



March 2008

Barcroft News

Vol 105, Issue 7

President's Report

by Heidi Wicker

All, please join us for the next community meeting on Thursday, March 6 at 7:30p.m. at the Community House. We will be discussing recent developments along Columbia Pike, including the plans for the new Arlington Mill community center and the status of the proposed streetcar.

We will also discuss the upcoming spring Neighborhood Day and ideas for hosting a fundraising event for the Community House tree replacement drive. Please bring your ideas and your enthusiasm!

An update on the improved streetscaping on our part of Columbia Pike, S. Wakefield St. to Four

Mile Run--the utility undergrounding design has been submitted to VDOT and the County has preliminary VDOT approval. Construction is slated to begin on the utility undergrounding by the fall. The project also includes the realignment of South Four Mile Run Dr. (across from S. Buchanan St.). The County is in the process of acquiring a portion of the Goodwill parking lot as well as some additional easements along the project route. Construction of the realignment and streetscape improvements is currently expected to begin by summer 2009.

In other neighborhood news, a special thanks to all of our volunteers for the Snow Brigade this year, headed by the venerable Randy Swart--helping neighbors stay safe in the wintery weather!



Barcroft Egg Hunt

The bunny comes early this year.
Come to the Egg Hunt and visit with the Barcroft Bunny.

March 22nd
9 AM Sharp!

Photo Ops... Lots of Eggs filled with Wonder...
Visits with your Neighbors... Spring in the Air...

Don't Miss It!

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Deadlines: 14h (ads) or 15th (news/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 unless noted.

Classifieds

Bunk Bed and Double Bed frames -Bunk Bed has white metal frame with two twin mattresses. Excellent condition. (\$ 25). Double bed frames have wooden headboard/footboard and metal sides. (\$ 25). For more information, call Lisa at 703-521-0573.

'99 Volvo Station Wagon (V70 XC) - Low mileage (79K), excellent condition, leather interior, sun roof, seven passenger vehicle. \$9,500 Call Eric at 703 862 6713

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Teenage Babysitter - Week nights and weekends: Sarah @ 703-521-8756.

Babysitter: Red Cross certified eighth-grader available for neighborhood babysitting. Call Abby at 703-892-1090.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE To Become a BSCL Member

Check the Current Membership List on the BSCL web-page (BSCL.org).

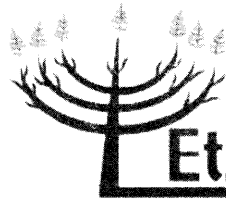
If your name isn't there, print the Membership Form, and send it in with your dues (Still only \$3 for individuals or \$6 for a couple.) Everything you need is on the form.

If you can send along a contribution to the Community House Fund or the Tree Fund, it will be very much appreciated.

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

Fill in as **Barcroft News Editor**
 April and May edition.

Contact Heidi at 202 489 6053



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Mark Your Calendar for the Barcroft Players

**Children's Theatre
April 5th and 6th
at the Barcroft Community House**

Don't wait until the
News to put the play
The Barcroft Play

**Postponed!
See April Barcroft News**

and West of the Moon", at 2:00 PM on April 5th
Barcroft Community House, fol-
s for kids. Based on an old Scan-
e, this play has everything - a hero-
pets, magic, poetry, talking ani-
ing four winds, you name it. Come
ids to a fun afternoon!

Woman's Club to Host Doris Jackson

The Woman's Club of Arlington will host Ms Doris Jackson, Wakefield High School Principal who has been named the "Arlington Public School 2007 Principal of the Year" at their monthly meeting, Monday, March 3, at 1 p.m. at the Clubhouse. Ms Jackson is a native of Washington, D.C. and began her career teaching high school English in the D.C. Public Schools in 1968. Ms. Jackson joined the Arlington Public Schools in 1990 and was named principal of Wakefield in 2002.

The Woman's Clubhouse is located at 700 South Buchanan Street next door to the Barcroft Community House.

Call 703-941-4559 for more information. The Public is welcome.

Pruning Workshops

Virginia Cooperative Extension's Tree Stewards and Master Gardeners offer guidance on how best to handle pruning in your garden.

Join Kirsten Buhls, Extension Agent in Horticulture, and John Noelle, Arborist for the City of Alexandria, at either of two free public workshops.

