

Barcroft News

Summer 2002

Vol 99, Issue 10

President's Report

— Pat Williamson Edwards

As summer approaches we can all look forward to the annual Barcroft 4th of July Parade and cookout beginning at 10 am. This year we will have a dedication ceremony at 11:20 am to show off our fantastic wheelchair accessible ramp at the Community House. We have invited the members of the Warren G. Stambaugh who generously approved a \$9,000 donation so we can personally thank them. So many Barcrofters deserve a huge thank you for much work and many donations of time and money. David Michaelson, Bruce Atkinson, Scott Brinitzer, Marlene Terreros Ornao, Randy Swart, Rick Sasaki, Mark Wigfield, Karen Darner are but a few of the neighbors who have given so much to this project. A huge thank you also to Lori Fitchett and Steve Reiss who have kept the house rental going smoothly despite the disruptions. This is a real neighborhood accomplishment.

Our May meeting featured info on two important schools issues -- modified school calendar for Barcroft and proposed boundary changes for

Ice Cream Social at Community House August 6 -- 7 — 9 pm

Join with Neighbors to learn about the new Arlington County Community Policing/ Neighborhood Watch and Emergency Preparedness Programs Contact Pat Williamson Edwards for details!

**4th of July
Parade!**
A Barcroft Tradition Continues

Contact Andrew Hunter
to participate (979-8247)
See pg. 3 for more details

South Arlington schools. The Traffic Committee presented a slide show and provided a Q&A session with Terry Bellamy on the Arlington County Traffic Department and two of the police officers assigned to our area. Much work is underway with this highly energized Traffic Committee -- contact Tom Palance to participate.

Barcroft celebrated Neighborhood Day with a marching contingent in the parade along side Barcroft School patrols. Thanks to David Michaelson and Annette Osso for hosting a marvelous evening barbecue and to Tom Palance for organizing a jazzfest of elementary and high school musicians. The place was rocking!

A major concern has arisen with HiCue Pool Hall. After a period of calm they have applied for a liquor license through the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. Along with the Douglas Park and East Barcroft Associations we are mounting a massive dissent. There will probably be a hearing held in the summer on this issue. We will keep you informed.

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

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The *Barcroft News* is printed on recycled paper with vegetable-based ink by the Stanley Adams Printing Company. All phone numbers are area code 703.

Barcroft Exchange

For Sale: Computer related items available: **new** Samtron 17" flat screen color monitor (unopened box) \$150; **new** Lexmark Z25 printer, USB cable included \$60; **almost new** Apollo color printer, USB cable included \$35 (<25 pages printed). Call William Nehrke, 815 Wakefield St., 979-1166.

Looking for a House Sitter? We're renovating our house and looking for a place to live in July, August, maybe September. If you'll be gone for two weeks or more, we'll take care of your house and even pay up to \$200/week! Barcroft references available. Call us at 769-2662 or email efoley@cgsarchitects.com. - Ed Foley and Helene Stebbins (4617 S. 8th Road).

Looking to Hire Parish Secretary, M-F, 9-12. Small Episcopal Church with friendly atmosphere. Word processing experience required. Familiarity with the Episcopal Church a plus. Salary competitive. Fax resume to 671-8023 or call 671-6834.

Wanted to hire: pet sitter/dog walker. Travel frequently with work and seeking someone to feed, care, and spend some time with my pets while I am away. Have a medium size obedient dog named Jason, and a cat named Sarah. For more info, contact John at 979-1828, or email john.tisdale@ed.gov.

Free Firewood: Seasoned, clean, stacked-off-the-ground oak wood in wood holder near back door. Help yourself—Cart and carry away. Neatness appreciated. Gwen Foxall, 4764 6th ST, 892-4838

For Sale: Trek 720 mountain bike, \$150. Performance Trail Frog child's 20" 10-speed mountain bike: \$75. Call Mark at 979-0339 or mark@bscl.org.

Babysitter Available: Responsible 12- yr male seeks Barcroft babysitting jobs for children 2+. Red Cross certified. Short jobs preferred. If interested, call Eric Schroeder at 920-9346.

