

Barcroft News

March 2004

Vol 101, Issue 7

President's Report: Decisions for Fine Tuning Columbia Pike

— By Eric Harold

From Randy's summary on our web page: At last month's meeting, we were briefed on the final recommendations of the Columbia Pike Streetscape Task Force, and the only remaining issues: include bike lanes or not, and width of the bus lane. We took a "straw poll" since the turnout was limited by the sleet storm, and it was evenly split. The County Board decided on Feb. 10 to adopt bike lanes only on some stretches, and an 11-foot wide curb lane.

Also at the meeting, Ritch Viola of the County Staff visited to discuss our Safe Routes to Schools

sidewalk project on S. 9th Street between Taylor and Wakefield. We asked for bumped out curbs to preserve large trees along that block and narrow the street a little. Ritch also informed us that nubs (narrows the street width) will be installed with the raised crosswalk at S. 9th Street and Wakefield.

Please attend our next meeting March 4 at 7:30 p.m. The program will discuss when we will celebrate the 4th of July (see article inside on page 4). Stay tuned for other program announcements.

I have received a copy of the draft plan to address

(Continued on page 4)



The Barcroft Players present:
A Kid's Weekend - March 12 and 13
includes

Princes ! Princesses ! Animals ! Puppets !
all together in the play
"The King's Equal" *

At the BSCL Community House, 800 S. Buchanan Street

Cost \$5.00 (raffle ticket included)

"The King's Equal" is a one-act play based on a story by award-winning author Katherine Paterson.

Schedule:

Friday, March 12th: starting at 7:30 PM

7:30: "The King's Equal"

8:15: Drawing for the raffle of the book "The King's Equal"

8:30: For the curious, a backstage look at how the puppets work

Saturday, March 13th starting at 2:00 PM

2:00: "The King's Equal"

2:45: Drawing for the raffle of the book "The King's Equal"

3:00: Making crowns and hats and other activities

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

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CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: Pair of brass andirons for the fireplace. Purchased in Williamsburg. Excellent condition -- \$50. Please call Louise Wyndham at 703-892-6366.

Come Play With Us!

Just a reminder that there are two Barcroft Playgroups held at the Barcroft Community House, 800 Buchanan

Wednesdays 9 - 11am (call Lori Fitchett 979-3920)
Fridays 11- 1pm (call Katherine McGwier 979-7727)
 Children of different ages are welcome to come and meet new friends. Bring your children this week!

Note: Due to scheduling conflicts, the Friday group's March 12th and 19th will be cancelled.

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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.

Down with Ivy Day

— *By Clifford Gay*

I invite my neighbors to join me in declaring April 3rd (or March 13) a day to help the trees in our neighborhood. I propose we stop the spread of a plant pest that threatens the health of our trees and the diversity of our little bits of urban forest.

English Ivy, *Hedera helix*, grows up the trunks of many of our trees and we can stop it from bearing fruit by simply cutting the vines climbing up trees. So please join me in this simple act of preservation by cutting these threats to our canopy on your own property. Those of you who might want help may contact me and those who would be willing to help your neighbors may let me know too. (cliffordgay@mac.com).

Although a dependable ground cover planted by well-meaning gardeners, English Ivy has invaded many natural areas by spreading along the ground and by seed. Arlington County is now working to remove it from public land and encouraging citizens to control this and other invasive plants. For more information visit the Arlington County web site: www.co.arlington.va.us/prcr/scripts/parks/invasive_plants.htm

All I am suggesting for now is that we take a tree with ivy climbing up the trunk, pry the vines away from the trunk a convenient height, and snip

through the vine with hand pruners. In a couple of years the dead vines will fall from the tree. If you are energetic you can pull the vines away from the trunk as far as you can and you may be able to pull some down, but for the rest you will have to wait until fall when the tops will come loose.

CAUTION: Also growing up our trees is a native vine that provides a nourishing food for our overwintering birds: Poison ivy, *Toxicodendron radicans*. *Do not cut these vines*. Most people are allergic this plant. Poison ivy will not have leaves this time of year, and its vines usually have tiny hairs along the stem attaching it to the tree bark. This gives the stem a distinctive fuzzy appearance that you can use to distinguish it from the English ivy.

