



BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 91, No. 7

March 1994

MARCH MEETING: Traffic Circles?

The Barcroft School & Civic League's meeting on March 3 will be devoted to a discussion of various alternatives for dealing with cut-through traffic and speeding within the neighborhood, particularly the possibility of adding traffic circles at the intersections of 3rd/Wakefield/Pershing and 8th/Taylor. Jeff Sikes of the Arlington County planning staff will talk about the County's requirements for traffic circles and how they are working out in other neighborhoods. Other neighborhood traffic issues will come up as well, so plan to attend on Thursday, March 3, at 7:30 in the Community House at 800 South Buchanan.

February Meeting

The featured topic at February's BSCL meeting was Arlington County's Department of Human Services (DHS). Marcia Allgeier, chief of administrative services, described the scope of services provided by DHS and the reasons for the planned relocation and centralization of DHS departments located throughout the County. As usual, Barcrofters got the chance to ask many questions on this subject.

Marvon McKinney 1919-1994

How can it be possible? Our famous "farmer" passed away on February 2. Marvon McKinney, who lived at the corner of 4th and Wakefield and worked harder at his garden than anyone else in Barcroft, is dead.

In our first big ice storm at the end of January, Marvon took a spill on the ice and broke his hip. Neighbors helped load him in an ambulance and followed to Arlington Hospital, only to see a car broadside the ambulance at Arlington Boulevard. The ambulance driver was injured, so both he and Marvon were transferred to other ambulances to get to the hospital.

Scott Allard, who spoke with Marvon in the hospital, said he was in good spirits and looking forward to recovery. The doctors had operated and implanted a plate to aid in rebuilding the hip. They said McKinney's muscle tissue was so hard they had trouble making incisions, which pleased Marvon. He was transferred to a nursing home for a long recovery but died a few days later when a blood clot lodged in his lungs.

Continued on next page

McKinney

(Continued from page 1)

Marvon McKinney was a very private person and had forbidden us to even mention his name in the *Barcroft News*. He once ran a TV crew off when they wanted to film him in his garden. Now his story can be told, thanks to the cooperation of his two brothers, who came to Arlington for the funeral, and to Jim Muskett, Marvon's brother-in-law.

Marvon was born in Zion, Iowa, in 1919. He came from a farming family—his brother Paul still farms in southern Iowa. His other brother, Audry, became a brick mason and is now retired. His older sister, Helen, now lives in Bakersfield, California. Marvon left Iowa to enter the Army in 1941 and served with distinction in North Africa, chasing Rommel, and then in the major European campaigns at Palermo, Anzio, the D-Day landing, and more. He was decorated many times for bravery in action, including a silver star, three bronze stars, and the French Croix de Guerre with palm.

After the war McKinney began a career as a civil servant with defense intelligence at Arlington Hall. He married in 1949, and the young couple bought the house at 4515 4th St. S. They divorced about 20 years later, and his ex-wife now lives in New Jersey. Marvon never spoke of her, but he often spent Thanksgiving and Christmas with his brother-in-law's family over on Carlin Springs Rd. So much for the bare bones of his life.

Marvon McKinney was one of a kind. His garden was at a central point in the neighborhood, and since he worked in it every day, many Barcrofters came to know him. Heaven help those who walked on his grass, but he enjoyed talking if his gardening work was done. If you baked him bread or fixed his bicycle, the vegetable payoff could be amazing. His aspara-

gus was better than you can buy in any French restaurant in Washington. His beets were crisp and delicious, as were his beans, corn, sugar peas, turnips, and carrots. In some years he grew everything he ate except his milk and bread. He had two freezers for preserving his crops. His plantings usually resulted in perfect rows of perfect plants, looking like a Burpee catalog. If they did not, he just yanked them out and planted something else. He was organic when he could be and proud when his crops needed no insecticide because the plants were so strong they resisted parasites.

Barcroft News Staff

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<i>Neighborhood News</i>	Kathy Kerr, 892-6458
<i>Contributions Editor</i>	Randy Swart, 521-2080
<i>Mailing</i>	Could be you!

