



May 2008

Barcroft News

Vol 105, Issue 9

President's Report

by Heidi Wicker

At our last meeting before our summer break on May 1 at 7:30p.m. at the Community House (800 S. Buchanan St.), we will be discussing our draft Neighborhood Conservation Plan. The draft Neighborhood Conservation Plan is based on your answers to the survey that was distributed to households last fall. The County will use the Plan to help prioritize funding for projects for the neighborhood.

The Plan is in draft form and ready for the neighborhood to review, comment, change and hopefully approve. The draft is up on the web site at www.bscl.org. We are also distributing a summary around the neighborhood to give you a chance to read it before the May 1 meeting. At that meeting we will be discussing the draft and making final changes. If you can't make the meeting, you can also drop comments off at the Community House, send them to Randy Swart at 4611 7th St. South, or email them to randy@bscl.org. If you have not seen the draft yet, give Randy a call at 703-521-2080 and he will drop off a copy for you.

For those who couldn't make our last meeting, we listened to a presentation by Bob Eisenberg of Heritage Properties, which will be developing the former Bob & Edith's site at the intersection Buchanan St. and Columbia Pike. Mr. Eisenberg indicated that he anticipates building a 4-story building on the land, with retail stores on the ground floor and apartments. There will also be an underground park-

ing garage. Traffic is anticipated to exit and enter onto Buchanan St.

We also discussed that the intersection at Buchanan and Columbia Pike is scheduled to be redesigned and streetscape improvements are anticipated to be completed in the next 18 months or so, which could help eliminate some of the danger at that intersection.

We also passed a resolution and submitted joint comments with the Alcova Heights neighborhood on the proposed National Guard expansion to their facility on George Mason Drive. Our concerns primarily stem from the fact that onsite parking facilities are not anticipated to be completed until a few years after the expansion itself. The comment letter we sent to the County is available on the website www.bscl.org.

Finally, we along with other neighborhoods have requested that the Northern Virginia Park Authority permit the Arlington Police to use their Arlington Park Safe Program (which gives the police the authority to enforce the criminal trespassing statute on the subject property) on the W&OD trail and park. This would give the police an additional and more effective tool to deal with the persistent public safety problems in the area of the W&OD trail, Four Mile Run, and Columbia Pike. We anticipate that the Park Authority will grant an 18-month trial period for this program at their Board meeting later this month.

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Deadlines: 14h (ads) or 15th (news/editorial material) day of the month preceding the issue month.

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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.

The Dogwoods of Barcroft

Have you seen them? They are out all over Barcroft. They are growing here, there and everywhere. They are the Dogwood blossoms of Barcroft. Take a stroll down your street. Turn down a neighboring street. Walk around the block. Count them all—the pink ones, the white ones, the in-between ones. They are out now. Enjoy them all.

Have you seen them? They welcome us to Barcroft at the corner of 8th and George Mason. They are the crab apple blossoms. They are out in full force...

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



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**BSCL Officer Slate
Vote at the May 1st Meeting**

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Vice President - Bryant Monroe
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Treasurer - Gary Lefebvre
Corresponding Secretary - Wes Stien
Board Member - Shirley Gay
Membership Secretary - Peg Lefebvre

An Educational Jewel

How would you like your local elementary school described like the following quote from a nationally respected source? ... "an educational jewel, with enthusiastic teachers in a sparkling building overseen by one of the most admired principals in the region."

Lucky you! The school is just around the corner and the source is Jay Matthews writing for The Washington Post Magazine's education review (*The Wrong Yardstick*; April 13, 2008).

The article praises Barcroft Elementary for the many beautiful things that go on in the building as staff works to educate our extended neighborhood. Although the school has failed to meet the Adequate Yearly Progress measure defined by the No Child Left Behind federal law, it would be difficult to find anything in need of drastic improvement. Still, the teachers and staff are working on creative strategies to meet the requirements this year. The author was impressed that they gave no excuses for past failures. To read the whole article, follow the link to The Washington Post from www.BSCL.org.

Neighborhood Day is May 10th

Arlington celebrates its neighborhoods on Saturday, May 10 this year! Come out and enjoy the many special events designed to highlight our wonderful community.

