

BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 88, No. 8

April 1991

APRIL MEETING **Home Additions**

The BSCL's April 4th meeting will begin with the reading of the new Bylaws (about a half-hour). If you want to hear and understand them, please come on time; the reading will begin promptly at 7:30. We will vote on the Bylaws in May.

At 8:00 a local architect will make a presentation on home additions. He will cover how to plan an addition, how to build, costs involved, and getting your money's worth if you later decide to sell (and move to another Barcroft home, of course). Other civic associations have raved about this presentation. If you are thinking about an addition or need more space in your home, you will get some good inspiration here.

Karen Darner Reports **on Legislative Session**

The March BSCL meeting featured a report by State Assemblyman Karen Darner (a Barcrofter who lives on Buchanan Street) on her first session in the legislature. Karen already knew the legislature well, having served

as Legislative Aide to Sen. Edward Holland in 1978-1982. Her first bill passed, with a unanimous vote on a measure to allow localities to charge late fees for unpaid parking tickets. Her joint resolution calling for the preservation of the Abingdon Plantation ruins at National Airport also succeeded handily. Karen said the legislature spent much of its time and energy on the budget debate this year, and the Arlington delegation worked well together. She will return to Richmond in April for a session on redrawing district lines to match the new census.

BSCL Updating Bylaws

For more than two years, the BSCL has been redrafting its Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. Past President Pat Roach and his law firm, Bell, Boyd, and Lloyd, have done a considerable amount of pro bono (free) legal work on this, resulting in a careful redraft of the documents.

The changes make the Bylaws conform to current legal practice. For example, the new version will protect the officers and board members from lawsuits if someone sues the BSCL. It also removes the reference in the

1932 Articles restricting membership to Barcroft residents "of the caucasian race" and uses the current boundaries of the neighborhood, instead of the old version's "territory tributary to the Barcroft school." Pat's draft also moves some of the detailed provisions from the Articles of Incorporation to the Bylaws, which can be amended by the neighborhood as desired without having to use the Commonwealth of Virginia's procedures for amending Articles.

From a practical point of view, the only change in the BSCL's normal procedure requires that a new President take office when elected, during the May meeting, instead of waiting until the following September to begin serving.

Included in this issue is a copy of the draft for the new Articles of Incorporation. The BSCL will discuss, amend, and vote on them at the May meeting. The Bylaws will be read at the April meeting (beginning at 7:35 sharp) and voted on at the May meeting. There must be a quorum to adopt the new documents, so please mark May 2nd on your calendar now!

If you would like a copy of the draft Bylaws or the old Articles or Bylaws for comparison, please call Randy Swart at 521-2080 and he will drop them off to you.



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Public Works Shuns Street Projects

Three streets have problems where they meet Four Mile Run Park. The end of 9th St. needs erosion control and 7th St. and 8th Rd. require repaving of the full street width. The BSCL has checked with Public Works, which advised using Neighborhood Conservation funds. Apparently some small street projects that it has taken care of in the past, using regularly budgeted funds, are no longer being undertaken because of the current tight County budget. This will eventually require a reconsideration of the priorities for Neighborhood Conservation Plan projects.

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Barcroft News Staff

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| Editor | Sara Leigh Merrey | 521-0527 |
| Publisher | Suzie Taylor | 521-1527 |
| Advertising | Virginia Reinecke | 528-6600 |
| Neighborhood News | Kathy Kerr | 892-6458 |
| Contributors | Laurie Kelsch, Randy Swart | |
| Mailing | Aileen Woods & Paul Metzler | |

Deadline for submissions: 5th of the month preceding the issue month.

BSCL Officers for 1990-1991

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| President | Randy Swart, 521-2080 |
| Vice President | Laurie Kelsch, 920-9429 |
| Treasurer | Larry Goldschmidt |
| Corresponding Secretary | Talmadge Williams |
| Recording Secretary | Scott Allard |
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| Membership | Kathryn Villegas |
| Signs Manager | Jack Turner |
| CPRO Delegate | Annette Osso, 553-3953 |
| NCAC Delegate | Could be you! |
| Civic Federation | Anne Noll, 892-6710 |
| Arlington Hall | Pat Roach, 920-8131 |
| Land Use/Zoning | Laurie Kelsch, 920-9429 |
| Hospitality | Joyce Hutchins, 685-4921 |

Bush Calls on BES

Early in the afternoon of March 11, President Bush visited Barcroft Elementary School to recognize the Henderson Hall Marines for their devotion to the school as part of the Adopt-A-School Program and name our program as the 400th Daily Point of Light. As participants in the program, 30 Marine volunteers tutor Barcroft students once a week; but the relationships established during these sessions extend beyond the schoolyard. The Marines have provided transportation and acted as chaperons for trips to parks, museums, art galleries, and the zoo. Some have invited the children to their homes for special occasions.

