

BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 88, No. 3

November 1990

NOVEMBER MEETING: Should We Revitalize Our Part of the Pike?

The BSCL has been talking to the County Staff about the recycling project, our mounting crime problems, and other questions about our section of Columbia Pike. They have suggested that it may be time to mount a comprehensive effort to upgrade our section of Columbia Pike with wider sidewalks, a unified streetscape, and a generally better appearance and atmosphere. This would encompass rehabilitation of substandard apartment units in Buchanan Gardens as well. The purpose would be to improve living and shopping conditions for our neighborhood and put a halt to that part of the increase in crime related to poorly run businesses and the run-down appearance of the Pike. This will be the subject of the November 1 meeting.

We will hear good advice from Jim Snyder, head of the County's Current

Planning office, and Lauren Adkins of CPRO, who has coordinated the effort on the east end of the Pike. It means a lot of work, and we must decide whether it will be worth the effort. We are inviting other nearby civic associations to attend, as well as the businesses along the Pike. Come and see whether Barcroft has the collective energy to proceed—and whether or not you want to chip in some time to work on this effort. Meeting time is 7:30 at the Community House, 800 S. Buchanan Street.

NOVEMBER 6: Vote YES for the School Bond

Barcroft and 36 other schools need your vote on Tuesday, November 6, if their dreams of much-needed renovations are to come true. The benefits are many; the cost is minimal. Call Nora Myers Rumpf at 521-8634 for more information or a ride to the polls.

Leaf Collection Begins November 5th

Arlington has been in the forefront of one type of recycling—autumn leaves. In the old Arlington tradition, pile your leaves at the curb and the County will vacuum them up—no plastic bags are needed. There are three sweeps per season, running from west to east, ending in late December. Barcroft is in leaf collection zone 11, so our leaves will be vacuumed just after those in Arlington Forest to the west. Snow and rain delay the vacuuming. Call Barry Baker (358-6485) to ask when zone 11 will be swept; later in the season information will be available in a recorded message.



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WANTED Children's Hospital needs donations of newborn baby clothing for babies being discharged into desperate home situations. They need blankets, clothing, toys, and equipment in good condition. If you can help, please call Nora Myers Rumpf at 521-8634 for pick-up. Donations are tax deductible.

CHILD CARE Share a wonderful babysitter. Opening for 1 child (any age) full time (or 2 part time). My Barcroft home or yours. Flexible hours. My child is 1 year old. Call Debra in the evening, 920-7620.

Barcroft News Staff

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|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------|
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Deadline for submissions: 1st of the month preceding the issue month.

BSCL Officers for 1990-1991

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
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| Hospitality | Could be you! |

Barcroft Crime Resistance Efforts

Lt. John Haas, head of operations for the Evening Division of the Arlington County Police Department, addressed the BSCL's October meeting on crime in the neighborhood. He has detailed four officers from his shift to patrol the shopping center at George Mason Drive and Columbia Pike, where a man was murdered recently. They will be checking inside the pool hall there. Most of the problems appear to involve intoxicated people loitering outside the pool hall, rather than the patrons inside. His division is also keeping an eye out for problems outside Restorante El Salvador (where a man was shot). Barcrofters at the meeting informed him of verbal harassment of young girls passing the loiterers around the public telephone on Buchanan Street at Buchanan Gardens, behind the shopping center, and several members also said they do not use Blockbuster Video after dark because of problems with loiterers in the parking lot around the restaurant. In response to questions, Lt. Haas noted that there have also been problems in the area around Glebe Road and Pershing Drive.

The new Crime Resistance Committee held its first meeting on October 15. The first order of business was the election of a chairperson; Dick Carter (521-5976) volunteered to serve as chair. The Committee will draft and send letters to the shopping center owners along Columbia Pike whose tenants are attract-

ing loiterers. Call the Neighborline or come to the next BSCL meeting to hear more about the Committee's plans. They will meet again at 7:30 PM on November 19, at the Community House

The topic of the November 1 meeting—the rehabilitation of Columbia Pike—is also about making our neighborhood safer. If this subject is important to you, now is the time to think about getting involved.