Register for a workshop to be held Saturday, March 8th at Thrifton Hills Park, 2814 23rd Street North in Arlington, or for an Alexandria workshop at Ft. Ward Park, 4301 W. Braddock Road, on Saturday, March 22th, 9:30 a.m. to noon. For information, registration and directions call: 703 228-6414.

Info contact:
Joanne Hutton
jhutton@arlingtonva.us
703-228-6426

Global Warming and Plant Biology

The Arlington League of Women Voters General Meeting (open to the public) will be held Wednesday, March 5, 2008 from 7-8:45 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room of the Arlington County Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy Street.

Dr. Lewis H. Ziska, a Plant Physiologist with the USDA's Agriculture Research Service will speak on "Rising CO₂. Warming and Plant Biology: From Mangoes to Morphine". Dr. Ziska is the senior author on more than 50 peer-reviewed publications documenting the impact of rising carbon dioxide and global climate change on weed biology in managed and natural eco-systems. Come hear his talk and he will explain how even residents of Arlington should be concerned by rising levels of carbon dioxide and the effect it will have on public health. For info: call 703-536-8270.

Join the fight against Diabetes

*Join the Barcroft Elementary
5K to benefit the
American Diabetes Association
March 8, 2008*

*Registration and Warm Up at 8:30 AM
5K starts at Barcroft Elementary School
Raise Awareness... Contribute to the Fight*

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Sunday School: 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. for children and adults
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Michael Southall-Vess, Pastor

Middle School—March Madness

Calling all parents of MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALLERS (girls & boys of any skill level)!

The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources is holding its second annual March Madness Middle School Basketball Tournament & Party

Friday, March 7th, (there is no school that day)

It will be held from 1:30 - 6:00 PM
at Thomas Jefferson Community Center

FREE!

No team? No worries! Individual players welcome - we'll get everyone on a team.

3 on 3 tournament, Shooting Contests, Playstation, Music, Concessions

Registration from 1:30 - 2:00 PM

No pre-registration required, but all players MUST have a registration form signed by a parent to compete.

Registration forms available at your local community center or by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/ParksRecreation/news/ParksRecreationNewsMarchMadness.aspx> (print and fill out your registration form).

For more information, contact Michael Swisher at mswish@arlingtonva.us, or 703 228 4738.

NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL NEWS

Barcroft Elementary School

On February 21, Barcroft Elementary hosted a Black History Month Celebration. The celebration was widely attended by Barcroft Elementary students, parents, teachers and the members of the community at large. Barcroft PTA offered a dinner complete with African American cuisine. A local cappella group that sang a history of black American struggles and successes. Next all students in the school had a chance to show off their musical learning as each grade level sang a song special to the topic.

Kenmore Middle School

Kenmore Middle School is a popular choice around Arlington! To ensure equal consideration of all students who would like to attend Kenmore, APS officials have decided to conduct a selection process for a total of 47 countywide sixth grade openings at Kenmore. A lottery will be conducted on March 5, 2008, in the Kenmore library at 3 p.m. These 47 students, added to the sixth graders projected to attend next year from the attendance zone, will bring projected enrollment to 95 percent of capacity.

Wakefield High School

On Jan. 31, the Arlington School Board approved the Wakefield project development timeline which directs the Superintendent to reconvene the Wakefield Building Level Planning Committee (BLPC) in February with the understanding that the BLPC will bring to the Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) the concept options designed prior to the BLPC's suspension last summer. The Superintendent is to report back to the Board in April on the progress of the project.

Clean Up Four Mile Run

The annual clean-up of the Four Mile Run corridor is on Saturday, March 8, from 8 a.m.-12 noon. Meet us at any of seven locations including Arlington Mill Community Center, Barcroft Park and Shirlington to help make Arlington a cleaner, greener place.

Groups or individuals can volunteer by calling 703-525-0168.

Last year more than 204 volunteers collected more than 3,100 pounds of trash. Help make a difference!

KUDOS

Congratulations to Barcroft Resident and Wakefield student, Chris Ioffreda who placed 5 th in the 160 lb. weight class at the Regional Wrestling Championship last weekend.

Chris was an alternate at the State Championship.

CONGRATULATIONS for a job well done!

Catch the Arlingtones Live

"WHISTLE STOP BARBERSHOP" - A musical story of the cross-country excursion by Henry K. Holiday, a politician in his quest for the presidency, presented in the a cappella barbershop harmony style by the Arlingtones Barbershop Chorus and featuring "Family Affair", 3rd place Mid-Atlantic District quartet finalist.