The President entered a room full of excited but attentive children. After the Marine Color Guard and school patrol squad paraded the flag, everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. Ellen Kahan, principal of the school, introduced the President. He addressed the assembly on the Points of Light program, noting that every day except Sunday, he recognizes someone serving the community, whose "caring deeds shine like beacons of hope."

"Real success," Bush said, "is helping someone who needs you." He spoke about heroes, noting that some are serving on a front in a desert far away while others are right here helping on another front: trying to help children and be examples of strength to them. He challenged the children to "follow the example of the Marines."



Arlington Public Schools photo by David Rorick

Jaelyn Baker, a student, presented the President with a book of writings by fifth graders. Bush in turn presented letters of appreciation to Dr. Kahan and Col. Buckley, then shook each child's and Marine's hand and gave Jaelyn a pin and a kiss!

It seemed that Mr. Bush had just arrived when it was time for him to go. In a swirl of secret service agents, he was gone.

—Nora Myers Rumpf

[As you may have seen on the local news that night and on the *Today* show the next morning, one student wasn't certain it was really the President and not some "pretending guy." After inspecting Bush's driver's license and American Express card, Anthony Henderson decided it really was the President.]

Love Barcroft but Need a Larger House at an Affordable Price?

We are offering our 4-bedroom, 4-bath (2 half) brick colonial. The setting is a quiet residential neighborhood and borders Arlington County park land. Its many features include a split-level deck and patio, workshop, eat-in kitchen with walk-in pantry, and 13' x 25' living room and family room, each of which boasts a fireplace.

Call for details or look for our Sunday open houses.

Listed by owner
4628 4th Street South
Arlington, VA 22204
920-6387

Crime Resistance Committee Making Progress

The BSCL Crime Resistance Committee has been hard at work. Last month Dick Carter, Jill Herndon, and Mitch Dale met with the owner of Hi Cue Billiards (at Columbia Pike and George Mason) to express our continuing concern about security there. They had met earlier with the owner of the shopping center. Jill has also drafted a letter for the committee to send to the owner of the Food Star grocery store, which outlines concerns about the cleanliness of the store as well as the security situation. Both meetings and the letter conveyed a cooperative tone, letting the businesspeople involved know that patronage of these businesses is affected by the neighborhood's perceptions of the safety and atmosphere of the shopping center.

Mitch Dale has been working with the merchants in the Barcroft Shopping Center at Columbia Pike and Buchanan. They are equally concerned about the security there. They also hope the County will move the recycling center across the Pike as soon as possible, since the trash and noise of breaking glass have a considerable impact on the atmosphere at the shopping center. Dick Carter and Jill Herndon met with the manager of this shopping center, who is working with us to improve conditions there.

Committee Chairman Dick Carter has held meetings with the owners of both shopping centers and keeps in touch with them. He has also been our liaison with others concerned with this effort. You can call him at 521-5976. The Committee meets once or twice a month for regular discussions about future actions to defend the neighborhood. The next meeting will be on March 27th. Call Dick Carter for the date of the April meeting.

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Drunk Hits Car, Demolishes Fences

About 9:30 PM on Feb. 16, a drunken driver traveling south on Buchanan hit the car of a Barcroft couple and their child coming out of 8th Rd. It is believed that they were not seriously injured, but their car demolished a fence at 8th Rd. and Buchanan. The drunk then tried to back up and escape but could not control the car and instead damaged two more fences—one at the Community House. A Barcrofter who lives nearby finally pulled him out of his car. Police arrived and arrested the driver. The BSCL's insurance doesn't cover the fence, so we will try to collect from the driver's insurance company. With luck, by the time you read this, the fence will be repaired.

Arlington's Best Kept Secrets

Why Does the Community House Look Like a Church? And Why Are Some Windows Square?

