

December 2009

# Barcroft News

Vol 107, Issue 4



***Everyone is invited to the  
Barcroft Holiday Party  
Thursday December 3  
7:00 PM  
At the BSCL Community House***

**Featuring:**

- **Music by our Barcroft neighbors**
- **Sing-a-long songs of the season from different cultures**
- **“The Grinch who Stole Christmas” (a Barcroft tradition thanks to the Harold family)**
- **Refreshments**
- **And, if we have all been good, a special visitor dressed in red!**

***If you like, bring cookies or treats to share!***

***Children should be accompanied by an adult.***



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

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**Arlington County Civic Federation**

*Delegates* Eric Harold, Randy Swart,  
 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??

## President's Report

From Bryant Monroe

It's that time of year again, the holidays are fast approaching. You know what that means, the **annual Barcroft Holiday Party** will happen on **Thursday, December 3.**

Per our neighborhood tradition the December meeting is dedicated to holiday festivities, and we will begin at **7:00 PM** (and not the usual 7:30 start time). The party will feature music and carols by our Barcroft neighbors, a lively rendition of "The Grinch who Stole Christmas" (a Barcroft tradition the last few years), refreshments, and we hope a special visitor dressed in red! We need everyone to bring a snack or beverage to share, and the band always welcomes musicians (music will be provided). Most of all we need parents to bring their kids, there won't be any dull adult business to distract from the fun! Many thanks to Barbara Swart for pulling this together! Please call her if you want to help out, join the band, or if you have a question. She can be reached at 703-521-2080.

At its November 14 meeting, the Arlington County Board will consider the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH) application to acquire and refurbish the Buchanan Gardens apartments (located near the Pike on Buchanan Street). APAH is requesting that the County provide financial assistance and approve a "Use Permit" that will enable the project to proceed. As many of you know the BSCL has passed two resolutions supporting this project, and our neighborhood conservation plan encourages improvements to this site. The County

Manager and staff support this project and have recommended the Board approve the APAH request. APAH staff have been regular visitors to BSCL meetings, and we look forward to continuing this very positive relationship.

I know many Barcroft neighbors are very concerned about the impact of the expansion of the National Guard Bureau and the State Department training facility located at the corner of Route 50 and George Mason Drive. The BSCL is looking for volunteer members and a chairperson for our neighborhood traffic committee, and parking/safety issues tied to this growth would be a high priority for the committee. Please consider lending a hand and help the BSCL assume a leadership role as we grapple with this very significant challenge for our community. Please contact me if you are interested (see the contact information inside the newsletter).

Have a safe and happy holiday, and a great new year!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Help Wanted:**

Barcroft needs a new Traffic Committee chairperson and also a newsletter distributor.

Many thanks to **Marge Miller** (newsletter) and **Elaine Squeri** (traffic) for their many years of service to our neighborhood.

For more information about these positions, contact **Bryant Monroe** at 703-271-0944 or email: [Bryant@bscl.org](mailto:Bryant@bscl.org)

## Around the Neighborhood

### Blankets for Babies: Do you knit or crochet?

*If so, Shelter House needs you!*



Shelter House provides temporary housing to homeless families with children in Northern Virginia. Barcrofter Jo Anne Barnhart is on the Board of Directors. After

just six months on the Board, she is starting a new program to provide each baby and child entering a shelter with his or her very own hand-made blanket.

Jo Anne has lived in the same house in Barcroft since 1981. She has been crocheting since she was 6 years old when she learned from her grandmother. She says: "I am always working on some crochet project. When my husband and I watch TV, I "multi-task" by crocheting."

Since she always has a project going, it occurred to Jo Anne that other Barcrofters might be similarly engaged and willing to donate their stitching skills to this wonderful cause.

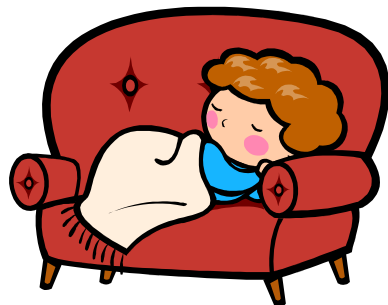
She got the idea for blankets for babies because she had crocheted several baby blankets for her son when he was little. He's now 21 years old! He loved his blankets and carefully laid them out on his

bedcovers every night for years! When he was in high school, they remodeled his bedroom. He asked his mom to be sure if she had his baby blankets in a safe place. Since the blankets provided such a sense of security and feeling of home for her own son, Jo Anne wanted to bring those same feelings to little children whose families are going through difficult times -- to make the children feel safe and warm -- a feeling of home even when their families are without a permanent place to call home.