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

BSCL Officers for 1993–1994

<i>President</i>	Scott Allard, 521-0825
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<i>Neighborhood Conservation</i>	David Michaelson, 553-3953
<i>Building and Grounds</i>	Scott Brinitzer (grnd), 892-0308 Dennis Bennett (bldg), 892-6467

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Tomatoes were Marvon's cash crop in recent years. True to form, he rejected customers who walked on his grass or wanted to squeeze the tomatoes and pick out the best ones. In the dead of winter you would kill for one of Marvon's vine-ripened tomatoes. His tomatoes will be missed.

You didn't pump Marvon for his gardening secrets. When we suggested a long time back that he write a monthly column for the *Barcroft News*, he said he had worked 25 years to learn his secrets and had no intention of giving them away! But if you stayed off his grass and chatted, you would eventually learn that he credited his constant soil preparation for a lot of his success. He labored for weeks in the fall, grinding up leaves and grass clippings and mulching them into the soil, and more days in the spring before he planted. He had the only black soil in Barcroft, and he was proud of it. He dreaded the thought that after he passed away some developer would build houses there or, even worse, would strip the topsoil away and sell it, as he said they had done on the old Payne place, which is now Pershing Ct. He looked with pity on the County's efforts to reseed utility strips after sidewalk construction, buying good-quality sod for his own utility strip. He installed drains underneath to keep the flat plot well drained, and he watered by hand to make sure the soaking was just right.

Marvon was a familiar figure on his bicycle, with his old bib overalls and a bright shiny white helmet. He had several bicycles and would ride out to the Merrifield Garden Center to consult with "Dr." John sometimes, about whom he would say with great respect, "He knows!" Marvon's car died several years ago. It mulched quietly in his driveway for a time, and then he finally junked it. But he had a second car stored in his garage, and "start car" notes on his calendar reminded him to run it every two weeks. He used to borrow a neighbor's car to haul 10-gallon cans of heating oil to fill his furnace tank, saying that if he had the oil delivered by truck, they would pump it into the tank and stir up all the sediment on the bottom. The neighbor was paid off in vegetables, until he got tired of having the car smell like a refinery.

Marvon could bring fierce concentration to any gardening task, but during his breaks he enjoyed chatting about current events and almost anything of neighborhood interest. When the BSCL issued a call for concerned Barcrofters to come to a County Board meeting in the mid-'80s, Marvon was there. He seldom came to meetings, but he read his *Barcroft News* carefully and saved every issue. You will find him mentioned in those back issues as "the farmer."

Marvon is gone now, and for many of us he left a big hole in the fabric of our neighbor-

Continued on next page



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McKinney

(Continued from page 3)

hood. It is hard to imagine passing that garden and seeing it empty. It is harder still to think of what a shame it will be if the hole is filled by cramming new houses into Marvon's garden. Anybody have any ideas?

Michael Kiernan is organizing a memorial ceremony for early April. Call him at 979-4355 or the Barcroft Neighborline at 521-1116 for more information.

Community House Improvements

The reactivated Building and Grounds Committee had its first work session at the Barcroft Community House on the morning of Saturday, February 19. A good turnout of volunteers, including Scott Allard, Dennis Bennett, Louise Bennett, Jim Kerr, David Michaelson, Randy Swart, and Dave Voorhees, performed a number of minor repairs and maintenance chores. They also inspected the attic and crawlspace and began laying plans for a comprehensive sprucing up of the building's interior, which may include replacing the old furnace and possibly relocating the bathroom to the main floor. This could help make the building accessible to the handicapped. Jim Kerr is working up a draft plan for the effort, about which you will hear much more. Anyone interested in volunteering or in participating in meetings of the Committee is encouraged to call one of the cochairs, Scott Brinitzer (grounds) at 892-0308 or Dennis Bennett (building) at 892-6467. Or call the Barcroft Neighborline at 521-1116 for an announcement of the next work session.

Duffy Rides to Work

Jim Duffy of S. Stafford St. was reduced to riding the Barcroft bus to work during the snows. Jim and his wife, Mary, have been Barcrofters since 1967. They now live in the modern house they built next to their original brick colonial on S. Stafford. Jim normally walks to work—at the Pentagon. He says it keeps him fit and helped in his recovery from heart surgery six years ago. Jim has timed his walk to the minute; it normally runs about 51 minutes, including a cool-down at the end. He admits, however, that if he happens upon another fast walker, his competitive instincts seem magically to push his pace up another notch. If you are twentysomething and an older man zips past you on the Pike some morning, it might just be Jim!



