



November 2008

Barcroft News

Vol 106, Issue 3

President's Report

by Heidi Wicker

With the November 4 election fast approaching, we were pleased to have such a great turnout at the BSCL's last community meeting where we hosted a "Community Hall" meeting with the County Board candidates, Barbara Favola and John Reeder. It was a very helpful discussion fleshing out the candidates' positions--many thanks to all attendees who asked such excellent questions of our candidates!

At the next BSCL meeting on **November 6, 7:30pm** at the Community House (800 S. Buchanan), our police precinct captain and her officers will provide an **update on crime and safety matters affecting Barcroft**. We will also discuss whether to start a formal Community Watch program to help prevent crime in Barcroft. Please let me know if you have any particular concerns or questions you would like to discuss, so I can ask the police to research them prior to the meeting.

We will also be voting on whether to ask The Examiner newspaper (a free, non-subscription paper delivered on Thursdays and Sundays) to stop delivery to the entire neighborhood. Many (many, many!) neighbors have told me that they have made repeated requests to stop delivery of The Examiner to their house, to no avail. I have been working with the distributor to create a no-delivery list for the neighborhood, but adherence to the list by the actual delivery persons is reported by

neighbors to be spotty at best. And, whenever distributors change, we seem to have this issue all over again.

We discussed the proposed vote briefly at the last meeting. Neighbors said they are concerned about the health and safety issues created by Examiners not picked up by homeowners can (and have) caused folks to trip, whether walking or on bikes. Neighbors have also pointed out that this is a beautification issue, given the number of papers which lay in the street uncollected to decompose. And, since one does not subscribe to The Examiner, there is no way to stop if from being delivered if you are out of town, which could lead to crime targeting your house.

Thus, the vote on the agenda for the November meeting to ask The Examiner to stop delivering the paper to the entire neighborhood. As one neighbor pointed out, if you want to receive the paper, you can always read it online at www.examiner.com, which is of course the more "green" way to read the paper anyway.

If you are unable to attend the November 6 meeting, but have a position on this issue you would like to share with the group, please feel free to email me at heidi@bscl.org.

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

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Volunteers **vacant**

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All phone numbers are area code 703 unless noted.

ALL THE LATEST NEWS

is available when you join the
Barcroft chat group and news email lists!

Go to: www.bscl.org

Neighbor to Neighbor Ads

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

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

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

Yard Work: Teenager available for raking leaves and other yard work. Call Thomas at 703-979-5838

Babysitting: Brother and sister, ages 14 and 15, can babysit in Barcroft, nights and weekends. Call Thomas or Allison at 703-979-5838.

WANTED: Stories and ideas for the Barcroft News.
Contact **Kathy Kerr** 703-892-6458 editor@bscl.org

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BSCL Membership

Thanks to all who have already sent in their dues for the new year that started in September. It's never too late to renew your BSCL membership - or join if you are not yet a member. **Dues are still only \$3 per adult or \$6 per couple. .**

Thanks also for the contributions that came along with them. The exterior of the Community House desperately needs painting, so keep them coming!

The membership form is available at: www.BSCL.org

Once again we ask for your continued support of the **Barcroft Community House Fund**. This year the exterior of the Community House desperately needs painting. In fact, we are in danger of a citation. Any contribution you can make is very much needed.

THE Election November 4th !

By Randy Swart

Call the election registrar at 703-228-3456 for details or see www.arlingtonva.us/vote for a clear and informative voting guide.

You can check your registration status on the Web site any time or by calling during business hours. You can verify then that your polling place has not changed. Some have.

Polls will be open from 6am to 7pm. There will be lines this time, with the longest early in the morning or late in the afternoon. The shortest lines will be in mid-afternoon.

On November 4 you will have a choice of the familiar electronic voting machines or a new one where you blacken circles on a paper ballot that is then scanned in. In Arlington you can be sure that either will register your vote accurately.

The A-to-K and L-to-Z lines have been replaced with electronic poll books that work for any name. But we have a long ballot this year - President and Vice President, Senate, House of Representatives, County Board, School Board, a housing authority referendum and four County bond issues. Read up on them now — or be a slow voter and easy prey for the politicos handing out literature as you go in.

You might consider walking or riding your bicycle to the polls rather than driving, to get some exercise and support Arlington's "Car-Free Diet" campaign.

Support the Barcroft PTA at the Election Bake Sale

Reward yourself for taking the time to vote and help to raise \$\$\$ for Barcroft student activities and scholarships from 6 AM to 6 PM. In the morning, look for muffins, scones, and sweet breads. In the afternoon, you'll find rice crispie treats, cookies, cupcakes and bars. There will also be whole cakes, pies and breads. Coffee and tea will be available of course!. Get a snack and enjoy a hot beverage while you wait, and then pick up dessert on your way out.

