

# BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 97 No 1

September 1999

## **Columbia Pike Revitalization Topic of September Meeting**

Please join us in welcoming Conchita Mitchell, Executive Director of the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization (CPRO) at the September 2 meeting. CPRO is a non-profit organization directing activities and services including the Farmers Market (if you haven't been, it's great) on Sundays, 10 a.m. -- 2 p.m., on Edgewood Street, a block from Walter Reed Drive and Columbia Pike, until November; business directories; litter abatement; and, in general, promotion of economic development on the Pike. This is a chance to get informed on the Columbia Pike corridor and CPRO's efforts.

BSCL meetings are held the first Thursday of each month between September and May at 7:30 p.m. .

## **Candidates Forums**

The Arlington County Civic Federation will sponsor its annual Candidates Night on Tuesday September 7<sup>th</sup>. Traditionally the kick-off for the fall political campaign season in Arlington, the Federation's program this year will include panels on an unprecedented eight races, including State Senate candidates from the 30th, 31st and 32nd Districts, House of Delegates candidates from the 47th, 48th and 49th Districts, Four Arlington County Board candidates for the two seats in contention and a School Board panel.

The public is invited to this program, which will begin at 7:00 p.m. and hopefully end shortly before 10 p.m. It will be held at Arlington Hospital's John T. Hazel Conference Center, 1701 North George Mason Drive. Visitors are requested to respect normal hospital noise restrictions, and no campaigning is permitted on the grounds (continued inside).

## Candidates Forums (cont)

The program will be taped by Arlington Community Television Channel 33 for later showing during September and October. For further information, contact Randy Swart, ACCF President, at 521-2080, or email [civicfed@BSCL.org](mailto:civicfed@BSCL.org).

The BSCL will not be hosting its own candidates forum this year. You are invited instead to attend a Columbia Pike Candidates' Night on Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> -- just 6 days before the election. This should be a great forum, with a half hour with the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates' candidates, a half hour with school board candidates, and one hour with county board candidates. This meeting will be at the Arlington Mill Center, 4975 Columbia Pike from 7:30 -- 9:30 p.m. October 27.

## Renovations Update

A revitalized Renovations Committee met this summer to plan the next stage of figure renovations of our historic community house at 800 South Buchanan Street. The committee decided that installing a new wood floor would make the most dramatic improvement in the appearance of the hall. That's key to plans to raise the rent for outside groups using the hall, rent needed to pay the bills at the house. Fundraising efforts will be launched to finance the floor, expected to cost \$9,000. Plans call for work to begin sometime after the new year.

Volunteers are needed on the renovation committee for planning, fundraising -- and

doing some of the work. Meetings are generally held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, at 7:30 p.m., at the community house. Call committee chair Jim Kerr at 892-6458 to confirm, or e-mail him at [jim@bscl.org](mailto:jim@bscl.org).

## Arlington Websites

The BSCL website, [www.bscl.org](http://www.bscl.org), maintained by neighbor Randy Swart, contains pictures from our annual Fourth of July parade. Check it out! [UptownArlington.com](http://UptownArlington.com) is a new site listing retail businesses, professional services and civic & non-profit organizations in Arlington. It also lists free classified ads, a message board, and community events.

### Barcroft News Staff

<i>Editor</i>	Mark Rom, 486-2983
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<i>Contributions</i>	Mark Wigfield, 979-0339
<i>Advertising Mgr.</i>	Jim Kerr, 892-6458
<i>Neighborhood News</i>	Kathy Kerr, 892-6458

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

### BSCL Officers for 1999-2000

<i>President</i>	Mark Wigfield, 979-0339
<i>Vice President</i>	Marie Korn, 521-8069
<i>Recording Secy.</i>	Bruce Atkinson, 979-4868
<i>Treasurer</i>	Gary Lefebvre, 521-0184
<i>Corres. Secy.</i>	Sharon Tope, 920-2567
<i>Membership Secy.</i>	Peg Lefebvre, 521-0184
<i>Board Members</i>	Scott Brinitzer, Jim Kerr Tom Palance, David Michaelson

### Community House

<i>Facility Mgr.</i>	Tom Palance 979-8366
<i>Restoration</i>	Jim Kerr, 892-6458
<i>Fundraising</i>	Bill Huddleston 920-2011
<i>Landscaping</i>	Scott Brinitzer, 892-0308
<i>Traffic Committee</i>	Elaine Squeri 920-7014
<i>Parade</i>	Andrew Hunter 979-8247
<i>Columbia Pike</i>	Barbara Clemens

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## **Parks** (continued)

waste at the former power station site has been removed. The presence of PCBs in the soil "is still a possibility and a probability," county staff report. Although the site has supposedly been cleaned up, the question of liability for any remaining waste became a point of contention between the county and the power company. Unfortunately, negotiations over the issue have halted. Staff says the county intends to resume talks.

