

# BARCROFT NEWS

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January, 1989

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## **JANUARY MEETING: THE NATIONAL GUARD'S PLANS FOR ITS PART OF ARLINGTON HALL**

Our January 5th meeting will hear from a National Guard speaker about the Guard's plans for using its piece of the Arlington Hall site. The National Guard headquarters building will lie along George Mason Drive where the old "temporary" buildings are now. Come and hear what the Guard is planning. Barcroft Community House, 800 S. Buchanan, 7:30 PM.

## **PLEASE SHOVEL YOUR SIDEWALK WHEN IT SNOWS**

It's hard to believe that Arlington receives only 17.3 inches average snowfall each year. The County spends \$500,000 per year clearing snow, but it never seems like enough on a snow day when tax day is months away. A recent County pamphlet on snow had this to say about shoveling sidewalks:

"Pedestrians increasingly need and expect sidewalks to be cleared in residential and business neighborhoods. The County applauds citizens and proprietors for clearing sidewalks to help their neighbors and customers weather the storm. Sidewalks should be cleared to the pavement (so the sun can melt-help) at least one shovel's width within 24 hours after snowfall ceases. This makes it easier for people to walk to school, the bus stop or Metro station, or business areas. Please lend a hand to elderly or disabled neighbors who cannot clear their own sidewalks, porches and steps--and check to see if they have enough food on hand."

## **VEPCO'S BARCROFT SUBSTATION CLOSED**

Over the past two months the Virginia Power substation on Pershing Drive has been dismantled. Virginia Power officials report that a system change has made this small substation obsolete. The company has no plans yet for use of the site; it will remain vacant with the high fence left in place. At some later date it will probably be sold, according to Virginia Power.

The site has 16,500 square feet bounded on two sides by wooded parkland belonging to Arlington County. For this reason the Barcroft School and Civic League has brought the site to the attention of the Arlington County Parks staff. The County Parks Division has assigned a staff person to investigate the possibility of purchasing the lot for additional park space.

The County Parks Division evaluates sites for purchase based on location. Sites in the Metro corridor have first priority. Second priority goes to sites adjacent to parkland, third to other sites.

Call Pat Roach or Sue Sarcone at 892-8131 for details on the VEPCO site, or raise it at a meeting if you think the BSCL should take action.

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH IS ALIVE AND WELL ON  
FIRST STREET**

How long has it been since you talked to a neighbor about Neighborhood Watch on your street? Neighborhood Watch needs periodic renewal or people forget. We recently received a copy of the very nice letter which Janice Zima of First Street S. sent to her fellow Neighborhood Watchers, reminding them of the program and recommending to newcomers that they have the police department perform its free Home Security Survey for them. (Contact the Crime Resistance Unit at 558-2976.) She also repeated the police department's request that people feel free to call them at 558-2922 when they see any suspicious activity. Janice's friendly letter was a model for Neighborhood Watch block captains, and you First Streeters are lucky to have her!

Editorial

**DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH FOR PIZZA HUT!**

A recent Pizza Hut ad for "fast" delivery reminded us of the night in November when we ordered our first and last Pizza Hut delivery. I was on my way to a Civic Federation meeting, but we had lots of time, so we called Pizza Hut instead of Dominos. (We avoid delivered pizza anyway because of the way the delivery people drive.) When the pizza did not arrive in 40 minutes we called Pizza Hut. They gave us excuses about not having enough drivers, and said the pizza would be there "in 10 minutes." Twenty minutes later I left for the Civic Federation meeting--hungry and late. The pizza arrived after one hour and 15 minutes. It was cold. I think it was inexcusable for Pizza Hut to take orders that night that they must have known they could not fill promptly with a hot pizza. Pizza Hut will have to do better than that if they want to make good in Barcroft.

**WANT ADS**

**CHILD CARE.** Barcroft couple looking for childcare for 3 month old baby to start around March 1, 1989. Approximately 30-40 hours per week in our home or yours; salary negotiable. Also interested in working out cooperative child care arrangements with other new parents in this area, if feasible. Please contact Susan Kelly at 685-4961 (home) or 789-1450 (work).

