



BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 91, No. 5

January 1994

JANUARY MEETING: Mr. Fix It

The regular January meeting of the BSCL will feature a painting expert from the local Hechingers at Bailey's Crossroads. He will advise on basic painting techniques for interior paint jobs and answer questions about specific painting problems. If you have mildew on your bathroom walls, have a wall that is peeling, or want to know if you can paint over that old wallpaper, come to the meeting on January 6 at 7:30 PM in the Community House, 800 S. Buchanan.

Dues Dues Dues

Kathryn Villegas, our BSCL Membership Secretary, reports that some of you have not paid your dues yet this year. Dues are only \$2 per person, so it's your support we crave, not your purse. If you have not already paid since September, please drop Kathryn the coupon on the back of this issue along with a check for \$2.

Barcroft Holiday Program a Hit

With a packed house and oodles of energetic kids, the Barcroft Christmas program was lots of fun this year. The singing was spirited, and the kids seem to become better singers every year. Maryanne O'Rourke's reading of *The Night Before Christmas* was enhanced by a flash camera that happened to be fired as she reached the line "and then in a flash . . ." The Barcroft Christmas Band included Kathy Kerr, Jim Lande, Jerry Lewis, Maureen Locke, Barbara Swart, Randy Swart, Steve Wilson, Mick Mandolin, and Jack Turner. Jack soloed with his trumpet on "Ave Maria," and showed us how to jazz up "I'll be Home for Christmas." Jim Lande brought his huge contra-bass clarinet, adding deep bass notes to the mix, which included trombone, dulcimer, fiddle, guitar, and mandolin. The evening climaxed with the visit of Santa Claus, who ho-ho-ho'ed his way through the crowd of kids, dispensing candy canes from his sack. Scott Allard's cider and cookies finished off this social evening with a tasty note.

Barcrofters Discuss 8th Street Project

On Saturday, Dec. 4, a group of interested Barcrofters met at the Community House to discuss plans for a neighborhood conservation project to widen 8th St. S. to its full width between George Mason Dr. and Taylor St. The project would include improvements to the 8th and Taylor intersection and may include the missing sidewalk on the south side of 8th St. just west of Taylor. The meeting was called by David Michaelson, our Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee representative, who distributed flyers to the homes around the intersection. BSCL President Scott Allard was also present, and the meeting brought 13 Barcrofters out on a rainy Saturday.

The group was relieved to be told by the owner of the home most affected on Taylor at 8th St., Mr. Jones, that he has been expecting the widening of the street and installation of curb, gutter, and sidewalk and welcomes it. "I've worn out a lawnmower taking care of the County land there," he said, noting that he has also had to make constant efforts to prevent a ditch from forming due to erosion. He expressed concern that the County design should include measures to prevent erosion of the soil after the project is finished. His chief concern, however, was that the County's assessment to

pay for his new sidewalk would impose a financial hardship and that he would be unable to pay for the project. After some discussion of alternatives, David agreed to consult with the County on possibilities for a deferral or reduction of the homeowner's assessment in this case. Scott noted that the neighborhood might consider some way of assisting Mr. Jones with the financial burden of the project.

The group discussed the second major community concern regarding that intersection: speeding. The meeting participants agreed that the improvement project should include measures to slow down cars on both Taylor and 8th Sts., where speeding has contributed to at least

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Deadline for submissions: **1st** (ads) or **10th** (editorial material) of month preceding the issue month.

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one recent crash and two incidents in which cars ended up in Jim Casey's yard. The possibility of a four-way stop was considered, but the County is very reluctant to use four-way stops. There was more interest in investigating the installation of a rotary, a large circular island in the middle of the intersection that forces cars to slow down to drive around it. It is possible that rotaries could discourage cut-through traffic in the neighborhood and cut down speeding on Taylor, Wakefield, and Buchanan. There are pros and cons involved, and it would be necessary to amend our Neighborhood Conservation Plan or prepare a separate Traffic Management Plan. The group recommended that the BSCL begin to explore the idea and get neighborhood input by scheduling a discussion of the possible use of rotaries soon at a regular monthly meeting. Since several rotaries have been installed in Claremont and Lyon Park, we can ask neighborhood residents who live near them to share their experiences.

