



Barcroft News

February 2004

Vol 101, Issue 6

President's Report: Parking Changes, Development, & Kudos to Good Neighbors

— By Eric Harold

In my note last month, I neglected to thank Annie Harold for very impressively reciting "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" *from memory* at the holiday party in December. My apologies, and thanks for entertaining the children and the adults as well. This month, I'd like to thank the gentleman who I see around the neighborhood picking up trash from the streets and sidewalks. I often see him in front of our house. I don't know his name, but my wife and I certainly appreciate the effort he puts in to keep Barcroft litter free.

Update on the status of the house on 701 S. Wakefield: A developer who is working with the owner spoke at the meeting last month. The owner would like to both sell the house and split up the rest of the property into two lots. Splitting up the lot so that two homes can be built would require a variance from the County, and the owner has not decided yet whether to do this. The owner may have an open house sometime in March as both an effort to sell the house as well as to present to the neighborhood the ideas for the rest of the property. Stay tuned for

further developments

In other news, the County, at the request of the Holy Martyrs of Vietnam Catholic Church on S. Wakefield Street, will be reserving three spaces in front of the church along S. Wakefield as handicapped parking (in effect on Sundays only from 9 am until 2 pm). Requests of this nature are handled administratively by the County, which means that they are not required to solicit input from the neighborhood. Several of us have had numerous phone and email conversations with County staff to express the frustration with this decision in light of the already bad parking situation along S. Wakefield and S. 9th Streets. The decision has been made, and the best we can do is monitor the situation and report any complaints to the County. They have been known to remove signs, so if we can document any abuses of the spot, or show that the spots aren't being used at all, we can argue to have the signs removed.

I hope everyone is staying warm and dry. See you all at the next meeting on February 5.

February BSCL Meeting

Thursday, Feb. 5, 7:30PM at Barcroft Community House,
800 S. Buchanan Street

Please attend our next meeting! The program will focus on home energy efficiency, in particular what you can do in the winter months to save energy without having to keep the thermostat at 60 degrees and having to tell your child for the fifth time to "Just put another sweatshirt on, for crying out loud!"

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 4, 7:30 PM

Remember: You can rent the historic Barcroft Community House for private events! Call 703-521-1116 and leave a message or send an email to our facilities manager at rentals@BSCL.org. More info is available at our web site: www.bscl.org.

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CLASSIFIEDS

For Rent: Beautiful Furnished Basement Apartment on Stafford Street. Private entrance, private bath, phone hookup, fireplace, walk out to patio, computer station, refrigerator. A must see! \$850.00 a month. 703 407-3666 Cell Phone.

Misc. for Sale: Several computers, various models for parts \$10 each. Apollo Color Printer, almost new (made by HP) \$35. Home decor items, prize winning & other hand crafted ceramics -reasonable; stop by and browse. Several men's & women's bikes. 1983 Volvo with approx \$3,000+ worth of work in it. Great tires, new battery. Needs minor work. 28 miles per gallon around town and no emission inspection required. \$1,500. Small snow blower. Hardly used. Frozen pull starter. Free! Bill 815 S. Wakefield St. tel: (703) 979-1166.

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Have anything for the Barcroft News? Submissions are due by the 15th of each month. Contact Christina at 271-0631 or editor@bscl.org or 618 S. Stafford St. Ads are due by the 10th of each month; contact Jim Kerr at Jim@bscl.org

**Keep up with events by joining the Barcroft chat group and news list. Go to:
 www.bscl.org.**

Two young Barcroft talents, Sydney Boll, Age 7, and Josie Twomey, Age 8, both 1st street residents, have requested that their latest artistic endeavors be included in the newsletter.... Is there other young talent out that that would like to be showcased?

A New Year

It was a good year, 2003.

Did you love it just like me?

Our days have come and it is time to move on and on.

Now we all have to say goodbye.

GOODBYE!

2004 is knocking on the door.

It's time to let it in.

We are glad to let it in.

2003 went by with a blink of an eye.

Now we would like to greet it

With a hello.

HELLO!

Ground Hog's Day:

Groundhog popping out of his hole.

It seems to be February 2nd.

If he sees his shadow he scurries back in.

Now there are six more weeks of winter.

If he doesn't see his shadow Spring is coming

Really

SOON!

By: Sydney Boll
+
Josie Twomey

Bus Changes Draw Complaints

— *Mark Wigfield*

Changes meant to improve bus service on Columbia Pike have degraded service to Barcroft, according to Bruce Atkinson of S. Wakefield St.