LAST ISSUE!

The BSCL newsletter takes the summer off— we'll see you in September.



Come and Celebrate!

Our Nation's 226th Birthday!
Our 14th Annual Barcroft
Parade!

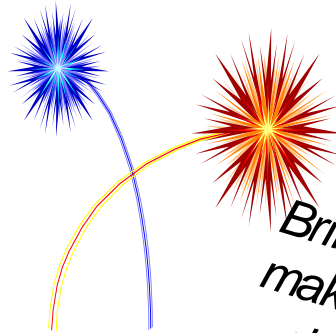


See the show!

Join us for Barcroft's Annual 4th of July Parade
Thursday, July 4th
10:00 A.M.



Parade begins at Barcroft Community House
800 S. Buchanan St.
Marchers should check in at 9:45



Bring a dish,
make a float,
ride your
bike, join in
the fun!

This year's event features:

- Barcroft's own Honor Guard
- Grand Marshall Uncle Sam
- The Barcroft precision lawn-mower team
- Food, drink, friends and neighbors
- The famous Barcroft Marching Band and other musical enchantment
- Concert by The Chromatics - a musical delight for the whole family - *a capella*
- Parade Medals

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For more information, call Andrew Hunter at 979-8247.



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703.979.2175

aland@erols.com



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RENTAL: S. Arlington/Barcroft: Spacious 3-level townhouse just off Arlington Blvd. & George Mason available July 15. 3 BR, 2 full bath, 2 half bath, H/W floors in living & dining rooms and bedrooms. Fully Finished basement w/separate office/study and wall-to-wall carpeting. 2 working fireplaces, central A/C, washer/dryer, dishwasher, microwave and lots of closet & storage space. Small front & back garden. 1 parking space. Non-smoker. No pets. 2-year lease, \$2500 per month, utilities not included.

To arrange a viewing or for further details, please e-mail: Larry_Roberts@hotmail.com

Barcroft School's Parents Approve "Year-Round" Calendar

By Eileen Putnam

Barcroft parents overwhelmingly approved a switch from the traditional school year to a calendar that shortens the summer break in an effort to boost achievement scores for low income and non-native English-speaking children.

The proposal now goes to Arlington Public Schools Superintendent Robert G. Smith for approval, then to the School Board. Principal Miriam Hughey-Guy's goal is to implement the new calendar with the 2003-2004 school year, but the precise timetable would be worked out by committees of parents and school staff.

Barcroft would become the first school in Arlington to join a growing list in the country moving toward "year-round" schooling, though the concept is something of a misnomer as students would not attend all year.

The start of school would be moved to early August. Students would work through most of June, leaving about six weeks for the summer break. Built into the regular school year be-

tween grading periods are three intersessions — one or two weeks of optional classes aimed at curriculum "enrichment."

Barcroft sent surveys on the proposed new calendar to its 407 families, and 352 surveys (85%) were returned. Of the 237 families who expected to have children at Barcroft for the 2003-2004 school year, 204 (86%) voted in favor of the switch to the new calendar.

There is, however, a vocal minority of parents — many from Alcovia Heights — who either do not support the new calendar or wish to delay the changeover until after south Arlington school boundaries are revised in 2003.

Boundaries are being redrawn to eliminate overcrowding. Barcroft, for example, has 546 students in a building meant for 437. With the loss of so many students through redistricting, changes in staffing, funding and student demographics would occur. At Ms. Hughey-Guy's May 21 presentation on the survey results, a

(Continued on page 6)



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(Continued from page 5)

number of Alcovia Heights parents said they feared they would no longer be in the Barcroft district and did not want to go through the process of planning for a major change in the school calendar until that issue could be resolved.