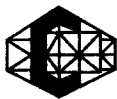
Long-time neighborhood residents recall when Pershing Dr. was a major thoroughway, in the days before George Mason Dr. was built and Pershing was cut off at Arlington Boulevard. There are no thoroughways left in Barcroft, thus no legitimate reason for cut-through traffic between Columbia Pike and Arlington Blvd. or for cars avoiding the intersection at Columbia Pike

and George Mason Dr. It may be time to consider whether we want some changes in traffic flow within the neighborhood to slow speeds down, including our own. We could improve safety for pedestrians, runners, bicyclists, and children; reduce noise; and make it safer to pull out of our driveways. (Is this writer biased?) We could also make it a lot less convenient for our own daily driving and hamper access by the 16X bus as well as emergency and utility vehicles.

By now you have some ideas of your own on the subject. This will not be a short discussion, and if we decide to request a change, it would be a long process. But if you have an interest, be looking for the announcement of the upcoming meeting in a future *Barcroft News*.

Heart Fund Seeks Volunteers

Heart disease and stroke are this country's number one cause of death. The American Heart Association raises funds for its programs through an individual campaign, rather than taking part in United Way, and needs volunteers in Barcroft to assist in its annual campaign in February. If you can help, call Dick Williams at 521-0731 (h) or (202)260-2577 (w).



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Barcroft's Bus

Ten times a day a Metrobus comes through Barcroft. Did you ever wonder why, who takes it, or where it goes? Read on.

The Barcroft bus, the 16X, now runs only during the morning and evening rush hours, but it has a long history. This neighborhood has Arlington's oldest bus line, first established by Barcrofter Robert May back in 1919. The May family lived at 805 S. Buchanan, on the corner directly facing the Community House. (Their house was torn down a few years ago to make way for the two brick houses which now front 8th St.) The Mays bought two long-bed trucks and fitted them out as buses, carrying commuter or shopper traffic by day and school kids on hay rides and to football games in the evenings. Their bus line grew up to be Alexandria, Barcroft & Washington Transit (AB&W), which was in turn absorbed by Metro.

Our neighborhood bus lives on, but just barely. When Kitty Wood moved here in 1946 it ran all day, seven days a week. Her husband, Harry, says they bought their home on S. Wakefield because it had a convenient bus line, since they did not have a car back in the early '50s. But in the late '70s Metro tried to abolish what they now call the "Barcroft Loop." Dick Melia, who was president of the BSCL at the time, remembers that the neighborhood mounted a concerted effort, including a petition campaign and a mass appearance at a hearing, to get its precious bus service back. Dick has been riding the bus since 1971. On summer evenings his wife, Eileen, sometimes waits for him on their wide front porch, walking out to meet him at the corner. She may even be wearing an apron. The scene takes you back a half century.

Enough of the history. Barcroft's bus always runs counterclockwise through the neighborhood, but in the morning it turns left on

Columbia Pike to head for the Pentagon Metro stop. In the evenings, coming from the Pentagon, it drops off Barcroft's homeward-bound commuters and heads down Four Mile Run to Shirlington. The route goes up Taylor St., then left on 4th St., left on Wakefield, right on 8th St., and left on Buchanan to finish up by Blockbuster Video. There are nine stops in the neighborhood, and some of your neighbors get on or off at every one.

Why is a neighborhood bus needed when there are buses on Columbia Pike, George Mason Dr., and Arlington Blvd.? Barbara Clemons, who catches the bus on 4th St., explains it as the difference between taking the bus and driving, "if I have to walk up that hill and four blocks in the dark in the winter." Other women who ride the Barcroft bus echoed that comment. Our crime report shows every month that security suffers closer to the Pike. Men mostly said they wanted to avoid the walk in wet or cold weather; but even among men, the physically challenged would be discouraged by the steep hill coming up from the Pike. A few like Dick Melia do walk down to the Pike at least some of the time, where you can catch a bus every four minutes during rush hour.