Forest research in our area has shown that English ivy covering the forest floor drastically reduces the diversity of plants and the multiple layers of a healthy forest. The fruits that the climbing English ivy does produce are not really food because they contain glycosides that cause some birds to vomit and disseminate seeds.

All though you might want to see ivy banished from the neighborhood, that will be a lot of work. I hope we can take this first small step to reduce its spread and reduce its damage to our trees.

Hi-Cue Billiard Hall Update: Call to Action

Pat Williamson was informed recently that the permit application to serve alcohol for the Hi Cue pool hall, in the plaza at George Mason and Columbia Pike, is being sent on down to Richmond for review. Her contact with, Scott Keough, told her that they meet the criteria for getting the permit (having to do mainly with how much food they sell).

Along with the permit application is a list of names and phone numbers of all the people who have voiced opposition to this. Part of the process before a final decision is made is to call the people

on the list. This has been something that Barcroft has vocally opposed. So, in order to ensure that our voices continue to be heard, please call Scott at 703 518 8090. If you called previously and are on the list, check to make sure that they've got your name and phone number correct (and gently remind him of your opposition). If you did not call previously, please call and add a voice. I suspect that Scott will direct you to somebody in Richmond since it's in their court now. That's fine—just make sure to call Richmond as well.



Parade 2004: Time to Consider the Calendar

— *By Andrew Hunter, Parade Master*
I know it's still quite a ways off, but I have a question for the commons....

Since 4th of July is on a Sunday this year and the Monday is a holiday, should we have the parade on the 4th or 5th? One argument for the 4th is that it is the 4th...no question. One argument against the 4th is church for many and the possible conflict with using the Women's Club parking lot on a Sunday.

When this question was posed on the chat list, many people responded that holding the parade on a Sunday morning forced people to choose between attending church or the parade. Additionally, there has been a substantial increase in traffic

in our neighborhood during church services since the last time the parade fell on a Sunday seven years ago, and many felt this traffic would be an obstacle as well.

Others pointed out that having the parade on Sunday afternoon meant dealing with the hottest part of an already hot day. A few people also mentioned Saturday, July 3rd as a possibility.

The best way to decide is to gather a consensus from the community. We will talk about this issue at the next BSCL meeting (March 4th); if you can't attend the meeting, please forward your thoughts to Andrew Hunter (979-8247 or ca-hunter@erols.com) or to editor@bscl.org.

Want to Be On HGTV?

From a note addressed to BSCL News:

Hi Everybody! I am a producer with Home and Garden Television. We are looking for homes and homeowners in the Arlington/D.C. area to feature on a new HGTV series currently titled "Generation Renovation." I am hoping you all can help me find fantastic stories to feature on the program. I found your email addresses through the Arlington County website.

We're looking for renovated homes (finished or close to finished) with a history. A renovation with some connection to the past. Old meets new: that's what we're after. We're looking for passionate

homeowners who were involved in the process and who currently live in the home. The more personality, the better!

If you have any neighbors, friends or family members (or maybe it's you!) in that area that you think may be interested in being on our show, please have them contact me at the number below as soon as possible. I am happy to speak with anyone who is interested. Thank you so much for your time. Your help is invaluable!

Sincerely, Karla Freivalds, 303.712.3199
www.highnoonproductions.com

(President's Note, continued from page 1)

the County's parking situation. This plan represents the results of the parking symposium held last October. The County is seeking comments on the report. If you are interested in receiving a copy (it's a pdf file), please let me know (eric@bscl.org) and I will email you a copy.

The use permits for the Demeter House and for the Sonic Tint are before the County. They will be going before the Board on Saturday March 13.

Please let me know of any issues or concerns with either of these establishments.

A final note: County Board members said they are looking into the possibility that both the Giant Food and Safeway supermarkets on the east end of Columbia Pike would be closed at the same time for renovation, and would work to keep at least one market open at all times.

I hope everyone is staying warm and dry. See you all on March 4.