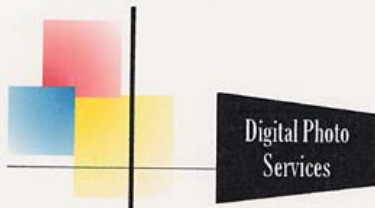
Parents who voted against the new calendar cited other drawbacks: loss of a long, unstructured summer break; disruption of traditional family vacations; problems juggling Barcroft's calendar with those of older children in the household attending other schools; and concern that the calendar's intersessions would mean too many breaks and transitions for parents and children alike.

Other parents argued that a change to year-round schooling was tantamount to creating yet another Arlington "choice" school and might leave Barcroft open to becoming a countywide magnet program. Ms. Hughey-Guy said that was not her intent, and that she expected Barcroft to remain a neighborhood school.

She cited research showing that shorter summer breaks and the "continual learning" approach resulted in significant increases in achievement scores for students from low-income families and families where English is not the native language. Currently, 59% of Barcroft students are Hispanic, 20% white, 9% black and 11% Asian. Sixty-three % of students are non-native English speakers. Sixty-four% qualify for free/ reduced-cost lunch.

Barcroft has done well by several measures of learning, including Virginia's new standards of learning requirements but, as in other Arlington schools, there are achievement gaps between black and white students and between Hispanic and white students.

If the superintendent approves the new calendar, the proposal is expected to go to the School Board this summer. To keep costs of the intersessions affordable, the School Board will be asked to approve funds for those sessions and for an intersession coordinator.



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PROPERTY TAX ISSUES DEBATED

Recent Sharp Increases Promote Discussion; Appeals Offer Possible Relief

The significant increase in real estate assessments for 2002 prompted Barcrofter Jim Casey to propose a Sense-of-the-Community resolution for adoption at the BSCL meeting on April 5th. Jim's resolution emphasized the dominant influence of assessments in determining the taxes ultimately contributed to the County Treasurer's office by property owners, and it called upon the Country Board to:

1. Instruct the Department of Real Estate Assessments to provide homeowners requesting it, a detailed analysis of how their assessments were determined
2. Instruct the Department to limit increases to 25% over last year's assessment
3. Reduce the tax rate used to fund the County's FY2003 operating budget to \$0.97 per \$100 of assessed value.

At the meeting, an alternative resolution was tabled by Randy Swart, which urged the Country Board to support the recommendations advanced by the Arlington Civic Federation, including a reduction in the tax rate to \$0.963 per \$100 of assessed value, and an overall increase in spend-

ing for FY2003 over FY2002 of 5.6 %.

Following a presentation by Jim and Randy, Randy's resolution was adopted by a majority show-of-hands vote, and a letter was sent to County Board Chairman, Chris Zimmerman, requesting that the Board take this result into consideration in its consideration of the FY2003 budget. As is now widely known, the Board ultimately decided to reduce the tax rate by three cents to \$0.993 per \$100 of assessed value.

Despite this outcome, several neighbors intend to pursue the assessment issue on the basis of "fairness" through the appeals mechanism available to homeowners. Although this process has been especially slow this year due to the large volume of appeals being made, one Barcroft neighbor has already realized a \$50,000 reduction in assessed value, and has filed for further reduction to the next stage. Jim received notice in May that he would receive a \$17,000 reduction in his assessment (approximately 4% of the total original assessment), and a neighbor also received a \$16,000 reduction on his original assessment.

Arlington County Expands Real Estate Tax Relief Program

In response to increased assessments and the additional tax burden on the County's elderly and disabled residents, the Arlington County Board increased the amount of real estate tax relief available.

- Elderly (65+) and disabled homeowners with annual income less than \$62,000 may receive relief from their real estate tax obligation.
- A household with annual income less than \$39,586 and assets less than \$195,000 (excluding their home) may be eligible for a full exemption from the real estate tax. Households above this amount, but below

\$62,000 annual income, may have part of their real estate tax exempted, and may opt to defer the remainder.

Exempted real estate tax is not required to be repaid. Deferred real estate taxes are due upon transfer of the property. Real Estate Tax Relief applications and all required verifications must be received by **August 15, 2002** in order to receive tax relief in 2002.