Art Show and Auction

The Knights of Columbus of St. Thomas More will sponsor an art show and auction on Saturday, Nov. 17, in the school cafeteria (at 3901 Cathedral Lane, directly across Arlington Blvd. from Arlington Hall). Proceeds benefit the school's Gymnasium Building Fund.

The art show and auction will feature more than 200 original oils, watercolors, and graphics from such well-known artists as Delacroix, Neiman, and Wyeth as well as many exciting new talents, at affordable prices.

Preview of the art is at 7:00 PM, with the auction beginning at 8:00 PM. Refreshments will be provided. Tickets (\$5) can be obtained from Barcroft residents Taylor Kelsch (920-9429) and Don Connors (892-6269).

Recycling Center on Columbia Pike

On September 20 the BSCL learned that the Planning Commission would consider the County's request to approve a use permit for a recycling center on Columbia Pike at Four Mile Run Drive next to the Barcroft Shopping Center.

At the September 24 hearing, BSCL President Randy Swart testified that Barcroft supports recycling and needs a recycling center closer than Merrifield or Alexandria (where some Barcrofters now take their recyclables) but the County staff had chosen a poor site. The newspaper bins there have now had two fires, vagrants have lived in them, and blowing trash has been a constant problem. Barcroft believes that some of its current crime problems are related to the scruffy area around the newspaper bins, just 100 yards from the spot where a man with a knife in his shirt was recently apprehended chasing a woman on the W&OD trail. We have been trying, through our Neighborhood Conservation Plan, to upgrade that area into a park. We favor moving the bins across

the Pike to the open area at the end of the commuter parking lot. We want our site cleared of weeds and landscaped.

The County staff explained their haste to mount a recycling program, and CPRO's Lauren Adkins suggested a temporary recycling permit, with the bins moved across the Pike within 90 days. The Planning Commission agreed, but the County staff asked the Board to approve it for 6 months. The Board approved the use permit for 6 months, with the requirement that the County Manager present a full report after 90 days and give the BSCL an opportunity to comment on the facility's operation. We need to keep pressure on the County to see that the other site is finalized.

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Ad Manager Wanted

The Barcroft News needs an Advertising Manager. This involves checking with regular advertisers monthly, perhaps selling another ad or two, and then billing them on a monthly basis. Please call Randy Swart at 521-2080 if you are interested.



Grocery Tapes for Barcroft

Barcroft's campaign is off to a good start this year, with more than \$10,000 in grocery receipts at the end of September. Please save your tapes for us! Drop them through the mail slot at 4607 S. 3rd, or call Nora Myers Rumpf at 521-8634 for pick-up.



Cub Scout Pack Meeting

The November 16 meeting will focus on "Heroes in Books." It will be held in the basement of Arlington Forest United Methodist Church (Henderson Road and Rt. 50) from 7:30 to 8:30 pm.

Den meetings are held approximately weekly for the following groups: Wolf Den (2nd graders), Bear Den (3rd graders), and Webelos (4th and 5th graders). Den leaders will contact scouts with specific information on times and locations.

Arlington's Best Kept Secrets

Free Roses!

Every Monday morning during rose-growing season (June through October), the County gardeners prune thousands of roses at the Bon Air Memorial Rose Garden to keep the bushes growing and blooming. Most of the flowers are a little past their prime, but they smell as only roses can and many are good for at least a few days in a vase. Free roses!

If you ride your bicycle along the W&OD trail to Wilson Boulevard, turn right on the sidewalk and you will see the rose garden behind the tennis courts on the north side of Wilson. If you are condemned to use a car, drive to where Wilson Boulevard crosses Four Mile Run and look. You will find trash baskets full of roses. Wear some leather gloves to search through them for the good ones, and bring a plastic bag to get them home.

