



BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 96, No 2

October 1998

October Meeting: Barcroft Parks

Barcroft's October meeting could be called "parks night" as we hear plans for completing one park in Barcroft and discuss ways to spruce up another. As always, the meeting is the first Thursday of the month, October 1, at 7:30 p.m. in the community house.

County landscape architect Chris Munson, along with members of the committee of Barcroft neighbors who helped design it, will present final plans for the Arlington Hall park, one block north of Fourth Street at Taylor. Plans call for swings and other playground equipment, benches, a picnic shelter and an enclosure for porta-potties. The civic league will take a final vote on the plans so it can move forward toward construction.

Next, Steve Coffee of Arlingtonians for a Cleaner Environment will present an interesting idea for Barcroft's adopted park

along the W&OD bike trail near Columbia Pike. His plan: an exhibit focusing on Four Mile Run as a tributary to the Chesapeake Bay. Interpretive signs would be placed in the corner of the park nearest Columbia Pike and the bridge, visible to both trail users and people walking along the Pike. A loop trail would lead to the signs and meander along the top of the stream bank back to the bike path.

These and other changes could make the area safer and less isolated. The park would also be more appealing for the many runners and bikers who turn around at Columbia Pike. Come to the meeting to hear Steve's ideas and give him some feedback.

Ice Creamed

Thanks to all those who attended the Ice Cream Social. We had much fun, ate many toppings, broke one window, and raised \$80 for the community center.

Barcroft to Join New Arlington-Douglas Park for Candidates Night

Barcroft and New Arlington-Douglas Park will be merging their candidate's night this year. The debate between County Board Chairman Chris Zimmerman (D) and challenger Michael Lane (R) will be held on Thursday, October 29 at 7:30 p.m. at Randolph Elementary School, 1306 S. Quincy Street.

New Arlington-Douglas Park is our neighbor to the south of Columbia Pike. It shares Barcroft's concerns with the Pike, and is the currently the neighborhood where Demeter House, the shelter for women recovering from drug addiction, is located. Demeter will be moving to S. Sixth Street in Barcroft later this year. Both Zimmerman and Lane should be well equipped to answer lots of questions about problems and concerns affecting both neighborhoods.

To get to Randolph Elementary, take Columbia Pike east to S. Quincy. Turn right, and go one block to the school, which will be on your right. Turn into the first parking lot entrance. The debate will be in the cafeteria. See you there!

Neighborhood Day

On October 3, 1998, please join the Barcroft School and Civic League, Alcova Heights Civic Association, Arlington Forest Citizen Association and Barcroft

School as we co-sponsor an Open House and potluck lunch to celebrate Neighborhood Day. The event will start at 11:00a.m. at the Barcroft School, with a tour of the school followed by lunch at noon. To coordinate what dish to bring contact Beth Lodsun at 979-1104. Please attend even if your not interested in lunch and see what is up at your neighborhood school. We have been working hard to integrate the school into the community. Recently the school has received new carpeting and volunteers working with the students have been transforming the grounds. We would love for you to come and see the native plant and butterfly gardens. We also would encourage you to come participate or watch the countywide parade, which will begin at 3:00 p.m. at the parking lot across from Fresh Fields on Clarendon Blvd. All activities planned for Neighborhood Day are being spearheaded by one of your Barcroft neighbors, Mr. Randy Swart. So get out to the school, the parade, or look for information on some of the other exciting happenings planned for Neighborhood Day.

Demeter House Likely to Open By New Year

Demeter House, the controversial shelter for women recovering from drug addiction, has received funding to begin renovations to its house on South Sixth St., reports Daphne Miller, the neighborhood's liaison to the center.

Construction should begin sometime in November, and the women could move in anytime between Thanksgiving and the New Year. All of the construction will be interior.

Demeter is still seeking money for the extensive landscape plans it presented to the neighborhood some months back. It's not yet clear the extent to which Demeter can afford to follow its landscaping blueprint outlined at a BSCL meeting. That's unfortunate because landscaping is an important component of making the facility less intrusive to its neighbors.

Finally, Demeter inadvertently listed its Sixth Street address in the phone book. That's technically a violation of the facility's use permit, which required that the address be kept confidential. Bell Atlantic is to remove the listing from next year's phone book.

County Says It'll Take Care of Grandma During Construction

County engineer Allan Riley appeared to put neighborhood fears to rest about plans to enlarge a sewer line that cuts through Barcroft's portion of Glen Carlin park, the wooded ravine and hills around Grandma's Creek, between S. Buchanan and Four Mile Run.

Riley said the park will be largely undisturbed because the county is using a technique called "pipe bursting." Powerful machinery will actually pull new polyethylene pipe through the old ceramic

pipe. The new pipe will then expand and "burst" through the old. Most excavation will be confined to a manhole near Four Mile Run, where state officials will supposedly be watching for erosion that could further degrade that creek.

A temporary pipe will re-route sewage while the work is underway. Riley was less certain about what kind of disturbance this could cause in the woods.