Bruce was a veteran ride of the 16X bus, which was discontinued in the fall. The bus circulated through Barcroft, traveled east on Columbia Pike and terminated at the Pentagon. It has been replaced by ART bus 41, which goes through Barcroft but winds up at Clarendon.

During the January BSCL meeting, Bruce told county transit coordinator Jim Hamre the 41 hasn't been dependable. Nor is it efficient to wait and transfer to another bus on Columbia Pike, either going to work or coming home. So he often walks to the Pike. Other former X-ers have started driving, he says.

The county has acknowledged things aren't working the way they wanted in Barcroft. But the

solution isn't clear. Moreover, the 41 does provide a good rush-hour connection to the Metro corridor, which was lacking. It carried 662 riders in November on its Dinwiddie-to-Court House run.

Meanwhile, Mr. Hamre says overall Pike ridership is up after a number of changes on various 16 busses were made. And ridership on 16Y, which starts at the Goodwill on Columbia Pike and ends at McPherson Square, has almost doubled since last year.

Mr. Hamre had no on-time statistics for the 16Y, which can get stuck in rush-hour traffic. But he said some changes have been made to avoid tie-ups. You can contact Jim Hamre at 703-228-3698, or at jhamre@co.arlington.va.us.

Lots of information about changes in bus service on the Pike is available at <http://www.commuterpage.com/PikeRide/>

The Scoop on Ongoing Tree Removal/Pruning

Virginia Power has been severely pruning along Four Mile Run, recently along Barcroft. They are cutting back much more severe than in the past. The following is an article by a Barcrofter and County response to Arlingtonians for a Cleaner Environment about the dramatic pruning.

Clear Cutting on the W&OD

By Mark Wigfield

The W&OD Trail was hit with the "perfect storm" of tree trimming in December, as power company crews clear-cut woods, bush-hogged shrubs and hacked off limbs to protect the high power line. W&OD Chief Paul McCray explained what happened.

First, McCray says that Virginia Power had let some areas grow for 18 years without much cutting. Next, Hurricane Isabelle scared them into correcting that, especially after two trees fell and leaned on the lines in Falls Church, getting energized by the high-voltage lines in the process. Finally, crews also attacked invasive plants for the county, leveling Porcelain berry, bamboo, and Tree of Heaven.

The crews clearly went too far. Among their victims were two dogwoods that had been marked for preservation. Trucks also left deep ruts in the wet ground.

But McCray says Virginia Power will replant about 200 trees -- small species that will never reach the lines -- and fix the ruts. Trees will be planted by spring.

After meeting with Arlington County officials, Virginia Power has agreed to scale back their trimming. But for our neck of the woods, it's too late. We'll just have to wait for those new little trees to grow up.

If you'd like more information or want to offer comments, contact 703-729-0596 or at wod-trail@erols.com

The County Responds

This tree maintenance program of Virginia Dominion Power is on a cycle of pruning for every 3 to 5 years. The power company has the authority to prune or remove trees that endanger their equipment - the high voltage wires that cross the County in several parks. Dominion Power's main concern is the protection of high voltage wires and in some cases this may require severe pruning.

This year for the first time, Dominion Power is providing Arlington County with a replacement tree for each tree that is removed. The replacement trees are desirable species that are allowed within the right-of-way under wires, and are funded solely by Virginia Dominion Power.

Staff has worked closely with a Dominion Power forester to ensure that the proposed tree

maintenance was acceptable. Staff reviewed each section of the trail with the tree maintenance contractor and Dominion Power forester to discuss the proposed level of pruning and removals.

In the Glen Carlyn Park section of the right-of-way, two dogwood trees were inadvertently damaged. One of these trees to the extent that removal was warranted. Dominion Power reported this damage and will replace this tree.

Many of the trees being removed are considered undesirable species under high voltage wires and are not allowed within the right-of-way. Other trees that appear to be outside the right-of-way have been evaluated by both the Dominion Power forester and Arlington County's urban forester to determine if they are a hazard to the wires. If any of these trees are deemed to be hazardous, Arling-

(Continued on page 5)

(Tree Removal, continued from page 4)

ton County has asked Dominion Power to remove them as part of the program and then plant a replacement. The types of trees being removed are trees that will interfere with the transmission lines if allowed to grow under these lines. The majority of trees removed are ailanthus and sassafras trees. When appropriate, tree stubs are left for wildlife habitat.