The County gardeners won a prize last year for outstanding maintenance of the roses at Bon Air. While you are gathering blooms, be sure to take a look at the garden, with its famous varieties (Peace Rose, Olympic Rose) and bushes donated by some famous names.

Next month: Arlington's oldest house.

Around the Neighborhood With Kathy Kerr



Our historic Barcroft community house served its purpose on October 13, 1990, when the BSCL “yard” sale was driven indoors because of the rain. Fun was had by all—both buyers and sellers. Neighbors met each other and caught up on the neighborhood news over hoards of treasure unearthed from attics and basements. As for me, I really couldn’t live without a box of Adele Barger’s rug yarn, a couple of Jill Herndon’s used paperback books, and Charlie and Jeannie Martin’s old wooden chair. I got rid of far more than I purchased and made more money than I spent. (I believe that is the definition of a successful community yard sale.)

Sellers who didn’t want to cart home stuff they couldn’t sell had a friend in Joan Mulholland of S. Taylor St. Joan volunteered to take any leftover items to be donated to the Literacy Fund Annual Yard Sale. Anyone, like me, with more donations can contact Joan at 979-4719.



It was exactly two years ago that I was congratulating Annette Osso and David Michaelson on the arrival of their son, Daniel. Now Daniel has a new baby

sister, Sarah Amanda, born September 24, 1990. Sara and Daniel’s big brother is Joe, aged 14, a freshman at Wakefield High School. Annette is enjoying a “years long” maternity leave and sells Discovery Toys; David is a project manager for Hitt Contracting. They live over on South 8th St. Barcroft residents for three years, Annette and David are very concerned about the neighborhood and are active members of the BSCL.



Volunteer Opportunities

Arlington County’s Community Assistance division has information on a number of ways that residents can help out in the community. A few examples are to act as a mediator for citizen/consumer complaints or work on special projects in a consumer affairs office, help coordinate the “Secret Santa” program, tutor minority high school students, be an on-call evening babysitter for children in a shelter, and assist in a health clinic. These are just a few examples. For more information, call the Arlington Volunteer Office at 358-3222

November Events

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|-----------|
| | | | | 1 Barcroft School & Civic League, Community House, 7:30 PM. Info, call 521-2080. | 2 | 3 |
| | Farmer's Market, Saturdays, near the Courthouse. Closes at noon. | | | | | |
| 4 Wildflower Walk, 1:30-3:30 PM; free; reservations required, call 358-6535. | 5 | 6 Election Day | 7 Wednesday Bird Walk, 9 AM-12:30 PM; adults; free; call 358-6535. | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 Cub Scout Pack Meeting, 7:30 PM, Arlington Forest United Methodist Church. | 17 |
| 18 Tree ID Walk, 1:30-3:30 PM; free; reservations required, call 358-6535. | 19 Book Discussion Group, Col. Pike Library, 7:30 PM. For info call 521-2080. | 20 Nuts, Seeds, Pods and Weeds, 3:45-4:45 PM; kids 7-10; craft program; call 358-6535. | 21 | 22 Thanksgiving | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

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Hospitality Chair Needed

Jean Menefee has reluctantly stepped down as Hospitality Chair because her sons are now playing baseball year round on Thursday nights, and she can never make the meetings. She has been a fine Hospitality Chair, and we thank her for bringing the refreshments to the BSCL meetings for the past year. Now we need a fresh volunteer! If you can pick up juice and cookies and bring them to the meetings, please call Randy Swart at 521-2080. Thanks!



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County Reminder on Animal Restrictions

Arlington dog owners are reminded that under County Code, dogs are not permitted to run at large, and owners are responsible for removing their pets' droppings from property other than their own. Code violations are subject to a \$40 fine.

You may file charges against dog owners by calling the Animal Warden (558-2130), Animal Shelter (931-9241), or Arlington Police (non-emergency number, 558-2222). Be prepared to identify or describe the dog and owner and indicate the time of the violation if it is a routine occurrence.

