for the event did not materialize, because of a high rental fee. In addition, BSCL officers balked at being the targets for the tank!

Sally Breeden coordinated the serving of food and drinks. T.J. Murphy and his wife Katherine Carothers, new Barcroft residents on Seventh Street, permanently donated a microwave oven to the kitchen and helped serve food. Many other persons donated food items and helped set up and clean after the event. Jack Turner provided wonderful signs that let people know about the change in date, which was necessary because of Tropical Storm Fran.

A lot of energy put in by many Barcroft neighbors made this event special.

(continued from page 5)

the chances of this are slight. Come on,
Barcroft, not every predator is a bad thing!

Sylvia Stone
South 2nd Street

Dear Editor,

It was with great dismay and an element of incredulity that I read about the foxes being removed from Barcroft. They are not dangerous animals and are very valuable in controlling rodents.

I suggest that the proper course of action upon seeing a wild animal is not to contact the League, unless the animal is behaving in a threatening or abnormal manner. Any non-emergency animal concerns could be better voiced at a BSCL meeting, so that all concerned Barcrofters can properly discuss the issue.

Bill Byrne
8th Road South

Demeter House ...

(continued from page 1)

meeting was scheduled to review the special use permit request. But the county Board of Commissioners must make a final ruling on the matter.

Barcroft asked for and got the support of the county's Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee in opposing the permit. The NCAC voted 12-2 in mid-September to urge the County Board not to approve the request.

The BSCL's actions came in the wake of an Aug. 27 meeting, which was attended by more than 230 people. At the meeting, Vanguard officials spoke at length about the proposal and their operation. Saracina and other residents voiced their objections and some Barcroft residents spoke in favor of Demeter House.

A vote to oppose the group home proposal as it currently stands passed overwhelmingly. Fewer than a dozen persons voted in favor.

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Crime Report

Here is the crime report for August, courtesy of Arlington Police Department community resources officer Rick Schoembs. 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.

8/2 4200 South 8th Street. Moped was stolen.

4400 South Pershing Court. County-issued trash container stolen from curbside.

4700 South 8th Road. Bicycle stolen from garage.

8/8 900 South George Mason Drive. Two persons arrested for shoplifting

900 South Buchanan Street. Vandalism of car roof.

8/10 First block of South Pershing Drive. Cellular phone was stolen from a parked car.

8/11 800 South George Mason Drive. Two drunks fighting.

8/12 900 South George Mason Drive. Urinating in public.

8/17 4300 South 6th Street. Car window smashed.

900 South George Mason Drive. Three persons seen stealing coins from a soda machine.

8/18 400 South Pershing Drive. Car window smashed.

8/22 4600 Columbia Pike. Drunk in public arrested.

8/23 4200 Columbia Pike. Items stolen from a truck.

900 South George Mason Drive. Person arrested for stealing some beef.

8/24 4800 Columbia Pike. Fraud. Two persons failed to pay bill in restaurant.

8/26 900 South Buchanan Street. Storage lockers located in laundry room vandalized.

900 South Buchanan Street. Woman assaulted by boyfriend.

8/29 4200 Columbia Pike. Victim allegedly being harassed by another resident in her building when she walks her dog.

8/30 600 South Taylor Street. 34 personal checks were stolen and written by the suspect.

4200 Columbia Pike. Victim punched in the face.

Barcroft Exchange

FOR SALE. Electric lawnmower. Used nine times. \$70. Call 892-6960.

POSITION WANTED. Barcroft family moving from the area wants to place their babysitter in a new position. Reliable, full-time sitter with own transportation. Call Leslie or Tom at 553-8358 for information.

FOR SALE. Pink and white, size 2 Barbie roller skates. Velcro straps and front toe stop. Size small wrist guards, knee pads. \$15. Call 486-0828.

BABYSITTER. Elizabeth Kiernan, 13. Red Cross-certified, loves kids of all ages. Call 979-4355.

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Oct. 3, Thursday -- **BSCL Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Barcroft Community House, 800 S. Buchanan St. Candidates Night. A question and answer session with candidates for Arlington school board, the local Congressional seat and an explanation of ballot referenda.

Oct. 31, Thursday -- **Halloween.** Dusk 'til ?? Watch out for trick-or-treaters while driving your car!



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