Everyone who rides the Barcroft bus enjoys its convenience. Harold Howard, who catches it just across from the Community House, notes that on rainy or snowy days he really welcomes the nearby stop. Another rider said, "You can take a suitcase or other heavy things with you on the bus if it's only a hundred yards from your door—you can't do that and walk six blocks." It helps that you can always count on finding an open seat on the Barcroft bus, where you can sit and read, making the best use of your commuting time. Harry Wood says read-

Continued on page 8

Barcroft Elementary School News

Barcroft School Adds Music Program

Barcroft School's fourth graders are participating in an experimental music class. The boys and girls are being introduced to strings (violin and cello) and wind instruments (clarinet, trumpet, and flute). They play in class two days a week, and some rent instruments so they can practice at home. Fifth graders have been taking string class once a week.

Barcroft School Receives Grants

Barcroft School has received two mini-grants totaling nearly \$1,000 for innovative projects. Mrs. Black, Science Coordinator and V-Quest trainer, prepared a project call "Futuristic World of Robotic Technology and the Computer." Students will observe and participate in hands-on projects from a traveling workshop. The second program is for a writing center to provide a central locale for publishing student works that may be shared in the "Young Author's Corner" in the library.

Grocery Receipts for Barcroft School

Our visit to Barcroft Elementary School revealed that the collection box for Giant and Safeway grocery receipts to qualify for computer equipment is located in the new administra-



tive office, which is now at the front of the school, reached through the new/old front door. You can bring your receipts to the next BSCL meeting, drop them off at the school office, or even put them in an envelope and mail them to Barcroft Elementary School, 625 S. Wakefield St., Arlington 22204. If you have questions, call Kathy Woodard at 521-6830. Watch the *Post* ads for the announcement of the date the program ends.



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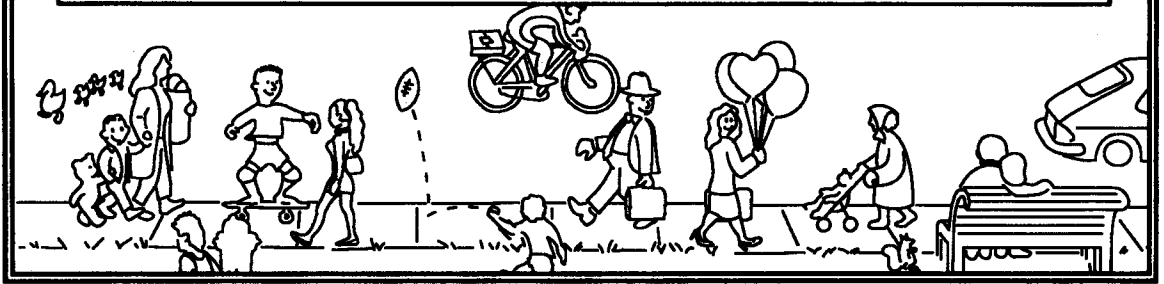
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Around the Neighborhood With Kathy Kerr



Welcome to new Barcrofters John and Ann Lenarz of Third St. S. If S. Abingdon St. had a different name, Ann might never have known that her real estate agent and fellow Barcrofter Carole Ann Rosen is a distant relative!

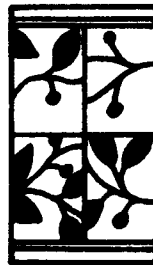
Carole Ann just happened to be the agent helping the Lenarzes find a new home. When they looked at a house for sale on S. Abingdon, Ann mentioned that she had once lived in Abingdon, VA, in the southwestern part of the state. Surprisingly, Carole Ann responded that she too had lived in Abingdon, but added that she had been born in Marion, VA. Guess where Ann Lenarz was born? Of course, it was Marion! Upon further conversation, they realized that their great grandfathers were brothers. Ann says she had no idea she had relatives from that side of the family. She says that she and Carole Ann, who lives on Abingdon St., are not sure exactly what their relationship is. Some sort of distant cousins.

Having lived in Warrenton for three years, John Lenarz is glad to have greatly shortened his commute to Rosslyn, where he works as a contract manager and attorney at MSCI. Ann is retired and looks forward to getting unpacked enough to be able to enjoy painting in the studio at her new home.