**FOR SALE** 1980 Camero Berlinetta T-top. 1 owner, garage kept, just like new. \$3,000 or best offer. 1972 Olds 88. Runs good, new tires. \$750. Three twin bed rails. \$5 each. Ten pieces of brown paneling \$30. Please call 979-9021.

**FOR SALE** Washer \$100. Dryer \$125. 892-6458.

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**EILEEN MELIA APPOINTED TO ARLINGTON COUNCIL ON INSTRUCTION BY SCHOOL BOARD**

Belated congratulations to Barcrofter Eileen Melia on her appointment last summer to chairwoman of the Arlington Council on Instruction. The council discusses school-related issues and makes recommendations on each issue to the School Board. Check back to the April, 1987 issue of the Barcroft News for more on Eileen and her public-spirited family.

**TALMADGE WILLIAMS APPOINTED TO THE ARLINGTON TASK FORCE ON OPEN SPACE**

Barcroft resident Talmadge Williams has been appointed a member of the Task Force on Open Space established by the County Board to "develop a detailed action plan for protection and enhancement of the quality and quantity of open spaces for community enjoyment."

The Task Force was in part to implement County Board Chairman John Milliken's promise to promote "Arlington Outdoors" and the importance of outdoor living to the sense of community Arlingtonians enjoy. (Putting trout in Four Mile Run last year to dramatize the improvement in water quality there was one of his initiatives.) The Task Force will "articulate a vision for the future of open space in Arlington."

Talmadge and the other members of the Task Force will be grappling with such issues as whether or not the County can afford to add new parkland from parcels like VEPCO's Barcroft substation, whether or not Arlington needs a golf course, and where lighted ball fields are appropriate. Talmadge expects that the Task Force will also spend time on Arlington Hall and the use of any open space the State Department makes available for neighborhood use there.

Talmadge invites you to call him at 920-7007 with any views you want to register for the Task Force. (He also welcomes any further discussion of the Washington Post delivery service.)

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# The Barcroft News.

VOL. I. BARCROFT, VA., NOVEMBER 23, 1903. No. 13.

## THE CONTEST.

The answers were filed Saturday evening in the contest case for commonwealth attorney. If the charges made can be proved, there is a probability of Mr. Varney winning out.

## BAILEY'S X-ROADS.

Mr. O'Shaughnessey is finishing his barn.

On Wednesday evening there will be an oyster supper at the residence of Mr. Lemuel Dowden. The little daughter of James Carter, of Lincolnia, is dead.

Mr. Burdett Hunter is clerking for T. Terrett & Son.

The youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed. A. McCoy is ill.

Mr. Frank Payne is harvesting a large crop of turnips.

Miss Jessie Bell has returned from Lincolnia.

Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Terrett, Jr., gave a party in honor of the third birthday of their son, Vernon.

Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland of the Capital City, spent last week visiting Mr. T. E. Saules.

Mrs. C. H. Powell is ill.

Mr. J. M. Moore has moved to Washington.

The public-school children are practicing for an entertainment to be given Thanksgiving-Day.

Mr. M. C. Hunter has been quite ill the past week.

## PERSONAL.

Miss C. Victoria Brown, of Del Roy, Pa., is visiting her aunt, Mrs. Mary A. Payne, and the young men of Barcroft are getting out their sleighs, with the hope of having snow while Miss B. is in the neighborhood.

Mrs. Ed. Klemroth has gone to Brunswick, Ga., where she will remain until about Christmas-time, when Mr. Klem., who is superintending construction of a public building there, will return with her.

Mr. and Mrs. Pritchard have moved into the Shelley place, near Arlington, and will receive their friends on and after the 1st of December.

Mrs. Palmers spent several days last week in the city with her sister, Mrs. Ralph Dayton.

Mrs. C. A. Kolb spent a day last week with Mrs. Haring.

## PIANOS

AND MERITORIOUS NOVELTIES AND PATENTED ARTICLES.

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## LOTS IN BARCROFT

ARE-CONSTANTLY ADVANCING IN PRICE—A SURE EVIDENCE THAT ITS MANY ADVANTAGES AS A SUBURBAN RESIDENCE ARE BECOMING GENERALLY RECOGNIZED.

S. P. WRIGHT, BARCROFT, ALEX. CO., VA.

THE BARCROFT NEWS.

