



September 2009

# Barcroft News

Vol 107, Issue 1

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## President's Report

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*by Bryant Monroe*

The summer has flown by one more time, and the BSCL begins meeting again on **Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Because Labor falls on the 7<sup>th</sup>, we hope to catch you all before you leave for long labor weekend out of town!

The meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> will feature reports on the renewal of the Demeter House use permit, and on the work being done on the track at the Barcroft School. The meeting will also feature a presentation by Andrea Morris, the Arlington County "Base Realignment and Closure" Coordinator on the construction that continues on the National Guard Bureau and State Department facilities on George Mason Drive. The BSCL and the Alcova Heights Civic Association are working together (with Arlington County staff) to monitor the current parking impact on nearby streets and other long term impacts, and on the plans to accommodate the significant growth coming our way. I hope you'll be able to join us.

This was a busy summer for Barcroft neighborhood concerns. The Arlington County planning staff began work on the "Columbia Pike Housing Study", and have hosted several meetings with representatives from civic associations along the Pike, as well as other stakeholders, to consider how our community would like to see the multi-family housing locations along the Pike "redevelop" in the decades to come. This study is a follow-up to the Columbia

Pike initiative and form based code planning work done in the 2002-2003 timeframe. Because this planning work will have an important impact on how our neighborhoods evolve, and how affordable housing options change, there will be much more to follow on this important planning effort.

In July the Arlington County Board accepted the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee's proposed funding for improvements to the Four Mile Run trail at Columbia Pike. This proposal was the result of hard work by a BSCL committee focused on making this highly visible stretch of the trail and green space safer and more accessible for a variety of uses. It is gratifying to note that the Board affirmed this hard work over an objection from another Arlington neighborhood representative who challenged the design efforts of our Barcroft neighbors. Thanks for your hard work!

Finally, congratulations to **Andrew Hunter** for another wonderful July 4 parade, and to all those who made the festivities that followed a big success!



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## *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.

**Mother's Helper/ Babysitting** service available from 16 year old CPR certified girl, responsible and great with kids. Available every day after 3:30 PM and weekends. Call Christy at (703)-300-1989.

**Ongoing Need:** For new or used baby items, clothing, books, educational toys, furniture, baby gates, household items, food, etc for the Even Start Program at Barcroft School. Call Jenny Lindenauer at 703-228-8846 or email [jennifer\\_lindenauer@apsva.us](mailto:jennifer_lindenauer@apsva.us)

**Wanted:**  
**Stories and ideas for the Barcroft News**  
Contact Kathy Kerr 703-892-6458 or email [kathykerr@gmail.com](mailto:kathykerr@gmail.com).



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## AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

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### Farewell to Julie Gorka

*By Steve Wilson*

Since coming to Barcroft in 1993, Julie Gorka has been the notochord of the communities' music scene. Here are some highlights:

- For many seasons she has been the music director of the annual Xmas program which we are enjoying this evening.
- She has unselfishly given of her time and talent to accompany many closet soloists at their recitals, schools and places of work. Most memorable were the timeless performances she brought to the BSCL Community House with the late Jack Turner. Few were left untouched by the fearless enthusiasm with which Julie and Jack shared their renditions of "Dance of the Toys" and "Bugler's March."

Julie has accompanied not only amateur and but interntionally known musicians as well such as Scottish fiddle champion, Elka Baker. She has provided rhythm and harmony to the cooking of the gourmet chefs who have hosted the annual BSCL Spaghetti Feast at the Community House. Playing with Barcrofter Mike Nazaretz and other wonderful area musicians in the World Reknowned "Spaghetti Tones", her suspended 9th and diminished minor 4th cords have turned a gustatory orgy into a sensory epiphany.

Julie founded the JulieYard International School of Music where she gently, patiently introduced the areas' youth to the magic

world of music. She is responsible for transforming many of the area's youth and parents into fine pianists and aspiring artists.

Julie was the founder and director of the "World Famous Marching Fiddlers" which has graced the 4th of July parade for years with their dancing virtuosity. The Marching Fiddlers won 1st place as the 'Best Marching Unit' numerous times, too many to count.

Since coming to Barcroft, Julie has been making a mark as a composer of jigs, reels and waltzes. Few can doubt her genius after hearing her " Barcoft House" which has become a standard at many traditional music sessions and contra dances after being composed in 2000.

