

BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 89, No. 8

April 1992

Arlington Hall

At the March meeting, the BSCL heard from both the Department of State and the National Guard on their separate construction projects on the Arlington Hall site. Barcrofters expressed concern that the plans for handling traffic on George Mason do not include turn lanes at the State Department gate or a new traffic light. A long-time resident lamented that there is no effort to replace the woods and bridle paths where Barcrofters used to walk their dogs and ride horses in days gone by.

The second part of the meeting was a presentation by Arlington County staff from the Parks and Public Works departments on plans for the park on our side of George Mason Drive. The pace will be slow, but the plans are developing. Unfortunately the State Department will retain a large, lighted parking lot in the center of the park. The County is committed to constructing the bicycle trail crossing under George Mason, but it may end at Quincy Street instead of continuing to Glebe Road. If you are interested in more details, please call Pat Roach at 920-8131.

APRIL PROGRAM:

Gardening Tips from "Dr." John; Update from Darner

The program for the April meeting of the Barcroft School and Civic League will feature "Dr." John Buckreis of the Merrifield Garden Center, who will speak on what you should be doing in your Barcroft garden during April and May. You may have seen "Dr." John's gardening show on cable TV. There will be door prizes and handouts. We hope that some of the neighborhood's more famous gardeners will come as well. As an added attraction, Delegate Karen Darner will fill us in on new state laws passed (or not passed) during the legislative session that just ended. One that did pass was her bill to preserve the ruins of historic Abingdon House!

Parade Committee Time

It's time to start planning the Fourth of July Parade. The committee will meet at the Community House on Wednesday, April 8, at 8 PM. We need a few good volunteers to work on this fun event!



Radon in Barcroft

We were surprised to hear recently that a house on S. Wakefield St. checked out over the EPA limit for radon in its basement. You may recall that the late Tom Floyd wrote an article for the January 1989 *Barcroft News*, noting that all reports to that date indicated that the neighborhood did not have severe radon problems. (For a copy of that article, call Randy Swart at 521-2080.) If you have not checked your basement for radon, it might be a good idea to do so now, while you still have your windows closed and the test is most accurate. Kits for testing are available at hardware stores. The problem in the Wakefield house was fixed by installing a vent to the soil below the basement. Another home immediately adjacent tested very low for radon.

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Landscaping for the Community House

Barcroft landscape designer Scott Brintzer, a resident of 8th St., has volunteered to begin landscaping the Community House. Scott and interested volunteers will install a bed of hardy perennials along the fence in front, including drifts of peonies, irises, and day lilies. They will be backed with black-eyed susans, coreopsis, Russian sage, and blue mist shrub. Scott is donating most of the bulbs. If you have any of those plants and

Barcroft News Staff

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

BSCL Officers for 1991-1992

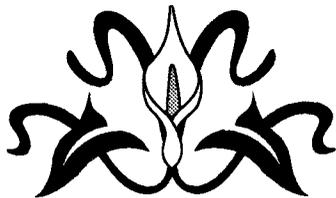
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they need to be divided, you can donate your extras by calling Scott at 892-0308 or bringing them to the Community House on the day of the Big Plant, April 4. On that day we need volunteers to plant the bulbs in the area that Scott's landscaping crew will have already prepared. The festivities will begin at 10 AM. Wear old clothes and bring a trowel.

Longer-term plans for the yard include planting three small dogwoods on the 8th St. side. The Woman's Club of Arlington is donating one or more of the dogwoods. We also intend to add two small clumps of *Ilex apaca* hollies along the south fence to improve the perspective. If you have a small holly (3-4 feet tall) to donate, please call Scott.

And plan to join us at 10 AM on April 4 for some fun gardening!



Letter to the Editor

I am a little upset with your article "February Crime Report Causes Stir" (March 1992, p. 4). Why shouldn't the ethnic origin and race of criminals be publicized? Why should the *Barcroft News* drop this kind of information because one reader (or even several readers) apparently objected to such publicity as being prejudicial? I, for one, am prejudiced *against crime*. Shouldn't we know what is happening and who is responsible? If such crime statistics tend to reflect badly on one or another group—so be it. Perhaps the publicizing of fully informative crime statistics *should*

"cause a stir"—seeing as how crime in our neighborhood has been on the upswing the last three or four years.