The Lenarzes are also proud new grandparents. Their son in Switzerland recently became a father, and they hope to visit there soon.

CPRO has Pike Guide

The Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization has published an informative Shopping, Eating and Services Guide. The pamphlet lists all the business on the Pike, including its 51 restaurants, 11 convenience stores, and lots of others. For a copy call CPRO at 892-2776. And don't forget the ones that advertise in the *Barcroft News*.



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January Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Col. Pike Artist Studios Open House, 11 AM-4 PM, 932 S. Walter Reed Dr.
2	3	4 Civic Federa- tion Mtg., 7:45 PM, Arlington Hospital. PTA, 7 PM, Barcroft School	5 Birds at My Feeder, 7 PM, Long Branch Nature Center; Reservations, 358-6535	6 BSCL Meeting, 7:30 PM, 800 S. Bu- chanan. Call 521-3746 for info.	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Winter Tree Identification, 1 PM, Long Branch Nature Center; Reserva- tions, 358-6535	14 Rollerskating, 6:30 PM, Fair- lington Comm. Center; grades 1-5; call 358- 6588 for info.	15
16	17 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Herbal Paper Making, 7 PM, Long Branch Nature Center; Reservations, 358-6535	26	27 NATIONAL POPCORN DAY	28	29
30	31					

Uncommon Market has New Digs

If you remember the ads the Uncommon Market has run in the *Barcroft News*, you might be interested in their new store, which has expanded into quarters beside the old one on Edgewood St. just off Columbia Pike and next to Bob's Big Boy. Organic everything, bulk

grains, spices, the delicious "spritzer" soft drinks you can't get in grocery stores, hypo-allergenic cosmetics, low-fat egg nog—lots of very interesting and healthy things to eat. It's a co-op, so you can join and put in your six hours a month helping out in exchange for a discount on food. The atmosphere will take you back to the '70s. This market certainly lives up to its name!

Barcroft's Bus

Continued from page 4

ing or talking with friends on the bus beats the hassle of driving downtown and trying to park.

Harold Howard has mastered the economics of riding the Barcroft bus. The basic fare is \$1.05. Some use tokens, which can cost less than putting in your coins or dollar bill, although its a great place to dump those pennies you have been accumulating. You ask the driver for a "Return" when you deposit your \$1.05, and he hands you a special transfer that is good for a free bus fare home that evening if you remember to get a regular rail/bus transfer to go along with it when you enter your Metrorail station. Harold uses the Arlington Flash Pass, which for \$23 gives you two weeks of unlimited Metrobus travel within Arlington, plus \$15.75 in Metrorail fares. Harold does not have

a car and uses the bus a lot, so the Arlington Flash Pass is a real bargain for him. It saves a Barcroft commuter at least \$2.75 for the two-week period. You buy it at Metro Center on Friday for the two weeks ahead. The flash pass lets you get off the bus at Adams Square and pick up groceries or do some quick shopping, catching the next 16X when it comes along.

So how do you know when the bus is coming? It runs on a surprisingly accurate schedule, entering Barcroft in the morning at 6:29, 6:49, 7:09, 7:32, 7:44, 8:11, and 8:32. In the evening it departs from the Pentagon at 6, 26, and 46 minutes after the hour, beginning at 4:06 and running every 20 minutes until 6:26. There are other Columbia Pike buses leaving from the Pentagon station.

Our infamous snow days are coming. The 16X runs as soon as the streets are plowed. Take the 7:10 in and chuckle as your office mates arrive hours late, recounting their tales of terror, bashed fenders, and delays. It can actually be fun on the Barcroft bus!

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Christmas Service Luncheon December 22

The BSCL held its annual luncheon for public service people who serve the neighborhood on Wednesday, Dec. 22. The luncheon honored our firefighters, police, park workers, refuse collectors, mailmen, parcel delivery men, librarians, crossing guards, teachers, and other public servants. This year the luncheon was catered by the staff of the Oasis, the new restaurant and night club opening on Columbia Pike.

Volunteers who helped with the luncheon and food donations will be listed in next month's *Barcroft News*.