The new line is needed, Riley said, to avoid sewage backups. While he's unaware of any leaks, the current line has been pushed uncomfortably close to capacity by growth and incursion of storm water into the system.

There is no firm start date for the project yet. But it could occur anytime from late winter to early spring. Construction could be completed in as little as a week. The good attendance and many questions at the September BSCL meeting put the county on notice that we value our park and will be watching to make sure the construction workers do too.

Neighborhood Conservation Bond Issue

On November 3, Arlington County voters will have the opportunity to express support for four proposed general obligation bonds. The Streets, Highways and Community Conservation Bond Issue provides funding for the construction and

rehabilitation of streets and highways, bridges, curbs and gutters, bikeways, sidewalks and other pedestrian ways including neighborhood traffic calming efforts.

Importantly, this bond issue makes funds available for Arlington County's Neighborhood Conservation Program. Since the beginning of the Neighborhood Conservation Program in 1964, our County has promoted the use of public funds to improve, upgrade and preserve the older residential areas of Arlington. The program is unique in the U.S. in that it provides dedicated funding to neighborhoods, which set their own priorities for physical improvements. This is different from most traditional community revitalization programs, where decision-making typically resides in county or city departments.

Neighborhood Conservation operates on the premise that the people who know best the needs and future direction of their community are those who live in the neighborhoods. It is a grass-roots, citizen-directed process that allows Arlington residents to set the direction for their own neighborhoods. While Neighborhood Conservation is part of the County government, decisions regarding program policy, plan review and funding recommendations are made by the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC). The NCAC is the only Arlington County volunteer commission whose members are wholly selected from the "bottom up" -- each NCAC member is sent to the Committee

by his or her civic association. Each neighborhood has one vote in NCAC deliberations.

For additional information about the Program, please contact your NC representative or Program Coordinator Chris Nixon at 228-3820.

**Have you paid your BSCL dues yet?
It's not too late!**

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

BSCL Officers for 1999-1999

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Crime Resistance Help keep us safe!
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Traffic Committee Elaine Squeri 920-7014
Parade Andrew Hunter 979-8247

The *Barcroft News* is printed on recycled paper with vegetable-based ink by the Stanley Adams Printing Company.

Water-Wise Gardeners

In an effort to make homeowners more aware of how improper fertilization and pesticide use can damage local water quality and that of the Chesapeake Bay, the Arlington office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension is offering a free program of information and hands-on help to homeowners for improvement of lawns.

The Water-Wise Gardener Program teaches homeowners how to care for their lawns and landscapes in a manner that produces a healthy and attractive lawn while protecting water quality. By following recognized university turf care recommendations, any homeowner can achieve an attractive and sustainable lawn.

Fall is the proper time for many beneficial lawn care practices such as soil testing, aeration, over-seeding, and fertilization. These topics will be covered in a program on October 4 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Potomac Overlook Park at the end of Marcy Road. A free soil test and home-visit advice from a Master Gardener is included.

Rebecca G. Mead, Water-Wise Gardener Program Coordinator, looking for homeowners from the Barcroft Association area who would volunteer to participate in this pilot program for one year. You can contact her at the October 4 session.

Spanish Translators Needed

Barcroft School PTA needs translators for the newsletter and flyers. If you can

donate few minutes of your time once a month (or even less), please contact Beth Swallow at 703-521-4576 or (202) 721-9227.

Free Yoga Class

Hatha Yoga will be offered in a free class at the Barcroft Community Center, on October 20, at 6:30 p.m. An eight week course will begin October 27. For further information, call Ishwari at 703-998-0813.

Want to Dance, Eat Birthday Cake, or Toast the Wedding Couple?

You can do these things, and
more, on a budget, at the
Barcroft Community House



Large space, small rental fee;

**Sparkling new kitchen &
restroom**

Call Tom at 979-8366

**Special Low Rates for BSCL
Members!**

Community Policing, as seen by Trav Fick

Am I impressed! And revved – but not too fast! In the interests of the Traffic Committee, I attended an excellent County meeting: well-run, interesting, and efficient. It was the Community Policing Forum, September 14, at the Arlington Mill Center (site of former Safeway on Columbia Pike). The idea behind community policing is to *avoid* problems; the police will be decentralized, integrated into specific sections in the community, and broadly pro-active in their efforts and collaborative with residents of their area.

Following the general session, we were divided into smaller working groups to identify our top three local concerns, outline what we expected the police to do about them, and what we as citizens could do. The results: We are not the only ones who worry about speeders! Three of the four groups reported traffic speed and pedestrian safety as their first priority concern, along with related issues of high density parking and trashing of streets, running traffic lights, and noise pollution. Other concerns involved inappropriate or illegal public behavior (such as drinking, gaming, loitering, drug use, urinating, and littering) in schools, parks, informal social gatherings; graffiti and other gang-related disturbances; and ignored code.

Barcroft is one of about fourteen neighborhoods in District 3 (we are “3D”), and our officer is Captain Steve Holl, who can be reached at 1425 N. Courthouse

Road, Arlington, 22201 or at 703-228-4097.