The point is, there is nothing wrong with factually and fully reporting things as they are. The truth is the truth! In this day and age, our society seems to be so concerned with people's "sensibilities" that it deliberately obscures who is responsible for various wrongdoings. Reporting things as they are isn't a "slur" on anyone—it's just the truth. Some individuals are quick to use ethnic origin or race in complaining about alleged discrimination or other perceived slights in housing, jobs, etc., but they sure seem to have a different perspective when these factors are mentioned in spotlighting who is committing crimes. Fair is fair, guys and gals!

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Team Forms to Represent BSCL on the Pike's Revitalization

Five Barcrofters answered a recent call for volunteers to work with the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization. The team of Scott Allard, Scott Brinitzer, Jack Christman, Suzie Foster, and Bob Yahn (residents of 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th, and 9th Sts.) will be coordinated by Jack Christman, who will be Barcroft's principal representative to CPRO. The BSCL has requested CPRO to put Jack on their Board of Directors. Other members of the team will be active on various CPRO committees.

Jack Christman moved to our neighborhood last fall and lives in the prettiest house on 7th Street. An attorney with the firm of Davis Wright Tremaine, Jack has been encour-

aged by his firm to be involved in community activities. They will even let him go occasionally for one of CPRO's daytime meetings, provided his other duties permit, and provide him with secretarial support. These are exceptional lawyers!

Columbia Pike is our "Main Street." CPRO has assisted in the considerable progress made to date on the east end of the Pike between Courthouse Rd. and Walter Reed Dr. We hope the time has come for similar improvements at our end of the Pike. Our BSCL team is ready to make a contribution. If you are interested in this effort please call Jack Christman at 979-1947.

The Hawk That Swoops on High

by Dick Williams

The recent comments on hawks in Kathy Kerr's column have inspired me to contribute a few more bird notes.

While walking down S. Taylor St. on February 26, I saw an immature Cooper's hawk fly across a yard in the 800 block. The following day my wife and I saw a similar Cooper's hawk heading east across S. Taylor at great speed, followed a minute or two later by a couple of crows. The Cooper's hawk occurs throughout most of the United States but is not common anywhere. These were the first I had seen in many years as well as the first in Arlington.

This hawk is similar to a crow in size; immature ones are mostly brown. It often hunts from a perch and pursues its prey. It is designed for speed and mobility—short, broad wings and a long, narrow tail. This is the reverse of the soaring hawks like the red-shoul-

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dered and red-tailed, which have long wings and a short, broad tail.

As mentioned by Kathy, cawing crows often mean that a hawk is in the neighborhood. Several winters back I heard crows while walking in Barcroft and discovered that they were pursuing a goshawk. This was an unusual sighting for the Washington area. The goshawk is a rare-to-uncommon larger relative of the Cooper's hawk and normally resides in northern forests.

In mid-spring, especially late April and early May, the path along Four Mile Run is excellent for migrant warblers. The Northern Virginia Chapter of the Virginia Society of Ornithology has occasional bird walks here, and I recommend these highly. Our local experts are knowledgeable, friendly, and helpful—and twenty pairs of eyes (and binoculars) are remarkably more effective than a single pair in spotting these tiny, active birds. Spring dates are for these walks are

🐦 April 1 (Wed.) Meet at Long Branch Nature Center parking area at 9 AM. (Bad weather date is April 2.)

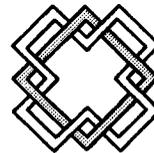
🐦 May 4 (Mon.) Meet at Lubber Run Center parking area at 8:30 AM.

Kenneth J. Evans Memorial Concert

Ken Evans retired to Barcroft with his wife Jewell 15 years ago to be near his son, Harold, and his family. He was active in the seniors program as well as business, art, music, and Masonic activities. He passed away last year on April 11. In his honor the Concert Soloists of Washington will perform on April 11 at 2:30 PM at the Woman's Club of Arlington, 700 S. Buchanan St. You are cordially invited to attend.

Sidewalk Maintenance

The County has been working on Barcroft's sidewalks. Since the cycle is every 17 years, *this will be the last regularly scheduled maintenance on our sidewalks in this century.* If you have questions about the maintenance, call Willie Davis in Public Works at 358-6509 between the hours of 7:30 and 8 AM or 3 and 4 PM. David Michaelson, our NCAC representative, has asked the County to be sure that all spots identified on the maps in the Barcroft Neighborhood Conservation Plan receive attention.



