



Summer 2004

Barcroft News

Vol 101, Issue 10

President's Report: Great Neighborhood Day

— *By Eric Harold*

We had a great Neighborhood Day barbecue. The weather was perfect and the food was fantastic. It was great to see lots of folks and lots of kids running (and wrestling—thanks to Adam Hunter) on the lawn.

David Michaelson did a tremendous job manning the grill and cooked up some wonderful smoked turkey and chicken, pork loin, and pulled pork, along with hot dogs. He spent most of the day smoking and grilling, and it was well worth it. A lot of folks contributed sides and deserts to round off the meal. Many thanks to all the chefs.

A special thanks to the set up and take down crews. Annette Osso was there from before the start to the finish helping out. Mark Wigfield

helped set up and take down. Andrew Hunter and others provided much needed assistance bringing tables and chairs back in. A huge thanks to Scott Brinitzer for coming over on a moments notice Saturday morning to mow the lawn.

Finally, please remember to send a note of thanks to Board Chair Barbara Favola, who stopped by at the end of what had to be a very long day for herto visit with Barcrofters; and to Delegate Al Eisenberg, who spent a long time chatting with the neighbors.

I know I'm forgetting somebody. Thanks to everybody for coming out and enjoying themselves.

NOTE: National Night Out is in August, and we'll host an Ice Cream Social for the event; stay tuned for dates / times. Have a great Summer!

Excerpts from BSCL May Meeting Minutes

President Eric Harold reported that a hearing was held by the Virginia ABC Board in April on Hi Cue Billiards' application for a license to sell beer and wine. Douglas Park Civic Association led the preparations for the meeting, and an attorney in their neighborhood prepared the case. Five civic associations including Barcroft testified against the application, as did Delegates Al Eisenberg and Adam Ebbin, and the Arlington County Police. The County Attorney attended and assisted the opponents. The case should be decided soon.

Committee Reports

Treasurer Gary Lefebvre reported that our rentals are back above \$1,000 per month, which is our

break-even point. With \$1,300 in the past month we were in the black again.

Membership Chair Peg Lefebvre reported that a few memberships are still trickling in.

Eric reported that we need a full time Columbia Pike Implementation Team member. There were no immediate volunteers. Our CPRO rep will continue to be Bryant Monroe. Randy Swart attended the CPIT meeting and represented Barcroft's often-repeated requests for various street improvements during the up-

The Parade is
July 5th!
See pg. 7!

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

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CLASSIFIEDS

Babysitting: Lauren Wilson, a 19 year resident of Barcroft, just completed freshman year at St. Mary's College, Md. She is an experienced babysitter, and red cross certified. Looking for evening jobs. References available. 703-920-9410.

Pet Sitting: Becky Wilson, a 15 years old resident of Barcroft, just completed freshman year at HB Woodlawn High-School. experienced petsitter. References available. 703-920-9410

Items for sale: 2 33X73X12 with adjustable shelves. Reg Oak Post \$170; sale \$100. **Walnut cabinet** 74X30X18 four doors with adjustable shelves. \$40. **Oak Credenza** 17X60X26. Great for entry way. \$20 **Desk** with adjustable split table top 34.5X33. \$15 **Rubbermaid Computer desk w/keyboard drawer.** \$15. **Old wood desk,** three drawer 17X14X30. \$15. Call Bill at 979-1166.

Pet Sitting: Going away? Don't know what to do with Fido? Why not use Behringer Pet Care! Call 703-685-1071 or email Tidal3@aol.com

Barcroft Apartment For Rent: Large beautiful room for rent in my home. Private bath, entrance, patio, computer center, queen bed, kitchenette and a fireplace. A must see, 819 S. Stafford St. \$850. Call 920-1311, ask for Marilyn.

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.

Announcements

Thanks! Dear Barcrofters: Thanks to many of you, we raised over \$2,100 during the Plant Sale! Several left over trays of annuals were donated to the Spring Fair at the Barcroft elementary school for their fund-raiser.

The charity this year was the Claudia Mayer Cancer Resource and Image Center in Columbia, Maryland. Thanks to all that contributed to another great plant sale - Peter and Tom. Please visit my website at <http://www.rustymetal.com>

Barcroft playgroups: New time for Fridays, at the Community House: We are now meeting from 10am - 12pm (instead of 11am - 1pm). Wednes-

days is still from 9-11. Call Katherine at 979 7727 for info.

