



BARCROFT

NEWS

November, 1986

NOVEMBER PROGRAM: NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION

The November 6 meeting of the BSCL will take up for the first time a major area which Barcroft should be addressing: the County's Neighborhood Conservation Program, and a plan for our own neighborhood.

Our speaker will be Helen Hedges, Chairman of the Arlington Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee. A resident of the Ballston-Virginia Square neighborhood, Helen will explain the County's program to preserve neighborhoods and the advantages of the program for a neighborhood like Barcroft.

The Neighborhood Conservation Program is a channel for citizens to advise the County Board on matters which affect their neighborhoods, including land use decisions. The County also uses the program to fund improvements in facilities in the neighborhoods. One of the bond issues on the November ballot is intended to raise over \$4 million for neighborhood improvements. The funds will be used to improve curbs, gutters, sidewalks, recreational facilities, traffic management features, streetlights and other public facilities. Barcroft's share will be in part determined by our development of a neighborhood conservation plan for its use.

Helen Hedges will describe the program for us and tell us what Barcroft should do to become involved. This will be an important meeting for those who are ready to do something more in our neighborhood and are looking for a new place to contribute their talent for the benefit of all!

BARCROFT HEARS ARLINGTON'S FUTURE

The BSCL's October meeting featured a surprise program change which brought to us a presentation by John Tuccillo, a long-time Barcroft resident and Vice Chairman of the Arlington County Commission on the Future. John spoke on the work of his group and its draft report about what to expect in Arlington from now to the year 2000.

The report stresses the need for a partnership of government, business, citizens, civic associations and other neighborhood groups. Trends to be dealt with include: development pressure, varied ethnic groups in the population, shifts in service providers to areas outside the County, school system adjustments to changes in population, and daytime population one-third larger than residents.

"Challenges" include: preservation of neighborhood life, maintenance of a quality education system serving all the population, providing for public safety and public health, serving "special populations" and development of strategies. The group recommended that strategies be developed to concentrate on: (1) Neighborhood concept; (2) Arlington identity; (3) Joint ventures with public and private partnerships; (4) Government mobilization; and (5) Individual involvement.

The recommendations of the report are extensive and varied in scope and approach. Copies will be available from the County. The final report will be the subject of a County Board hearing on December 6.

THE PASTRY CONNECTION: A NEW NEIGHBOR

(As many of you already know, Barcroft has two new neighborhood restaurants--Forest Pizza and The Pastry Connection. This month our Anonymous Restaurant Critic reviews The Pastry Connection. Reviews of other neighborhood eateries will follow!)

Billed as a gourmet deli, bakery and restaurant, The Pastry Connection is located at 4815 Columbia Pike, between Hairloom and the Highs Diary Store. What makes it special, aside from the wide variety of French/Vietnamese pastries available, is that it provides Barcroft residents a local place where friends and neighbors can meet. Open every day from 6 AM to 9 PM, it is a perfect place for a quick meal before or after work, as well as a leisurely coffee break during mid-morning and afternoon.

The bakery/deli is on the left. In addition to the classic French pastries available (neapolitans, eclairs and croissants to name a few) there is a sampling of Vietnamese confections as well. Highlights of these include sesame balls, jelly cakes and mung bean cream cake.

To complement the generous array of pastries there are 20 flavors of fresh coffee beans, from the legendary and very expensive Jamaica Blue Mountain to decaffeinated French Roast.

A quick survey of the restaurant side of the Pastry Connection reveals an interesting menu with a good selection of traditional Vietnamese fare. Appetizers, salads and entrees are similar to those found in Arlington's better Vietnamese restaurants. The management has installed a unique grill arrangement which produces fine grilled meats, while the sauces are delicate, soups are nicely spiced with the traditional celantro, and every entree seems to have its own little original touch. The rice served at the Pastry Connection is the superior grade sometimes known as "Long An" rice, a tasty, glutinous rice which sticks together to make it easier to eat with chopsticks. For desert there are the bakery's pastries, or traditional custard.

The Pastry Connection seems well on its way to becoming a gathering place for Barcroft residents to get together in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. The staff is friendly and accommodating. Instead of driving to Alexandria or D.C., why not support a Barcroft business. You'll be glad you did!

FOR SALE: 1978 Edsel. 78 rpm record player. Hula hoop. AM radio.

PLACE YOUR WANT AD HERE!!

Beginning with the very next issue the Barcroft News will carry want ads from members. You can advertise your yard sale, or get rid of that white elephant in your basement by advertising to your neighbors. No phone calls from Rockville by people who will not come all the way over to see your old black & white TV! No legions of strangers from who-knows-where, just your own Barcroft neighbors. Catch: you must be a member to place an ad. The Good News: The first ad is free to any member. So you can join for \$2 and have your free ad immediately. Additional ads will be \$5 for three lines. Catch #2: You must bring your ad to the BSCL meeting (first Thursday of every month, 800 South Buchanan St., 7:30 PM). It will appear in the next issue of the Barcroft News, which will be received by readers three weeks after you submit the ad. (If you have some very good reason for being unable to come to the BSCL meeting, send your ad with a neighbor, or call 521-2080 for special dispensation. Hint: watching M*A*S*H is not a very good reason.)