For the animal lovers out there, the 13th Annual Walk for the Animals sponsored by the Animal Welfare League of Arlington might be for you. The money raised at the event helps homeless animals in our community. Last year, with more than 500 walkers and 300 dogs we raised more than \$82,000! Help us double that this year! It's never too early to register and start collecting pledges!

Saturday, May 10th

Bluemont Park

Check-in and on-site registration begins at 8:30 AM

The Walk kicks off at 9:30 AM

The three-mile loop walk or one-mile stroll will begin and conclude at beautiful Bluemont Park in Arlington. Dogs are invited to accompany their owners but, for their safety, cats and other pets should be left at home.

All pre-registered walkers will receive a Walk 2008 t-shirt and all participating dogs will receive their very own bandana. In addition, walkers who raise \$75 or more will receive exciting rewards, so don't stop at \$25!

Besides the hundreds of adorable doggies, the event will have exciting demonstrations, entertainment, and booths showcasing our generous sponsors. Past presentations have included K-9 units, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Beagle Brigade, and amazing fly-ball teams.

If walking with the dogs is not your thing, maybe

running or walking with your neighbors will be. The second running of the Battle of the Boulevard 10K/2K.

Saturday, May 10, 2008 at 9:00am

The run will begin at Clarendon Central Park (intersection of Wilson Boulevard & Highland Street in Clarendon, Arlington) and run along Wilson Boulevard through Clarendon, Courthouse, Rosslyn, onto Route 110 and back!

The race proceeds will be donated to the National Kidney Foundation, National Capital Region and the Arlington YMCA. The top civic association participation and the top Arlington business participation will each have a \$500 donation to the organization's favorite Arlington charity.

Everyone will enjoy the Neighborhood Day parade also on Saturday, May 10 – beginning at 1pm (an hour earlier than in the past).

The parade starts at the Arlington County Courthouse (2100 Clarendon Blvd.) and travels west along Wilson Blvd. to Clarendon.

Watch the parade or organize your Arlington based group and march in the parade yourself. Information for parade registration and other neighborhood day events available on the county website (<http://www.arlingtonva.us/portals/Topics/NeighborhoodDayMain.aspx>).

Where will you be this 4th of July?!

**Coming this July 4th on a street near you —
the Barcroft 4th of July Parade**



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Thank You Barcroft Bunny.

Hope you were able to see the Barcroft Bunny hop by during the annual egg hunt at the Community House.

A fun time was had by all!

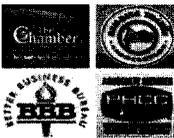
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The Community Across the Creek

Have you ever ventured into the neighborhood across Four Mile Run? Up the big hill, past the airplane park, just before Route 50 crosses over the WO&D Trail...

If not, you should do that some time soon. You will find the historic community of Glencarlyn. Much like Barcroft, neighbors gather in a beautiful white community house (5711 S. 4th St). Beside the community house is Glencarlyn Library and Garden.

The library boasts a big window seat where you can sit and enjoy your selections. The librarians always have seasonal children's books scattered in this area. It is a perfect spot for a rainy or a sunny day!

Just outside the window the colorful, thriving garden invites you to stay longer. The garden is tended by the master gardeners of Arlington County. It is obvious that they tend every inch of it with great care. Take a walk around, read the name plates and learn about the plants that grow there. Sit for a while in the big wooden gazebo. Bring a library book with you!

Soon you might find yourself back at the Carlin Hall Community House. You can slip through the gate in the fence that adjoins the library. Eat a snack at the picnic table under the big maple tree. If you brought young people along, they will gravitate to the unique playground there.

Tempted? Mark you calendar for June 7th. It's Glencarlyn Day! Eat pancakes in the park, take in the parade then come to Carlin Hall for games, moon bounce, bake sale, silent auction and more at the Carlin Hall Fun Fair from Noon until 3 PM. The fun fair is run by parents and staff at the Carlin Hall creative preschoolers program (a county sponsored preschool).

NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL NEWS

Barcroft Elementary School

Barcroft music teacher Maritza Sadowsky performed with the Opera Guild of Northern Virginia.

The program was called "From Ragtime to American Opera."

Kenmore Middle School

Did you know March 14th was a holiday at Kenmore Middle School? If you are a mathematician you might recognize March 14 (3-14) as Pi day.

Kenmore seventh grade math students brought in cakes and pies and used them to calculate circumference, diameter and radius using the magical number Pi. After all the calculations, everyone enjoyed a little "Pi" and cake taste-testing.

