



April 2008

# Barcroft News

Vol 105, Issue 8

## President's Report

by Heidi Wicker

Happy Spring to all! Please join us at the next community meeting on Thursday, April 3 at 7:30pm for a discussion of two items which will be shaping the future of the areas surrounding our neighborhood in the months and years to come.

First, we will be discussing the plans for developing the site of the former Bob & Edith's diner at Buchanan Street and Columbia Pike. We have invited the developers of the site to join us in person for this meeting to relay their plans and take your comments and questions.

Second, we will be discussing the plans for expansion of the existing Army National Guard Readiness Center (ARNGRC), parking facilities, and other supporting facilities to accommodate the 1200 personnel who will be vacating government-leased space in accordance with the Base Realignment Enclosure (BRAC)

Recommendations. We will discuss the potential impact to the neighborhood. We also would like to determine at this meeting what the position of the BSCL is regarding the plans for expansion, specifically what facets of the expansion we support and what facets we do not support, so that we can relay the BSCL's feedback to the County.

At the last meeting we were joined by the Arlington County Code Enforcement officers for a useful discussion of what constitutes a code violation, how one reports a violation to the County and how the violation is investigated. I relayed all of the complaints I received to the County and they commenced the investigations. Due to legal reasons, however, the County cannot relay the progress of an investigation to anyone except the person submitting the report. Thus, I encourage you all to check with the Code Enforcement office at 703-228-3232 to add yourself as a complainant and obtain the status of the investigation.

## Barcroft Elementary Book Exchange Café

Tuesday, April 15th

6:30 until 8:00 PM



Do you have books you don't read anymore?

**SHARE!**

Come to the Barcroft Elementary Book Exchange and Café.

**More details on page 7.**



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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**

**Behringer Pet Care** - We take care of most any pet.  
 703-685-1071

**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.

**Rebekah's Pet Care** (walking, feeding, sitting)....703-521-8756.

**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.

**Stray Cat Found**

Male, part Bengal, brown and tan with dark brown stripes. Rings on tail. White feet and white chest. Very long body.

The vet said the cat is 4-5 years old, neutered and weighs about 13 lbs. He had no collar.

Please call  
 703-892-8083  
 cell 703-395-0457

Keep up with events by joining the Barcroft chat group and news list.  
 Go to: [www.bscl.org](http://www.bscl.org).



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**POSTPONED: Barcroft Players Children's Theater**

**POSTPONED...**

**Children's Theater Matinees:  
WILL NOT BE PRESENTED IN APRIL**

Oops, due to circumstances beyond our control, the Barcroft Players will have to postpone the children's play that was originally scheduled for April.

We all still love the play and expect to perform it sometime in the future. If you'd like to participate in any of the Barcroft Players' shows – as an actor or behind the scenes – please call Barbara Swart at (703) 521-2080 or email her at [Barbara@bscl.org](mailto:Barbara@bscl.org).

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## National Diabetes Walk in Barcroft

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You probably saw them out your window or perhaps you joined them on the route...

Barcroft Elementary School gathered their students, staff, families and neighbors for their third annual 5K School Walk for Diabetes, an event of the American Diabetes Association, on Sat, March 8, 2008 at 9 a.m.

Students and teachers of Barcroft are worked together to raise funds to support the important research, information and advocacy efforts of the American Diabetes Association. Approximately 20.8 million children and adults have diabetes in United States, and one in three babies born today will develop diabetes in their lifetime.

Not only did students raise funds, but they are also actively learned life-long lessons about the seriousness of diabetes and how eating healthy and exercising can help prevent the disease. The school received a percentage of the funds raised for the American Diabetes Association back to purchase needed physical education equipment and school medical supplies.

"We are so excited to participate in School Walk for Diabetes," said Carmen Dunlap. "It is a chance for us to make a difference in our community and at the same time raise money for an important cause." The idea for the walk was developed by the students after learning about a Barcroft parent who developed diabetes as an adolescent.

The American Diabetes Association is the nation's leading voluntary health organization supporting diabetes research, information and advocacy. Founded in 1940, the Association supports volunteers in every state and region of the country, providing service to hundreds of communities across the country.

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## Arlington Home Show and Expo

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Arlington Home Show and Expo  
Saturday, April 12, 2008

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Walter Reed Community Center  
Walter Reed Community Center  
2909 16th St. S.  
Arlington, VA 22204

The 2nd Annual Arlington Home Show & Expo is a great opportunity for business owners to offer valuable information, products and services to local homeowners who will benefit from the convenience of one-stop shopping for a wide variety of home improvement solutions, with an event that is free to the public.