Arlington County Updates

Crime Statistics Released: Preliminary crime statistics released recently by the Arlington County Police Department show that Arlington's 2003 crime rate—the number of "index", or serious, crimes per 100,000 people—is the lowest in more than 20 years. Nearly every category of index crime decreased, from aggravated assaults to burglaries, larcenies and vehicle thefts. This is the third straight year in which the number of vehicle thefts fell, a notable trend in a metropolitan area that, as a whole, suffers from rising numbers of auto thefts. To read the entire story, please go to: www.co.arlington.va.us/police/news/article.asp?ID=201.

Wakefield Traffic Calming Update: We have received word from Jeff Sikes with the County regarding the Wakefield traffic calming measures. He said that the project will be completed this summer. Based on our meeting with Ritch Viola at the February 5 BSCL meeting, there will be a slight modification to the plan to accommodate the new sidewalk that will be constructed between Taylor and Wakefield along S. 9th Street. At the intersection of S. 9th and Wakefield, nubs will be installed along with the raised crosswalk on Wakefield on the south side of 9th Street. This will narrow the road at the intersection. This seems like an added bonus to help slow the traffic along Wakefield.

Barcroft at the Polls

— *By Mark Wigfield*

Barcroft's participation in the Feb. 10 Democratic primary was above average, but lagged some of the most active precincts.

Its 22.3% turnout rate among was better than the countywide rate of 20.07%, but well behind the top rate of 27%. Results in Barcroft largely matched those countywide: a touch more than half of those voting chose front-runner John Kerry.

John Edwards attracted about 25% of the vote, followed by Howard Dean at about 12%, and Wesley Clark at about 8.5%.

Dennis Kucinich drew about 2.44% of the votes cast in Barcroft, compared to 1.86% county wide. Al Sharpton got a little over 1% of the vote both countywide and in Barcroft.

Highest turnout rate in the county – 27% — was in Dominion Hills, a neighborhood bounded by Wilson Blvd, I-66, the W&OD Trail and N. Roose-

velt, with the polling place at McKinley Elementary. Kerry polled 7 points higher than the countywide average, garnering 57% of the vote.

Lowest turnout – 10.6% -- was in Arlington Mill, which is right across Four Mile Run from Barcroft, bounded by Columbia Pike, Dinwiddie and 7th Road South, with the polling place at Arlington Mill Community Center. Kerry drew nearly 58% of the vote. Al Sharpton polled better than average as well, garnering 3.78% compared to 1% countywide.

Kerry and Sharpton's gains came largely at the expense of Edwards, who got only 16% compared to 24% countywide.

Turnout in neighboring Arlington Forest was nearly 25%, nearly 3 points higher than Barcroft's rate. The message: Barcrofters should make politicians pay attention by turning out to vote!

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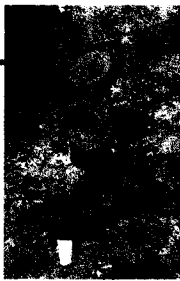
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WS

Local Theatre To Stage Sondheim's "Into the Woods"

Chalice Theatre, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington's theater group, will present Stephen Sondheim's musical, "Into the Woods." the well-known fairy tales of Cinderella, Rapunzel, Jack and the Beanstalk, and Little Red Riding Hood with the story of the Baker and his Wife who have been cursed with childlessness by a Witch and must perform various missions to break the spell.

The play runs weekends from February 27 through March 14. Performances will be Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. One additional matinee will be on Saturday, March 13, at 3 p.m. For tickets, call 703-533-7366. Adults, \$15; Seniors/Students \$12. UUCA is located at 4444 Arlington Boulevard (Rte. 50 & George Mason Blvd.)



Neighborhood Artist Showing at the U.S. Botanic Garden

Barcroft resident and artist, Peter Wood, had one his metal artworks accepted into the sculpture show at the U.S. Botanic Gardens. "Flora: Sculptures of the Natural World" is currently showing at the U.S. Botanic Garden's West Gallery and West

Orangerie. This exhibit runs through March 27, 2004. Located at the foot of the U.S. Capitol, the U.S. Botanic Garden is open from 10 am to 5 pm everyday.

Here is a quote from the Juror's Statement: "There is a delicious whimsy in many works of art (Andrew Yff's Eight, Donna McCullough's Mem-

ory Garden, Bonnie Shelor's April Showers, Peter Wood's Cut Back). Another appealing aspect of the show is the clever use of materials and found objects."