## NEWSLETS.

Carpenters and plasterers are busy at Mr. Marye's residence, corner of Arlington and Fairfax avenues, providing for his increasing family. Paul will soon need a room all to himself and a night-latch key.

Mr. Fred. Corbett is contesting the election of Mr. Will Douglass as supervisor of this district on the ground that Douglass served as one of the registrars just previous to the recent election.

August Hoffman has sold his deutehund.

Sparks from the trains are setting fire to the woods.

Col. Slack, of Hunter's Mill, is the proud possessor of two new heifer calves of his famous Beal breed. Col. S. is a model up-to-date farmer, and he entertains in lavish style at "Devil's Wood-yard," on Calvin Run. He is an expert with rod and gun, and we understand he slaughtered hogs enough to have 1000 pounds of pork. We advise our readers to never decline an invitation to the Colonel's hospitable home.

## PERSONAL.

Mrs. S. A. Marye is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Chamberlain, in the city.

Judge Pelham will leave for Alabama about December 15 to spend the holidays with his son, John.

Miss Sadie Burkholder spent last Sunday with her sister, Mrs. Frank Hale.

## GROCERIES.

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OSCAR HARING,

BARCROFT, VIRGINIA.

## RADON -- IS YOUR SHELTER REALLY SHELTERING YOU? by Tom Floyd

The word "shelter" has a comforting sound, making us think of our homes and other safe and secure places. This is why it hurts when we hear that our homes are sometimes dangerous places.

Most threats to our shelters have always been with us--crime, violence within families, fire, etc., but RADON is a new scare: invisible, insidious, a little hard-to-believe and hard to take seriously.

All shelters contain some radon. It is a colorless, odorless gas that escapes naturally from the soil and seeps into the shelter. We inhale radon after it attaches itself to dust particles in the air. Inside our lungs it begins to produce lung cancer in some of us, having an effect like smoking.

Last January in the Barcroft News I said that we Barcrofters can take heart; we may not be in serious danger from Radon. I feel a little more cautious now. What has changed? Unfortunately we have only a little more data about the occurrence of radon in Barcroft, but there is greater concern today about its health effects. We only know of a few Barcroft residents who have measured radon in their homes or apartments. You should probably do so. It is not expensive. Reliable measuring kits can be bought in many places.

The five Barcroft homes we know about are on Abingdon, Stafford, Taylor, Second and Sixth streets. All had radon levels between 2.0 and 3.0 picocuries per liter (pCi/l). This is not terribly high, but still high enough for concern. The Environmental Protection Agency has set 4.0 pCi/l as the "action level" where you should take steps to reduce the level of radon in your shelter. Some specialists say the EPA action level is too high, since breathing 4.0 pCi/l is like smoking half a pack of cigarettes a day.

What does this controversy mean to you and me? First, you may be wise to lean toward caution when the health experts do not agree. The odds are in favor of radon being more risky than the EPA has

thus far announced, but even if not, why take unnecessary chances?

Second, if your shelter measures in the "lower" levels of 1.5 to 3.5 pCi/l, there is something you can do every day that costs very little. You can open a few windows each day for a short while and bring in some fresh air, especially into basement areas. My Norwegian-born wife taught me this, for in Norway where it's a lot colder than here, that is what many do every day.

Finally, if your shelter measures above the EPA's "action" level of 4.0 pCi/l, you should plan to spend some money on changes to your house, or try to have your landlord do so. Be careful of unscrupulous contractors when you do; a few may promote more expensive alterations than are needed. Get information first from impartial authorities!

Two informative publications you can order are: Radon: The Citizens' Guide, by the Environmental Defense Fund, 257 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10010 (\$2.45 postpaid), and Citizens' Guide to Radon: What It Is and What to do About It, by the Office of Air and Radiation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C. (free).

Please phone me at 892-0516 if you have collected radon measurements for your shelter and wish to share this information with your neighbors in Barcroft in a future newsletter update.

Tom Floyd

### CLEAN OUT YOUR OLD COMPUTER OR VCR FOR A GOOD CAUSE: DONATIONS WANTED

Your old IBM-compatible computer or video equipment can be put to good use by the Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute, a new non-profit organization directed by Barcroft resident Randy Swart. In return you will get a written acknowledgment of your gift for tax purposes. The Institute produces "A Consumer's Guide to Bicycle Helmets," which lists helmet brands and rates their protection. Call 521-2080 before January 1 and your donation can count for the 1988 tax year.