Attention Animal Lovers: The Animal Welfare League of Arlington provides low-cost rabies vaccination clinics eight times a year at our shelter in Shirlington. Shots are given to dogs, cats, and ferrets, and the cost is \$7.00 per pet. Appointments are not needed. We hope that you can post the attached flyer and/or publicize the clinics in your association newsletter. If you have questions, please call the League at 703/931-9241 ex. 200.

Neighborhood News

Benjamin E. Nehrke graduated VMI with honors on May 20, 2004. Prior to graduation he was commissioned as an Ensign in the US Navy. He will be joining the crew of the USS RUSHMORE [LSD 47] which is home ported in San Diego.

Farewells: Two longtime Barcroft residents on 2nd Street are leaving! William Allison is relocating to N. Arlington, and W.R. Mehrrens — reportedly a resident for almost 50 years — is moving to Charleston, SC. Good luck and don't forget us!



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Conservation Ideas That Are Not All Wet



Here are **three cheap and easy ways** you can protect our water supply during this hot, dry summer:

1. Water your lawn early in the morning or early in the evening to avoid evaporation during the daytime heat. An established lawn needs one inch of water per week, but most of us over-water. To avoid this, place three cans at various spots in one area of your lawn. Turn on your sprinkler and time how long it takes for one inch of water to accumulate in the can. Add the three times together and divide by three; that's how long you'll need to water that area. Another solution: Buy a sprinkler with a timer that will shut off the water when the lawn is sufficiently wet.

2. Avoid toxic fertilizers, which run off into our streams and pollute our watershed. Instead of chemicals, use organic materials such as compost, mulch, and grass clippings. For example, rather than collecting the clippings after you mow your yard, "grasscycle" them by leaving them on the ground to feed the soil. For those interested in leaf or wood mulch, the County provides it for free (if you pick it up) or for a nominal fee if you want it delivered. You can order online at <http://www.co.arlington.va.us/des/swd/mulch.htm#free>.

3. Use environmentally friendly household cleaners. Here are some recipes:

All-purpose cleaner for surfaces and basins:

- Mix 1 cup baking soda in 1 gallon hot water
- Mix ¼ cup borax and 1 tablespoon liquid soap in one gallon hot water.

Laundry:

- Use borax instead of detergent or bleach.
- Blood stains: soak in cold water, club

- soda or hydrogen peroxide
- Perspiration stains: dab with a sponge soaked in a weak solution of water with vinegar or lemon juice
- Ink stains: apply a paste of cream of tartar and lemon juice
- Chocolate stains: soak in club soda

This message is sponsored by **South Abingdon Water Gurus for You (SAWGY)**. Okay, it was the best we could do at 9:00 on a Monday night. We are seven regular folks (Shelley Fichtner, Annette Hanada, Heather LaRowe, Paul and Joan Scott, and Kristin Goss and Grant Williams) who started a Neighborhood Water Stewardship Team. Working from a 65-page guidebook, our team meets every couple of weeks to discuss simple steps we can take to conserve water and reduce water pollution. The ideas above are drawn from the guidebook, entitled "Livable Neighborhood Water Stewardship Program," produced by the Empowerment Institute in cooperation with Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE), Arlington County, and others. If you are interested in starting a Water Stewardship Team, ACE runs on-going trainings and provides free copies of the guidebook to team members. For more information about that, contact Paul Scott at 703 920 9002. For information on other ways to be a better steward of our watershed, contact Barcroft Parks Chair Shelley Fichtner at shelley@bscl.org.

Save the Date: Arlington County is sponsoring a **Watershed-Friendly Garden Tour** on Sunday, June 13, from 1-5 p.m. The tour will visit local homes that feature watershed-friendly attributes, such as cisterns, rain barrels, rain gardens, and native plant species. For more info, go to www.co.arlington.va.us/des/epo/pdf/files/garden_tour04.pdf

Updates Along the Pike

CPRO Launches New Website

The Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization (CPRO) has revamped its website: see www.columbiapikepartnership.com

Columbia Pike Implementation Team

The team of representatives from Pike corridor Civic Associations, property owners, businesses and chaired by Penrose resident and Arlington County Planning commissioner, Tom Greenfield, is working with County staff to ensure the Pike's future unfolds as promised. To be included in the email updates, click on the link cpit-subscribe@yahoo.com.

New Businesses on Columbia Pike

Casa Blanca Bakery is a bakery and cafe located in the former Murray's Steaks space in Columbia Pike Plaza. The bakery brings an international array of freshly baked products to Columbia Pike. Visit them soon at 5041 Columbia Pike.

