



# BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 91, No. 8

April 1994

## **APRIL MEETING: Delegate Darner Reports**

The April meeting of the Barcroft School and Civic League will feature Barcrofter Karen Darner, our representative to the Virginia House of Delegates. She will update us on the highlights and lowlights of the last session of the Virginia legislature. Karen has visited the community house many times, both as a neighbor and as a delegate, and her reports are always interesting. Come and ask her questions and let her know what you'd like her to tell the folks in Richmond. The meeting is on April 7 at 7:30 in the Community House at 800 S. Buchanan.

## **March BSCL Meeting**

*by Scott Allard*

The March BSCL meeting was by far the busiest meeting of the year! In addition to many Barcrofters, the meeting was attended by a member of the Arlington Forest Citizens Association, two members of the Carlton Condominium who wanted to lay the groundwork for future joint efforts, and three representatives from Arlington County.

We discussed Neighborhood Conservation and Advisory Committee (NCAC) funding for additional neighborhood improvements, possibly for neighborhood signs. We also discussed the Barcroft-Arlington Forest path. The Arlington Forest property owner attending the meeting voiced his concerns (see related article).

The featured topic was a discussion of traffic circles with Jeff Sikes of the County's planning staff, who discussed possible designs for the 8th and Taylor intersection. The BSCL had expressed concerns over increased traffic that may occur if 8th St. is modified to include a curb and sidewalk to the southeast of the intersection. We asked the County staff to consider adding a traffic circle. Mr. Sikes stated that a circle would not work at this intersection. He thought that the relatively minor curb and gutter changes to the intersection should not significantly affect traffic volume or speed. A motion was adopted to proceed with the improvements discussed in December.

Mr. Sikes had also examined the feasibility of adding a traffic circle to the 3rd and Pershing intersection and has concluded that a small (25-ft diameter) traffic circle would reduce speeding on Pershing. No formal action was taken on the 3rd and Pershing intersection.

# Remembering Marvon McKinney

by Mike Kiernan

Few who met Marvon McKinney, the farmer of Barcroft, will ever forget him. His sudden death on February 2, resulting from complications after a slip on the ice, came as a shock to many neighbors who valued their conversations with Marvon as much as the taste of his home-grown tomatoes.

Those who would like to spend a few minutes remembering Marvon and sharing their reminiscences are encouraged to gather in front of his fence on the corner of 4th and Wakefield Sts. at 9 AM on Saturday, April 9, for an informal tribute to a man whose daily work in his garden became a fixture of the Barcroft neighborhood. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Mike Kiernan at 979-4355.

## Barcroft 4th of July Parade Meeting April 14

by Scott Allard

A meeting to discuss the fifth annual Barcroft 4th of July Parade will be held on April 14 at 7:30 PM at the Community House. We have three short months left to organize the parade. For those who are new to the neighborhood, the parade has been a great success in past years. It features an informal parade around the block starting at the Barcroft Community House, free food and drink to all, and games for kids of all ages. Last year we went through 500 hot dogs and eight whole watermelons! So please attend the parade meeting if you're interested, or call Scott Allard at 521-0825 to volunteer or for more information.

## New NCAC Projects

The Barcroft neighborhood has been very involved with the Arlington County-sponsored Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC), mainly because of the dedication of David Michaelson. For example, the improvements to Dead-Man's Curve on Pershing Dr. are due to Dave's work with NCAC. Fortunately for us, there is an unexpected opportunity for the BSCL to request funding for additional project(s) in this year's funding cycle.

