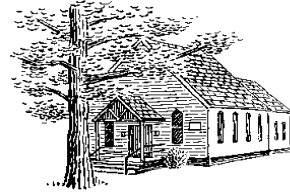


Barcroft School and Civic League
800 South Buchanan Street
Arlington, VA 22204



September 2009

Barcroft News

Vol 107, Issue 1

President's Report

by Bryant Monroe

The summer has flown by one more time, and the BSCL begins meeting again on **Thursday, September 3rd at 7:30 PM at the Barcroft Community House.** Because Labor Day falls on the 7th, we hope to catch you all before you leave for the long weekend out of town!

The meeting on the 3rd 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 4th parade, and to all those who made the festivities that followed a big success!



Real Estate Market Trends

The Northern Virginia Association of Realtors® reports on July 2009 home sales activity for Fairfax and Arlington counties, the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church and the towns of Vienna, Herndon and Clifton.

A total of 2,053 homes sold in July 2009, a 10.55 percent increase above July 2008 home sales of 1,857.

Active listings decreased by 25.62% from last year, with 7,439 active listings in July, compared with 10,002 homes available in July 2008.

The average days on market (DOM) for homes in July 2009 decreased by 31.87% to 62 days, compared with 91 days in July 2008.

Sales prices continue to remain lower than those realized last year.

The average sales price in July fell by 5% from July 2008, to \$460,807, compared with last July's average of \$485,225.

The number of pending home sales in Northern Virginia in July shows an increase of 10.21 % at 2,266 compared to 2,056 in July 2008.

Consumer confidence has improved and home sales have definitely picked up this year. Most of the activity involves first time buyers snapping up bargain-priced properties, especially in the lower price ranges..

Buyers: It's a great time to buy!

Time is running out for the \$8000 Tax credit for first-time homebuyers buying as their primary residence, expiring on 11/30/09.

*FHA - 3.5% down – loans up to \$729,750

*VA loans 100% up \$812,500

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Barcroft News Staff

Editor & Neighborhood News Kathy Kerr, 892-6458
 editor@bscl.org
Publisher / Mailing Marge Miller, 703-979-5838
 margem@yahoo.com
Advertising Mgr. Jim Kerr, 892-6458
 Jim@bscl.org

News Deadlines: 15th day of the month preceding the issue month.

BSCL Officers for 2008—2009

President Bryant Monroe, 271-0944
 Bryant@bscl.org
Vice President Steve Wilson
 Steve@bscl.org
Recording Secy. Jennifer Lis
 Jennifer@bscl.org
Treasurer Gary Lefebvre, 521-0184
 Gary@bscl.org
Corres. Secy. Wes Stien
 Wes@bscl.org
Membership Secy. Peg Lefebvre, 521-0184
 Peg@bscl.org
Board Members Jim Kerr, David Michaelson
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Contacts and Committees

Community House Christine Scullion
 clscullion@yahoo.com
Facility Mgr. David Michaelson
Restoration JoAnne Barnhart, 920-0821
Fundraising Scott Brinitzer, 892-0308
Landscaping Elaine Squeri, 920-7014
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Parade Andrew Hunter, 979-8247
Columbia Pike Bryant Monroe, 271-0944
 Bryant@bscl.org
Demeter Darlene Mickey
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Parks Shelley Fichtner, 486-0856
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Web Master & NCAC Rep Randy Swart, 521-2080
 randy@bscl.org
Arlington County Civic Federation
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 Pat Williamson, Jim Kerr
Alternates Karen Darner, David Michelson,
 Elaine Squeri, Mark Wigfield

Neighbor to Neighbor Ads

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

Babysitter: Red Cross certified tenth 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

Wanted:
Stories and ideas for the Barcroft News
 Contact Kathy Kerr 703-892-6458 or email kathykerr@gmail.com. Do you have an interesting neighbor she should interview? Are you interesting yourself??

**Don't buy the house.
 Buy the neighborhood.**

—Russian Proverb

Arlington Forest United Methodist Church

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http://www.arlingtonforestchurch.org/ (703)525-0961
 4701 Arlington Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203

From 9/13: Sunday School 9:45 a.m., 8:30 Worship, Organ Music/Praise 10:45 a.m.
 Traditional Worship 11:00 a.m., Vespers 3rd Wed. 7pm,
 Healing Service 4th Sundays 7pm

Children's Clothing Exchange, 9/18-9/26, Church Bazaar-Yard Sale, 9/25, 26
 Chesterbrook Montessori School starts its second season, ages 2 1/2-6 yrs.