Bottom line: The padlock will remain on the chain link fence for the foreseeable future.

Clearly, the Barcroft School and Civic League needs someone to ride herd on county officials to keep things on track with our parks. Any volunteers? Please contact BSCL President Mark Wigfield at 979-0339, at 624 S. Buchanan, or at mark@bscl.org

## **BSCL Membership Dues**

September is here again, and it is time to renew our BSCL memberships. Dues remain the same, still \$3 per adult (\$6 per couple).

The Barcroft School & Civic League is quite active, offering many events throughout the year. All work for these events is done by volunteer members. We encourage you to consider being one of the people who help things happen. The membership form shows several community opportunities. We hope there is at least one that interests you.

Once again we ask for your support of the Barcroft Community House Fund. Through your generosity, major portions of the restoration have been completed. However, several significant tasks still remain. There is more specific information in the letter portion of the membership insert. Any contribution you can make will help to complete the total effort and will be very much appreciated.

Please take a moment to fill out the membership form and mail it to the Membership Secretary at her home address shown on the form, or bring it to the September 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

## **Top Ten Things About Living In Barcroft**

As submitted by a new but anonymous resident.

10. Arlington to D.C. on Route 50: 5 minutes. Arlington to D.C. on Route 29: 20 minutes. Arlington to D.C. on Route 1: an eternity.
9. The Metro is closer than you think.
8. Shirlington theaters.
7. W & OD trail.
6. Airport noise? What airport noise? Is there an airport nearby?
5. You can get to I66 or I395 in four minutes, but you never have to use them.
4. Barcroft has a Community House.
3. Arlington has a county government that answers the phone.
2. More bungalows than North Arlington.
1. Eight minutes from Kennedy Center, Arena Stage, The Corcoran Museum, and National Airport.

# Lawn and Garden

## Workshops

Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia in collaboration with Virginia Cooperative Extension-Arlington County present a series of fall workshops in Arlington and Alexandria:

### Outdoor Gardening

September 25 – “Delights and Duties in the Fall Perennial Garden” – This hands-on demonstration will include a walk-through of the “Sunny Garden,” adjacent to the Rose Garden in Bon Air Park. If your perennials look “tired”, come see what’s blooming in the Sunny Garden this late in the season. The garden features many fall-blooming perennials for sunny sites. You’ll also learn how to divide and “deadhead” perennials, and how to prepare the garden for the winter. Meet at the Sunny Garden in Bon Air Park, off Wilson Blvd. Dress appropriately for weather! 10-11:30 a.m. For information call 228-6414.

October 2 – “Water-Wise Garden Basics” – See what plants survived under adverse conditions in 1999 in this popular Alexandria demonstration garden featured in the Washington Post. You will also learn the basics behind “water-wise” techniques, and how you can apply them at home. Visits to the nearby butterfly and other theme gardens will also be included. 10-11:30 AM at the Water-wise Demonstration Garden at the Alexandria YMCA, 420 E. Monroe Ave. Meet at the Demonstration Garden next to the entrance to the parking lot. Dress for the weather. For information call 228-6414.

October 16 – “Just Say NO to Virginia Clay!” – Fall is the ideal time to prepare flower and vegetable gardens for next year. Join Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia in a hands-on demonstration and discussion of soil preparation techniques that will improve our heavy clay soils. Meet at the Sunny Garden in Bon Air Park, adjacent to the Rose Garden off Wilson Blvd. 10-11:30 AM. Dress for the weather. For more information call 228-6414.

### Indoor Presentations

“Fall Gardening Fundamentals” - Master Gardeners from Arlington and Alexandria will lead an informative workshop on seasonal gardening issues. Come and learn the latest environmentally conscientious strategies for a better lawn. Also tips on soil amendments, what to compost and how, and clean-up chores to minimize insects and diseases in your garden. Bulbs and other fall planting possibilities will be discussed. Bring your question and concerns. Free and open to the public. For more information call 228-6414.