### Barcroft News Staff

<i>Editor</i>	Sara Leigh Merrey, 521-0527
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<i>Advertising Manager</i>	Chris Krukewitt, 271-9627
<i>Neighborhood News</i>	Kathy Kerr, 892-6458
<i>Contributions Editor</i>	Randy Swart, 521-2080
<i>Mailing</i>	<b>We need you!</b>
<i>Hunter/Gatherer</i>	Barbara Swart

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
<i>Vice President</i>	Dave Voorhees, 979-8287
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jim Kerr, 892-6458
<i>Recording Secy.</i>	Margaret Davis, 892-6742
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Pennie Kinsey
<i>Board Members</i>	Susan Christopher, Pat Roach, Randy Swart, Talmadge Williams
<i>Membership Secy.</i>	Kathryn Villegas, 920-1039
<i>Signs Manager</i>	Jack Turner
<i>Arlington Hall</i>	Pat Roach, 920-8131
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<i>Crime Resistance</i>	Chris Monek, 920-1287
<i>Neighborhood Conservation</i>	David Michaelson, 553-3953
<i>Building and Grounds</i>	Scott Brintzer (grnd), 892-0308 Dennis Bennett (bldg), 892-6467

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During the next meeting of the Barcroft School and Civic League we will discuss the organization's priorities for funding from the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee pool of bond funds. The projects currently slated for consideration are as follows:

1. The improvement of the intersection of 8th and Taylor, which will include improvement of the street, installation of new curb and gutter, and other alignment measures.
2. Approval of funding for signs to delineate Barcroft as the name of our community.
3. Approval to request funding for the allocation of funds to design the required improvement of the erosion problem at Columbia Pike and Taylor Street.

Should you wish to propose any additional projects or make any comments, you can contact David Michaelson at 553-3953 or attend the next BSCL meeting.

## Barcroft-Arlington Forest Pathway in Jeopardy

by *Scott Allard*

As many Barcrofters know, a path joins the Barcroft neighborhood with the Arlington Forest neighborhood to the west. The Barcroft entrance is on S. Abingdon St. across from S. 5th St. The Arlington Forest entrance is adjacent to the house at 101 S. Aberdeen St. Although the Barcroft portion of the path has a recorded legal right of way, no records have been found documenting the path in the Arlington Forest neighborhood. The owner of that property is concerned that if the path that crosses his property is not formally managed by Arlington County, he may be liable for accidents that may occur.

Although the County-published Barcroft Neighborhood Conservation Plan recommends

that the path and County-installed bridge be maintained and improved (Rec. 23C), Arlington County does not object to the proposal to close the Arlington Forest portion. At the March BSCL meeting, a motion passed requesting that Arlington County formalize the path to ensure its continued existence and to protect the Arlington Forest property owner. Before making the request to the County, the BSCL intends to discuss the proposal at the next Arlington Forest Citizen's Association meeting.

### BSCL 1994 Proposed Budget (June 1994-May 1995)

<b>Income</b>	Interest	\$1470
	Dues	1000
	Donations	500
	Rent	2400
	Utilities Reimbursement	938
	Newsletter Ads	2200
	Tee shirt sales	30
	Other	0
		<hr/>
		<b>\$8538</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	Newsletter printing	\$1600
	Newsletter postage	600
	Parade	500
	Service Luncheon	350
	Refreshments	80
	Memberships	35
	Telephone	240
	Gas	722
	Electric	216
	Insurance	575
	Grounds Maintenance	200
	Building Maintenance	500
	Other	50
		<hr/>
		<b>\$5668</b>

<b>Net Surplus</b>	\$2870
<b>Addition to Building Fund</b>	\$2870

# Memories of Marvon McKinney

[From the Editor: We inadvertently left off the byline for the touching tribute to Marvon McKinney published in the March issue of the Barcroft News. Randy Swart, our erstwhile Contributions Editor (and writer of most of the newsletter) was the author. His piece prompted additional comments from other neighbors. The following are two notes we have received.]

I have lived in Barcroft for 10 years on S. 8th St. For most of those years I have run, weather and temperament permitting, a course that always included a pass by Mr. McKinney's garden. I looked forward to seeing what he was up to, wondered what he did when he wasn't outside (did he ever watch TV? I doubted it.), and anticipated my return by his garden, when he always seemed to have timed me and gave me some warm words of encouragement to get me through the rest of the run home.