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FREE Special Report From Realtors Mike Webb and Claudia Webb:



29 Essential Tips That Get Homes Sold Fast (And For Top Dollar)

Mike and Claudia are now offering their special report "29 Essential Tips That Get Homes Sold Fast-- And For Top Dollar." Vital reading for anyone selling a home now or in the near future.

In this special report Mike and Claudia share many of the tips that professional utilize to help maximize a home's potential and actual worth---and most importantly help you drive up the selling price. You'll learn many important things you need to do, but more important may be the things it tells you not to do, things that could cost you dearly at the negotiating table.

To get your free copy of this report,
 Call Mike and Claudia Webb

703-979-3016

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All About Trees

**What to worry about,
and what not to worry about**

County Tree Stewards are embarking on a new program of Public outreach.

On **Sunday October 18th** you are invited to a free walk and talk on all things trees from 3 – 4pm. This walk is open to the general public. Please meet at 3pm in front of the Barcroft community house on the corner of Buchanan and South 8th streets, Arlington 22204. Walking required will be minimal.

We'll show you examples of planting the right tree in the right place, and discuss for example what trees are appropriate for planting under power lines? How close to my house or to the street can I plant my tree? Will tree roots damage my home's foundation?

We'll show examples in the close-by neighborhood and share information such as: Why mulch around trees, and how much mulch is the right amount? Should I choose a native or non-native tree? How much water does my newly planted tree versus my established mature tree need? How trees can save you money on your air conditioning bill.

County Tree Stewards will be available after the event to answer your questions.

Questions? Contact County Tree Steward
alisonwillocks@hotmail.com

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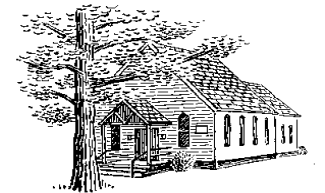
NEW BSCL MEMBERSHIP YEAR

It's that time again! Become a member of the BSCL! Or renew your membership.. Dues are still only \$3 per adult or \$6 per couple.

The membership form is provided with this newsletter.

Membership is low-priced to encourage everyone to join! **Why join?** Only members are allowed to vote at meetings. Your membership shows that you are interested in our neighborhood. And the larger our membership, the easier it is to represent the neighborhood in dealings with the County and other organizations.

Any additional contributions you make are much appreciated. The Community House always needs upkeep and renovation. All donations go to the Barcroft Community House Fund and are fully tax-deductible.




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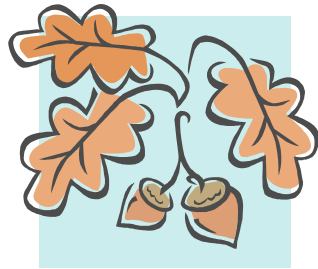
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Fridays beginning at 6:15 pm
with oneg following

Saturdays from 10:00 am until Noon
with kiddush following

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AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD



Once a Barcrofter, always a Barcrofter.

Especially if you moved here in 1938 as did Bill Molloy.

Bill arrived here just after he graduated from high school. For many years, he and his wife, Margaret, made their home on 5th Street south. Later they moved over to 8th Street South, near Barcroft School. Their son, Bill Jr, attended Barcroft, Kenmore and Wakefield. Bill remembers that he couldn't understand what the School Board was thinking. First they decided to make Barcroft school have "open classrooms." Many of the interior walls were removed. Then the school board turned around and decided that the walls were necessary after all!

The Molloy's were very active in the community and with Arlington Forest United Methodist Church. Bill helped out with a Boy Scout troop as well.

Bill remembers the land where the Women's Club was built. He also remembers the house that was torn down where Bob and Edith's restaurant recently closed. He was not a fan of the installation of

speed bumps in the neighborhood.

In 2007 Margaret died. This past May, Bill, now age 91, moved to the Green-spring Retirement Village in Springfield, VA.

Thank you to the Molloy's and so many other longtime neighbors for helping to make Barcroft a special place to live!

The County Board recently approved \$3.3 million in funding for nine neighborhood conservation projects, including one in Barcroft.

For the W&OD Trail and Glencarlyn Park at Columbia Pike, a \$468,000 park enhancement project will include the addition of a rain garden with native plants, game tables, and other play elements.

Many thanks to Barcrofter **Shirley Gay** and other Park Committee members for all the work they did to make this happen, and to our BSCL President, **Bryant Monroe** for representing Barcroft at the County Board meeting.