The Barcroft Community House was originally a church. Thus the nifty church windows along both sides. Sponsored by the Methodist Church then located near Glebe Road, it was built in 1908 as the Methodist Church of Barcroft. It was not, however, a great success. There was never a regular minister, but student ministers from the Episcopal Seminary held services and bible classes were held there as well.

The building was constructed with funds raised by Barcrofters through bridge parties, bake sales, plays, and other efforts. From the beginning, folks apparently expected the little building to be a community center as well as a place of worship. As soon as the building was finished, the County rented it during the week as a school and other neighborhood organizations used it for their meetings. In 1913 the church decided to sell it to the Barcroft School and Civic League. When the BSCL added the second room on the back the next year, they used plain windows, since it was no longer a church. Check it out the next time you visit.

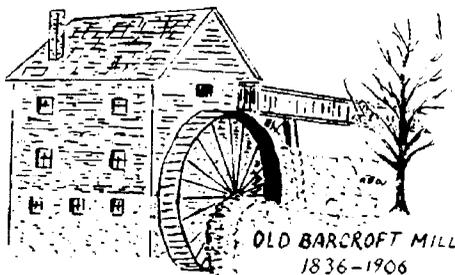
Hotline to Report Handicapped Parking Violations

The fine for handicapped parking violations has been increased from \$100 to \$125. To report an incident, call 358-7141 so that the Police Dept. can enforce the regulations.

Arlington Hall Park Plans

Arlington County parks planners will present their design proposal for the community park at Arlington Hall on Wednesday night, April 24. Working from proposals first submitted by the BSCL in 1986, the parks people have drawn up their concept for redevelopment of the seven-acre site on the west side of George Mason Drive. The site has been open for limited park use since last summer and will be available for redevelopment as a community park in mid-1993, when work on the National Guard office complex across the street is finished. Come hear the plans and give your input. The presentation will be at 7:30 PM at the Barcroft Community House, 800 S. Buchanan.

—Pat Roach



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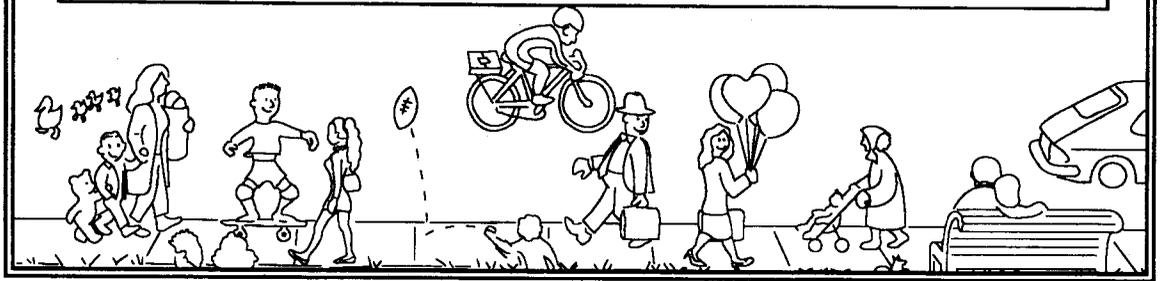
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Around the Neighborhood With Kathy Kerr



It was a good thing I had my eyes open or I would have been broadsided by the car running the light at Arlington Blvd. and Henderson Rd. It was in the farthest lane from me—and the hardest to see. I lay on my horn and renewed my vow of caution in crossing this intersection. As I continued on my way, I cursed the police for not being there to see this. That's when I noticed a flashing light in my rear-view mirror. An unmarked police car had pulled my culprit over! Yea!



Congratulations to Harriet and Tommy Williams on 6th St., who are celebrating the birth of their new daughter, Katherine Virginia, born March 1. Katherine's sister, Ashby, almost 5, was especially excited about the huge stork that appeared on their lawn to announce the birth. The stork carries a bundle proclaiming the new baby's name and the name of the parents. This bundle included Ashby's name as well!

The Williams have lived in Barcroft for about 7 years. Harriet teaches dance at the Academy of the Maryland Youth Ballet in Bethesda. Tommy is an immigration attorney here in Arlington. He also enjoys inventing. He has developed a new-fangled wrench that drives in both directions and is now working on marketing it.

Will Katherine Virginia Williams be the youngest baby at the 4th of July parade?

BARCROFT'S BEST KEPT SECRETS

Where Was the Outhouse at the Barcroft Community House?