Pan American Bakery, next to Pike Pizza at the corner of S. George Mason Dr. and Columbia Pike,

will be opening soon. With a focus on Latin American baked goods, Pan American at 4107 Columbia Pike will be a spot to get your morning coffee and fresh baked bread.

Newly opened **Bangkok 54** brings a metropolitan take on Thai cuisine to the Pike. With a high-style interior and high quality menu, Bangkok 54 at 2919 Columbia Pike is a delight to the senses. Call 521-4070 for reservations or just stop in.

Opening May 8, **Kayak Station** brings the thrill of whitewater to Columbia Pike. Kayak Station at 1041 S. Edgewood St. is your home for vessels to ride the rapids and the waves. Paddle sports rule at this division of Columbia Pike's own Ski Chalet.

Columbia Pike Farmers Market

Open for another season, the Columbia Pike Farmers Market now includes fresh meats, goat cheese, honey and Neapolitan Bakers. Check out the Columbia Pike website at www.columbiapikepartnership.com for a complete listing of our farmers.

Barcroft Baby Boomers, Are you Expecting? Watch *Unconventional Births*

Notice from an informed Barcrofter:

Here is a program you will not want to miss. Even if you've been through it all before and a Midwife is not your current choice for delivery, there is a lot to be learned about being an advocate for yourself and avoiding complications that can lead to an unpleasant birth experience. This important information will support you in having a positive birth experience for you and your baby.

Many women choose midwifery care in hospitals or plan to have their babies at home or in birth centers. Why? Statistically, it's safer (yes, safer!); there are fewer interventions; a birthing expert provides constant one-on-one attention from start to finish, creating a more intimate and relaxed experience; and it costs a whole lot less. Hospitals and insurance

companies don't profit from the midwife services, and midwives are slowly being phased out of many hospital practices (like Shady Grove and Georgetown University Hospital). Yet as medical malpractice insurance rates sky rocket, it becomes impossible for many midwives to afford to continue without institutional support.

Help preserve women's right to have a choice in their birthcare. Watch this program and discuss it with your friends. Even if a midwife is not your choice for birthcare, please consider what the world would be like if you weren't able to deliver in the hospital of your choice with the doctor of your choice.

ENJOY! And Good Luck with your babies!

(Continued on page 9)

May BSCL Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 1)

coming utility undergrounded between Four Mile Run and Wakefield Street.

Elaine Squeri reported that the rest of our traffic calming devices should be installed by the end of the summer.

Election of Officers

The following officers were elected for the 2004-2005 year:

President - Eric Harold

Vice President - Annette Osso

Recording Secretary - VACANT

Treasurer - Gary Lefebvre

Corresponding Secretary - Eric Parker

Board Member: Shirley Gay - shirley@BSCL.org
Expires: 2008

There are 3 incumbent Board Members:

Mike Behringer - Term expires: 2005

Jim Kerr - Term expires: 2006

David Michaelson - Term expires: 2007

Peg Lefebvre will continue in the appointed position of Membership Secretary. The slate was elected by acclamation.

Girl Scout Troop Sponsorship

We heard an appeal from Susan Weaver for a Girl Scout troop for use of the Barcroft Community House on Thursday nights except for our normal First Thursday meeting night. Eight of the initial group will be from our neighborhood. The scouts can be flexible when we have other groups who need a Thursday night. The Scouts will do community service for the neighborhood. Andrew Hunter's motion to try the arrangement for one year was passed unanimously. Susan Weaver can be reached by email at susan.weaver@juno.com.

Neighborhood Conservation Project: New sidewalk on 9th Street between Buchanan and Four Mile Run park:

Joe Kennedy, a 27 year resident of this block,

spoke in opposition to the sidewalk. The signers of the petition spoke in favor of the project. They believe that pedestrian safety, particularly for kids, will be enhanced by the sidewalk. Drainage problems will be addressed, and the street lights included in the project will provide more safety at night.

Members did not want to ignore the views of a long-standing resident of the block, even though he is the sole opponent. Some did not want to vote until the proponents had been able to work with Joe to look for an acceptable solution. The vote was to defer the project, although it will still be submitted to NCAC for our neighborhood's priority pending resolution of the design issues.

Neighborhood Conservation Plan Update

Barcroft's Neighborhood Conservation Plan needs updating. Some sections are out of date, including traffic and most of the recommendations for County projects have been accomplished through the Neighborhood Conservation program. The consensus was that a committee should meet over the summer and work on an updating strategy.