He reminded me of my father, a native of Indiana. Dad also rode a bike, long before it was cool. Both were a bit eccentric, and I felt a kindred spirit in the "Barcroft Farmer." I had hoped I would get to know him better this year.

This has been a particularly hard and sad winter for many of us, but I must say that the loss of our neighbor and friend struck a tragic note for me that will repeat itself every time I

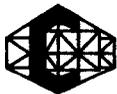
see the empty garden, the empty house. I can't quite accept the loss.

If there is anything we as a community can do to preserve his property, to keep the bulldozers out, to plant trees and make a park or memorial, I would like to help. Spring, as welcome as it will be, will not be the same without him. Not at all.

Marilyn Beckwith

I read [the] sensitive piece in the March 1994 *Barcroft News* on Marvon McKinney. I simply wanted to let you know how much I appreciated your thoughtfulness in informing the neighbors about this interesting gentleman.

Like so many other neighbors in the Barcroft area, I stopped and talked with Mr. McKinney on numerous occasions, sometimes in the afternoon, but more often in the evening or even late at night while walking or jogging. We chatted mostly about the neighborhood, about his "farm," about agriculture in general, and about politics. He knew that I work in the Congress and pumped me frequently about current events and world affairs. He also sought information about pesticides, safe foods, and other agriculture subjects. He was always a gentleman, never overbearing, rarely imposing, always interesting. His personality and presence were far more benign and friendly than his



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seeming shyness and dark hulking shadow there in his farm late at night.

Like others, I had the notion that it would be a valuable act to sit down with a tape recorder and learn about his farming techniques and know-how. Alas, that was never done. That too is a big loss.

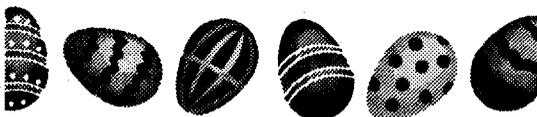
Again thank you for your informative and sensitive piece. I read it with interest and eagerness. Such pieces rarely appear in conventional news outlets. Congratulations.

*Andy Semmel*

## **Arlington Sister-City Association**

*by Scott Allard*

Arlington has recently established a Sister City partnership with Aachen, Germany. Aachen is located to the southwest of Cologne and is very close to the intersection of Germany, the Netherlands, and Belgium. The partnership agreement was signed in September, and the Arlington Sister City Association is in the process of developing a full range of exchanges and partnerships between Arlington and Aachen. Several informal exchanges have already taken place between various individuals and groups. For further information, please contact John Melnick, President of the Association, at 276-1000, or Tom Parker with Arlington County at 358-3561.



## **Taste of Arlington**

*by Scott Allard*

The seventh annual Taste of Arlington celebration will be held on Sunday, May 15, from Noon to 4 PM at the Village of Shirlington in South Arlington. The street festival features food from more than 40 area restaurants, live music, soccer demonstrations, face painting, magicians, and more. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Arlington Housing Corporation and Arlington Community Residences, two nonprofit organizations that serve the housing needs of the community. Since the first Taste of Arlington in 1987, the event has grown in popularity each year. The 1993 event drew more than 6,500 people for a day of food and fun!

## **Antique Show**

*by Scott Allard*

The Washington-Lee High School PTA is sponsoring an antique show April 9-10. It will feature dealers from the mid-Atlantic region offering a wide range of merchandise from collectibles to quality antiques. In addition, the PTA will serve a delicious lunch and offer fresh-baked goods to take home. Admission to the show will be \$3. Hours are 10-6 on Saturday and 11-5 on Sunday.