Interested? Contact:

Dept. of Human Services, 3033 Wilson Blvd.
Suite 300 Arlington, VA 22201, 228-1350.

Announcements

St. John's and Advent Lutheran Offers Vacation Bible School: St. John's Episcopal Church, 415 So. Lexington St. in Glen Carlyn, will partner with Advent Lutheran church to offer Vacation Bible School at St. John's for children ages 4 through entering 5th grade from 6-8 p.m. the week of July 29-August 2. Dinner will be served between 6 and 6:30, with the program running from 6:30-8:00.

This year we are running VBS as a cooperative. Each family is requested to work at least two hours (one night) during the week; teenagers are welcome to help. Program fee is \$10 per child with a maximum of \$25 per family. Scholarships are available. Nursery care for infants and younger children will be available. Registration deadline is July 1, 2002. Call St. John's at 671-6834 for more info and for registration forms.

St. John's Offers Theological Study Course Education for Ministry, a four-year theological study course intended to help people discern their ministries in the world, will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church, 415 So. Lexington St. The classes are held Sunday evenings from 6:30-9:30, beginning about Labor Day and running through the academic year. They are conducted as seminars with no papers or exams. There is no requirement for membership in a church, synagogue or mosque. Tuition is \$325 per year; some scholarship help is available. Students earn 18 CEUs for each of the four years in the program. For more information, please contact Prof. Patricia Bleicher at 532-9156 or leave your name and number at the St. John's office, 671-6834.

Lone Ranger Rides in Caboose

If you are interested in railroads, take a weekend walk or ride on the W&OD trail to the big red caboose just below Wilson Boulevard.

For the rest of the summer, veteran rail fan Sedge Moss will be the Ranger staffing the caboose on Saturday (10—6) and Sunday (1—6). Sedge is a font of info on railroads and railroading. The caboose is at the old Bluemont Junction, where rail and trolley lines met when the Washington & Old Dominion was still a railroad. Since he is the only Ranger staffing the caboose, the Parks people call him the Lone Ranger, even though he wears an engineer's cap and no mask! For further info call the Park Rangers at 525-0168.

Thanks for Successful Fund Raiser: Thank you to those that made it to Peter Wood's 6th annual plant sale at the community house. The results are in....drum roll....\$1,700 was raised for the Friends of Homeless animals! A special thanks to friends Tom, Kent, Bill, and Karl for their help at the plant sale. Someone suggested a fall plant sale with winter pansies and mums— Maybe pumpkins? It is a possibility. — Peter Wood (sculptures at www.rustymetal.com)

Visit our Craft & Farmer's Market! Located at Arlington Mill Community Center, 4975 Columbia Pike, the market is open for business on the third Sunday of each month until October, 10—2. I'd love to see this market grow into a thriving monthly event. For more information about the market, call Jennifer Abel at 228-6417, or contact Barcroft Arlington Mill rep, Bill Lykes.

Volunteers needed for the annual cleanup of Grandma's Creek and the surrounding woody park below S. Buchanan St. Lots of fallen trees and branches to be cleared. Bring your chain saws. Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, June 22, 9:30 am. Meet at Deadman's Curve, where Pershing meets Buchanan. Questions? Call Mark Wigfield, 703-979-0339.

Support Local Art Project

Recently, several Barcroft neighbors participated in the 2002 Global Art Project. Now we need your support! We are requesting donations from the community (any amount will help!) to cover the cost of shipping our artwork to its final destination.

As part of the Global Art Project, participants created works of art that express their visions of global unity. Then they exchanged their artwork with participants elsewhere in the world as a gift of global friendship. Our global match, Laurina Bergqvist and her family/homeschool in Sweden, recently sent us some wonderful handcrafted items which will be displayed at the Community House in the next few weeks. Now we need to send our artwork to them!