If you're interested in keeping your fingers busy on the soon-to-be-here chilly nights, Jo Anne will provide the yarn if you will do the stitching! Use any pattern you want and work at your own pace. Remember, these are for children, so they don't have to be full-size afghans.

*Your loving handwork will provide some much needed security and comfort to homeless children*

*Call JoAnne at 703-892-1433 to get your yarn an get stitching!*



## Around The Neighborhood

### BSCL MEMBERSHIP DUES To Rise

Our BSCL Membership Dues have been \$3 per adult since 1996.

After a lively discussion at the November meeting at which several alternatives were offered, the membership voted to increase the dues to \$5 per adult. The effective date is January 1, 2010.

An updated Membership Form will be found in the January Newsletter.

If you have already paid your 2009-10 dues, you are covered for this year.

\*\*\*\*\*

Condolences to the family of Barcrofter **Jack Reed** who died suddenly in November of a heart attack. He and wife **Barbara Clemens** have been longtime Barcrofters. He had recently stood by her side helping her through her bout with cancer. Jack loved the neighborhood.

In addition to BSCL activities, Jack was an active ham radio operator and President of the Arlington Amateur Radio Club. He was a staunch supporter of Arlington CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) and The American Red Cross.

Barbara's lament: "This is so very unfair to Jack. He held everything together during my nine months of cancer treatments. He never wavered. We were ready for a cancer-free future. He doesn't deserve this."

The former George Mason Shell station at the corner of Columbia Pike and George Mason Drive is finally reopening as: **The Car Place at Barcroft: George Mason Service Center.** Mr. Ishar Ahmed is still the owner/operator only now he will be independent and able to buy gas from Shell, Sunoco, or whomever has the best prices. His shop has been totally rehabbed, his underground gas tanks are environmentally up to date, and his pumps are brand new. He and his crew are anxious to get back to work as this process dragged on much longer than expected. For example, they ran into unmarked sewer lines from the 1930's that had to be relocated around the station. Support this small business owner and also keep an eye on his gas prices as he promises to be competitive. Call them at 703-892-0510

\*\*\*\*\*

- **County Board Approves \$7.1 million for Buchanan Gardens Apartments**

- 111 garden apartments to be improved, enlarged, kept affordable for 60 years
- Project is part of County's effort toward affordable housing around Columbia Pike
- County expects further funding request from APAH to renovate units
- The property now offers 82-one bedroom units, 28 two-bedroom units and a single three-bedroom unit at affordable rents. None of the units are accessible to persons with disabilities. Rents range from \$835 to \$1,395 a month.

## Barcroft Elementary

Barcroft Elementary is looking for volunteers to serve as tutoring buddies in reading and math, and also helping in a Homework Club. If you have at least thirty minutes to spare once a week, please call the school at 703-228-5838 and speak to Mrs. Karla Mora.

High school students, older scouts, friends and neighbors are all welcome to join us. We'll provide the training - you provide the invaluable help!

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you to Barcroft's fabulous bakers who provided coffee and homemade treats for sale on Election Day.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Help support Barcroft School!** Link your Harris Teeter card to the Barcroft School. It's free, but it has to be re-linked every year.

[http://www.harristeeter.com/community/together\\_in\\_education/link\\_to\\_your\\_school.aspx](http://www.harristeeter.com/community/together_in_education/link_to_your_school.aspx)

\*\*\*\*\*

### December Events:

- Pasta Dinner to support Girls on the Run and the track (Dec 3rd 6:30)
- Kindergarten Open House (Dec 10th 9:30 am)
- Winter Concert (Dec 10th evening)
- Leonardo Learning Day Open House (Dec 17th 9-3pm)

On Tue, Oct. 20, **Barcroft** students held an assembly to honor men and women in the armed services. The service members in attendance were from the Henderson Hall Tutor and Buddy program. In its third year, the program provides Barcroft students with academic support and mentors. The assembly ended with a performance from McGruff the Crime Dog to celebrate red ribbon day.

\*\*\*\*\*

On Nov. 10, it was the students' chance to give back to the armed services and to say thank you by honoring veterans and active-duty personnel for their service to our country. During the month of November, 3rd through 5th graders will be collecting donations to provide veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan with "I SERVED" bumper stickers. The goal of the project is provide all returning vets with a simple way to show our thanks for their service.