The equipment used by Dominion Power's contractor does on occasion cause damage to Park grounds, especially ruts in the ground caused by tires. It is a requirement of Dominion Power that this damage be repaired. The method of operation has been for the contractor to finish a section of the trail and to repair all damage at one time for that section. Dominion Power will be held to

this requirement for the duration of the project.

Arlington County staff does monitor the contractor 2-3 times a week, to verify that County's expectations of the limits of maintenance are being met. Staff are going out this week to review the recent work that was done and make sure it's in line with what VA Power said they would do.

The first 50 replacement trees will be installed the week of December 22nd in the right-of-way from East Falls Church Park to Bon Air Park. The remaining parts of the trail will receive replacement trees in the spring of 2004.

If you have any other questions about it, let me know, or you can contact Jamie Bartalon with the Parks dept at 703-228-7747 or jbarta@co.arlington.va.us.

Why is it Called Four Mile Run?

Grants of land in the early Colonial days were located with reference to natural landmarks, particularly rivers and streams. Great Hunting Creek in Alexandria was one of those reference points. The next sizable stream up from the Potomac is four miles away, hence "Four Mile Run." The name was first recorded in a land grant of 1694.

In the old usage, the term "creek" was applied to the stream where it entered a larger body of water

such as a river. Thus on the old maps we find "Four Mile Creek" near the Potomac, and "the Run of Four Mile Creek" further inland. Nowadays, the stream for its whole length is known as Four Mile Run.

From "Why Do We Call It . . . ?" published by the Arlington Historical Society, 1960.



Ready to Shovel?

Snow is coming!

You can be part of Barcroft's Snow Brigade, clearing essential walkways to bus stops, the Community House, Barcroft School and other pedestrian destinations within the neighborhood.

We have a County snowblower just for Barcroft. On Saturday morning, Jan. 10, the County will be

training snowblower operators. The training session will be at 8:30 a.m. at the home of Rob Swennes -- 6101 N. 22nd Street, in Leeway neighborhood near Washington Boulevard. Training should take no more than half an hour. All are welcome. To car pool with Randy Swart call 703-521-2080 or send me an email to randy@BSCL.org

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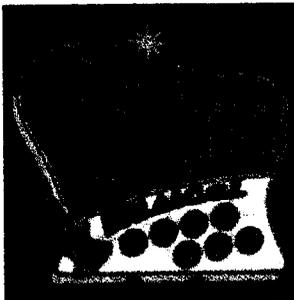


BARCROFT COMMUNITY COFFEEHOUSE

On March 19, 2004, nine-time GRAMMY-award nominees, Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer, will perform an all-ages, family show in our community house. Their most recent album is nominated for "Best Musical Album For Children" as part of the GRAMMY awards to be held in February 2004.

Space is limited, so reserve today at (703) 486-0457 or via email at communitycoffehouse@covad.net.

This is the second show in the new "Barcroft Community Coffeehouse" series of musical events at our community house. The coffeehouse, run by Danny and Beth Malks, will bring an eclectic vari-



ety of talented musicians to the community house throughout the year. This past November, 2003, award-winning folksinger/storyteller David Massengill performed to an enthusiastic crowd. Looking to the future, on May 7th, 2004 we'll host acoustic/Celtic sensations Al Petteway & Amy White.

The coffeehouse offers a unique opportunity to see tremendous artists perform right in our own neighborhood, to meet new friends and enjoy a night out (but not too far out).

Please check the coffeehouse website for the latest performance information and reservation details: <http://www.communitycoffeehouse.org>.

Arlington Marathon

The Arlington Co. Running Club is coordinating the Arlington Marathon, scheduled for Sunday, May 2, starting at 8:00 am on Washington-Lee High School track and going for 26 miles on Arlington's scenic Perimeter Parkway -- Custis (I-66) Trail, Four Mile Run Trail, and Washington & Old Dominion Trail.

The spectator-friendly race showcases the best of Arlington, its neighborhoods and parks, without obstructing motor vehicle traffic.

Besides the marathon, Washington-Lee High School track hosts American Cancer Society's 18-hour Relay for Life from 12 noon, May 1, to 6 am, May 2. At 6:30 am, May 2, we have a ceremonial passing of the torch from the Relay to the Marathon. Marathoners start arriving around 7 am, with a warm-up at 7:30 am before the 8:00 am start. Once the marathon goes off, we host a 5K (3.1-mile) race on track or trail at 8:15 am, followed by a track meet for youth, open, senior, and Special Olympic athletes. Marathoners finish at W-L start-

ing at about 10:30 am until about 1:30 pm.