Donations will be accepted by any of the local artists working on the project: Bridget Fitzpatrick, Katherine Grace, Beatrice Sanchez, Carol Roller and her daughter Julia, and Eileen O'Brien and her daughter Kelly. If you'd like more information, contact Bridget Fitzpatrick at 703-521-9075 or by e-mail at b.fitzpatrick@verizon.net

Infant/Child CPR Class Has Openings

A Red-Cross certification CPR course for infants/children will be offered at the Barcroft Community House on July 9. The cost is \$55/adult; the class will last four hours, 5-9. If you are interested in attending, please contact Margie at kenmarism@aol.com or call Christina at 271-0631. Spaces are limited.

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National Night Out: Get Ready in August

Tuesday, August 6th, is the 19th Annual National Night Out. National Night Out is designed to:

- Increase crime and drug awareness
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime efforts
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and law enforcement-community partnerships
- Send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

The theme for National Night Out again this year is "Give Neighborhood Crime and Drugs a Going Away Party." We hope you will start now in planning ways you can strengthen your neighborhood spirit and security.

There will be an ice cream social to discuss how we can address these issues and keep our neighborhood safe. If you are interested in organizing or participating, please contact Pat Williamson Edwards at pat@bscl.org, 521-1082.

Around the Neighborhood



A Baby Boom! We have news of several new arrivals:

Congratulations to Andrea Usiak and Doug Stearn of 4th Street on the adoption of their new son. 10-month old Zachary was adopted from Columbia in April.

Born in March, Elizabeth joined parents Jennifer and Erik McGunnigle and brother Owen. The McGunnigles live on 6th Street.

Rachel Elizabeth was born in March to parents Anna and Scott Peterson of Wakefield St. Rachel joins three older siblings.

invaluable way for me to meet other parents, teachers, principals and school board members, not only for the schools my children attend, but other county schools as well. Being an informed parent is one of the best things you can do to enhance your child(ren)'s educational experience and much of that knowledge is gained in the course of volunteering. I am thrilled to be recognized for my efforts when there are many others who are equally as deserving, and glad to remind the rest of the county what a great place Barcroft is."



KUDOS to Barcrofter Beth Fowler. She has been named "Honored Citizen" for 2002 by the Arlington County school board, a recognition given each year to those who have made outstanding contributions on a voluntary basis to the schools. As organizer of the incredibly successful Barcroft School Spring Fair and provider of constant service through the PTA and other avenues, we salute Beth on this well deserved honor.

Beth has lived on 6th St. for almost 16 years, and has three children - Matt, 16 & Emily, 15 both of whom attend Washington-Lee, and Alexis, 10 who is a 4th grader at Barcroft.

Says Beth, "For me, volunteering has been an



Playgroup Forming: Susan and Bill Saltos of 7th St. are looking for or to start playgroup on Saturday or Sunday mornings (not too early!) or afternoons for children ages 6 months - 3 years (ages can be flexible). Parents to participate (not drop off "babysitting") in order for neighbors and their children to get to know each other. Considering alternating each others homes or meeting in a playground park (or both!) If interested call 892-2285. We have a wonderful 16 month old son, Zachary, anxious to make new friends!

If you have any news, we'll print it in September. Please send it to Kathy Kerr, 892-6458, kathykerrk2@hotmail.com.



Barcroft School and Civic League

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Arlington, VA 22204

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TERMITES.....IS YOUR HOUSE ATTRACTING THEM?

Did you know that when you spread mulch around your home, that you can encourage termite infestation? Eric Chrissy from Suburban Pest Service has seen many incidents where termites exist in shredded bark mulch along with landscape timbers. Wood debris in close proximity will also attract termites.

Eric recommends using Cypress or Cedar mulch to reduce the odds of termite infestation along with keeping the mulch at least 2 feet away from the home. Mulch spread close to the home can act as a bridge to the foundation wall allowing termites to build shelter tubes. If you would like a FREE inspection, call Suburban Pest Service at 703-352-1777 and ask for Eric. He can offer a booster treatment as a preventative measure. For the chemically cautious, another option for preventive maintenance are bating systems, which can also be used as a backup system. Mention my name and this article and Eric will give you a 10% discount for any treatment.

Call or Email Casey or Rosemarie. 703-824-4800, casey@caseyoneal.com