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Apologies to Harpist Linda

by Talmadge Williams

Without a doubt, egg was not on the annual Service Luncheon menu. However, this writer and the cowriter of the article reporting the results of the Service Luncheon came away with the proverbial "egg on his face." In reporting the success of the luncheon, I failed to give recognition to Linda Titolo, who provided beautiful harp music throughout the luncheon. Linda has also provided the music for our lunches in past years. She is without a doubt a great professional who enjoys and does her job well. Just like her easy music, she eases into the building, without help sets up her harp, and provides music that is just right for the occasion. When the affair is over, she disappears without fanfare, just as she arrived. She makes her performance look so easy. I am reminded of a baseball fan who told Willie Mays, baseball Hall of Famer, that it looked easy for him to glide about the outfield making impossible catches. The "say hey kid" responded, "It suppose to look easy."

Linda, Barcroft neighbor and friend, sorry I failed to include your outstanding performance in the last issue of the *Barcroft News*. Linda performs beautiful harp music, sometimes in duo with the guitar of her husband Roger Cornell.



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Performing alone or with her husband, Linda cheerfully provides that soothing strain of music which provides just the right atmosphere at all events.

Ready for a Spring Yard Sale?

Arlington Forest is already planning their May 21 spring yard sale. These people are organized! Furthermore, it has never rained on their yard sale day. Here are some comments by Chuck Carter in *The Arlington Forester* on how to prepare for your yard sale:

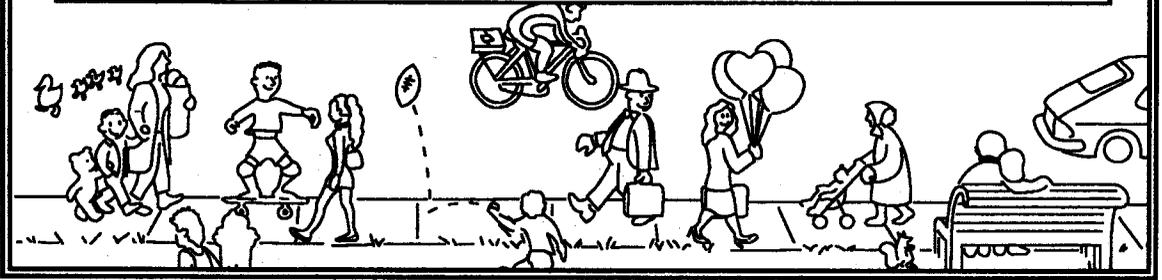
Now is the time to go over your winter items, before they're packed again, to sort those that will not be used next year. Last year's summer items will be in demand this spring, so look at those too, particularly outgrown kids' clothes, which are hot items at the yard sale. Now is a good time to sort, size, and mark those clothing sale items, before you're drawn outside by good weather. Clothing sells much better if sized and clean. Curtains, rugs, and anything else that needs to fit sells faster if it has a size label on it. Electrical items should be tested and marked if they work. Even broken items should be marked "broken" and be sold for parts or for repair.

"Pay Your Dues!"

After telephoning around the neighborhood to quite a few of you, I find that some have remembered to send in their dues and some have not. This is your final reminder for this year, which started in September. If you want to go down in history as a member of the BSCL this year, you had better send your dues in now! There is a coupon on the back cover.

Kathryn Villegas

Around the Neighborhood With Kathy Kerr



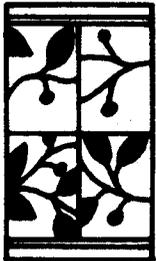
Congratulations and welcome to new neighbors Laurey and Jinks Millspaugh. Their son, Martin, was born Mar. 26, 1993, and is busy thinking about learning to walk. Jinks and Laurey have friends who lived here in Barcroft on S. Abingdon St. When the friends had to relocate for two years, they offered to rent their home to the Millspaugh. So last year on Labor Day, they moved to Barcroft from N. Arlington.