How You Can Help: Neighbors are invited to contribute homemade baked goods, and, of course, to come to the polling place hungry!

Bakers can drop off their contribution (bagged for individual sale) at the Barcroft Elementary office the afternoon of November 3rd or on Election Day at the table just outside the Barcroft Elementary polling place.

Contact Heather Sheire, if you can help bake or sell.
703-486-3767



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NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL NEWS

Barcroft School

Henderson Hall Marines have revived their partnership with Barcroft this year. Henderson Hall first partnered with Barcroft in the early 1990s, providing tutors and programs.

However, with command changes, the partnership fell by the wayside. Under the direction of the new School Liaison Officer, Michael Flarherty, and the work of **Principal Miriam Hughey-Guy**, the Marine Tutor and Buddy program is underway again.

Barcroft reading specialist Dora Sue Black has trained a group of 25 Marines to work with students every Tuesday. The volunteers are enthusiastic about the renewed partnership and are encouraging other fellow Marines to join the program.

The partnership extends beyond reading. The Marines will continue the pumpkin carving tradition with third graders on Oct. 28. Henderson Hall will host 4th graders for a beautification event and Barcroft will invite the Henderson Hall volunteers to the school for their annual Beautification Day.

Kenmore Middle School

Kenmore Music Department held an outdoor Fall Music Concert on the evening of October 22. Pizza, drinks and baked goods were sold.



Students participated in a Mini-Walk for the Homeless on Thursday, October 30th to support Food For Others, which serves the needy throughout Northern Virginia.

Kenmore history teacher **Lilo Stephens** was named Outstanding Economic Educator by the Virginia Council on Economic Education (VCEE) for her efforts in advancing economic and financial literacy. Stephens will receive the award along with \$100 at the VCEE 2008 Economic Educator awards luncheon in November.

Faith Lutheran Church ELCA

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8:00 am Traditional Worship
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9:45 am Sunday School for all ages

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Wakefield High

Wakefield music students are offering a special **family concert** on **November 6 at 7:30 pm** presented by Wakefield's marching band, featuring music by the Temptations and a preview of the Wakefield Players upcoming production of "High School Musical." For more information, contact Cheryl Moore cwmkmoore@msn.com or 703-237-9481.

Thank you from Wakefield music students for donations from Barcrofters on "**Tag Day**" totaling \$1,807. They collected over \$6,000 for the music program. .

A record number of 11 Wakefield students were selected for the competitive District Choir!

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The **Wakefield Music Program fundraiser** will be at the **Clarendon Barnes & Noble November 21-23**. It'll be a perfect time for holiday shopping - and a percentage your purchases will go to their music program. There will be Wakefield student artwork on display along with poetry and musical performances by orchestra, band and choral students.

If you go to ANY Barnes & Noble during November 21-23 and mention the Wakefield book fair, the store will donate a percentage of your purchase to the school.

Washington-Lee High

Washington-Lee will host its annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 10am to 4 pm at the newly remodeled school. The event includes vendors, ethnic foods and holiday entertainment. 1301 N. Stafford Street.

Free admission. For info email: w1_holiday_bazaar@live.com or call Renee Gorsky at 703-516-7007.

Free "Sound Station" Classes at TJ for teens

in the TJ Sound Station
 Mondays & Wednesdays ~ 4-6pm
 Learn about the production side of urban music and the process of making a song; from the idea to the finished product.

Expressive Arts

Thursdays ~ 4pm-6pm
 Express yourself through lyrics, music and video.

DJ Class

Tuesdays & Fridays ~ 3:30-6:00pm
 Experience the world of a DJ! You will be mixing music with your own cd's. All tastes in music are welcome: Hip Hop, Latin, Reggae, Trance, and Rock! Call for more information call Mr. Knox @ 703-228-7782.

GREEN WORKSHOPS AVAILABLE

Make Your Own Rain Barrel

Thursday, December 4th. 7:30 - 9:00 PM.

Come to this workshop to learn how to recycle a used pickle barrel into a rain barrels, to use to collect rain water from your home and reuse it in your garden. Help conserve water and reduce storm water runoff!

Cost for the workshop is \$50 per barrel (2 per household limit). All materials and tools will be provided. You must register and pre-pay. Walk-ins will not be accepted. Call 703-228-3610 for more information

Location: Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. Arlington, VA 22206.

