

BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 89, No. 10

June 1992

JUNE MEETING: Barcroft Elementary School

The June meeting of the Barcroft School and Civic League will be held on June 4 at 7:30 PM. Dr. Ellen Kahan, principal of the Barcroft Elementary School, will be the invited speaker. She will update us on the status of the school's reconstruction as well as the construction planned for this summer. Dr. Kahan will also address student needs that cannot be met via a traditional school program, specifically food and clothing.

Parade Will Honor Barcroft School Teachers

Barcroft's Fourth Annual 4th of July Parade will soon be here. This year we are honoring the teachers of Barcroft School and invite current and retired teachers to march at the head of our parade. Principals and teachers' aides are invited too, so we hope to have a number of grand marshals!

Keep your fingers crossed for good weather. In the event of rain, we will have the parade the following Saturday (July 11).

As always, our parade will be a low-key neighborhood event, with a short but exuberant march followed by hot dogs and lemonade. We will have floats, kids on decorated bikes, the Kerr Fiddle Family, kids on decorated roller blades, the unique Barcroft Marching Band, judges, prizes galore, games for the kids, balloons, and a lot of your neighbors having a good time. The floats have been more imaginative every year, and the musical aggregations are growing as well. Word has it that some elements of Pershing's Own Kazoo Band may be out of town this year, but we hope the Barcroft Colonials will show; and somebody out there with a need for a creative outlet must be plotting a new band. Last year 250 participants marched, including entries from Our Savior Lutheran Church, the Woman's Club of Arlington, the Arlington Unitarian Preschool, and Miss Teenage Virginia. Leashed pets accompanied by the all-important pooper scooper are welcome.

To win a prize, you should register for the parade. There is a form enclosed in this newsletter if you want to register early and avoid the line on the Fourth. Mail the form to Randy Swart, Parade Committee Chairman, 4611 7th St. S., Arlington, VA 22204, or leave

it in his door. You can also register on parade day, but it's slower. You can donate a prize too. Just bring it to the parade, or call Randy Swart in advance.

And the commercial—we need volunteers to help. We will have most jobs filled by the time you read this, but we will still need a few more people. Call Randy at 521-2080 and he will tell you what is still open. All of the jobs are small and easy, and they even come with written instructions. You can march in the parade and still help out with something before or after. Please call if you can help. And feel free to bring something good to eat to the picnic.

We hope you will come out on the 4th and share the Barcroft community spirit at a fun event!

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Correction

The editor regrets the last-minute change that threw the name of the writer of the Letter to the Editor (May issue) out of the picture. Cecily Hilleary Dourrachad did indeed sign her letter; she did not intend it to be anonymous. We particularly apologize to Mr. Sargol, whose letter prompted Mrs. Dourrachad to write to us.

Barcroft News Staff

Editor	Sara Leigh Merrey, 521-0527
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Neighborhood News	Kathy Kerr, 892-6458
Contributions Editor	Randy Swart, 521-2080
Mailing	Aileen Woods & Paul Metzler

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

BSCL Officers for 1991-1992

President	Larry Goldschmidt, 521-3746
Vice President	Scott Allard, 521-0825
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Recording Secretary	Sharon Tope, 920-2567
Corresponding Secretary	Talmadge Williams, 920-7006
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Transportation	Could be you
Crime Resistance	Dick Carter, 521-5976
Neighborhood Conservation	David Michaelson, 553-3953

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Curbside Recycling Comes to Barcroft

Just as this issue was going to press, we learned that curbside recycling pickup service will begin in Barcroft the week of June 15. Participation is voluntary, and you don't need to do anything unless you **do not** wish to take part. The County will deliver a bright yellow recycling bin to your door the week before service begins unless you call them at 358-6570 by Friday, May 29.

The County will collect the following items at curbside:

-  Clear, brown, and green glass bottles and jars
-  Metal food and beverage cans
-  Plastic bottles and jugs (narrow necks)
-  Newspapers and newspaper inserts

Rinse the glass, metal, and plastic items clean and remove their caps. Larger plastic jugs should be crushed to reduce volume. All of these things can be put together in the bin; they will be sorted at the processing facility. Newspapers should be tied with string or put in paper bags, just as we used to a few years ago, and placed next to the bin at the curb.