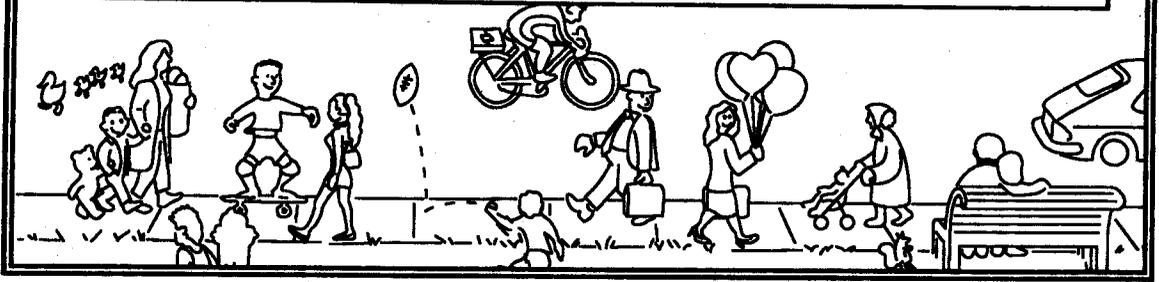
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# Around the Neighborhood With Kathy Kerr



What was that? It looked like some guy on a bicycle pushing a baby in a stroller. Pretty weird; but even weirder, the bike had no handlebars and only one wheel!? Sure enough, it was Barcrofter Ken Leinbach riding his unicycle while skillfully maneuvering his son Micah, now age 2 years, in the stroller.

You may also remember Ken from our 4th of July parade riding that same unicycle, this

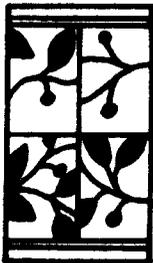
time pulling a wagon to the delight of passengers Micah and his little cousin.

Most public school students also know Ken because he is the director of the Arlington County Public Schools Outdoor Lab. In fact, he has to be one of Arlington's most popular and well-known teachers. Your children are probably going to be very impressed when you tell them that he lives here in Barcroft. If your children have been to the Outdoor Lab, and likely they have, they may know Ken as "Mr. Linebacker." Younger kids may recognize him by the name "Mr. Duck," "Mr. Moose," or "Mr. Bear" or as the "guy with the funny animal hat."

The Outdoor Lab is located out past Manassas near Gainesville, which means that Ken has a pretty long daily commute. Ken loves his job so much, however, he considers it a "privilege" to drive there each day. And it only takes him about 35 minutes.

Ken's wife, Shauna, is a registered nurse who is presently in the middle of a very intensive midwifery program at Georgetown University. She will complete her master's degree this December. Lately she has been enjoying delivering babies at Columbia Hospital for Women.

Shauna is from North Carolina and Ken is from my hometown, Ann Arbor, Michigan. They met at a contradance in Richmond. At that time Ken was working at the Richmond Science Museum and Shauna was a nurse intern at Virginia Commonwealth University.



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# April Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	4/9-10 4/16	WASHINGTON-LEE PTA ANTIQUES SHOW BETTER BEGINNINGS, 9:30-11:30 AM, preschoolers and parents, Barcroft School; RSVP 358-5838 by 4/14.				1 April Fool's Program, 10 AM, Long Br Nature Center, grades 2-3; reservations, 358-6535.	2 Col. Pike Artist Studios Open House, 11 AM-4 PM, 932 S. Walter Reed Dr.
3 EASTER Daylight Savings Time Begins	4	5 Civic Federa- tion Mtg., 7:45 PM, Arlington Hospital. PTA, 7 PM, Barcroft School	6	7 BSCL Meeting, 7:30 PM, 800 S. Bu- chanan. Call 521-0825 for info.	8 HANA MATSURI (Buddha's Birthday)	9 Weekend Naturalist Trng, 10:30 AM, Long Br Nature Ctr, gr 4-6, reservations, 358-6535.	
10	11	12	13	14 Parade Meeting, 7:30 pm, 800 S. Buchanan	15 Opera Theater of Northern Virginia, call 549-5039 for info.	16 Blacksmithing Day, 1:00 PM, Gulf Branch Na- ture Center.	
17 Opera Theater of Northern Virginia, call 549-5039 for info.	18	19	20	21	22 EARTH DAY	23 Earth Day Open House, 1:30 PM, Gulf Br Nature Center; reservations, 358-3403.	
24	25	26	27 NATIONAL ARBOR DAY	28	29	30 Arlington Symphony, 7 PM, call 528- 1817 for info.	