With the mature housing stock, high land values, and incredible location of the Arlington area, many hundreds of homeowners are deciding to expand and/or renovate existing homes rather than move. In addition, people are buying into these neighborhoods with immediate plans to remodel. Moreover, homeowners here are especially interested in finding ways to make their homes more energy efficient.

This creates a great market for architects, builders, kitchen and bath remodelers, landscapers, and companies that offer windows, roofing, gutters, flooring, paving, waterproofing, as well as home maintenance services. Lenders will also benefit from participating in the show because many attendees will be interested in ways to finance their home improvements.

The show will also include a variety of classes/seminars on subjects of interest to residents and landlords and exhibitors from Arlington County and area non-profits who can offer valuable advice and assistance to those who attend.



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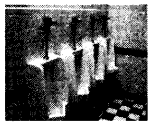
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Worship Services: 8:30 a.m. Sundays (chapel), 11 a.m. Sundays  
Sunday School: 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. for children and adults  
(Nursery provided during worship services and Sunday School)

**Michael Southall-Vess, Pastor**

## Take the Two Mile Challenge

Would you walk or use your bicycle for errands and other trips of less than two miles? Maybe once a week, or once a month?

The company that makes Clif Bars is promoting The Two Mile Challenge asking you to do that. Their Web page notes that:

- 40 % of our trips are two miles or less
- 90% of those trips are by car
- 60% of the pollution created by auto emissions happens in the first minutes of operation while your engine and catalytic converter are warming up.
- Driving releases 20 pounds of carbon dioxide pollutants per gallon of gas.

You can go to the website and map a two mile radius from your home.

<http://www.2milechallenge.com>

From Barcroft Elementary, the map includes Ballston, Shirlington and Baileys Crossroads, but stops short of Seven Corners, Clarendon or Pentagon City. We have a trail to Shirlington and neighborhood streets to Ballston. Baileys Crossroads is a little trickier if you want to avoid Columbia Pike, but there is a trail past the Long Branch Nature Center that provides a back way to get there.

You can see a YouTube video of the statistics:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zz3zMzVdIX8>

Worth a thought?

## NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL NEWS

### *Barcroft Elementary School*

Barcroft Elementary art specialist (and Barcroft neighbor) Marel Sitron had her article, *Three-Dimensional Cubist Musicians—Reinterpreting a Picasso painting as sculpture*, published in the March issue of School Arts Magazine.

Ms. Sitron collected wood scraps from construction projects around the neighborhood. Barcroft 5th graders used the wood to recreate Picasso's 2 dimensional painting, *The Three Musicians*, as a 3D wood construction. ... and you thought that wall you knocked out went to waste!

### *Kenmore Middle School*

Support your local Middle School. Find some great bargains on local goods and services.

Kenmore's Silent Auction  
Friday, April 11th  
6:45 PM until 9 PM

Auction Items, Entertainment, Fun.

### *Wakefield High School*

RUN FOR WAKEFIELD - Really! You can even walk, if you want to. Participate the Wakefield 5K and help support the school's scholarship foundation.

April 26th at 9 AM  
Bluemont Junction and W&OD Trails  
USATF—Certified Course

To register (\$25) go to the school's website at <http://www.apsva.us/wakefield/site/default.asp>

## Recycle and E-Cycle

On Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, the Arlington Environmental Collection and Recycling Event (E-CARE) will sponsor a semi-annual event that offers Arlingtonians the opportunity to safely dispose of household hazardous materials, recycle old electronic equipment and small metal items, as well as donate bicycles, books, shoes and eyeglasses.

At the spring '08 event, the regular handling fee for computer monitors and televisions will be waived. There is no cost for collection of household hazardous materials. However, a \$10.00 donation is requested with bicycles in order to help the non-profit organization Bikes for the World ship the bicycle to a developing country.

Visit Arlington's web site for more information about E-CARE and the materials accepted at the event or call 703-228-6832.

Saturday, April 19, 2008 (Rain or shine)  
8:30am to 3:00pm  
Thomas Jefferson Middle School  
West Parking Lot

## Barcroft Book Exchange and Cafe

Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-9:00pm, Barcroft Elementary School will be celebrating Leonardo da Vinci's birthday at the Book Exchange Cafe! At the book exchange there will be all levels of children's books from Preschool up to middle school and beyond. There will be a storyteller plus additional activities for the children. This celebration is not just about the children - there will a selection of adult books, as well. The café we will serve birthday cake for Leonardo in addition to coffee and hot cocoa!!