October 23 – “Fall Gardening Fundamentals,” 10-Noon, Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, corner of Seminary Rd. and Quaker Lane.

October 27 – “Fall Gardening Fundamentals,” 7-9PM, Arlington Central Public Library Auditorium, 1015 N. Quincy Street.

If you are a person with a disability and desire assistance or accommodation, please notify Arlington Extension Office at 228-6400. TDD/PC-1-800-828-1120 during business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00

p.m. to discuss accommodation 3 business days prior to the event.

## **Drought Tips!!**....from the Arlington County Extension Office.

**My lawn is brown, is it dead?**

If your lawn is brown, more than likely it is composed of "cool-season grasses" such as Kentucky bluegrass, tall or fine fescue or perennial ryegrass. During hot, dry weather they go dormant and will survive in this state anywhere from 5 to 8 weeks without incurring substantial thinning or death. Weekly, deep watering equivalent to an inch of rain water will keep your lawn green in normal summers. In this extraordinary weather, watering to keep the grass plants alive, only, is recommended. Survivability of your lawn will depend on getting at least 1-1.5 inches of water to the lawn every six weeks. Water early in the morning to reduce evaporation. Check all hose attachments so there are no leaks.

**Should I spread fertilizer?**

Fertilizer should only be used when it can be watered in to the lawn or garden within a few days. Because of the drought and weather forecasts, unless you can water the garden quickly, do not use dry fertilizers. The best time to fertilize lawns is in late September and early November. Do not fertilize lawns until that time, and only if normal rains return or you can water the lawn yourself.

**Should I water my trees?**

Trees and shrubs planted within the past five years are the most susceptible to

drought. Water these trees with at least 1-1.5 inches of water every week for best results. Water all at once rather than frequent, shallow waterings. Wilting, yellow leaves, brown edges around the leaves, premature fall coloring and leaf drop, dead branch tips, or sudden death of younger trees are all symptoms of drought stress. Since trees are the most valuable part of any landscape, we recommend deep watering mature trees at least the equivalent of 1-1.5 inches of rain, every 2-4 weeks. Eighty percent of tree roots are located in the top 18-inches of soil, which is very dry under current conditions. Unconfined tree roots will spread 2-3 times as wide as the canopy is. Be sure to water out far from the trunk of the tree where important feeder roots are located. Un-watered trees are more susceptible to attack from disease and insects (especially wood boring beetles and the larvae of certain moths).

**My trees and shrubs have lost their leaves. Are they dead? Should I prune?**

Premature fall color and leaf drop are common plant responses to stress, including drought. It is a plants' defense against losing moisture. Regardless of drought conditions, late summer and early fall is the worst time to prune many plants. As a general rule, pruning stimulates new growth. When performed in the fall, new growth may not have time to harden off, or, prepare itself for winter. These twigs may be killed by the first very cold temperatures. Resist the temptation to prune now, unless there are branches that are unsafe, and prune late in the fall.

# Parks Update

Parks in and around Barcroft are one of the neighborhood's chief attractions. The W&OD bike path, ball fields and picnic areas at Arlington Hall West, and the woods and nature center in Glencarlyn Park all add to the quality of life here.

But the wheels of the county bureaucracy move slowly when it comes to additions or improvements to the park system. Following is an update on improvements, changes or additions to the parks around Barcroft.

**Arlington Hall West:** Installation of playground equipment, a gazebo and a water fountain are scheduled to begin in late September at this park, located at the dead end of South Taylor, just north of Fourth St. This completes a seven-year effort to improve this park, which was formerly controlled by the State Department. Improvements have included landscaping, upgrades to the picnic area, paving of a bike path and other changes that have transformed a wasteland frequented by vandals into an attractive park. Thanks to the many neighborhood volunteers who made it happen.

Bottom line: Maybe we can invite Madeline Albright to dedicate completion of the park by trying out the new swings!

**W&OD Bike Trail:** An effort to widen the trail from Columbia Pike north was put on hold about two years ago by the Arlington Parks and Recreation Commission, a citizen advisory board. The county determined that a 12-foot trail was needed

to accommodate the volume and mix of bicycle and pedestrian traffic. The trail had already been widened north of here. But following objections from a citizen, the commission asked that the project be delayed pending a traffic count. That count has been conducted, off and on, since about May of 1998.