Saturday, March 15 at 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM, Thomas Jefferson Theatre, Arlington.

Door: \$12 & \$15/ Advance: \$10. 703-521-9331 or www.thearlingtones.com.

Arlington Mill Community Center

At its January 29 meeting the County Board endorsed the Arlington Mill Community Center Concept Plan, making it possible to meet the application deadline for an affordable housing tax credit program offered through the Virginia Housing Development Authority.

The project includes a 6-story building at the corner of Columbia Pike and S. Dinwiddie St. that features a new community center with a large gymnasium, residential apartments, some ground floor retail, and a public plaza. To the north along Dinwiddie will be a 5-story residential building. Altogether the project includes just over 200 residences, of which approximately 61 will be affordable units for those at 60% of the area's median household income level.

In order to accommodate this plan, technical adjustments to the Form Based Code were approved by the Board on December 15. These include redrawing the revitalization district boundary to include the northern portion of the Arlington Mill property, designating a portion of Dinwiddie St. as "Avenue" site frontage, and modifying the planned width of Dinwiddie St.

For more information go to: www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/ParksRecreation/forums/arlingtonmill/pdfs/page60672.pdf

Goodbye to Bob and Edith's II

The property at 4707 Columbia Pike at S. Buchanan St. has found a buyer. A local development company has signed a contract to purchase the 0.87 acre site and is planning to build a 4-story mixed-use building in accordance with the Form Based Code. The site was once the home of a Roy Rogers restaurant, and more recently was used for the second Bob & Edith's diner. The diner closed its doors on January 25, and patrons are encouraged to visit the original diner at 2310 Columbia Pike.

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Palm Sunday, March 16

8:00 AM and 10:00 AM* – Blessing of the Palms and Holy Eucharist

Maundy Thursday, March 20

7:30 PM – Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, March 21

12:00 noon and 7:00 PM – Good Friday Liturgy

Easter Sunday, March 23

8:00 AM – Holy Eucharist with hymns

10:00 AM* – Festival Holy Eucharist with children's message

Reception and Easter egg hunt following 10:00 service

* Childcare provided

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

Bridges to Contemporary Arts

COLLECTORS' TALK

Saturday, March 8th, 4:30 - 5:30 pm
Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd.

A gallery talk featuring the curators of our current exhibition, COLLECTORS SELECT-which consists of six separate themed galleries, each designed by a notable local collector.

Join us on Saturday, March 8th, from 4:30 to 5:30 pm, for a lively discussion about collecting contemporary art with some of the high profile area art patrons responsible for the Arlington Arts Center's blockbuster collaborative show, COLLECTORS SELECT.

Have a glass of wine and tour the exhibition space with the collectors.

The Grass is Greener...

Virginia Cooperative Extension's Master Gardeners make available to local residents the best science-based strategies for keeping your lawns green and our waters clean. Free workshops will be offered to Arlington and Alexandria residents for your convenience. Register for a class on Saturday, March 1st at Walter Reed Community Center, Arlington, 9-12 a.m.; or the workshop will be repeated on Monday, March 10th at the Lubber Run Community Center in Arlington, 7 - 9 p.m.

Photo 08 at the Ellipse

Browse through the photographs of artists.

February 22 – April 12, 2008
4350 N. Fairfax Drive
Ellipse Art Center

Tax Preparation Assistance

Seniors and others in need can get free federal and state tax preparation from now until April 15, every Tuesday and Friday between 9am and 3pm at the Culpepper Garden Senior Center, 4435 N. Pershing Drive, from trained, certified and confidential volunteers.

Just come on by, or better yet, to avoid waiting call for an appointment at 703-228-4403.

Bring your 2006 return as well as any documents needed for the 2007 return. Taxaide Counselors are trained through a program of the AARP Foundation and the Internal Revenue Service.

Questions? Call 703-228-4403.

Health/Nutrition at Barcroft Elementary

Barcroft's Principal, Miriam Hughey-Guy was recently nominated for Arlington Extension Office's "Friend of the Quarter" award for bringing health and nutrition programs to every student at Barcroft.

The students participated in many hands-on learning experiences, including learning how to read food labels, how to build a healthy meal, making good choices from the new food pyramid, as well as the importance of exercise.