It's that simple! Many Barcrofters have already been doing all of this and then lugging the bags of stuff to the recycling bins on Columbia Pike. What a treat not to have the bags piling up on my porch, waiting for me to get the time for that trip.

We hope that Barcroft will match the participation rate of the pilot phase of the recycling program—96% elected to participate, and 85% set out their bins on a weekly basis. Maybe Barcroft can do better than this! Remember, recycling helps protect and preserve the environment. It also encourages more efficient use of our resources.



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Nature Center Director Resolves Sparrow Swamp Mystery!

At the May meeting of the Barcroft School and Civic League, the Director of the Long Branch Nature Center, Greg Zell, spoke on the Center's program and the general state of affairs down in Four Mile Run valley. Greg gave us a good rundown of the County's new structure for handling parks and invited anyone to call them at 358-6535 with questions about parks, flora, and fauna. They will refer you to another number if necessary.

Naturalist Zell then provided a lot of information about the state of Four Mile Run. Yes, beaver do still inhabit the pond, and this is the third generation. The first beaver died, the second left, and we now have a third beaver or family of beaver. A muskrat has also been seen in the pond, as have a number of species of turtles (red-bellied, painted, snapping, red-eared), a black-crowned night hawk, ducks, blue and green herons, toads, bullfrogs, spring peepers, snakes, and other fauna. Mr. Zell noted that the recent addition of a walkway along one edge of the pond has not affected the wildlife there in any visible

way. The pond is a good way to reduce the sediment in runoff water.

Mr. Zell cleared up a lingering mystery for long-time Barcrofters: how did the pond develop, and why is it called Sparrow Swamp? Susan Christopher remembers when her father owned the land there and sent her down with her brothers to muck out the drain occasionally in the spring. They would have great fun crawling in the pipe under the railroad tracks (now the bike trail). Mr. Zell said the pond was begun by a beaver and helped along by an Eagle Scout when it threatened to wash out the northern end. The resident beavers have kept things up since then. Mr. Zell chose the name Sparrow Swamp for the songbirds that are numerous there. (The nature center runs a "Warbler Hike" and other bird-watching hikes in the Four Mile Run valley.) For those not familiar with Sparrow Swamp, it is just above the spot where Grandma's Creek enters Four Mile Run, on the Abingdon Street side of the trail. (Now, who named Grandma's Creek?)

Mr. Zell made other interesting comments on toleration of all of nature's species. He noted that there are no poisonous snakes at present in our area of Arlington and made a case for snakes as good citizens, along with the raccoons, possums, squirrels, and other animals the nature center cares for when they are injured. He was hard-pressed to defend the place of the rat in our neighborhood, noting that they like to travel in the sewer system, eat almost anything, and are not indicative of bad housekeeping! He recommends the old-fashioned spring trap rather than poison if you want to eliminate a rat, since the poison can kill other animals and gets into the runoff water headed for the Chesapeake Bay.

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1992-93 BSCL Officers

At the May BSCL meeting, the following officers were elected for the coming year:

President

Larry Goldschmidt

Vice President

Scott Allard

Treasurer

Dee Kirkbride

Recording Secretary

Laura Falvey

Corresponding Secretary

Pennie L. Kinsey

Talmadge Williams was elected to the Board of Directors, replacing Phyllis Kinsey, who retired. (Pennie is her daughter, so the Kinsey tradition lives!) Remaining on the Board are Pat Roach, Susan Christopher, and Randy Swart.

Congratulations to those elected, and our thanks for the services of the retiring officers. Come to the 4th of July parade and meet all of the new and old officers.



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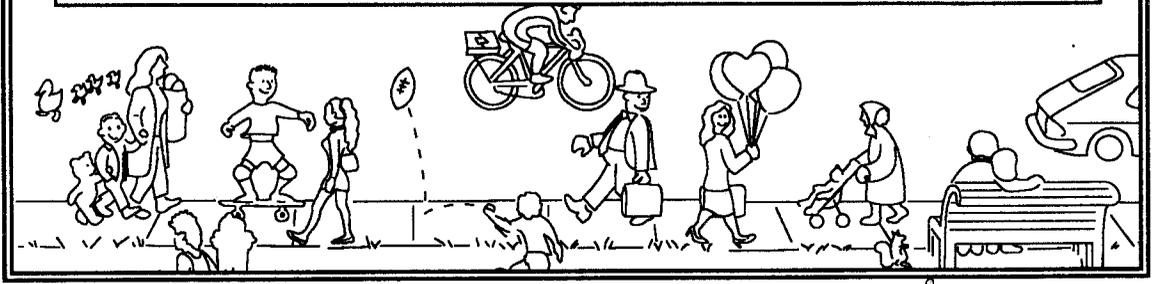
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Around the Neighborhood With Kathy Kerr



When I look out my door, one of the neighbors I am most likely to see strolling by is Mrs. Marcel Bloomquist of 3rd St. S.