Everyone is invited and encouraged to bring any number of children's books to offer for exchange. They can then take home any number of books that they choose. Also welcome are adult selections such as novels for reading this summer by the pool, parenting reference books, etc...

All leftover children's books will be made available to the children in the school after the book exchange and all remaining adult books will be donated.

Please join the fun.

## Historical Fire Fighter Items Wanted

The Arlington County Fire Department Historical Committee is looking for any pictures, slides, badges, helmets, or any other items that have served with the department.

If you have anything for them please contact Lt. Chuck Kramaric, tower5ladder@yahoo.com, 703-228-0105.

Pass the word...

## What's Coming to the Pike?



Conceptual design of the new Arlington Mill Community Center.

## St. John's Episcopal Church

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Informal candlelight prayer and reflection

**St. John's Community Speakers Series presents**

*The Role of the Church in the Public Square*

**Speaker: John Johnson IV, Episcopal Church Office of  
Government Relations**

April 28, 7:30 pm

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

### New Fire Station Opening

The Arlington County Fire Department will officially open the new Fire Station No. 5 on April 12. The station, located at 1750 S.

Hayes Street in Aurora Highlands neighborhood near Pentagon City, figured prominently in the response to the Pentagon attack on 9/11.

Firefighters will perform a traditional fire service ceremony at 11am to commemorate the station by pushing a fire truck into its bay.

Visitors can tour the new facility and meet fire fighters and rescue personnel in the Open House afterwards until 1pm.

The station is about 3 blocks from the Pentagon City Metro station and can be reached by the 16G bus line running at 30 minute intervals along Columbia Pike.

### Mark Your Calendar for the Blues

The legendary band "Roomful of Blues" will headline the 2008 Columbia Pike Blues Festival on Saturday June 21, 1:00 to 8:00 pm.

Since 1967, the combination of swing, rock 'n' roll, jump, blues and soul has earned the multiple award-winning group just praise.

Get excited! *Roomful of Blues*, one of the finest jump and swing blues bands in the land, is coming to Columbia Pike.

#### Photo 08 at the Ellipse

Browse through the photographs of artists.

February 22 — April 12, 2008

4350 N. Fairfax Drive

Ellipse Art Center



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## A Note about the Community House

*Karen Darner served the Barcroft Community as Community House Rental Coordinator for the past several years. **THANK YOU KAREN!***

I thank each of you for your patience and for your business these past three years. It has been fun to work with you and for you. My family responsibilities require a little more flexibility in my travel schedule, so I have requested a replacement manager as of March 1, 2008. Thanks to Heidi, Pat, Randy and Barbara, Gary and Peg, Annie and Eric, Mark, and Scott for all of your hard work with this great community treasure.

Our neighbor, Christine Scullion, has assumed the duties of rental manager of the historic Barcroft Community House. I am very grateful to her for volunteering for this responsibility at this time. Please contact Chris at [clscullion@yahoo.com](mailto:clscullion@yahoo.com) you wish to rent our community house. The cost is \$15/hr during the week, and \$20/hr on the weekend for BSCl dues-paying members. You'll love it!

Thank you, Karen Darner

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## Kudos

Congratulations to Wakefield Band Members Daniel Edwards and Elizabeth O'Neil. Both of these students auditioned for the All - Virginia Band and Orchestra.

Daniel, a Barcroft resident, was selected for the second year, placing third overall in tuba in the state.

Elizabeth was selected as first alternate oboe.

Great job!

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## Plant a Tree for FREE

The county is giving away free trees in conjunction with its Neighborhood Day activities May 10. Residents need to place their order for trees by April 17th. Please contact Barcroft tree steward Elizabeth\_Rives@hotmail.com or by phone at (703) 486-1323. Requests will be limited to 2 trees per person. Please note the species and quantity you prefer.