The marathon Arlington is Sports Illustrated's Sportstown USA for Virginia, and running is Arlington's major league sport. The County hosts two of the world's largest races, Army Ten Miler and Marine Corps Marathon, but both are widely associated with Washington D.C. rather than Arlington.

We invite civic associations to provide Neighborhood Spirit Stations with a folding table, five gallons of water and 250 paper cups. A Spirit Station can also include aardvarks, apples, balloons, bananas, baton twirlers, colored lights, costumes, music, oranges, signs, streamers, and zebra. We encourage creativity! After the race, marathoners vote for their favorite Spirit Station. We present an award at CivFed Tuesday, May 4, to the top-rated neighborhood.

Citizens who want to run, help, or ask questions can call 703-218-2726, write racedirector@att.net or go to www.pvtc.org/marathon.html.



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Future of 701 Wakefield Up for Discussion

The majority of BSCL members at the last meeting told developer Hank Webb they won't support construction of two new homes in the backyard of 701 S. Wakefield, next to Barcroft School. Webb would need a county variance to do so, and neighborhood opposition would likely weigh heavily against approval. (To date, Webb has not yet applied for any variances.) He can build one additional "by right."

Webb said the owner doesn't plan to tear down

the existing brick house, which the county's historic survey says was built between 1915-30.

"This substantial brick house is a good example of the Bungalow/Craftsman style rendered in a four-square form," the survey says. "It is one of only a few such 'four-square' form dwellings erected in Barcroft during the early 20th century."

Webb, who is not the owner, says he loves the house – but the bathrooms have to go.

Come Play With Us!

The Barcroft Playgroup is held every Friday at the Barcroft Community House, 800 Buchanan St., from 11AM—1PM. Children of different ages are welcome to come and meet new friends.

This is a nice way to meet other parents in the neighborhood! Please contact Katherine McGwier at 703-979-7727 or kgracemcgwier@earthlink.net with any questions.

Bring your children this week!



BSCL MEMBERSHIP NEWS

There's good news from our Membership Secretary. She reports that we currently have 443 adult members from 259 Barcroft households. This is definitely higher than last year. As great as that is, we'd like to see it even higher.

Dues are only \$3 per adult. A membership form is available on the Barcroft web page (www.bscl.org). Or you can get one from Peg Lefebvre 703-521-0184.

If you haven't renewed your membership, are new to the neighborhood, or just haven't joined yet, we'd like to have your support too!

First Presbyterian, Arlington, VA (PCUSA)

601 N. Vermont St., 703-527-4766

Rev. Kimberly L. Rodrigue, Pastor

Rev. Scott Ramsey, Associate Pastor

Sunday Worship at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Education, all ages, 9:45 a.m.

Child care provided.

At the intersection of Carlin Springs Rd. and Park Street N.

Parking available.

Announcements



Invasives Removal at Lubber Run Park:

Saturday, February 28th, 10AM: Join the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) and the Arlington Forest Citizens Association as we remove English Ivy and other invasive plants at Lubber Run Park. Participants should bring clippers and other hand tools if they have them. Gloves will be provided. The event starts at 10 AM and participants are asked to come help for an hour or two (or more), although we won't be staying past 1 PM. We will meet at the Lubber Run Amphitheater, North Columbus St. and North 2nd St. A \$10 donation is appreciated. Refreshments will be provided! For more information or to RSVP contact Kelley Elliott, Adventures in Conservation Coordinator, NVCT at information@nvct.org or call 703-354-5093.



New Year's Resolution to Get

Moving? Let WALKArlington.com Show You How: Arlington County's WALKArlington program has launched

a new website, www.WALKArlington.com, designed to get more people walking more often, especially around Arlington. WALKArlington responds to the growing interest among residents, workers and visitors to make walking a more viable option for short trips around Arlington. The web site features a mix of serious and fun information including:

- ★ "Walkabouts" – guided walks around Arlington hosted by familiar faces who live and work in Arlington;
- ★ Links to County maps including hike/bike trails;
- ★ Information about and maps showing the safest routes to schools;
- ★ Listings of area walking events;
- ★ Walking clubs in Arlington – plus a way to list existing clubs or start one

- ★ A "HELP" directory for pedestrians – including how to get sidewalks installed;
- ★ An up-to-date list of all sidewalk closures—especially useful for people with disabilities
- ★ The secret to decoding Arlington's street naming system.



Enlisting Citizens for Emergency Training:

The County has begun its 2004 CERT training for residents. This entails 20 hours spread over 6 weeks and 8 classes (six weeknights, two Saturdays) and includes medical operations, search and rescue, fire suppression, weapons of mass destruction and general disaster preparedness. Neighborhoods were clustered for the first round of training (at least ten people from each cluster). We now have at least one person trained in MOST neighborhoods and have a few VERY strong teams but need to bolster other teams.