"FLORA" is a juried exhibition of sculptures with a botanic or nature theme. All the artwork was created by artist members of the Washington Sculptors Group, a 300-member organization of sculptors and sculpture supporters Sculptors Group's 20th anniversary.

Peter has sold his sculptures to art patrons across the country and to several residents in the Barcroft neighborhood. If you haven't seen his work in your neighbor's yard, you can check out his work on his newly redesigned website at www.rustymetal.com.



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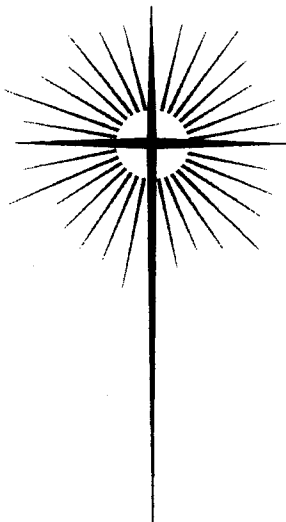


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Palm Sunday, April 4

8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.* Blessing of the Palms and Holy Eucharist

Maundy Thursday, April 8

7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 9

12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy

Easter Sunday! April 11: The Celebration of Jesus' Resurrection

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Hymns

10:00 a.m.* Festival Holy Eucharist with choir and instrumentalists

Reception and Easter Egg hunt following the 10:00 service

* Child care provided

Join us all year to worship, learn about, and serve God in a warm, welcoming, and active Christian community.
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All Are Welcome!

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." John 1:5

Next BSCL Meeting: Thursday, March 4th, 7:30 PM
Barcroft Community House
800 Buchanan St.

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



Barbershop Music: The Arlingtones Barbershop Chorus, chapter quartets and guest quartet "Limited Edition" invite you to join them on a musical journey to bring back the memories of some of those old songs that are part of our American heritage. They will present "KINDA MISS THE OLD SONGS" at 2:15 and 8:15 PM, March 6 at Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre. Tickets at the door: \$12 general / \$10 seniors & students over 12. Advance sales: \$10 and \$8. For tickets and info: 703-521-9331 or e-mail bsbass@aol.com.



Green Home Fair, Saturday, March 20, 12 to 5 p.m. A green home is a healthy, comfortable home that reduces energy and water usage and saves money. The fair will feature exhibits and seminars to learn more about products and techniques for building and maintaining a green home and yard. The event will also include interactive children's activities, refreshments and door prizes. Washington-Lee High School, 1300 N. Quincy Street (parking available on N. Stafford St.), Free. More information: 703-228-6427 or office@arlingtonenvironment.org.



Seeking Volunteers: The organization I work with, The Urban Alternative, is providing tutorials for low-income high school youth at several locations in South Arlington (Arlington Mill, several apartment complexes, and other locations that are convenient for the teens). We are in need of two things:

- * **Volunteer Tutors:** If you have the time to tutor high school students each week please contact me. We are asking for a commitment of two hours each week in the afternoon or evening.
- * **Graphing and Scientific Calculators:** If you have one of these laying around from when you were in school and would like to put it to good

use please let me know.

Thanks- Ben Harris, Barcroft, jalbch@yahoo.com



Unwanted Newspapers Making a Mess: *A note from 7th St. resident Keith Fred:* I had complained to the circulation department of the Journal newspaper on several occasions about unwanted delivery of the Journal to no avail. You no doubt have seen the paper littering the streets and gutters throughout Barcroft. I contacted Arlington County about the problem and Mary-Alice Gray of the Consumer Affairs Office replied that if anyone wishes not to have the Journal newspaper left in front of your property to contact her and she will notify the Journal. Her contact information is: Mary-Alice Gray, Team Leader Consumer Affairs Office, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 302, Arlington, 22201, 228-3260, email: Mgray@arlingtonva.us

Need to Shop or Need to Unload? The Thomas Jefferson PTA Yard Sale on Saturday, April 24 from 10-2. The PTA is also in need of donations of goods. Donations will be accepted beginning on April 1 in the main office at Jefferson during regular school hours. Jefferson is located at 125 S. Old Glebe Road.