Where, indeed! Arlington's sanitary sewer service was installed in the 1930s. The Community House was built in 1908 and served as a school until 1925. It had restrooms, and they were outdoors. "Running" water was brought in a bucket by a running pupil. There was electricity almost from the start, though, since Walter Handy, a qualified electrician, wired the Community House along with Barcroft's first 14 electrified residences in 1913.

But where was the outhouse? We turned to Adaline Robertson once again, since she was a student in the school. The outhouse ran along the current chain-link fence near the south property line, almost in the back corner of the lot. It was a long narrow building, with separate boys and girls sections and a total of 6 holes. It lasted until 1937, when the indoor plumbing was installed.

Who knows, someday we may replace the present tacky metal storage shed with a new one that looks like the old outhouse. If you have a photo that shows it—or any outhouse in Barcroft—please bring it along to a BSCL meeting. Children growing up now just have no idea what things were like "in the olden times."
—Randy Swart

April Events

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| | 1 MATCH Meeting, 7:30 PM. Dunn Loring United Methodist Ch.; call 425-1948. | 2 Civic Federation Mtg., 7:45 PM, Arlington Hosp. Barcroft PTA Exec. Comm. Mtg., 7:30 PM, Teachers Lnge. | 3 Wednesday Bird Walk, 9 AM-noon, adults. free; call 358-6535. | 4 Barcroft School & Civic League, Community House, 7:30 PM. Info, call 521-2080. | 5 | 6 Columbia Pike Artist Studios Open House, 11 AM-4 PM, 932 S. Walter Reed Dr. |
| 7 The Super Cities Walk, 9 AM, benefits Nat'l Multiple Sclerosis Soc.; call ADS-1001 for info. | 8 | 9 Adult Walk: Birds, 9:30-11:30 AM, reservations, free; call 358-6535. | 10 Preschool Activity: Spring Ahead, 10-10:45 AM, kids ages 1-5 w/parent, reservations, free; call 358-6535. | 11 Afterschool Special: Double Lives, 3:45-4:45 PM, kids grades 1-3, reservations, free; call 358-6535. | 12 | 13 Spring Plants Walk, 1-3 PM, adults, reservations, free; call 358-6535. |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 Preschool Activity: Tadpole Days, 1:30-2:30 PM, kids 1-5 w/parent, reservations, free; call 358-6535. | 18 Afterschool Special: Bug in a Jug, 3:45-4:45 PM, kids grades 1-3, reservations, free; call 358-6535. | 19 Cub Scout Pack Meeting, 7:30 PM. | 20 Barcroft Elementary School Spring Carnival and Yard Sale |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Pancake Breakfast, 7:30-11 AM, Arlington Forest United Methodist Ch.; call 525-0961. |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | Saturday Nights through April 27: Rollerskating at Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 6:15-7:45 PM and 8:15-9:45 PM; skate rental \$.75, or use your own with polyurethane wheels; all ages; call 358-5920 for more info. | | | |



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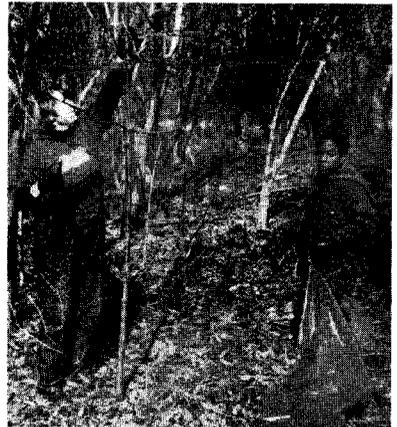
Some of above on display at 4613 S. Second St.

First Phase of Park Renovation Completed

Sixteen Barcrofters turned out Mar. 9 to help with the Four Mile Run stream clean-up and finish clearing brush for the renovation of the park at Columbia Pike and Four Mile Run. The area is really beginning to shape up.



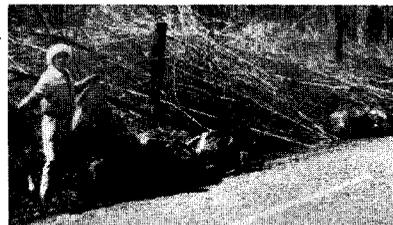
Osman Moreno, Susan Christopher, and Scott Allard clearing brush.



Karen Darner and Melvin Jones removing vines.