Thanks to Mrs. Hughey-Guy, Barcroft is the first school in Arlington in which every class participated in Cooperative Extension activities!

Thanks for all you have done to bring such important learning activities to Barcroft.

Garden for Those in Need

The Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) is asking local gardeners to grow fruits and vegetables to help feed families in need in Arlington. AFAC – Arlington's food pantry – will provide free seeds to those gardeners willing to donate all or a portion of what they grow.

This year is the second in AFAC's local effort to obtain more fresh produce for the families it serves. It is part of the national Plant A Row for the Hungry program through which gardeners are urged to donate a portion of their vegetables and fruits to local food pantries.

"Last year we received more than 34,000 pounds of fresh produce," said Puwen Lee, the AFAC Plant A Row coordinator. "We hope the enthusiasm and generosity of local gardeners will bring in even more produce this summer."

AFAC Executive Director Christine Lucas noted that over 800 families in need come to AFAC each week for free supplemental groceries. That's an increase of 20-25 percent over the same period last year. "Fresh fruits and vegetables are an important addition to the non-perishable groceries, milk, meat and bread we supply, and the growing number of client families means we will need even more this summer," she said.

To obtain free seeds for an individual or community Plant A Row plot or help in other ways, call Puwen Lee at (703)845-8486 or send an email to afacpuwen@aol.com.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Renovation Will Close Jackson Street Bridge Over Arlington Boulevard for Summer 2008. The project will make the crossway comply with Americans with Disability Act, improve safety for pedestrians and cyclist and reduce the effects of weather on the bridge.

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Neighborhood Tree Giveaway

Arlington County Parks and Natural Resources Division is offering 1200 trees to be distributed for this year's Neighborhood Day (Saturday May 10).

Yellow-poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), a large canopy tree and Allegheny serviceberry (*Amenlanchier laevis*), a small flowering tree are this year's two selections. These tree 'whips' will be approximately three to five feet in height and potted in one or two-gallon plastic containers. This is a good size for transplanting and future growth success, and is small enough to handle with ease.

Look for details in the April edition of Barcroft News to learn how you can grow one of these trees in your yard and help replenish Barcroft's canopy.



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

On 2/13/08, President Bush signed the economic stimulus package into law, including important housing provisions affecting loan limits for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and also FHA.

The loan limits could increase to as much as \$729,750 in high cost areas (to 125% of local median home prices) for loans approved on or before December 31, 2008. Currently Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are capped at \$417,000, and FHA is capped at \$362,790. The new loan limits will be determined based on the median home price for each Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

HUD has been given 30 days to publish the median home price for each MSA. It will take Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and FHA another month or so to prepare their systems and implement the changes. It is estimated to be about sixty days before the new higher loan limits will be available. The expected benefit from the new loan limits is that credit will be more widely available and that qualifying loans should have lower rates, making homes more affordable and refinancings more attractive.

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REVISED AGENDA FOR MARCH 6, 2008 MEETING

Join us on Thursday, March 6, 2007 at 7:30p.m. for our monthly meeting at the Community House, 800 S. Buchanan.

The agenda will be as follows:

1. **Presentation by Mr. Dana Wilson, Acting Team Leader, Arlington County Code Enforcement**
 - Please forward any concerns or questions you have for the code enforcement inspectors, including specific property addresses, to Heidi Wicker, heidi@bscl.org, 202-776-0717 as soon as possible.
 - The code inspectors will then investigate any concerns about particular properties raised prior to the meeting and provide a report on the status of their investigation during their presentation.
 - Sample concerns could be: overcrowding; abandoned houses; property in disrepair; junk/trash piles, etc.

2. **Discussion of ideas for a community event for the annual Neighborhood Day on Saturday, May 10**
 - We are looking to host an event for this annual community day that could also serve as a fundraiser for our Community House preservation fund and hopefully help replace the magnificent oak tree which had to be removed this past year.

3. **Presentation by Daphne Miller, president of Wakefield High School PTA regarding funding of building renovations**
 - Discussion to follow regarding whether BSCL wishes to take an official position on the funding of Wakefield High School renovations

Announcements: We are looking for a temporary newsletter editor while our wonderful current editor is on maternity leave. Please email heidi@bscl.org or call 202-776-0717 if you might be able to help for a few months. Thank you!