Tour Arlington's Water Pollution Control Plant

Saturday, December 13th, 1pm. Come join us for this rare opportunity for a VIP behind the scenes tour! The water pollution control plant is a critical part of Arlington that most don't think about, but we all depend on.

Learn how wastewater treatment protects public health and the environment. Join us for a detailed tour of the facility to see how each stage of the process works to transform water and how your everyday choices can protect our water resources.

Free, but space is limited so please RSVP with Adam Segel-Moss at 703-228-3066 to confirm your spot and for more details.

ROLLERSKATING

For Families and Teens

Every Saturday from now through March 28th, 2009 at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center
6:30-8:30pm— Family Skate,
9-11pm —Teen Only Skate

\$2 entrance fee, \$2 skate rental
(must pay separate admission for both Family Skate and Teen Skate sessions)



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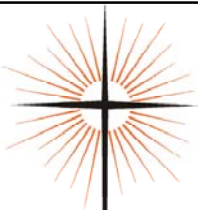
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Chesterbrook Montessori School now open on site

10/31, 6:30 p.m. Community Halloween party

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Leaf Collection

Barcroft will receive two vacuum passes by Dec. 31. There will also be weekly bag collection service on Fridays through Jan. 16. Biodegradable bags are available.

For full information about the schedule, call 703 228-6565 for info or visit the website: www.arlingtonva.us. You can also join the Leaf Collection Schedule Listserve to keep up to date with the latest collection schedule information.

The County has nearly 100 leaf workers, over 30 pieces of equipment including vacuum trucks, rear loading collection trucks, and loaders. By the end of the leaf season, they expect to collect over 45,000 cubic yards of leaves for processing into leaf mulch. They appreciate feedback about the program.

Become a Secret Santa

You, your family or group can help a needy family this season. Mail or deliver gift cards by Dec. 5 to:

Secret Santa Program
c/o Kurt Larrick
Department of Human Services
3033 Wilson Blvd, Suite 700A
Arlington, VA 22201

Individual cards should not exceed \$50. . . Undesignated gift cards will be used where they're needed most. Include the value of the gift card, a return address so that your donation can be acknowledged, and a beneficiary designation if you choose one.

Ideally, gift cards will be delivered to recipients in time for holiday shopping, so please submit them by Dec. 5. Late-arriving cards are still very useful!

Questions? Call Kurt at 703-228-1775.

Long Branch Nature Center Is Turning 36!

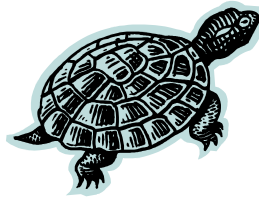
On November 12th, 1972, Long Branch Nature Center opened its doors to Northern Virginia and the Glencarlyn and Barcroft neighborhoods. Long Branch has maintained an especially close connection with our neighborhood through the bog in Barcroft Park.

This bog is one of the very few in the Mid-Atlantic region, and Long Branch has worked to preserve it for continued studies and habitat diversity.

As Long Branch nears its 36th year of operation, the staff invites everyone to celebrate and join the festivities on **Wednesday**,

November 12th, 2008 from 3-5 PM at the Nature Center. Visitors will meet the animals, participate in a scavenger hunt, enjoy a slide show of Long Branch Nature Center--past and present, and try some tasty treats that we naturalists enjoy.

Admission is free and no registration is required. Call 703-228-6535 for questions.



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

Real Estate Sales in Northern Virginia and Arlington County

Sales and contract activity went up substantially in the Northern Virginia housing market during the spring and summer of 2008. Federal and local loan programs expanded opportunities and homebuyers sought out bargains with more affordable homes to choose from. Currently the housing inventory is lower than earlier this year, and the number of active listings on the market across Arlington declined to 880 by the end of August, the first time since early spring that the number of active listings has been below 1,000. There is plenty of mortgage money available for qualified buyers, along with more affordability than in recent years. Economic Fact. The DC metro area added 35,000+ jobs from July 2007 to July 2008. This ranked fourth out of the fifteen largest metro areas. Additionally, Virginia is expected to add 19,000 jobs in 2008.

FHA-backed mortgages are increasingly popular with buyers in affordable price ranges. An FHA loan **only requires a 3% down payment** with a maximum loan up to \$729,750! After 1/1/09 the down payment will increase to 3.5%, with a maximum loan of \$625,500. VA, Fannie Mae & Freddie Mac loans also cap off at \$625,500 after 1/1/09.

For the latest in real estate news, visit <http://realtytimes.com/119/CaseyONeal>. This Newsletter is full of interesting and useful information you will enjoy whether you are a buyer, seller, homeowner, or renter. *Email if you would like to receive the realtytimes.com newsletter every month.*

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