The Barcroft News is too short to recite all the contributions Julie has made to the music at Barcoft. Without question her presence has unassumedly shaped the quality of community life we enjoy here.

We wish her all the best in her recent marriage to Walt Robinson as they make their new home in North Carolina. She will be greatly missed and we hope she will come back for visits.

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## Barcroft Elementary

### *Upcoming Events*

**Spring Concert Wednesday May 6th**

Come enjoy our great performers as the younger and older grades entertain and show off their talent and ambition.

**Silent Auction & Asian-Pacific Heritage Celebration Friday May 8th**

The annual Silent Auction will start at 6pm with bidding ending at 8:15pm. Come and bid on fantastic items to raise money for our new track. You will also enjoy the Taste of Asia cuisine, entertainment for the children and performances by special guests.

**“Girls on the Run” Pancake Dinner Thursday May 14th 6:30 PM**

The Barcroft GOTR team invites everyone to a Pancake Dinner to raise funds for the new track and celebrate their upcoming 5K!

\*\*\*\*\*

Some Barcroft 2nd graders were among the five hundred Arlington students who took part in the annual White House Easter Egg Roll on Mon, April 13, thanks to a donation by the Department of Education and the White House.

The goal of this year's Easter Egg Roll was to make it the largest, most inclusive and diverse in its history. Tickets were split among Arlington's 11 Title I elementary schools which represent diverse communities. Students rolled eggs and also enjoyed sports, cooking classes, live musical performances and storytelling.

While waiting in the egg roll line, Barcroft students and teachers had a close-up view of the President, First Lady, and First Grandmother, and some were even close enough to shake hands with President Obama! Pictures of this event are posted on the Barcroft Elementary website:

[www.apsva.us/barcroft/site/default.asp](http://www.apsva.us/barcroft/site/default.asp)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Faith Lutheran Church ELCA

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**8:00 am** Traditional Worship  
**9:30 am** Contemporary Worship  
**11:00 am** Modern Traditional Worship  
**9:45 am** Sunday School for all ages

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**Barcroft Elementary**

The Barcroft Elementary School Track Fund has collected over \$9,000 (half-way to the goal).

New contributions may be sent to the Barcroft school office.

A big thank you to all those who already sent in donations.

**Kenmore** sixth grade science teacher

**Kenmore Middle School**

**Elizabeth Castillo** was selected as the 2009 Arlington Public Schools Teacher of the Year. A teacher for 28 years, she is known to be "collaborative, reflective and organized." Many newer teachers look to her as a role model and she is highly respected by her peers.

She will be honored at a reception and recognition program on May 20 at 7 p.m. at the Education Center.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Kenmore** students participating in a year-long residency with Bowen-McCauley Dance performed for **Carlin Springs** and **Kenmore** students on April 17. They also performed in the company's public performances on April 18 and 20. A back drop painted by Kenmore students of art teacher **Jeff Wilson** was used in all four performances of the "Unicorn, Gorgon & the Manticore."

**Wakefield High School**

**Dinner and a Show!!!**

Wakefield High School Performing Arts presents

**"A Chorus Line"**

**May 1, 2, 8 and 9 (7pm all shows)**

Opening Night ONLY, the PTA invites you to enjoy a Spaghetti Dinner before the show.

May 1, 5:00-6:45pm

Dinner Cost: \$6 per person, plus please bring donations of non-perishable food donations for the Arlington Food Assistance Center

**"A Chorus Line" Tickets:**

\$8 adults, \$5 students

For information contact Alicia Zekan at 703-228-6705 or AZekan@arlington.k12.va.us

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**Congratulations to the Wakefield Music**

**Department** which took a music festival in Atlanta Georgia by storm. The band, orchestra, chorus and jazz band all earned "Superior" ratings from the judges. Two Barcrofters, **Adam Hunter** (chorus) and **Chris Ioffreda** (jazz band) were singled out for special recognition for their outstanding solo performances. Also, the jazz band's saxophone section was specially honored.

Wakefield also took home the (very large!) "Grand Champion Award" trophy. Orchestra directors **Gene Pohl** and band director **Denny d'Alelio** each received an "Award of Distinction."

**Around Town**

**Columbia Pike Farmers Market** re-opens for **Sunday, May 3** and continues each Sunday through November. Check out the fresh produce from local Farmers **every Sunday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm** in Pike Park, at the corner of S. Walter Reed Dr. and Columbia Pike.