Both originally from Baltimore, Jinks and Laurey first met at Rehoboth Beach when she was 11 and he was 16 years old. Thirteen years later, Laurey ran into Jinks's mom at a wedding reception. He enjoyed talking with her so much that he decided to get together with Jinks as well. He and Jinks were married in 1989.

The Millspaugh love to ride bikes and love living near the bike path. Martin had his first ride at the age of 4 months. They biked in England for their honeymoon and more recently pedaled their way through Italy and France. Jinks also has a "baby jogger," so we'll probably be seeing a lot of them as the weather gets warmer! This family loves everything outdoors, including the beautiful trees here in Barcroft. They also enjoy playing tennis. Jinks plays singles in the Volvo tennis league during the summer, mostly up at Bluemont Park. She has a tennis rating of 4.5 by the USTA.

Jinks works part time as a patient counselor for a phlebologist, advising people with problems related to varicose veins and spider veins. Laurey is the vice-president for the Buchanan Co., a commercial real estate company in Maryland.

The Millspaugh enjoy getting to know their neighbors of all ages, and I am frankly amazed by how many people Jinks has met in such a short time.



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March Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH	1 Civic Federation Mtg., 7:45 PM, Arlington Hospital. PTA, 7 PM, Barcroft School	2	3 BSCL Meeting, 7:30 PM, 800 S. Buchanan. Call 521-0825 for info.	4	5 Col. Pike Artist Studios Open House, 11 AM-4 PM, 932 S. Walter Reed Dr. RAMADAHN
6	7	8 INTL. WOMEN'S DAY	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 SAINT PATRICK'S DAY Arlington Reunion, Library, 10 AM.	18	19
20 FIRST DAY OF SPRING	21	22	23	24	25	26 PASSOVER
27 PALM SUNDAY	28	29	30	31	3/4 & 3/5 "after almost Coast to Coast," Arlingtones Barbershop Chorus, I.J. Community Theatre, 8:15 PM both days & 2:15 PM Sat. Call 527-6195 for further information.	

More congratulations to Leslie Rokoske and Tom Morris, the proud parents of Robert Morris, born Jan. 10, 1994. (Is Robert the first Barcroft baby of the year?) Tom and Leslie moved to Barcroft in October 1991, when they purchased a home on 3rd St. S.

Tom is a securities litigation attorney with Kirkpatrick and Lockhart in DC. Leslie is in her third year of residency in psychiatry at George Washington University Hospital. In their very

limited free time, they enjoy biking on the bike path and Tom likes to jog.

Barcroft Becomes Skatable

Back in January, when we were all iced into our homes with our furnaces attempting to keep up with the subzero wind chill, some Barcrofters managed to have a truly great time!

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Around the Neighborhood

(Continued from page 7)

Most of them were under the age of 12—but not all of them.

Bruce Carter of Woodstock Ct. took his four kids down to Sparrow Swamp to ice skate. After returning home, since Bruce still had his skates on (after climbing up the hill in them), he took a few spins around his street—skating on the sidewalk.

Meanwhile over on 5th St. S., Ken Leinbach donned his skates and **ZOOMED** down the sidewalks of his street and S. Abingdon. He said it was particularly fun skating around the little court where Abingdon St. runs into 6th St. S.

The ice was so slippery one morning that the Barcroft bus couldn't make it up the hill. One well-dressed, professional-looking Barcrofter with her Gucci briefcase got down to the Pike by sitting in a cardboard box and sliding down the sidewalk! As she slid, she passed a car sitting forlornly in the gutter with a shredded and scorched rear tire and an empty fire extinguisher nearby, showing what happens when you try to climb an icy hill by brute force. We even missed a day of trash collection before the sun came out and melted the ice away in mid-February.

Arlington Reunion Resumes

After snow days in January, the Arlington Reunion history talks at the Central Library will resume on March 17. The program will begin at 10 AM with Nan and Lawrence Manning reminiscing about their years in Clarendon, complete with old photos taken before WWII. A brown-bag lunch and discussion of Arlington history follows.