Child Care Workers Needed: Randolph Elementary School is looking for child care workers to help at evening Adult ESL classes. Classes meet Monday and Wednesday nights from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. Babysitters can be adults or older teens (at least juniors in high school) who will be responsible for the care of approximately 8-12 children. We will consider sitters who are available either or both nights. These are paid positions. Anyone interested in learning more about these positions should contact Sara Mulrooney at Randolph, at 228-5830 or smulroon@teacher.mail.k12.ngton.va.us.



Ready for Some Spring Cleaning?

Grandma's Creek Spring

Cleanup: On March 20th Barcrofters will celebrate the last day of winter with a cleanup jaunt down Grandma's Creek. The walk begins at 9 am at Buchanan and 6th Street, working down the creek bed to Four

Mile Run. Gloves and plastic grocery bags are all you need. If actual rain is falling, the rain date would be one week later: March 27th. Info from Eric@BSCL.org or on the chat list.

Showcasing More Young Talent: Submitted by proud Barcroft Mother Karen Schroeder: An essay by 14 year-old Eric, an 8th grader at Kenmore Middle School. His essay won first place among over 400 essays submitted by Arlington Public School students, grades 2-12, and was featured in the Sun Weekly. Eric was honored at the 35th annual county tribute to Dr. King.

Dear Dr. King:

I am writing to tell you what America means to me. Above all else, America means FREEDOM. You fought for freedom and justice for all people, regardless of their race or color. Even when you went to jail 29 times, you kept on fighting. Through your actions and beliefs, you showed great courage. You paid the ultimate price, and now Americans have more freedoms than ever before. We are free to live, believe, write, and say what we please.

On September 11th, terrorists caught us sleeping. They hijacked planes and flew them into the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and a field in Pennsylvania. They killed over 3,000 people – people who were doing normal, everyday things like traveling and going to work. I never imagined something so horrible could happen to our country -- but it did. In fact, it happened to my family.

My dad was working at the Pentagon that day. My mom watched as the plane flew over our house, clipping the tops of trees. From my desk at school I heard a loud explosion. It was the sound of the rescue plane breaking the sound barrier as it flew over our heads. Kids and teachers were running everywhere. The smell of

burning ashes was in the air. For several hours, we didn't know if my dad was dead or alive. I prayed like I had never prayed before: "God, please let my dad be O.K." When I finally saw my dad that afternoon, he told me the plane did not hit near his office. Everyone in the Pentagon was evacuated and many people walked home that day. I was so thankful my dad was not hurt or killed. Some kids lost both their mom AND dad that day.

On September 11th, we learned we couldn't take our freedoms for granted. We learned that freedom comes at a price, and that price is responsibility. Like our bodies, our freedoms must be exercised to remain strong. Freedoms that are not stretched or tested will shrivel up and pass away. I wonder what you would think of terrorism if you were alive today. Would you be afraid? Would you stop fighting? I don't think so. Isn't it ironic that today, Americans who have the most freedoms don't really feel free at all? If we could only be more loving and grateful and less afraid! This is a lesson we still need to learn from you.

Sincerely yours,

Eric Schroeder



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

How to Juggle the Move up Process

Just a quick note to let you know how we can help your family, friends, and work associates you refer to us. Carol & Kevin felt cramped in their Arlington home with two kids and another one on the way. They decided to buy a larger home instead of adding on. John & Sue, neighbors who we had helped in a similar situation, referred Carol & Kevin to me. We met to discuss strategies for selling and moving up to a larger home. Because they had significant equity in their home, I referred them to a lender who could qualify them to purchase a new home before selling their existing property with a bridge loan. Carol and Kevin didn't want to feel pressured to find the right home, although when they did, they had to act quickly because of multiple offers on the property. We came up with a negotiating strategy than won the contract, and then we listed and sold their existing home. A simultaneous closing was arranged, which eliminated the need for bridge financing, and we requested a rent back option to allow for a smooth move directly from one home to the next. Carol & Kevin and their family now live in a wonderful 4 bedroom home with plenty of room for their growing family. If you or someone you know could benefit from expert buyer or seller representation, please contact me for consultation. It is our philosophy to listen and understand our client's needs, a quality of business conduct that seems to have been forgotten in today's society.

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