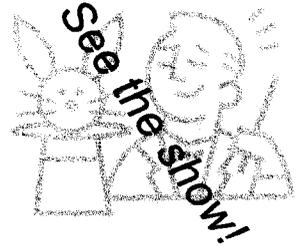
Stream Erosion between Barcroft and Arlington Forest

Shelly Fichtner of Barcroft and Annette Haneda of Arlington Forest presented the need for a County project to control stream erosion in the branch that runs behind the houses on the west side of S. Abingdon Street. Funding might come from a variety of sources, since the erosion is silting up Sparrow Pond. Members agreed that a cleanup is needed and a plan to control the erosion, which might be partially funded through the Neighborhood Conservation program.

Prepared by: Randy Swart, May 10, 2004



Come and Celebrate!
Our Nation's 228th Birthday!
Our 16th Annual Barcroft



Join us for Barcroft's Annual 4th of July **Parade...**
on the 5th!!!



Monday, July 5th
10:00 A.M. SHARP!



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

Sponsored by the Barcroft School and Civic League
For more information, call Andrew Hunter at 979-8247.

This year's event features:

- VA National Guard color guard, AFD Fire Engine
- Grand Marshall Uncle Sam
- The return of the Barcroft **precision lawnmower team**



- Food, drink, friends and neighbors
- You in the parade – surprise us this year!
- The famous **Barcroft Marching Band** and other musical enchantment
- The **Magical Genie Show** follows parade — in air conditioning!!
- Parade Medals
- Pot Luck BBQ After Parade — Bring a dish/dessert to share
- **New This Year: Lithium**, Barcroft's own rock band, will bring some teen spirit to the picnic with a mixture of rock, grunge and punk tunes, after the Magic Show



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Next BSCL Meeting:

NOT UNTIL:

Thursday, Sept. 2, 7:30

Barcroft Community House

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Letter From Departing Barcroft Neighbors

Dear Neighbors,

The Virginia legislature has recently passed a hate-inspired, anti-gay law that has, unfortunately, forced us to rethink our decision to live here.

We really love our house and our neighborhood, and cherish our relationships with each of you; however, this recent law puts into jeopardy our basic civil rights and was passed by better than two-thirds majorities in both houses of the state legislature, which rejected Governor Warner's amendments to the bill.

For us, this is not an academic issue, but rather one that has real consequences. It prohibits same-sex couples from entering into contractual relationships, such as wills, powers of attorney, health care proxies and medical directives, which we need to do to protect ourselves because we do not automatically get these rights as legally married couples do.

Indeed, as you know, we are also specifically prohibited from marrying, or even entering into a civil union. So, if either of us were in an auto accident, neither of us would have the right to make medical decisions for the other, because under the law we have no relationship; we are strangers, rather than next-of-kin, under the law. If we died suddenly, the survivor would own 50 percent of our house, and the other's family would own the other half. We simply cannot accept this, and have concluded we have no choice but to move to a more hospitable jurisdiction.

When you are on the receiving end of affirmative

hatred, you really must question your basic decisions. Indeed, the legislature decided to enact this bill while it was fighting, through several special sessions, to pass a budget. That they felt the desire to pass this certainly demonstrates the degree to which they hate us, and we can no longer ignore this increasingly threatening reality, which is underscored by the fact that there was absolutely no need for this bill. The only purpose of this bill, which purports to defend "marriage," is to deprive us of even our basic rights to construct a legal safety net so that, in the case of some unforeseen tragedy, we could protect ourselves at an extremely vulnerable time.

Just days before the passage of this law, we signed a contract to put an addition on our house and renovate our kitchen, and had planned on staying here for many years to come. Because of this law, that is no longer possible.

Each of you has touched our lives and we will always treasure the memories of times we shared. We hope we touched your lives too, and that we can continue to see each other and remain updated on our lives; we'll be just a few miles up the road in Washington, DC.

For more information about the law, please go to this link:

www.co.arlington.va.us/cbo/040424exerpt.wmv

The best always,
Steve Reiss and Scott Royal

(Unconventional Births, Continued from page 5)

"Unconventional Births," a program featuring three families who choose midwifery care will air on the Discovery Health Channel June 7th—13th. Confirmed broadcast schedule:
6/7/04 8:00 & 11:00 pm; 6/12/04 10:00 pm;
6/13/04 1:00 am & 12 pm

- Improving care for childbearing women ~ Coalition for Improving Maternity Care, www.motherfriendly.org/
- Making informed decisions ~ Maternity Center Association, www.maternitywise.org/mw/
- Finding a midwife ~ Citizens for Midwifery www.cfmidwifery.org/find/

Just a few of the many resources available for more information:

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