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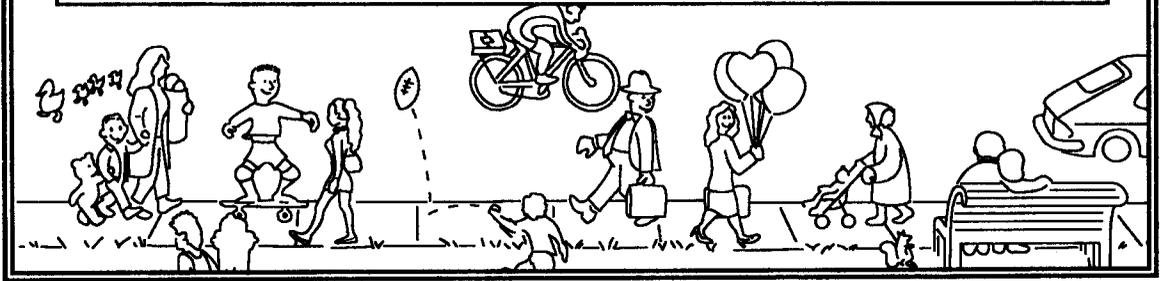


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Around the Neighborhood With Kathy Kerr



Like most mothers and grandmothers, Stella Howell lines her bedroom bookcase with pictures of her children and grandchildren. However, when she would like to see at least some of them in person, all she has to do is go upstairs!

Just this March, Mrs. Howell moved in with her daughter, Nora Rumpf, on 3rd St. S. Preparing for her arrival, Nora and her husband, Dick, had their basement finished off into a lovely bedroom with a full bath. Ingenious well windows provide quite a bit of light down there.

Mrs. Howell has five grandchildren, but Nora's children—Lee, age 3, and Anna, a fifth grader at Barcroft—are especially lucky because they are getting to know their live-in grandma intimately. Furthermore, if Mrs. Howell would like to see one of her sons, all she has to do is walk out the back door, pass through the back fence gate, and visit Mark, who moved to 2nd St. S. last year. Mark and his wife, Maureen, both work at Gonzaga School downtown.

Born in Pennsylvania, Mrs. Howell has lived in the DC area since the mid-1930s. Her husband died at the age of 46 from a heart attack, leaving her with five children aged 8–20. She says that because her children were all such good kids, they really helped her

carry on. She continued her job at Goddard Space Flight Center, retiring 10 years ago. Mrs. Howell's other children and grandchildren also live nearby in Ft. Washington and Bowie, Maryland.

Mrs. Howell has been looking into the fine senior programs in Arlington, especially at Culpepper Gardens. She has enjoyed crocheting beautiful afghans, mostly for her family members. She also really loves to walk and would love to find a walking companion, especially to accompany her to St. Thomas Moore for morning mass. She can be reached at 521-8634.

Welcome to Mrs. Howell, one of Barcroft's newest neighbors, and "Happy Birthday" (April 23) as well! In a society that so values material things, it is refreshing to see a family putting relationships and closeness at the forefront.

Another Barcroft extended family is the Evanses on 2nd St. S., who ironically live next to Mark Howell! Harold Evans's mother, Jewell, lives directly across the street. Jewell's grandchildren, Michael and Jewell, have had their grandparents nearby all of their lives. Grandpa Ken Evans passed away just one year ago. How fortunate that his grandchildren were able to know him so well. And how wonderful it is for the Rumpf children and the

April Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Wednesday Bird Walk, 9-11:30 AM, adults only. Call 358-6535.	2 BSCL, 7:30 PM, Community House. Call 521-3746 for info.	3	4 Columbia Pike Artist Studios Open House, 11 AM-4 PM, 932 S. Walter Reed Dr.
5 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS	6 MATCH, 7:30 PM, Dunn Loring United Methodist Church; call 791-6264.	7 Civic Federation Mtg., 7:45 PM, Arlington Hosp.	8 Spring Fling, 5:30-7 PM, explore amphibians in a walk from pond to swamp. Call 358-6535	9 Egg-stra, Egg-stra, 10:30-11:30 AM, 1:30-2:30 PM, kids age 3-5. Call 358-6535	10	11 ARBOR DAY Spring Plant Hike, 2-4 PM, adults only. Call 358-6535.
12 PALM SUNDAY	13	14	15	16 Natural Egg Dying, 2-3 PM, families, bring 6 hard-boiled eggs. Call 358-6535.	17 GOOD FRIDAY	18 PASSOVER
19 EASTER	20	21 Wild-flower Walk, 10-11:30 AM, adults only. Call 358-6535.	22	23	24 Cub Scout Pack Meeting, 7:30 PM, Arlington Forest U. Meth. Church.	25
26	27	28	29 After-school Special: Signs of the Season, 3-4 PM, grades 1-3. Call 358-6535.	30		

Evans children to have their grandmothers to play with and talk to any old time.