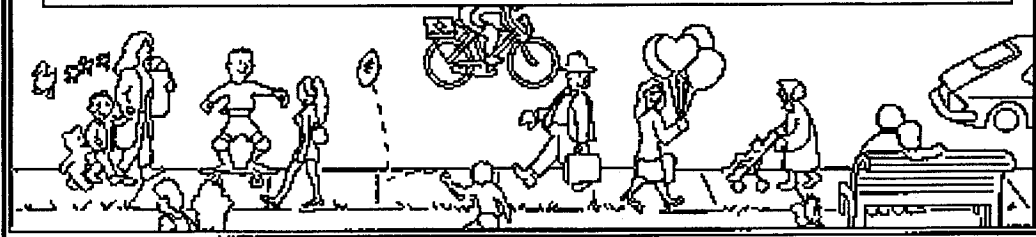
County staff report that the numbers are in but still must be crunched. Roughly 6,800 people use this section of the trail a week, staff estimate. And this count may be as much as 25 percent low because the laser counter doesn't always register large groups or people walking side-by-side. But the county believes current numbers more than justify the widening.

Staff also want to observe the trail to better understand how it is used. Currently, it's believed about half the of the traffic is bikes, another 45 percent or so runners and walkers, and the remaining 5 percent, miscellaneous (unicycles? skateboards? Pogo sticks?). Final counts will be reviewed again by the commission, which will make a recommendation -- non-binding -- to the County Board.

Bottom line: If approved, work could begin in Spring 2000 at the earliest.

**Dead Man's Curve:** The county intends to assume ownership from Virginia Power of the vacant parcel of land, enclosed by a chain link and barbed wire, at the curve where S. Pershing and S. Buchanan streets meet. The neighborhood will then be asked for suggestions about how to use the land. But questions remain whether all toxic (continued)

## Around the Neighborhood with Kathy Kerr



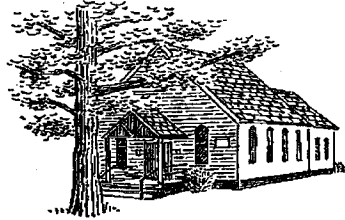
Congratulations to Chuck and Betsy Howes-Bean whose new baby, Rebecca, was born Nov. 29, 1998. Rebecca's big brother is Benjamin, age 3. Chuck works for a non-profit organization and Betsy works for the Federal Reserve. They live on Woodstock Court.

Welcome back to Tom and Betty Booth of 6th St. South who recently returned from a two year Navy tour in San Diego. Their oldest son, Peter, is a senior at Harvey Mudd College in California. Danny is a junior in the International Baccalaureate program at Washington-Lee High School.

Two Barcrofters were recently honored by the Arlington Public Schools for outstanding volunteer service. Liz DeMik of 9th St. South was honored for her volunteer work at Wakefield High School dating back to 1986. She has assisted music teachers and was a leader in launching the "Senior Cruise" program and working as Booster Club coordinator for athletic banquets. Iris Ioffreda on South Buchanan St. was honored for her leadership as Key Elementary PTA co-president, support of the establishment of

the middle school partial Spanish immersion program at Gunston Middle School, and works as chair of Key's technology committee.

**For Your  
Birthday, Wedding, Anniversary, or  
other Special Event:  
Barcroft Community House**



**Large space, small rental fee;  
Sparkling new kitchen & restroom**

**Call Tom at 521-1111**

**Special Low Rates for BSCL  
Members!**

Child Care: Nanny available for full-time position. Excellent references. Call Lisa 486-298

# Events September Events September Events

September 2 ⇒ **Columbia Pike Revitalization**, Barcroft Community House, 800 South Buchanan Street, 7:30 p.m.

September 7 ⇒ **Candidates Forum**, 1701 North George Mason Drive, 7:30 p.m.

September 3, 10, 17, 24 ⇒ **Play Group**, Location TBA, 9:30 a.m. (call Lisa Rom, 486-2983)

September 23 ⇒ **Gardening Workshop**, Bonair Park, 10 a.m.

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Barcroft School and Civic League

800 South Buchanan Street

Arlington, VA 22204