I wonder if it is more enjoyable to eat a wedge from a circle whose circumference you have savored.

Wakefield High School

Wakefield High School was invited to participate in the 17th annual Blacks at Microsoft Minority Student Day. The one-day event took place in eight cities around the U.S. The theme of this year's student day was "The Wow Starts Now...The Future Starts with You!" Eight Wakefield tenth and eleventh grade students attended.

The event provides area high school students from underrepresented ethnic backgrounds with an opportunity to hear about the exciting tools, resources, and career opportunities as well as internships and scholarships available to them within Microsoft.

SEE YOU AT THE FAIR

Saturday, May 3

11am – 3:00pm

On Saturday, May 3rd Barcroft Elementary School will hold its annual Spring Fair and Silent Auction. Please join in the fun! There will be moon bounces, games, and great food. Come and browse the Silent Auction where this year you can bid on gift certificates to local restaurants, hotels, B&B's, great gift baskets and more! You won't want to miss it! The silent auction bidding will end at 2 o'clock and checkout will begin shortly thereafter.

If you know of a business who would like to donate money (to offset food and game expenses), or a gift certificate, please contact Anna Peterson by phone (703) 521 8756 or scottanna@verizon.net. All contributions are much appreciated!

Money raised by this PTA sponsored event will help pay for additional field trips and other educational opportunities for our students. This fair/auction has become a community event, so come on out and enjoy the day with your fellow Barcroft and Alcova Heights neighbors!

Columbia Pike Farmer's Market

In another sure sign of spring, the Columbia Pike Farmers Market returns to Pike Park (S. Walter Reed Dr. and Columbia Pike) on May 4, and each successive Sunday, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Come out for early season produce and other products, greet long standing members, and welcome new vendors to the market. As always, the market helps you to "eat local" and supports sustainable agriculture. In addition, this year we a small number of arts and crafts people to join us.

Know someone who would like to participate in the Market? Have them call Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization (CPRO) at 703-892-2776.

Tree Pick Up on May 10

PICKUP YOUR FREE TREES AT THE COMMUNITY HOUSE MAY 10

For those of you who ordered free trees in conjunction with Arlington County's Neighborhood Day activities, you may pick up your trees at the Barcroft Community House on Saturday, May 10 between 8:30-11:00 a.m. The pickup site will be at the back of the community house near the driveway (under the massive oak tree).

County tree stewards will be on hand to give planting instructions, maintenance tips, and general guidance. If you are unable to pick up your tree during that time period, please contact Elizabeth Rives at 703-486-1323 or by email at elizabeth_rives@hotmail.com to see if you can make alternate arrangements.

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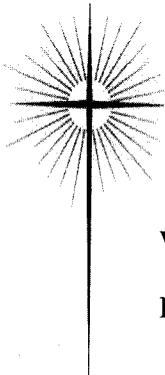


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Joyce Mercer, Professor of Pastoral Theology

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

22204 Holds Its Own

More than \$14.2 million dollars worth of homes were sold in the Pike's 22204 zip code in February of 2008, up 7% over February 2007.

The number of homes sold also increased from 30 to 33, including 22 single family homes and 11 condo/coop units. However, average days on the market grew from 74 to 110, and the average sale price declined slightly from \$443,768 to \$432,409.

Jeff Payne of Prudential Carruthers Realtors, who provided the MLS data, said "Arlington and 22204 continue to perform well and show that real estate here is a good long term investment."

Barcroft Knows Its World

Students have been marking their place in the world at Barcroft Elementary this year.

Alec Southwell - a Barcroft fourth grader and the school's National Geographic Geography Bee School Winner qualified for the National Geographic Geography Bee State Round!

Alec traveled to Winchester on Friday April 4th for this exciting event.

Arlington Neighborhood Parade

Saturday, May 10

1 PM

Wilson Blvd

Courthouse to Clarendon



ARLINGTON COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Office of the Fire Chief
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 400
Arlington, VA 22201
www.arlingtonva.us

TEL 703.228.3362

FAX 703.228.7097



March 23, 2008

Arlington residents:

On March 6th, Arlington County experienced a noteworthy house fire that resulted in: one fire fatality, injuries to other occupants of the home, significant structural damage, and injuries to one of our firefighters. In light of this tragedy, I would like to remind all Arlington residents of the importance of having a working smoke alarm on every level of your home and inside each sleeping area.