\*\*\*\*\*

On Sat, Oct. 24, **Barcroft** P.E. teacher **Denise Brown**, and teachers **Erin Kelly**, **Heather Ellis** and **Rebecca Hufford** accompanied several Barcroft students and their parents to the Healthy Kids Fun Run. This event was held at the Pentagon and was sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps. Prior to the start of the race, students enjoyed interactive activities, and at the end of the milelong race course, they received "gold" medals for their participation.

## Kenmore Middle School

**Kenmore** theater arts students will present Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* on Dec. 10-11 at 7 p.m. in the Kenmore theater. Admission is by donation.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Kenmore** held mock elections to coincide with Virginia's off-year gubernatorial elections this month. Students voted for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General. Kenmore's mock election, organized by seventh grade social studies teacher **Andy Paparella** took place on Oct. 30. In order to vote, students first had to register the week before. Student votes were recorded using Senteos. The results of Kenmore's election were added to Virginia's results for the National Student/Parent Mock Elections.

## Wakefield High School

**Wakefield's** theater department participated in the Virginia Theater Association annual conference the weekend of Oct. 30 in Reston, Va. Joining 38 other high schools across the state and led by theater teacher **Chris Gillespie**. Students performed and had the opportunity to learn about theater programs at Virginia colleges.

\*\*\*\*\*

### December Events:

- 12/8 Parent Info Night: Financial Aid Workshop—rm. 110—7 pm  
 12/16 Winter Music Concert—7 pm—Aud.  
 12/23 Alumni Day

## Wakefield High School

Congratulations to the following students who were selected to represent Wakefield at 2009-2010 All-District Chorus event in February:

Rosemary Girard  
 Arami McCloskey  
 Sam Kealey  
 Ben Names  
 Jhonny Maldonado  
 Darrien Day  
 Shelton Siegel  
 Marquis Allgood  
 Dominique Lopez-Piper  
 Danyele Greenfield  
 Adriana Lopez-Piper  
 Daniel Edwards  
 Delia Penalva (selected as alternate)  
 Jame Jackson (selected as alternate)

It seems that Wakefield students are represented in almost every voice category. In addition Wakefield is the only Arlington High School represented in the Tenor 1 and Tenor 2 sections. Special congratulations to Adriana Lopez-Piper who tied with the **SECOND HIGHEST** audition score for Alto 2 in all of District 12. Wow!

Congratulations and thank you also to Wakefield's wonderful choral director, Nadim Nader.

\*\*\*\*\*

Everyone is invited to the Music Department's **Winter Concert on December 16 at 7:00 pm.** There will also be a bake sale and a display of Wakefield's National PTA "Reflection's Contest" entries.

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### Farmers Market to go Year Round!

The market takes place in Pike Park at the corner of S. Walter Reed Dr. and Columbia Pike every Sunday from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Had It With Junk Mail?

Each year 100 million trees are destroyed to deliver 4 million tons of junk mail. That's equivalent to deforesting the entire Rocky Mountain National Park every four months!

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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!





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### ALL THE LATEST NEWS

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Go to:

**[www.bscl.org/  
chatlist.htm](http://www.bscl.org/chatlist.htm)**



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**Dues are still only \$3 per adult or \$6 per couple**

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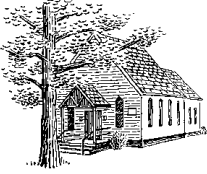
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800 South Buchanan Street  
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### **Tax Credit Extension Update**

On 11/6/09 President Obama signed a bill into law extending the \$8,000 tax credit to first-time home buyers. The temporary credit is only available for purchases that go to contract before 5/1/2010 and that close before 7/1/2009. The tax credit has greatly helped to stabilize the housing market, and could make a larger impact by including more home buyers.

This new law also includes a tax credit for home buyers who "move up" or "trade-in" their home. Under the new bill, home buyers who are have lived in their home for at least five concurrent years over the past eight years, and purchase a new home, are eligible for a \$6,500 tax credit. The new house does not have to cost more than the original home. Also, the credit is available for home buyers who once owned a home (and lived there for at least five concurrent years over the past eight years), but have since sold it and have been renting.

The income limits are now \$125,000 per year for individuals and \$225,000 for married couples. Maximum house price is of \$800,000. Congress recently passed legislation to extend a temporary increase for "conforming loans" that mortgage financiers Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac may buy from lenders to \$729,750 through the end of next year. Those limits would have reverted to \$625,500 on 1/1/2010. Lawmakers approved the increase to avoid disrupting the mortgage market.

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