Although she was born in California, Mrs. Bloomquist moved to Washington, D.C., as a child. While working downtown as a secretary, she met her husband, Rudolph, who was a postal carrier until his retirement. They were married and moved to Barcroft in 1939.

At that time, most of the houses were brand new, with some still being built. Most of the neighbors then were young couples, who soon produced quite a few children. Many of the women in the northwest corner of Barcroft were members of the K Klub, which has served over all these years as a source of support and lifelong friendships.

With sadness, I report that Mr. Bloomquist passed away on May 11, 1992, following a long illness.

Mr. Bloomquist was an avid gardener. As a new homeowner in 1939, he was excited to have the opportunity to landscape his own brand new yard. He planted the azaleas and dogwoods, which are more beautiful than ever today. He also enjoyed having a vegetable garden.

Back in those days, the train was still running on what is now the paved W&OD trail. Mrs. Bloomquist says she never rode on the train and doubts that her husband ever did, but she says that Mr. Bloomquist loved the train. He especially enjoyed hearing the train whistle all the way over on 3rd St.!

Hats off to Mr. Bloomquist and other avid Barcroft gardeners who have planted and cared for all of the beautiful flowers and trees we so enjoy to this day. It takes a long time to grow a big, beautiful, full azalea bush, and there sure are a lot of them here in Barcroft. All of those homes, so spanking new in the '30s and '40s, haven't changed much from the outside. We more recent home purchasers now find that we want to renovate the inside, update the kitchens, perhaps put on additions and install central air conditioning. But all of us appreciate the trees, shrubs, flowers, and charming architectural variety of the homes in our neighborhood.

And Barcroft in 1992 has something that Barcroft in 1939 didn't have very many of—neighbors who have lived here for a very long time!

June Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 MATCH, 7:30 PM, Dunn Loring United Methodist Church; call 791-6264.	2 Civic Federation Mtg., 7:45 PM, Arlington Hosp.	3	4 BSCL, 7:30 PM, Community House. Call 521-3746 for info.	5 Cub Scout Pack Meeting, Bugs & Things 7:30 PM, Arlington Forest U. Meth. Church.	6 Columbia Pike Artist Studios Open House, 11 AM-4 PM, 932 S. Walter Reed Dr.
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 FLAG DAY	15	16	17	18	19 Lubber Run Amphitheatre Opens, call for schedule. 358-6960.	20
21 FATHER'S DAY	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	<p>6/5-6 Arlington Dance Theatre Spring Concert, Thomas Jefferson Theatre, 8 PM, \$8, \$6, \$3; call 548-1017.</p> <p>6/5-7 Changing Places: A Kid's View of Shelter Living, Children's Theatre of Arlington & Arlington Temporary Community Shelter, Theatre Two at Gunston, 6/5 at 7:30 PM. 6/6 & 7 at 3 PM; call 548-1154.</p> <p>6/11-20 A Cable from Gibraltar, New Works Theatre, Theatre Two at Gunston, 8 PM, 6/13 at 2:30 PM; \$8, \$6; call 524-7672.</p> <p>6/12-21 The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, Children's Theatre of Arlington, Theatre One at Gunston. \$5; call 548-1154.</p>			

Gypsy Moth Spraying Done for the Year

The County's annual spraying for gypsy moths will be finished before you read this. This year the spraying was based on egg mass counts done over the winter. Trees in the target areas were going to be defoliated by the gypsy moth caterpillars if no action had been taken.

A section of Barcroft was sprayed from Arlington Boulevard down to about 3rd or 4th Street, spreading over into Arlington Forest. The County used BT, the "safest" spray, which is supposed to be completely nontoxic to humans and only affects gypsy moth caterpillars, shellfish, and some other molting species.