Shauna then moved to Washington, DC, to work with the Lutheran Volunteer Corps at Christ House, a medical facility for homeless men. Ken decided to follow her here, and in the fall of 1989, he got a job at Washington-Lee High School teaching earth science. Just before school started, however, a position opened up at the Outdoor Lab. And that place has not been the same since.

To say that the philosophy of the Outdoor Lab is "hands-on" is a bit of an understatement. For example, a recent group of third graders was learning about six simple machines. At the lab, the children had the opportunity to visit six different stations. At one, a child was hauled up a flag pole by using pulleys. At another, chil-

*Continued on next page*

## Around the Neighborhood

(continued)

dren attempted to climb over a haywagon with and without an inclined board to help them. Another group used a screw jack to lift up a truck. Another activity had them tie ropes to different-shaped objects to see which were easier to pull. The objects were huge wooden spools for industrial cable cut into a triangle, a pentagon, etc. At a recent outing, my second grader got to eat her lunch in the full-size tepee, complete with a fire in the middle.

You never know. If you pass the Leinbach's house on 5th St., you may see Ken and Shauna practicing juggling in the front yard. Or you may see Ken juggling with some friends down in Four Mile Run park. If so, don't hesitate to join in. Ken will be happy to get you started too.

## Arlington Heritage Alliance Annual Meeting At Community House

by Scott Allard

More than 40 people attended the annual meeting of the Arlington Heritage Alliance at the Barcroft Community House in February. The meeting featured a slide show and discussion of historic diners in Virginia, including the Tastee 29er Diner in Fairfax. Thanks to the February Community House Workday, the hall was clean, bright, and uncluttered. Thanks again to all the Barcrofters who helped at the Workday. The Arlington Heritage Alliance was impressed and pleased with our Community House.

## 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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## MetroRail Schedule

In January we revealed that the Barcroft Bus has a schedule. When you get to the Pentagon to transfer to MetroRail, the trains have a schedule too. If you know when your train is leaving, you know whether you have to hustle down the escalator to catch it.

The Yellow Line trains to Mount Vernon Square leave the Pentagon every six minutes in the morning. They leave on the hour and every six minutes thereafter, so if you arrive at the Pentagon at 7:26 AM, you just missed the 7:24 Yellow Line train and have plenty of time before the next one. The Blue Line for Rosslyn, Foggy Bottom, and downtown leaves at six-minute intervals beginning three minutes after the hour; so at 7:25 AM, you have two minutes to get down to the platform and onto the train. Other transfer points have similar regular schedules, although the frequency of the trains can be dif-

ferent. The Yellow Line leaves Gallery Place for the Pentagon in the afternoon on the hour and every 12 minutes thereafter. Asking the station attendants about the schedules can relieve your anxiety about catching your train and make hurrying unnecessary most of the time.

## Relief for Seniors

Arlington residents 65 or older and some disabled residents may be eligible for a deferral or partial exemption from the County real estate tax. To qualify, the property must be your primary residence, your gross income for 1993 may not exceed \$40,000 for deferral or \$20,000 for partial exemption, and the combined assets (excluding the house) of all owners must not exceed \$150,000 for deferral or \$75,000 for partial exemption. For more information and an application form, call 358-5220.



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## Licenses for Home Businesses

Every business in Arlington should have obtained a business license by January 31. This includes self-employed individuals; those who work out of their homes, such as professionals, writers, and consultants; and those who rent out property. Fees are generally based on gross receipts, although there are some flat rates. If your gross receipts are low, you may not be liable for a tax, but you must still file with the Commissioner of the Revenue, Suite 208, #1 Courthouse Plaza, 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201. Failure to pay on time will result in penalty and interest charges. For information, call 358-3060.

## Barcroft Exchange

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