Birds at My Feeder

On Wednesday, Jan. 5, the Long Branch Nature Center will conduct a bird program from 7 to 8 PM for adults and children over 10. You can learn to identify the birds appearing at Barcroft feeders and the types of seeds to put out to attract them. This indoor program is accessible to people in wheelchairs. Reservations are required: call 358-6535.

The Center puts on some interesting nature programs on our own neighborhood birds, animals, insects, trees, plants, and stars. These are a great way to explore your habitat or wake your kids up to the wonders all around them. The Center is reached by walking through Four Mile Run (daytime) or (at night) driving to the entrance off Carlin Springs Rd. just below Northern Virginia Doctor's Hospital.

Arlington Reunion

History lovers are still meeting monthly at the Central Library to talk about old times in Arlington. The next discussion, on Jan. 20, will be led by Nan and Lawrence Manning. Nan will talk about her memories of Arlington when she moved here in 1936, and Larry will talk about the gas station he operated in Clarendon, which served as a neighborhood social center. They will bring in photographs and other materials.

Participants in the Reunions bring a brown bag lunch, and the Library provides a drink. The programs start at 10 AM. Call Sara Collins at the library's Virginia Room (358-5966) for information. Sara emphasizes that the programs are not just for old-timers: kids and Arlington newcomers are welcome too.



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Barcroft Crime Report

This month's crime report is for incidents in November. We had a rash of car radio thefts, and they were spread throughout the neighborhood. **Please note that the addresses show the block where the incident occurred, not the individual house number.** To report crimes or criminals, Arlington County police urge you to call them on 911 or at their non-emergency number, 538-2222.

- 11/3 4700 8th St. S. Inspection sticker and County sticker stolen from car.
- 11/4 4300 Columbia Pike. Car broken into.
- 11/5 100 S. Pershing Dr. Vandalism: window broken.
4600 2nd St. S. Threatening ex-spouse has returned to area.
- 11/8 4800 Columbia Pike. Jacket stolen. Victim confronted thief, was assaulted.
4700 8th Road S. Car broken into.
- 11/9 800 S. Buchanan. Car broken into, property stolen.
4800 Columbia Pike. Vandalism. Large window broken.
600 S. Buchanan. Car broken into, radio, etc., stolen.
- 11/10 900 S. Buchanan. TV and VCR stolen from apartment entered by breaking out a window.
- 11/11 600 S. Buchanan. Car broken into, property stolen.
4800 8th St. S. Car broken into, stereo stolen.
900 S. Buchanan. Tools stolen from two apartment storage bins.
4600 3rd St. S. Car phone stolen.
- 11/14 900 S. Buchanan. Car broken into, child seat stolen.
- 11/15 900 S. George Mason Dr. Car stereo stolen while victim was in Hi Cue.
- 11/17 4600 8th St. S. Hot tub stolen from house under construction.
4700 Columbia Pike. Wanted person apprehended, carrying toy gun.
- 11/18 900 S. Wakefield. Car stereo stolen.
900 S. Buchanan. Car stereo stolen.
- 11/19 4800 Columbia Pike. Phone wires to Pizza Hut cut.
4600 Columbia Pike. Left gas station without paying.
4600 2nd St. S. Credit card stolen, used.
4500 4th St. S. Lawn signs vandalized.
- 11/20 900 S. Wakefield. Moped stolen from back yard.
- 11/21 900 S. George Mason Dr. Car mirror vandalized, ketchup thrown on car.
- 11/24 900 S. George Mason Dr. License tags stolen.
- 11/25 4400 4th St. S. Car broken into, property stolen.
- 11/26 600 S. Wakefield. Three bicycles stolen from garage.
- 11/29 900 S. Buchanan. Victim followed in car.
4400 9th St. S. Car broken into, stereo stolen.
- 11/30 600 S. Woodstock. Items stolen from car.
900 S. George Mason Dr. Car CD player stolen while victim was in Hi Cue.

For a copy of the actual police report we received from Detective Bob McFarland of the Arlington County Police Department, or to join the BSCI's Crime Resistance Committee, call Chris Monek at 920-1287.



Barcroft School and Civic League
800 South Buchanan Street
Arlington, VA 22204

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