Among the volunteers: Dick and Hilkka Carter, Susan Christopher, Elizabeth Dame, Karen Darner (“relaxing” after the legislative session in Richmond), Jill Herndon, Melvin Jones, Susan Kelly, Amy Martin, Elisa Minoff, and Randy and Barbara Swart. Special Thanks for Very Hard Work to Scott Allard, Glen Jacob, and Osman Moreno, and Very Special Thanks to Sharon Tope for painstakingly raking up thousands of shards of glass in the area that had been trashed by vagrants.

Take a look at the park now. The next phase begins soon, when the County will spruce up the park as a Neighborhood Conservation project—moving the recycling center to the other side of Columbia Pike, grading and seeding the area, and adding a decorative split-rail fence. Then the Women’s Club of Arlington will undertake some landscaping. The objective is a pleasant, low maintenance park.



Sharon Tope adds the last bag of trash to an impressive pile.

Do you understand the new tax law and forms?

Trouble with the IRS?

Starting a small business, need accounting advice?

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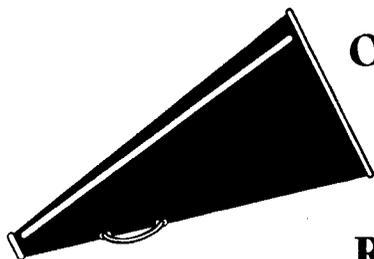
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Off-Leash Area for Dogs in Lubber Run Park

A group of dog owners recently asked the County to make Lubber Run the County's seventh off-leash dogwalking area, for early morning hours only. The County refused, noting that dog feces left each morning would pose problems for children and others using the park during the day. For your information, the nearest off-leash area to Barcroft is along Four Mile Run on the east side of the stream, starting at Walter Reed Drive and running south to Nelson Street.

During one of our warm February days, I was walking up Grandma's Creek from Four Mile Run to Buchanan when I was rushed by somebody's apparently vicious dalmatian, snarling and with fangs bared. I screamed, "NO!" at the last second and he skidded to a stop. I bellowed, "Go home!" and he retreated, leaving me standing there, scared and angry. His owner was exercising, so far up the trail that she said she did not even hear me scream. On other occasions I have had to stop on the bike trail to avoid unleashed dogs, which are notorious for running in front of bicyclists and causing them to crash. I was a dog lover when my family lived in the country, but here in the city I personally cannot see any reason to allow dog owners to unleash their dogs in our parks.

Is that too hard on the puppy dogs? You can send your own thoughts on this issue to Sara Leigh Merrey, *Barcroft News*, 4669 4th St. S., Arlington, VA 22204.

—Randy Swart

Barcroft Exchange

FOUND: TV set. Left on the front porch of the Community House March 4. If you know who left it there or why, please call Randy Swart at 521-2080. We have turned it over to the police on the assumption that it was stolen property.

WANTED TO BUY: Intellivision 111—master component—for video games. Please call 979-1826 anytime and leave message.

BABYSITTER: Available for children 2 years and older, on weeknights until 10:00 and weekends any time; \$3.50 per hour. Call Sarah at 892-6015.



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NCAC Delegate Needed

Meril-Lee Jones has moved away from Barcroft with her new husband, Jim. Her contribution as the BSCL delegate on the county's Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee will be missed. **We need a new representative!**

The main duties are to attend a monthly meeting at the Courthouse and, between meetings, work on the development of the projects on the BSCL's list. The meetings are interesting and cover a wide range of issues that concern Arlington's neighborhoods. This is a good place to learn how the County works and what its neighborhoods are up to. If you are interested, you can go as an observer to one of the NCAC meetings with Randy Swart (the alternate delegate) to see what the job is like. The next meeting is on April 11. Call Randy at 521-2080.



July 4th Parade to Honor Armed Services Committee Needs Volunteers

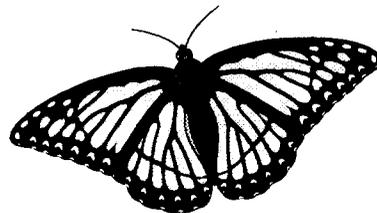
Parade Committee Chair Mary Anne O'Rourke has announced that the annual 4th of July parade will honor our men and women in uniform. We hope our Barcrofters will be back from the Gulf by that time and will encourage veterans to march. Mary Anne emphasized that the theme "will not be a glorification of war. It will honor the people in uniform who have done so much for us this year and in years past." Mary Anne also issued a call for volunteers for the Parade Committee. Call her at 920-5619 to find out what jobs are still open—there are plenty!