Bring your first ad to the meeting on November 6. You might even want to stay around to hear what we need to do to preserve our neighborhood!

FOR SALE: 1978 Edsel. 78 rpm record player. Hula hoop. AM radio.

Summer carpets. Kerosene lantern. C melody saxophone. Mini skirts. Dial telephones. CB radio.

Purple down coat. Push mower. Manual typewriter. Zoot suit. Knickers. Corfam shoes. Brownie camera.

Deely boppers. Clothesline. Rumble seat cover. Goggles. DDT.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor: Randy Swart
521-2080

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920-8131

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979-2422

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE BLIND

Performing simple tasks like reading the mail, going grocery shopping, or getting to a medical appointment can involve unique difficulties for a visually impaired or blind person.

You can help alleviate many concerns of the visually handicapped citizens in your area by offering as little as one hour per week as a volunteer with the Virginia Department for the Visually Handicapped. If you are interested in volunteering, please call 979-3415.



ACAP NEEDS YOUR OLD FURNITURE

Do you have any furniture you no longer need? Call Arlington County's Citizen Assistance and Information Office at 558-2105 and ask for the SOFA Project Coordinator. The SOFA Project arranges for pick-up and subsequent delivery of used and surplus furniture (no appliances, please) to needy Arlington residents. The furniture or carpets should be in serviceable condition. This project is administered by ACAP (Arlington Community Action Program, 1415 S. Queen Street) and is supported by the Arlington Parish Council.

VIDEO DEN OF ARLINGTON

Arlington Forest Shopping Center
4809 N. First Street
Arlington, Virginia 22203

Debbie and Terry Lee
(703) 243-2422



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

A book discussion group has been formed under the auspices of the Friends of the Arlington County Library. The group meets at the Central library meeting room each month for a lively discussion of a chosen book which each discussion group member reads before the meeting. Recent choices have included a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction books from classics to current best-sellers. The book for the November 24 meeting is Crime and Punishment by Dostoevsky. The December 22 book is Garrison Keillor's Lake Wobegon Days.

The Book Discussion Group meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 8 PM in the Central Library meeting room. Call Dore Morse at 524-8622 for more information about the group.

*
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**HIDING HIDDEN OAKS, OR SOMETHING
THERE IS WHICH DOES NOT LIKE AN
UGLY BRICK WALL**

IN MEMORIAM: WILLIAM BLUNDELL

Former President of the Barcroft School and Civic League William M. Blundell passed away on September 19, 1986. The BSCL has sent a letter of condolence to his family.

USED HEARING AIDS NEEDED

The Washington Hearing and Speech Society provides used hearing aids to persons who cannot afford the cost of a new hearing aid. Anyone who donates a hearing aid is given an acknowledgment letter and a receipt for the donation. Donors can either deposit the hearing aid in one of the local collection boxes or mail the aid to the Washington Hearing and Speech Society, 1934 Calvert Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009. Donors should include their name, address and telephone number so that they can receive their receipt. For information, please call 265-7335.



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WERNER STARGARDT

At the October meeting of the BSCL one of the topics discussed was the surprise request by the developers of the Hidden Oaks townhouse development on Pershing Drive to the County Planning Commission for a site plan amendment. The amendment would have permitted the developer to build a 5 to 7 foot high brick wall along South Pershing Drive in front of the complex, and to put up two 2 X 10 foot identification signs at the entrance.

After discussion, the BSCL members present at the meeting voted to oppose the change because of concerns about appearance and safety. The wall did not seem architecturally consistent with the townhouses behind it, and the design struck some members as singularly ugly. Some questioned why this development would wall itself off from our neighborhood and be the only such eyesore in Barcroft. The wall's close proximity to the sidewalk raised the question of obstructing sightlines as traffic exits and enters the complex, and the problem encountered every winter when icing of the hill catches some poor unsuspecting motorist sliding uncontrollably up onto the curb. Finally, some noted that it would have been appropriate for the developer to consult with the neighborhood civic association, the BSCL, prior to requesting the site plan amendment. (It should be noted that this discussion was probably flavored by lingering resentment from the destruction of trees on the site which were supposed to be left intact. Those particular oaks are well hidden indeed.)

The BSCL sent a letter to the Planning Commission expressing the concerns of our members and asking that the request be denied. Before the vote by the Planning Commission, however, an attorney for the developer contacted BSCL President Ira Belcher about the neighborhood opposition, and the request was withdrawn. We are hopeful that any future site plan changes at Hidden Oaks will be discussed in a cooperative way with the neighborhood by the developer before they are officially proposed to the County.