The two species available this year are native trees highly recommended for this area. The Allegheny Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*) is a small flowering tree (15-25 ft) with year-round interest and high wildlife value. It prefers part sun to shade and can tolerate a moist location. View it at: [http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/factsheets/trees-new/amelanchier\\_laevis.html](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/factsheets/trees-new/amelanchier_laevis.html)

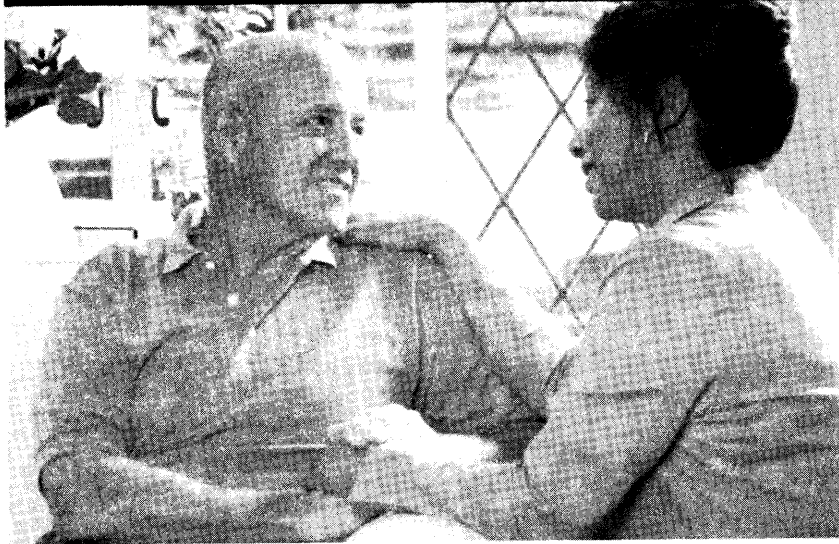
The Yellow Poplar/Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) is a fast-growing large canopy tree (70-100 ft) also with high wildlife value. It prefers a full to part sun location. View it at: [http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/factsheets/trees-new/liriodendron\\_tulipifera.html](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/factsheets/trees-new/liriodendron_tulipifera.html)

The trees will be delivered in one-two gallon containers and their height should range between three and five feet. This is a good size for transplanting and future growth success, and is small enough to handle with ease.

Trees will be available for pickup from the Barcroft community house on Saturday May 10th. County Tree Stewards will also be on hand to give a planting demonstration, and will provide detailed instructions, maintenance tips, and general guidance.

Don't miss out on this great chance to get highly recommended trees for your yard at the same time that you are helping to replenish Barcroft's declining tree canopy.

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## Woman's Club Featured Speaker

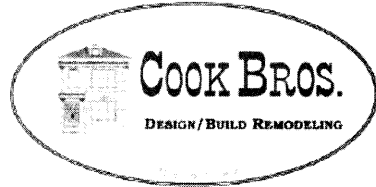
The Woman's Club of Arlington will host Geraldine Shannon, Executive Director of Arlingtonians Meeting Emergency Needs (AMEN) at their monthly meeting Monday, April 7th at 1:00 P.M. at their clubhouse.

AMEN assists Arlington residents who have been referred by a social worker. AMEN sponsors programs such as the Daily Fund, the Furniture Bank, Dress for Work Success, Security Deposit Loans and Energy Share. Find out more about these programs at the Woman's Club monthly meeting.

The clubhouse is located at 700 South Buchanan St, next door to the Barcroft Community House. Call 703-941-4559 for more information.

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

### **\$729,750 is the New Maximum Loan!**

On 3/6/08 FHA, Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac announced that higher loan limits set by the economic stimulus bill. FNMA and FHLMC will only purchase jumbo-conforming mortgages originated through 12/31/08. Mortgage lenders will assist customers with implementation by providing reference materials including an online loan limit reference tool and guidance on our loan limits based on a property's geography.

Prior to the change, FHA was capped at \$362,790 and Fannie and Freddie had loan ceilings of \$417,000. Before the credit crunch, rates on jumbo loans were about .25 percent higher. Now with tighter credit, jumbo rates are almost 1% higher.

The FHA plan will open up some great opportunities. Here are some of the highlights:

- \*FHA loans can allow a credit score as low as 620
- \*The borrower has to put in 3% of the sales price into the transaction.
- \*All 3% can come from a gift if necessary. You need no cash reserves.
- \*Qualification ratios can go as high as 50% for debt to income ratio.

\*The seller can pay up to 6% of the sales price toward closing costs; however the borrower still **MUST** put 3% into the transaction.

\*All single family homes and townhouses are eligible for FHA financing. Condos must be approved for FHA.

\*FHA does not have an issue with declining markets (Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac do)

\*This really helps first time buyers, or buyers who have slightly below average credit and little cash.

\*FHA mortgages are consumer friendly loans made by private banks insured by the government, making them attractive as the government guarantee enables lenders to easily sell the loans.

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