Around Town

County Awards Contract for Streetscape Engineering and Streetcar Planning

Arlington County Board recently approved a contract award to provide transportation engineering services for the Columbia Pike Multimodal Improvement Project. The contract will entail preliminary environmental documentation and design planning for the entire length of Columbia Pike from the Fairfax County line to S. Joyce St.

The multimodal roadway design will accommodate and be coordinated with the implementation of the planned Columbia Pike streetcar. Over the next two years, Arlington and Fairfax Counties will continue to examine ways to fund, construct, operate and maintain the proposed streetcar system.

The environmental documentation is expected to meet both state requirements and federal requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act, which in turn will allow the streetcar project to qualify for federal funding, if available. The study will also more accurately estimate the streetcar's construction costs.

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"Your peace of mind is my goal"

Around Town

Columbia Pike Farmers Market 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.

Planning Underway for Columbia Pike's 200th Anniversary

"Pike 200"

April 12, 2010 will mark the bicentennial of the date Congress chartered the construction of the "Columbia Turnpike." Local activists and history buffs are making plans to celebrate "Pike 200."

Specific activities have not yet been planned. A current focus is to pull together as much of the Pike's history as possible. Ideas include setting up both a web-based and physical repository of information and items that describe and depict the Pike's evolution. The Virginia Room at the Arlington Central Library has agreed to house items that are collected.

For questions or ideas, contact CPRO at 703-892-2776.

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3507 Columbia Pike at Lincoln Street
703-920-5660

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) or Julie Smith (jds342000@gmail.com), or just stop by!



AROUND TOWN

Appraising Your Treasures

Saturday, September 12
1:00-3:30 p.m., Ball-Sellers House
5620 3RD Street South
Arlington, VA

Dr. Jerome Ford will informally appraise family treasures, such as china, glass, and small furniture. You could call this "Arlington's answer to Antiques Road Show." There will be a limit of three objects. Suggested donation to benefit the Ball-Sellers House: \$10 per object or \$25 for three items.

Those with reservations will be appraised first. To reserve a time, contact by e-mail: appraisals4bs@gmail.com.

The appraisal events at the Ball-Sellers have been popular in the past, and they can certainly be entertaining.

Everyone is invited! You don't have to bring something to appraise. Just bring your curiosity.



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ALL THE LATEST NEWS

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

Go to:

www.bscl.org/chatlist.htm

Barcroft Elementary

School is back in session at Barcroft School and it's off to a great start!

The big news is that the track was completed in early August. The Barcroft community raised almost \$17,000 in four months to build the 1/8 of mile long track, and it is open for use by Barcroft families, friends and neighbors. Please be courteous to our neighbors by restricting use of the track to daytime hours, defined by the County as 7:00 am to 9:00 pm on weekdays, and from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm on Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays.

The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the track was held along with an ice cream social, on the evening of August 25th.

This year, Barcroft is working to expand their "Odyssey of the Mind" program as well as the "Girls on the Run" team. Neighborhood volunteers are needed.

Barcroft also has monthly Family Fitness Fridays and Saturday Morning Soccer Fun (at 10am), to which neighbors are always welcome.

Please contact Principal Miriam Hughey-Guy at 703-228-5838 with any questions or concerns.

See you at school!

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Fri	11	Family Fitness Soccer Night
Wed	16	Early Release
Thur	17	Waste-Free Lunch Day
Sat	19	Saturday Family Soccer 8:30 am
Fri	25	Hispanic Heritage Night
Sat	26	"Chalk 4 Peace"

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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

We welcome all people.

3313 Arlington Blvd. (Route 50 & Jackson St.)
Arlington, VA 22201 Tel. 703-525-9283

Barcroft Elementary

Chalk4peace is a world-wide celebration of peace - using children and art as the medium. It started in Arlington in 2003 - and has spread to 4 continents.

It is not a demonstration or protest. It's simply that children are encouraged to express their notion of peace through chalk — usually on sidewalks and parking lots.

Barcroft was one of the first Arlington schools to participate. This year the event will be held on Saturday September 26.

For more information visit the website:

www.chalk4peace.org



At least once a month, Barcroft students have a **"Waste Free Lunch."**

Did you know that each person generates half a pound of food waste every day at lunch? Students are encouraged to do the following:

- Bring lunch in reusable containers whenever possible
- Encourage your family to buy snacks in bulk
- Take only the food you know you can eat
- Take a tray or plastic utensils only if you really need them
- Encourage others to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle!

Wakefield High School

The first home football game at Wakefield is Friday, September 4.

Come out and support the Warriors and see the Marching Warriors' new show, featuring the music of Earth, Wind & Fire.

Everyone is welcome!