Tent caterpillars are also appearing in some places in the neighborhood. When you see one of the triangular "tent" webs, you must remove it immediately. If you are lucky, you will catch the hungry caterpillars in it, preventing them from damaging your tree.

For more information on gypsy moths or the spraying program, call James Bartalon, the County's Gypsy Moth Coordinator, at 358-6400.

Got an Item for the Barcroft News?

We know there are lots of closet writers out there who would like to share their opinions, tips, and knowledge with the neighborhood. The problem is, to whom do you send what? Herewith, the list:

- ✎ **Letters to the editor**—Sara Leigh Merrey, 4669 4th St. S.
- ✎ **Articles, notices of events, etc.**—Randy Swart, 4611 7th St. S.
- ✎ **Commercial display and classified ads, Barcroft Exchange noncommercial ads**—Virginia Reinecke, 4636 2nd St. S.

Now that you know *where* to send your material, you probably want to know *how* we want it? Basically, in any format you want to use. You can write it neatly by hand, type it on a typewriter, copy it onto your DOS or Mac diskette (either 5¼" or 3½"; high, low, or double density), or send it over the modem (call first).

We really do welcome unsolicited material. If you have an idea you'd like to discuss first, call Randy or Sara Leigh.

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County Bicycle Classes

During June the County will offer three bicycle classes. Each class is a 2½-hour workshop, and each costs \$10.

- June 4 *Basic Bicycle Maintenance and Repair*
- June 11 *Teaching Your Child How to Ride a Bike*
- June 18 *Bicycle Commuting Made Easy*

The classes start at 6:30 PM and are held at Gunston Community Center (near Glebe and Ridge Roads). For more information or to register, call 358-6982. The classes are a service of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Resources, the same people who keep our bike trails well maintained.

Arlington County Fair

A meeting for anyone interested in working with the Arlington County Fair (August 20–23) is set for Tuesday, June 2, at 7 PM, in the conference room at the Extension Office, 855 N. Edison St. Board members will be on hand to explain areas where volunteers are needed. If you cannot attend but are interested in helping, call 358-6400, and the staff will put you in touch with someone on the volunteer committee. For recorded information about the Fair, call the hotline: 358-6412.

For those interested in entering one or more of the 12 departments of competitive exhibits, the book explaining everything is available at the Extension Office, the courthouse, county libraries, and recreation centers.

Barcroft Exchange

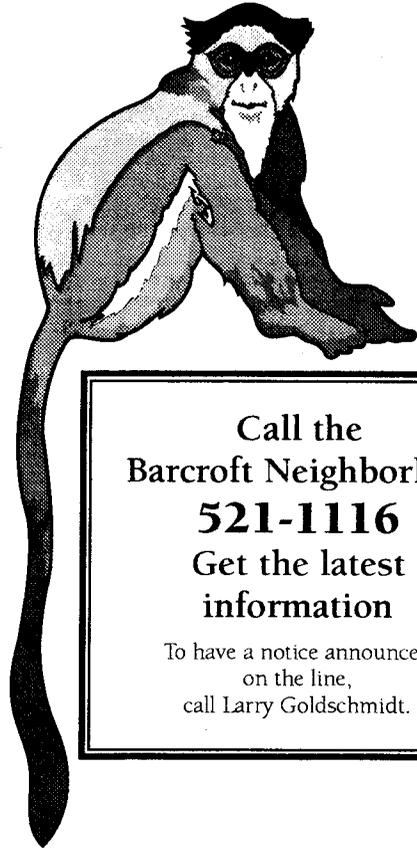
For Sale. Brand new tire and wheel for 1991 Chevrolet GTO or Caprice. Tire is a Goodyear T225-75R15. \$300/negotiable. Please call 892-6062.

For Sale. Double bed headboard and footboard. \$50 or best offer. 521-3746.

For Sale. Redskins Football. Autographed by Superbowl team. \$500 or best offer. 521-3746.