Gypsy Moth Update

This is just about your last moment to go outside and look for gypsy moth egg masses! The little tan furry lumps look like half of an almond shell. You find them on the underside of porches, basement window sills, logs, tree limbs, fences, gutters, and such. Scrape them off carefully, since you cannot kill them just by mashing them into the ground. Put them in bleach for a day or two, then in your trash. One ounce of bleach now will prevent thousands and thousands of hungry caterpillars from eating your trees in April!

Our neighborhood has been identified as having a moderate-to-high risk of defoliation this spring. Part of the County's suppression plan "includes the aerial application of the biological insecticide *B.t.* (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) ... This insecticide is a naturally occurring bacterium that only affects leaf-eating caterpillars at the time of application. People, pets, wildlife (terrestrial and aquatic) and beneficial insects such as bees are not harmed in any way by *B.t.*" (Residents who want their property excluded from the spraying should have notified the State Entomologist by March 15.)

Barcrofters will still need to keep an eye on trees and once again install the burlap bands around vulnerable trees' trunks. If you have any questions about the suppression program, contact the Arlington County Gypsy Moth Office at 358-6400.



Barcroft Crime Report

Crimes reported during February. If you have information about an incident, please call the police at 558-2222.

- 2/1 4200 S. 8th Burglary; basement door kicked in, lock box containing documents and cash taken
- 2/2 900 S. Wakefield Vandalism; nails placed under tires
- 2/6 700 S. George Mason Burglary; basement window broken, electronic and camera equipment stolen
- 2/7 100 S. George Mason '89 Dodge stolen; door unlocked, keys in ignition
- 2/9 400 S. Wakefield Car window broken
- 2/12 700 S. Buchanan Arrest for drunk in public
- 2/16 4400 S. 9th Stereo stolen from unlocked car
- 2/18 4400 S. 1st Pl Two speakers stolen from car
- 2/19 500 S. Wakefield Car door lock tampered with
- 2/20 4800 S. Columbia Pike Attempted shoplifting; suspect fled, dropping merchandise
- 2/22 900 S. Buchanan Burglary; no sign of forced entry, microwave stolen
- 600 S. Wakefield Burglary; entry through basement window after restraining bar removed, cash and jewelry taken
- 4600 S. 5th Stereo stolen
- 2/25 4600 S. 3rd Burglary; ground floor window glass removed, VCR taken
- 2/27 4200 S. 8th Vandalism; two holes in front of residence

Missing From the Crime Report

Some minor crimes committed in the neighborhood may not be listed in the monthly crime report, which comes from the police department. For example, a Barcrofter's car window was smashed while the car was parked outside his home on 8th Street. The victim called police to report the incident,

only to find that they would not make an official report of the incident, since there was no stolen property or injury.

On a more positive note, the suspect in the break-in on 7th Street listed in last month's newsletter has been apprehended, with the help of a Barcrofter who made an identification and will testify in court this month.

Barcrofter Fingers Radio Raiders

Lost a car radio to thieves? Wonder what to do about it? One intrepid Barcrofter spotted thieves casing cars for radios in broad daylight on March 10. When they broke into a car, his wife called 911 while he followed the escaping band, finally fingering them for police near the Safeway parking lot. We admit this is not a risk-free strategy, but crime prevention does require active citizen involvement. Congratulations to our latest bandit basher.

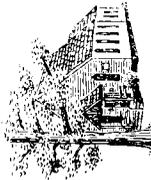
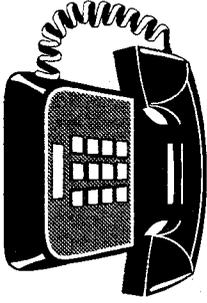
Fires Set in Park

At the end of February, there were two small fires in the park between Four Mile Run and the bike trail, near the end of 9th Street. The fire department extinguished them before major damage occurred.

Wanted: Reports on Trouble From El Salvador Restaurant

Restaurante El Salvador at Buchanan and Columbia Pike is continuing to serve obviously drunken patrons after they should be cut off. The BSCL Crime Resistance Committee is collecting eyewitness reports of drunks coming from the restaurant. If you have observed—or had a run-in with—a drunken restaurant patron, please call Dick Carter at 521-5976 or drop a note in the Community House mailbox.

Call the Barcroft
Neighborhoodline, 521-
1116, to get the lat-
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