A properly maintained smoke alarm nearly doubles your chances of survival in a residential structure fire. To ensure that your smoke alarms are functioning properly, depress the "test" button monthly and change the batteries twice annually. Furthermore, a smoke alarm older than ten years should be replaced.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform all residents of our *Operation FireSafe* program, which provides free smoke alarms to owner occupied residences. Simply call 703.228.4646 and leave your name, address and telephone number. A fire department representative will contact you to schedule an appointment to install smoke alarms in your home. The following safety tips are simple actions that you can take to ensure the safety of your family.

- ❖ Create an escape plan from your home. Make sure that your plan includes two ways out of every room and a meeting place outside.
- ❖ Practice your plan with children, visiting guests and relatives.
- ❖ Never disable an alarm or "borrow" its battery for another use.
- ❖ Test smoke alarms monthly.
- ❖ Assume that a ringing alarm indicates that there is an incident and evacuate immediately.
- ❖ Never go back inside for any reason! Meet the firefighters outside to inform us of anyone trapped.

On behalf of the Arlington County Fire Department, I implore all residents to take this opportunity to protect your family. If you need assistance with your smoke alarms or have any questions, please contact our Fire Prevention Office at 703.228.4644.

Sincerely,

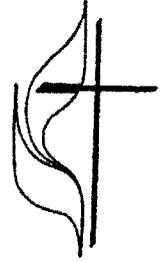
James H. Schwartz
Fire Chief

The mission of the Arlington County Fire Department is to provide essential emergency and non-emergency services. We are a quality organization dedicated to answering the needs of the Community with highly skilled people who care. We are committed to eliminating threats to life safety and property through education, prevention, and effective response to fire, medical and environmental emergencies. We will achieve our mission through teamwork, professionalism and a commitment to the people we serve.

Arlington Forest United Methodist Church

<http://www.arlingtonforestchurch.org/>

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Arlington, Virginia 22203
(703) 525-0961



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Sunday School: 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. for children and adults

(Nursery provided during worship services and Sunday School)

Michael Southall-Vess, Pastor

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 11 a.m. Sunday 5/11 *Mother's Day Celebration / Choir Pentecost Sunday*
 9 a.m. Saturday 5/17 *Arlington Forest Community Yard Sale (Shop or Sell Items)*
 11 a.m. Sunday 5/18 *Culpepper Gardens Open House (Retirement Community)*
 3 p.m. Sunday 6/1 *Eucharist Service, featuring Live Music from U2 (Family Fun)*

BOWEN MCCAULEY DANCE TO PERFORM AT KENMORE

As part of its ongoing partnership with Arlington Public Schools, Bowen McCauley Dance returns to the Kenmore Performing Arts Center at Kenmore Middle School in May. Choreographer Lucy Bowen McCauley injects her distinct brand of vivid and musical choreography into Saint Saens' *Carnival of the Animals* as the premiere brings together BMD's junior and professional Company dancers for the first time.

Location: Kenmore Performing Arts Center, 200 S. Carlo Springs Road

Date: Saturday, May 3rd at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 4th at 3:00 p.m.

Admission: \$20 for adults, \$10 for students/seniors. Children five and under are free.

Tickets can be purchased at www.bmd.org or call 703-524-4641 for more information.

Money Raised on Our Streets

The participants who ventured out on our neighborhood streets and walked 5 kilometers raised \$8,378 during the School Walk for Diabetes. The money will be donated to the American Diabetes Association.

Barcroft Elementary School would like to thank everyone in the community that contributed to making this an outstanding event! Thank you for making a difference in the lives of those with diabetes.

Sharing a Story

From board books to adult novels, more than a thousand books changed hands and the annual Barcroft Book Exchange on April 15. Families also celebrated Leonardo daVinci's birthday, sipped warm drinks, listened to a storyteller, and visited with neighbors.

Barcroft sends thanks to many community members who helped make this event a success. Hope many of you can join us next year for this annual community-wide event!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR....

The Barcroft Fourth of July Parade will be held on July 4 this year.



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- *FHA allows 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. No cash reserves needed.
- *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; Subsidized Grants available for a ZERO down payment option for buyers.

*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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