The daffodils are looking beautiful around our Barcroft Community House, largely thanks to some Barcrofters who have

volunteered their time to clear away dead leaves to let the daffodils bloom to full glory. One anonymous Community House gardener reports that she received quite a bit of help from Rob and his sons, who reside on 9th St. S. (If you'd like to know who the anonymous gardener is, just drive by the community house and join in the fun!)

CRYSTAL THAI: A Fine Restaurant

by J. E. Mangetout

At long last a restaurant is succeeding in the Arlington Forest Shopping Center. Recent visits to Crystal Thai revealed a thriving trade of Foresters, diplomats, ethnic Thai, and even Barcrofters! And the *Arlington Journal* gives it a three-star (out of four) rating.

Crystal Thai serves more than the 60 dishes listed in the menu you have received in the *Barcroft News*. The variety includes grilled beef and pork appetizers, traditional Thai soups, and main dishes featuring beef, chicken, pork, duck, and seafood. Noodle and curry dishes can be as mild or as spicy as you want, with both yellow and green curry available.

One Barcrofter particularly likes the lemon grass soup, noting that the combination of hot temperature and hot spices is great for a cold! Some notable appetizers are the satays, delicious grilled appetizers of beef or pork that come with a tasty peanut sauce for dipping, not too spicy; num tok, a fiery, cold appetizer of grilled marinated beef that comes with a lime juice, chili, and cucumber relish to spice it up even more; and larb gai, cold chopped chicken in a spicy dressing. The last two are not for the faint of heart.

Kai pad khing sod is wonderfully aromatic and delicately seasoned chicken stir fried with ginger, ear mushroom, and onion. This one is not that spicy, even though it gets an asterisk for hot and spicy on the menu. The house specialty of grilled spicy pork was a pleasant surprise—crunchy outside and tender inside, made as spicy as you want with the accompanying sauce. The panang kai, chicken with red chili sauce and coconut

milk, has an interesting blend of flavors—the coconut milk sweetly mellows out the heat.

For those who enjoy the spicy and exotic, pad talay is a delightful melange of flat rice noodles, chili sauce, basil, and a plentiful assortment of seafood morsels, including squid, octopus, and scallops.

In addition to its pleasant dining room, Crystal Thai provides carry-out meals. Delivery is free to Barcroft for dinner orders over \$15. Their phone number is 522-1311. Tell them you saw it in the *Barcroft News*!



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Barcroft's Best Kept Secrets

Notable Trees

Barcroft has four trees that have been formally designated by Arlington County's Notable Tree Committee as Notable Trees. One of them has even received a plaque as an exceptionally Notable Tree. That one is a black gum behind the home at 613 S. Taylor St. It is the tree "with the trunk split into two main parts, old and slightly misshapen." It scored 275.5 on the tree scale. The second Notable Tree is a "tall and upright" Southern Red Oak in the East Barcroft townhouse complex at 928 S. George Mason Drive. (If you visit that one, try not to look like you just came out of the Hi Q Billiard Parlor.) It scored 208.4. The third Notable is a Tulip Poplar listed on the 600 block of S. Buchanan St., but believed to be in the woods behind that block along Grandma's Creek. It scored 309.0. The fourth, and most recently designated, is the American Sycamore located behind 4611 7th St. S., with a 13'1"-diameter trunk and a score of 279.6. This tree may be the largest sycamore in Arlington and may eventually receive a plaque.



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Do you have a Notable Tree in your corner of Barcroft? Trees are nominated for size, historic significance, and unusual species. One tree designated this year was an American chestnut near Four Mile Run. At first glance a run-of-the-woods tree, its 2'4" trunk is amazingly large for a chestnut, since a blight that hit the species early in the century normally kills them at an early age.

Arbor Day is coming up on Saturday, April 11. Ceremonies will begin at noon, at Bon Air on Wilson Boulevard, and will include the award of Notable Tree certificates. The County will distribute free seedling trees, including dogwood, hawthorne, hemlock, and red oak.