The County provides public areas, designated by "Dog Exercise Area" signs, where dogs may be walked off-leash provided they are under voice control of their owners or custodians. The pooper-scooper law is in effect there as well.

For more information about restrictions on animals and the exercise areas, contact the Animal Warden (558-2130).

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Arlington Symphony

Barcrofters should remember that we have our own symphony orchestra—the Arlington Symphony. The next concert will be on Saturday, December 15, at 8:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Bishop O'Connell High School, 6600 Little Falls Road (in North Arlington, near the East Falls Church Metro). Tickets are \$5.00 for children, \$8.00 and \$10.00 for senior citizens, and \$10.00 and \$12.00 for everyone else. Group discounts are available. To purchase tickets and for more information, call 528-1817.

For this special holiday concert, the orchestra will be joined by the 200 voices of the Alexandria Singers and the Mormon Choir of Washington, D.C.



Conducting will be David Szent-Gyorgyi Pollitt, Music Director of the Arlington Symphony. In August Pollitt gave critically acclaimed performances at the Spoleto Festival, and last November he conducted the Szeged Philharmonic on a three-day Hungarian tour. In 1989 he was appointed head conductor of the Oberlin Conservatory. He is also currently the Music Director of the Greenville (South Carolina) Symphony.

Pollitt studied with Dorothy Delay at the Juilliard School and with Dennis Szigmondy at the University of Washington. He has served as assistant conductor under Sarah Caldwell and Peter Maag.

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Barcroft Crime Report

Crimes reported in Barcroft during September. If you have any information about any of these incidents, if anything appears to be out of the ordinary on your block, or if someone is there who does not belong, please call the police at 558-2222. They are here to work with us to reduce crime.

- 9/2 900 S. **Buchanan** Subject arrested for being drunk in public
4300 S. **Columbia Pike** Car locks and ignition tampered with
- 9/6 900 S. **Wakefield** Subject arrested for possession of cocaine and drug paraphernalia
- 9/8 300 S. **Abingdon** Two cars vandalized; sprayed with fire extinguishers inside and out
400 S. **Abingdon** Security card taken from inside car
4600 S. **5th** Flag hanging on porch set on fire by unknown subjects
4600 S. **5th** Car entered and gone through; nothing taken
- 9/15 900 S. **George Mason** Shoplifting
- 9/17 4300 S. **Columbia Pike** Car broken into; items taken from trunk
- 9/20 300 S. **Abingdon** Car windows spray painted
900 S. **George Mason** Tools stolen from auto; car window left open
4300 S. **Columbia Pike** Attempt to pry car's trunk lock
- 9/23 600 S. **Buchanan** Radio stolen from car
- 9/24 900 S. **Buchanan** Windows in a vacant apartment broken out
- 9/26 **Unit block S. Abingdon** Resident reported footprints on door; possible attempt to kick door in
4700 S. **6th** Subject observed opening rear screen door. When stopped by police, arrested for attempted burglary and possession of burglary tools
- 9/30 200 S. **Pershing** Subject arrested for being drunk in public

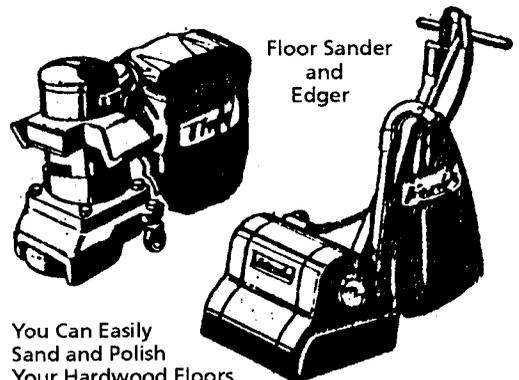
Support Group for Abused Women

Arlington women can register for a free, confidential support group on domestic violence, sponsored by the County's Victims of Violence Program.