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**"Arlington 's Smart Growth Journey"**

**Free screening of a new documentary**  
**When:** 7 p.m. Monday, May 11, 2009  
**Where:** Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St.

**How did Arlington get this way?**

The documentary traces the history of the past half-century of change and development. Political wheeling and dealing, visionary planning, missteps, challenges and more are revealed in a 53-minute film filled with the lively recollections of some of the key decision-makers.

Learn how the County fought to survive the threat of being carved up by highways and leveraged Metro to launch the rebirth of a declining inner suburb. See how citizen activists shaped and transformed Arlington and fought to preserve single-family neighborhoods.

You can also see " *Arlington 's Smart Growth Journey*" on the County's Web site at: [www.arlingtonva.us](http://www.arlingtonva.us).

**For more info, call 703-228-7943 or email: [mcurtius@arlingtonva.us](mailto:mcurtius@arlingtonva.us).**

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The **Barcroft Community Playgroup** meets 9:30-11:30am Friday mornings at the Barcroft Community House.

Children from birth up are welcome.

Please contact Jennifer Lis ([jjlis@comcast.net](mailto:jjlis@comcast.net)) or Julie Smith ([jds342000@gmail.com](mailto:jds342000@gmail.com)), or just stop by!



**Around Town**

**Spring Cleaning?**

Clear Out the Closets and Donate Clothes  
*By Carol Harvey*

As you dig out your warm season clothes you may find that they don't fit or please you as they did last year. The Ronda A. Gilliam Clothing Bank at the Arlington Presbyterian Church welcomes your donations. Staffed by neighborhood volunteers, clothes are given for free to those in need. Your donations are gratefully accepted on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 pm (except for the 5<sup>th</sup> Wed), and Saturdays from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm.

Since storage space is limited, it's best to donate "in season" items. Children's clothes are especially needed. Shoes, accessories, and linens are also welcome. Tax receipts are available.

Arlington Presbyterian Church is at 3507 Columbia Pike, just south of Wendy's. The clothing bank entrance is on the lower level, next to the parking lot. Please ring the bell and a volunteer will be happy to assist you. If the clothing bank is closed (they need more volunteers) don't leave clothes in the stairwell as they are a safety hazard and may get wet or ruined before they are retrieved. Thank you for helping your neighbors in need.

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**Recyclable Materials Accepted**

- Plastic Containers # 1-7
- Rigid Plastics such as Margarine and Dairy tubs and yogurt cups
- Aluminum foil & trays
- Milk & Juice Cartons
- Aerosol Cans
- Books
- Plastic Bags (Place Bags in a Bag)
- Cardboard boxes (unflattened is fine!)

**New Wheeled Carts** will hold larger quantities of recyclables, keep contents dry, and make it easy to wheel out materials to the curb. Single family homes will receive a 65 gallon cart and townhomes will receive a 35 gallon cart.

**Recyclables no longer need to be separated!** All materials may be placed into one cart.

**Recycle Electronics at the Curb**

Residents may now request a special curbside pickup of electronic recyclable materials. Requests are accepted at [www.arlingtonva.us/recycle](http://www.arlingtonva.us/recycle) or by calling 703-228-6570. There is a \$10.00 charge for computer monitors and \$20.00 for TVs. Items should be placed at the curb next to the recycling cart on the scheduled pick up date.

The **County will replace the yellow recycling bins with new wheeled carts over an eight week period.** A new curbside recycling guide will be delivered with the new carts.

**Residents are encouraged to keep their yellow bins** and make them an integral part of your home recycling system.

For more information please visit [www.arlingtonva.us/recycle](http://www.arlingtonva.us/recycle) or call 703-228-6570.



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Often a buyer will find that after taking ownership and needing to implement their warranty, it will not cover their older system, and they could encounter a \$5,000 to \$6,000 expense or more. A good insurance plan would be for the owner to renew their warranty up to five years. This would depend on the system age and if the owner can afford it.

The average life of a system is 12 to 15 years, with regular service that figure could double. The recent federal stimulus package creates advantages right now for tax credits on installation of energy efficient systems, visit [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov).

#### ***Buyers: It's a great time to buy!***

- \* An \$8000 maximum tax credit for first-time homebuyers buying homes as their primary residence from January 1 & December 1, 2009.
- \*FHA (3.5% down payment) to 729,750
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