Barcroft Babysitters

Erin Barksdale, 14 years old, 979-7665

My Chau, S. 7th St., 521-9344

Nhu Dang, S. Buchanan St., 685-8831

Kathy Kerr, licensed family day care provider, part time only, 892-6458

Stacy Kyle, 14 years old, 8th grade, S. 6th St., American Red Cross Babysitting Certification, 486-0019

Terri Lahlou, 28 years old, S. 4th St., 979-9565 (home), 527-8484 (work)

Liza Lord, 13 years old, American Red Cross Babysitting course, 892-2443

Sasha Lord, 11 years old, Mother's Helper—will entertain children while mother is at home, 892-2443

Anne Roningen, 13 years old S. 9th St., 521-1451

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Is Your House Number Clear?

Arlington County Police recommend that you drive by your home to test the readability of your address. Could rescue crews read it if they were passing by at 15–25 miles per hour? At night? Here are some recommendations:

- ✦ Use letters at least three inches tall.
- ✦ Choose a location illuminated by the porch light you leave on all night.
- ✦ Choose a contrasting color, such as black on white or white on a dark color. Brass numbers tend to be difficult to read.
- ✦ Keep shrubbery, flags, hanging flower baskets, and other decorations from obstructing the numbers.

For the most visible, unusual, and tasteful illuminated numbers in Barcroft, check out the artistic blue neon numbers at 412 S. Taylor.

Trout Season Stream Cleanup

Spring is coming, and that means it must be time to grab that old cane pole and a can of corn or a hunk of Velveeta cheese, walk down to Grandma's creek, and catch some rainbow trout for dinner out of Four Mile Run. Arlington trout season will open March 19.

To make the stream more hospitable for both the finned and the footed, various groups are planning to clean up the streambed and adjacent areas on Saturday, March 12, starting at 9 AM. The BSCL will provide trash bags at the site of the old recycling center north of the Columbia Pike/W&OD Bike Trail to all who come. There will also be a more formal check-in below the Safeway parking lot on Arlington Mill Drive, across from Barcroft neighborhood. So wear your heavy shoes and gloves and come on down!



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Barcroft Crime Report

This month's crime report is for incidents in January. Please note that the addresses show the block where the incident occurred, not the individual house number. The report came to us with a little less detail than normal this month. To report crimes or criminals, Arlington County Police urge you to call them on 911 or at their non-emergency number, 538-2222.

- 1/8 900 S. George Mason Dr. Hit and run.
4300 Columbia Pike. Larceny.
- 1/9 100 S. George Mason Dr. Drunk driver
crashed.
- 1/10 4800 Columbia Pike. Drunk in public.
- 1/18 600 S. Buchanan. Larceny.
900 S. Buchanan. Hit and run.
- 1/19 600 S. Buchanan. Larceny.
- 1/20 4800 Columbia Pike. Drunk.
4300 Columbia Pike. Simple assault.
900 S. Buchanan. Simple assault.
- 1/22 900 S. George Mason Dr. Simple assault.
- 1/24 4800 S. Columbia Pike. Disorderly con-
duct.
- 1/26 900 S. Wakefield. Larceny.
- 1/27 900 S. Buchanan. Simple assault.
- 1/28 4700 Columbia Pike. Drunk in public.
- 1/29 300 S. Pershing. Vandalism.

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

Barcroft Elementary School News

Barcroft School and Telephone Workers Form Partnership

Barcroft Elementary School and the Telephone Pioneers of America (TPA) have announced a new program. TPA is a voluntary association whose local chapter has employees from Bell Atlantic and C&P Telephone. The program will include visits by fifth-grade classes to the Challenger Center for Space Science, a phone pal program to support "latchkey" kids after school, a pen pal program, translations for meetings at the school, donations of materials for use in art classes, and more. TPA members will visit classrooms and be included in many school events.

Get Grocery Receipts to Barcroft School

Safeway and Giant will end their Computers for Students contests on February 27. Please bring or mail all the receipts you have collected to Barcroft School at 825 S. Wakefield, Arlington, VA 22204, no later than March 7. The School and the students thank you.

Barcroft Exchange

ADVERTISE your yard sale, get rid of those old windows or that junk car or a tree you are about to cut down because it's in the wrong place, or find a neighborhood running partner or dogwalker, or whatever. Call Barbara Swart at 521-2080 to place your ad. Regular ads are free to any Barcrofter. Commercial ads for a business are \$10.





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

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City _____

Phone _____

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c/o Kathryn Villegas, Membership Secretary
4301 Columbia Pike, #533
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