Arlington Forest Yard Sale

The annual Arlington Forest neighborhood yard sale is scheduled for April 25. They do a map of participating homes and advertise. Should Barcroft do a similar event? All we need is someone to organize it. Call Larry Goldschmidt at 521-3746 to volunteer. To find out how Arlington Forest does it, call Chuck Carter at 892-5938. He is in charge of making up their maps.

Hogar Hispano

The phone number published in the last issue for Hogar Hispano was incorrect. The real number is 979-1705. Call Sister Charlotte there if you are interested in their activities.

Hogar Hispano will be holding a yard sale on May 16 and 17 from 10 AM to 4 PM. They need donations of housewares, small appliances, bedding, clothing, toys, books, plants, and the like, anytime after May 7. Drop them off at the church, 915 S. Buchanan Street.

Barcroft Elementary School News

Construction Update

The steel beams for the new additions will be arriving at Barcroft Elementary School any day now. For lack of anyplace else, they will be stored in front of the new addition. To create a storage space there, the school has taken the adjacent sidewalk and blocked off part of the street. A fence has been erected to provide a secure walkway for students around the area. Parents are asked not to stop their cars there to drop off students. The already narrow street has now become quite hazardous, especially during bus loading and unloading times. Barcrofters would be wise to avoid this block of Wakefield St. whenever possible. The inconvenience won't last long. Besides, it's for a worthy cause.



World Net Program

The Barcroft School was recently featured on the U.S. Information Agency's *World Net* program. Students from Ms. Wright's and Ms. Iacoponi's classes were featured in a special program for worldwide broadcast through the TV show. It was designed to inform citizens in other countries about the American way of educating and providing for students who immigrate to America. Unfortunately, *World Net* is not aired locally, so none of the children got to see themselves on TV.

American Red Cross, Arlington County Chapter

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Barcroft Crime Report

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

It appears that at least one store in the shopping center at George Mason and Columbia Pike has hired security guards.

- 2/1 **4800 Columbia Pike** Three subjects entered El Salvador bar and started fighting with other subjects, breaking several glass table tops
- 4800 Columbia Pike** Trespassing
- 2/2 **600 Block S. Taylor** Domestic violence
- 2/4 **100 S. Pershing** Purse snatched
- 4800 8th St. S.** Runaway child
- 2/5 **4600 Columbia Pike** Suspect left gas station without paying
- 2/7 **900 S. Buchanan** Vehicle vandalized
- 2/10 **4800 Columbia Pike** Unlocked, running, vehicle stolen
- 2/11 **200 S. Abingdon** Vehicle scratched
- 4700 Columbia Pike** Drunk in public
- 2/12 **700 S. Buchanan** Suspects held knife to victim's throat and stole wallet
- 2/14 **4600 7th St. S.** Windshield damaged
- 900 S. Buchanan** Drunken suspect broke apartment window
- 900 S. George Mason Dr.** Shoplifting
- 2/17 **900 S. Buchanan** Domestic violence, suspect punched spouse
- 2/20 **900 S. Buchanan** Car windows smashed
- 2/22 **4600 Columbia Pike** Suspect left gas station without paying
- 900 S. George Mason Dr.** Briefcase and dealer's key numbers stolen from truck
- 4300 Columbia Pike** Wallet stolen from locked car
- 2/24 **900 S. Buchanan** Car window smashed
- 4800 Columbia Pike** Drunk threw bottles at cars, threatened murder

4800 9th St. S. Windows smashed on two cars

900 S. George Mason Dr. Juvenile arrested for stealing a can of soda, released to mother at home

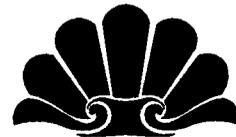
900 S. George Mason Dr. Shoplifting. Arrest made

2/25 **4700 Columbia Pike** Purse stolen from restaurant

2/26 **900 S. George Mason Dr.** Shoplifting—changed price sticker

2/27 **900 S. George Mason Dr.** Shoplifting
4600 6th St. S. Suspect claiming to be Arl. Co. inspector attempted to defraud victim of money

2/28 **4800 Columbia Pike** Drunk arrested



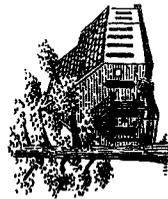
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