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Police Strengthening Neighborhood Program

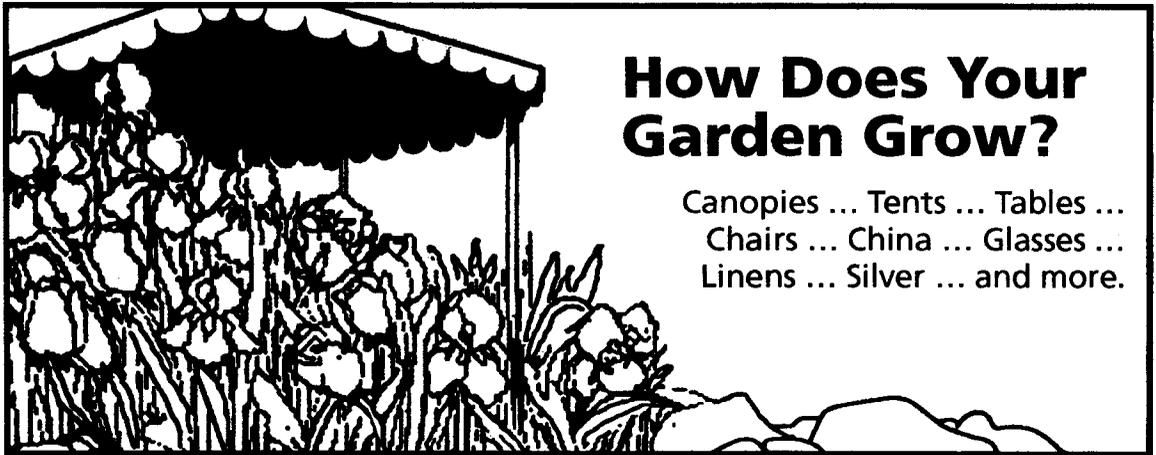
In case you missed the County's announcement earlier this year, the Police Department is about to inaugurate a brand-new program to assign officers to regular beats, rather than having them rotate around the whole County. There will be officers in all three shifts who work the area from Barcroft east. You will see them at the Fourth of July parade and other events, and we hope to feature them in the *Barcroft News*.

The program is, of course, a return to an old and respected tradition in police work. The officers get to know the problem spots in their beat area, work better with local resi-

dents, and develop a sense of belonging in the neighborhood. Patrolling police cars are a welcome sight for most of us and will be all the more welcome when we know the officer inside!

Unfinished Wall Falls at Barcroft School

On a windy evening in early May, Barcrofters were startled to hear a roar from the direction of the new Barcroft School addition. A section of wall had collapsed, falling mostly into the new building. The contractor alleges vandalism.



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Barcroft Crime Report

Here are crime statistics for April, courtesy of Detective Bob McFarland of the Arlington County Police Department. There were fewer serious crimes this month.

- 4/4 900 S. **George Mason** Car radio stolen
- 4/5 600 S. **George Mason** Car window smashed on passenger side
- 4/6 900 S. **George Mason** Shoplifting. Arrest made
4200 **Columbia Pike** Car stereo stolen from convertible
- 4/11 900 S. **Buchanan** Someone jumped on roof of a (parked?) car
- 4/13 4300 **Columbia Pike** Vehicle stolen
800 S. **Buchanan** Car windshield broken
- 4/16 700 S. **George Mason** Residence burglarized.
- 4/17 900 S. **Buchanan** Checks stolen from apartment
900 S. **George Mason** Car window broken
- 4/18 900 S. **George Mason** Car window smashed with crowbar
- 4/20 4300 **Columbia Pike** Car stolen
900 S. **Buchanan** Drunk found in stairwell, arrested
- 4/21 900 S. **George Mason** Car window broken
- 4/26 900 S. **Buchanan** Res. Mgr. verbally assaulted
- 4/29 4800 **Columbia Pike** Attempted shoplifting
- 4/30 4300 **Columbia Pike** Tire and wheel stolen

The most recent issue of the *All-Fairlington Bulletin* noted that there had been several cars stolen from behind the Shirlington movie theater. Police recommend that you remove any valuable items from your car and lock all doors and windows if you park there. In fact,

Voter Registration Change of Address Form

If you wish to vote in the next election, you must be registered to vote using the address where you actually live. If you have moved and not yet updated your voter registration, complete this form and mail it to the Office of Voter Registration, #1 Courthouse Plaza, 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 320, Arlington, VA 22201.

Name: _____

New Address: _____

Former Address: _____

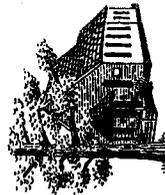
Soc. Sec. No.: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Date of Move: _____

Names of registered voters who moved with you:

Signature(s): _____



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