The group will meet at the Drewry Center, 1725 N. George Mason Dr., beginning on Wednesday, Nov. 14, from 7 until 8:30 p.m. Group meetings will continue for 12 weeks. Space is limited, so women who wish to attend should reserve space by calling Ilene Segal at 358-4868 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., Tuesdays through Fridays.

The program is designed to provide guided support for women, so they can meet and talk with others who have faced similar painful experiences.

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Conserve Energy, Reduce Your Heating Bills

Winter is approaching fast. If we do what we can to save energy, we can make our heating bills smaller. Many of us in Barcroft live in older houses that weren't built with energy efficiency in mind. The County Extension Center says that we can often reduce our heating bills substantially without taking on the expense of adding insulation or new storm windows. To save some money on energy-related home improvements, take the following steps in order:

1. Reduce air leakage into heated spaces. Up to 30% of your heating bill can be caused by leaks that can be sealed up. If your house is very dry in the winter, this may be a sign of major air leaks. When cold air leaks in and warms up to room temperature, its relative humidity becomes very low. Here are some likely sources of leakage:

- * Wherever two dissimilar materials join in your house's wall and caulking is absent.
- * Around attic doors and trap doors that aren't weatherstripped.
- * At fireplace dampers that don't close properly or just aren't closed and at ventilation fans whose covers don't fit snugly.
- * Where an open foundation allows wind to blow under the house. Skirting should be installed to fix this problem.
- * Around light switches, electrical outlets, and pipes and wires where they pass through walls.

2. Troubleshoot your heating system and tune it if needed. One of the worst energy thieves is a poorly maintained heating system, or one that was never efficient. Here's a list of common problems with heating systems:

- * Leaky and uninsulated ductwork. Any bare sheet metal in an unheated space is suspect. Check for cracks around seams.
- * Inefficient oil burners.
- * Boilers that run in warm weather just to heat hot water.
- * Improperly wired or poorly adjusted control circuits.
- * Clogged filters, vents, or chimneys.

3. Reduce the time the house is heated, or reduce the space being heated. If your house has empty rooms, keep their doors closed and shut off the heat to them. But don't close more than one register on a heat pump system or more than one-third of the registers on any system—high temperatures can damage the equipment.

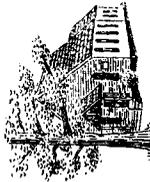
One good way to cut heating bills is by installing a setback thermostat. A 5° night setback will usually result in savings of 9%. You can also get double-setback thermostats that turn down the heat during working hours and at bedtime. (If you have a heat pump system, look at the instructions or call the manufacturer before you install a setback thermostat.)

4. Add storm windows or use other window coverings. For oil and electric systems, about \$1.25 worth of heat escapes through each square foot of window during our winter—this is about \$15 for an average-size window. Storm windows cut these losses in half, and a window quilt or an insulating panel can reduce the loss much more. Curtains, especially ones with plastic thermal linings can help, too.

During the winter, direct sunlight coming through windows is a good source of heat. Windows on the south side of a house usually receive much more energy than they lose, even in a cold month. Take advantage of this by opening blinds or shades during the day, but be sure to close them at night. In the summer, do the opposite.

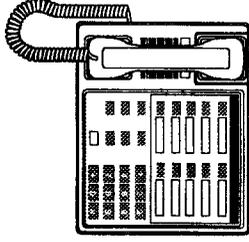
5. Add insulation. Maybe you should see what it's like in your attic. Adding insulation above the ceiling should be done after you've covered the four points mentioned above, except when your attic has no insulation at all. R30 is the commonly recommended insulation level for Virginia, so if you bring in a crew to install insulation, you'll get the most for your money if you have them insulate up to R30. This is the equivalent of 9½" of fiberglass batt, or 8" of cellulose. Adding insulation has a fairly quick payback if you currently have 3½" or less, but insulating an uninsulated floor has an even better payback if your attic has even a few inches already.

The Virginia Division of Energy has a lot more information on these and other energy-saving steps. Call the toll-free Energy Hotline at 1-800-552-3831.



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