This meeting was the first in a collaboration between citizens and police. Credit for a successful meeting goes to Chief Flynn, Captain Holl and his staff, and Conchita Mitchell with her colleagues in Community Policing.

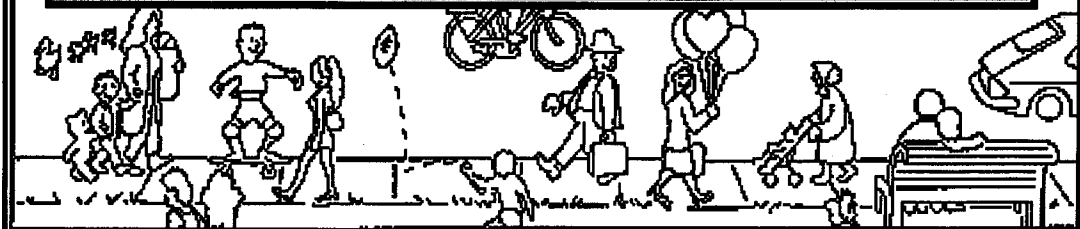
The Barcroft Traffic Committee will meet September 21 with Jeff Sikes at the county’s Traffic Planning office to suggest six measures for traffic calming here. If these suggestions seem feasible, the committee will use them as starting points for our neighborhood discussion on how to slow traffic and make our streets safer.

Town Meeting

A Town Meeting will be presented by the Arlington County Sheriff’s Office and The Citizens’ Crime Prevention Council of Arlington. The Town Meeting will be held on Monday, October 5th, 1998 at 7:30 p.m., at the Thomas Jefferson Middle School Theatre, 125 South Glebe Road. All persons are welcome to attend.

The meeting is titled “Crime & Punishment, Your Sheriff’s Office in Action.” The meeting will include information and presentations on programs such as “Deadbeat Parents’ Program” (enforcement regarding child support); “Gang Activity/Issues in Arlington”; “Aggressive Driving”; “Inmate Work Programs” and other jail rehabilitative programs. There will also be an opportunity for open discussion and questions.

Around the Neighborhood with Kathy Kerr



Welcome to new Barcrofters Eric Parker and Nancy Galib. They moved into their new home on S. Abingdon St. at the end of June, just in time for the Barcroft 4th of July parade! Longtime Arlingtonians, Nancy works at the Treasury Department. Eric, a native Virginian, works for the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators. They enjoy gardening and walking their beagle, Milo. Eric is active with "Arlington Dogs," an organization devoted to the preservation and expansion of dog parks. He is also interested in the related ecological issues.

Congratulations to Paul Bothwell and Mary Ellen Gallagher on S. Taylor St. whose new baby Mary Kathryn was born July 5th. Older son, Paul, Jr., age 2 ½ loves his new sister. The family has lived in Barcroft since 1995. Mary Ellen is in medical school and will finish next year. Paul works for the World Bank as a team assistant for Bangladesh. He invites Barcrofters to become informed about flooding disasters in Bangladesh and to donate money to the World Bank's Flood Relief Fund. Checks made out to "Bangladesh Flood Relief IRBD" can be

mailed to: c/o Saravita Choudhry, Operations Analyst for Bangladesh, SASFP MC 10-138, World Bank, 1818 H St. NW, Washington, DC 20346. Paul has considerable information about Bangladesh. He can be reached at home at 486-0274.

Deepest condolences to the family and friends of Kent Hall of 4th St. S. who suffered a fatal heart attack on August 29, 1998. He is survived by his wife Michelle Reilly Hall and two children, Caiti, age four and Austin, age two. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Kent Hall Memorial Fund, US Senate Credit Union, Washington, DC 20510-9026.

Barcroft Exchange

FOR SALE: Simmons crib, white lacquer finish, meets all safety standards, mattress not included, \$90. Graco Pak-n-Play portacrib, \$35. REI Tough Traveler aluminum-framed backpack for carrying baby and baby stuff, like new, \$65. Call Eileen or Alan at 892-1090.

BABYSITTER Corey Hall, age 13, 521-4418, Red Cross Certified, price varies.

Events October Events October Events

October 1, Thursday ⇒ **BSCL Meeting**, 7:30 p.m. Barcroft Community House, 800 S. Buchanan St. Presentation on Barcroft Parks

October 3, Saturday ⇒ **Neighborhood Day**, 11 a.m., Tour, Barcroft School, 3 p.m. Parade, Fresh Fields on Clarendon Blvd.

October 5, Monday ⇒ **Town Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., "Crime & Punishment," Thomas Jefferson Middle School Theater, 125 S. Glebe Rd.

October 10, Saturday ⇒ **Four Mile Run Bike Exploration**, 9 a.m. – noon, register by calling Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment at 228-6427.

October 20, Tuesday ⇒ **Yoga Class**, 6:30 p.m., Barcroft Community House.

October 29, Thursday ⇒ **Candidates' Night**, 7:30 p.m., Randolph Elementary School, 1306 S. Quincy St. County Board Chairman Chris Zimmerman (D) and challenger Michael Lane (R).



Barcroft School and Civic League
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