**JANUARY EVENTS**

Sunday  
1st County Board holds its traditional first work session of the new year. New chairman will be elected, new themes for 1989 chosen. Watch it on the Arlington cable TV channel. 9AM. (On New Years' Day!) Info 558-2261.

Tuesday  
3rd Arlington County Civic Federation. Nat'l Airport Noise, Neighborhood historic designations, County Board members' annual visit. Hazel Conference Center, Arlington Hospital, George Mason Drive 7:45 PM. Come as an observer and see a larger scale civic association in action. For info call Anne Noll at 892-6710 or Randy Swart at 521-2080.

Jan 5th **BARCROFT SCHOOL AND CIVIC LEAGUE 7:30 PM. 800 S. Buchanan St.**  
**FIRST Arlington Hall: The National Guard Portion. A National Guard**  
**THURS. spokesperson will come to brief us on the Guard's plans for their**  
**OF THE part of the Arlington Hall site. For information please call Pat**  
**MONTH Roach at 920-8131.**

Monday  
28th Book Discussion Group - Read this month's book and discuss it at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy 7:30PM. This month's book is The Fatal Shore, a non-fiction account of emigration to Australia, by Robert Hughes. Call 521-2080 for information.

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**AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD**  
with Kathy Kerr

**BABIES,  
BABIES,  
BABIES**



Welcome to Daniel Eugene Michaelson, born September 28, 1988. He is the son of Annette Osso and David Michaelson and brother of 12 year old Joseph, a seventh grader at Kenmore School. The Osso/Michaelsons have lived in Barcroft for 18 months over on 8th St S. David is a construction company manager. Annette works part time as a consultant for a non-profit association. She is seeking a part time sitter or someone to swap sitting with. If you are interested, give her a call at 553-3953.

1st St. S. certainly had its own little baby boom this year where both Judy Lippman and Karen Rogers had babies.

Art and Judy Lippman became the proud parents of a son Cory on August 6, 1988. Cory has three older siblings: Todd age 16, Erica age 14 (yes, she babysits) and Janna age 12. All once attended Barcroft school where Judy has served in multiple PTA positions. Judy presently works very part time as an RN at the Hospice of Northern Virginia. Art works for the FDA and has also been very active in the schools on the school board level. The Lippmans have lived in Barcroft for 12 years.

Karen and Len Rogers had their baby Steven born September 21, 1988. Steven's siblings are Sam age 12 and Casey a fifth grader at Barcroft. The Rogers have lived in Barcroft for 15 years. Karen is taking a year (or two) off from teaching Kindergarten in Alexandria. She too has been extremely active at Barcroft school and in the Arlington school system. She has been a member of a number of advisory committees including this year the Capital Improvement Committee. Karen encourages all parents too consider becoming involved with the schools. She finds great satisfaction that her

\*\*\*\*\*  
In response to my article about Washington Post delivery, one of my own former Post carriers, Dan O'Brien, gave me a call. He mentioned that in addition to the Post's regular commission, he collected around \$100.00 per month in tips. No wonder! He gave terrific inside-the-storm-door service and a friendly smile when he collected.

\*\*\*\*\*  
S. Abingdon St. once again has its annual display of holiday cheer. Their lighted trees and shrubs are beautiful.

**New neighbors, babies, grandchildren weddings, Bar Mitzvahs, anecdotes, anniversaries, talents, memories? Help Kathy keep up-to-date in the new year on Barcrofters and their big events. Call her at 892-6458.**

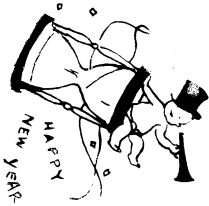


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# NEWS

# BARCROFT

**WHEN WILL CURTISS WERNER CREATE HIS FIRST SNOW SCULPTURE OF THE SEASON?**

Barcroft artist Curtliss Werner may have an early chance to create his first snow sculpture of the season by the time you read this issue. When the white stuff falls you can see fun snow-people appear in front of the Werner's home on First Street S. at Utah. The Werner's do not have a lawn sheep, so that's really a snow sculpture you see there.



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