Randy Swart

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER

- 4 Tues. Election Day - VOTE. Barcroft School 6AM-7PM.
Information 558-2345.
AND Barcroft PTA Bake Sale. Barcroft School 7AM until
sold out. Best thing about voting in Barcroft!
- 6 Thurs. Barcroft School and Civic League Meeting 7:30 PM
Program: Neighborhood Conservation Program.
Community House, 800 S. Buchanan Info 558-2838
- 15 Sat. County Board Meeting. 9AM. Televised. Info 558-2261.
- 18 Tues. Barcroft School PTA General Meeting - Positive
Patterns for Learning. 7:30 PM Information 920-6423.
- 19 Wed. Track a Turkey. For 8-12 yr. olds. Gulf Branch Nat.
Center, 2:30-4 PM. Reservations required 558-2340.
- 24 Mon. Book Discussion Group. Arlington County Library.
8 PM. Book: Crime & Punishment. Info 524-8622.
- 25 Tues. Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization. 7:30 PM
Info 892-6710.
- 27 Thurs
until
Dec 30 Arlington County Leaf Collection. Info 558-2321

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AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD



BARCROFT'S BICYCLE ROUTES

Barcroft is one of Arlington's best neighborhoods for bicycling. It is blessed with quiet streets, little traffic few really bad hills. As the cool days of fall progress, you may want to get out your bike and explore!

Our neighborhood has major bicycle routes on all four edges. The Arlington Boulevard route on our northern boundary runs all the way in to Rosslyn if you are headed for DC. With a little zigging and zagging for the Carlin Springs construction you can go to Seven Corners and beyond almost to the Beltway to the west. This route is handy for getting places, but lacks something in peace and quiet, since it is next to the Boulevard.

On our east is George Mason Drive. This cross-county route is often used by cyclists despite its narrowness and heavy traffic between Wilson and Arlington Boulevards. When you are returning to Barcroft from the south it is a nice way to avoid the steep hills on Buchanan or the other routes coming up from Four Mile Run valley.

Ninth Street South/Wakefield/8th Rd. is our southern route, connecting with an on-street bicycle route which runs all the way to Fort Myer, Arlington Cemetery and Memorial Bridge. This is without doubt the best bicycle commuter route into DC from our neighborhood, and is well-used by Barcroft cyclists.

At its other end, the Ninth Street route connects with the Star of Barcroft Cycling -- the two trails which run the length of Four Mile Run. One is Arlington County's Four Mile Run trail, built back in the 1950's when parks people wondered if there would be any real demand for bicycle facilities. It still provides the essential links for Barcroft families to reach the quiet parks and playgrounds along Four Mile Run, but has been overshadowed by its big brother, the Washington and Old Dominion Trail (The W&OD). You can ride this beautiful paved trail all the way to Leesburg, or in the other direction (with a little zigging and zagging) down to National Airport and the Mount Vernon trail. The W & OD can lead you to: 450 wildflowers, woods, fields, farms, ponds, model railroads,

old railroad stations, and a number of regional and local parks. The total distance to Leesburg is 34 miles.

What else does Barcroft need in the way of bicycle trails? The Arlington Boulevard trail forces the cyclist headed for Thomas Jefferson Community Center to cross George Mason Drive, the entrance to Arlington Hall, and Glebe Road at bad intersections. The BSCL has proposed that this be improved when the State Department takes over Arlington Hall. Our proposal uses the existing pedestrian underpass under George Mason Drive to link Barcroft with Second Street South at Glebe Road. This would permit many Barcroft residents and those from further out who use the Arlington Boulevard trail to eliminate a hazard, a hill or a long detour to reach the Fort Myer/Arlington Cemetery route into the District.

Further information and maps of Arlington trails are available from the County by calling 558-2336 or the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (544-5349).

One final word of caution: beautiful fall days bring out the bicyclist in all of us, and the result is busy trails. Take care that you stay to the right and warn pedestrians of your coming, and be sure to keep your speed to reasonable levels. Above all, wear a bicycle helmet. Even on trails, a helmet is the essential bicycle accessory.

Happy riding!

BARCROFT SUPPORTS PARADE

BSCL members who attended Arlington's Columbus Day parade were proud to see the program's acknowledgment of the contribution which Barcroft makes each year to the event. It is nice to see our neighborhood in print!

LEAF COLLECTION BEGINS

Arlington County's fall leaf collection begins this year on October 27. Collections will continue until December 30. For information on the schedule for your street call 558-3231.

NEWS

BARCROFT

Bulk Rate
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Arlington, VA

BARCROFT SCHOOL AND CIVIC LEAGUE
800 South Buchanan Street
Arlington, VA 22204



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Barcroft School and Civic League
c/o Kathryn Villegas
4301 Columbia Pike
Arlington, VA 22204

Name _____

Address _____
City Arlington, VA 22204

Phone _____

Please send with \$2 dues per person.