There are openings in two of the winter-spring sessions -- one beginning on February 10 and one beginning on February 19th . Those who complete all eight classes -- and become certified -- are entitled to grant-funded training in CPR, First Aid and AEDs through an agreement with the Arlington Red Cross. Some physical strength is necessary but we've trained able-bodied individuals well into their 70's!

Weeknight classes run from 7 to 9:45; all Saturdays from 10 a.m. until completion. All classes are at the Fire Training Academy, 2800 S. Taylor Street in Shirlington.

Captain Carl Lindgren of the Office of Emergency Management coordinates the training, which is provided by fire fighters and EMTs. This is a great example of a citizen-government partnership working toward a common goal. To register for the class, go to the County Web Site (www.co.arlington.va.us); click on "E Prep" and follow the prompts to CERT.

More Announcements!



Keeping the County Informed: The County REALLY wants as many people as possible signed up for Arlington-Alert -- the text messaging warning system for county-wide use. To sign up, at NO COST, go to www.arlingtonalert.com. Alerts available in Spanish, too.

The way it works is that the Director of Emergency Management, in the event of an emergency, can quickly send a message to all computers, cell phones that receive text messaging, PDAs, blackberries and pagers. The message briefly relates what the problem might be. A word of caution: the "free" part is dependent upon your service provider for cell phones. Some do have charges for text messages received. Having said that, this service came in VERY handy during Isabel when power was out. When you sign up, you set your own profile as to the types of alerts you want -- such as only emergency/disasters, crime warnings, traffic snarls, etc. Please consider it. We only have about 4% of Arlingtonians enrolled right now, and if trouble comes, we will have major difficulties on our hands.



Arlington County Volunteer Opportunities 2004: Volunteer Opportunities are now listed on the County website in pdf files or from Volunteer@co.arlington.va.us. The Arlington County Volunteer Office's listings of volunteer opportunities are posted at www.co.arlington.va.us/dhs/volunteer/pdf/spot-new.pdf. For more info, contact Arlington County Volunteer Office, 3033 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 700A, (703) 228-1760



The Columbia Pike Festival season will soon be upon us. This year we'll be hosting:

-Ninth Annual Columbia Pike Blues Festival

-The Inaugural Columbia Pike Summer Nights Series (June 19, July 17 and August 21 concerts at Pike Park)

- Second Annual Columbia Pike International Music and Arts Festival

These wonderful events enliven the community through their family friendly approach. And, in order to ensure their continued success we need help from the community. CPRO is working hard to raise the funds that keep these events free to the community. Now, we need folks on our Festival Committee to help put the events together. I know we've asked before but we still need folks to help out. Many hands make light work and we're trying to lighten the load for everyone that volunteers. Contact the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization (CPRO) at 2611 Columbia Pike, 703-892-2776 for more info.



SINGING VALENTINES: Treat someone special to a serenade of two love songs, a one pound box of chocolates, and a lovely card delivered by a women's quartet from Potomac Harmony Chorus, the 2002 Blue Ridge Regional Champions of Sweet Adelines International. Barcrofter Janeen Latini could be one of the singers! You may have this "Singing Valentine" delivered to your home, office, or restaurant for \$50, or by phone for \$20 for the 2 love songs only. Delivery is available Feb 13 or 14 anywhere in the Washington DC metropolitan area. To order or for more information call 703-764-3896, email potomacharmony@yahoo.com, or visit www.potomacharmony.org. Orders will be accepted through Feb 6th.



Barcroft School and Civic League
800 South Buchanan Street
Arlington, VA 22204

2003 Sales Statistics for Barcroft

2003 was another amazing year for home sales and continued appreciation of property values in the Metro DC area. Current data as of this writing from MRIS (the realtor's MLS service) indicates that 38 homes sold and settled in Barcroft during 2003, at an average sales price of \$428,069.

In 2002 there were 37 homes that sold and settled at an average sales price of \$387,391. (which was up 9.5% from the average price of \$353,963 in 2001).

Arlington continues to be a sought after location, with condos being the hottest commodity because of affordability. Current housing inventory is low, and the first quarter has been the optimum time to sell because of less competition from other sellers who wait until spring!

Are you looking to add to your home's value? Contact me for a free copy of my report titled **"44 Money-Making Tips for Preparing your Home to Sell."**

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