

BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 93, No. 3

November 1995

Split Vote at Circle Meeting

On October 11 forty-five Barcrofters debated the future of the demonstration traffic circle at the 3rd-Pershing-Wakefield intersection.

The meeting heard from Jeff Sikes of the Department of Public Works, who noted that the circle's design could be improved. It also heard from a police representative who urged us to call them if we wanted more enforcement. Finally there was Christie Baird, who lives next to a successful circle in Ashton Heights, who said the objections she was hearing were identical to those she and her neighbors had raised, but they now are pleased with their circle.

Although there was considerable debate, neither side seemed to be listening very much to the other. The "convenience" people feel that Barcroft's streets are reasonably well laid out, that our traffic problems are minimal, and that we do not need artificial barriers to control cars. The circle has introduced its own problems, including poor interaction with cars, pedestrians and long vehicles. They would take it out immediately and find something else if traffic control is needed.

(continued on Page 2)

November Meeting: New County Services Team, More

Our November BSCL meeting will feature a program on the County's new method for improving government services and enhancing citizen access and involvement. A Neighborhood Services Team will be in place for Barcroft in January. One employee in each County government section will be our liaison between community, government, businesses and other neighborhood organizations. County staff will present the concept and how it is working in other communities, with a period for questions. We will also discuss the use permit changes for Our Savior Lutheran School. In addition, we will discuss a proposal by the Atlacatl restaurant on Columbia Pike for a permit to have live dinner entertainment from 7 to 12 P.M. nightly, with guitarists, pianists, and comedy acts. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

**Please vote on
November 7th!**

(Split Vote continued from Page 1)

The "traffic calming" side believes that Barcroft has problems with speeding and cut-through traffic, and should use strong measures to control that, even if it means making driving in our neighborhood less convenient for ourselves. Circles seem to be the only solution available under the County's current rules, which prohibit 4-way stops and other measures. Kids and neighbors need the safety of slowing down cars and discouraging cut-throughs, and our neighborhood will be more livable if we keep this circle and add several more to make the neighborhood a slow-traffic zone.

When the vote was taken it was an even split, a deadlock. But everyone had agreed during the discussion that the current demonstration circle had problems. (For starters, it may be at the wrong intersection, since that one has unique lines.) At least one person did not vote because he believes that neighborhood decisions should be made by consensus, and a closely split vote means you have not yet arrived at the solution.

Since most agreed that the demo circle needs improvement, the meeting passed a resolution asking the County to make changes within 30 days. Some wanted it removed immediately.

On page 11 is a letter from William Dolan opposing the circle, and another from Elaine Squeri, who circulated a questionnaire to residents of Abingdon and 3rd Street and got responses reflecting the split described above.

What do you think of the concept of calming the traffic in our neighborhood? Do you object to circles or other measures forcing you to pick your way carefully through intersections, or otherwise give up some convenience close to home as a tradeoff for a safer neighborhood with slower, lighter traffic? If you have strong views on the future of Barcroft you should be joining this debate. And if you know how to do this without provoking anger, please enlighten us all.

Peg Lefebvre is Our New Membership Secretary

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Peg Lefebvre, of S. George Mason Drive, as our new Membership Secretary. Peg is a talented computer user who will keep track of membership info on her PC. She may also be calling you if you don't pay your dues, assisted by former Membership Secretary Kathryn Villegas. So send your two dollars to our Treasurer, Dave Voorhees, 201 S. Pershing Dr, Arlington, VA 22204. Dave passes the forms to Peg. Welcome, Peg, and thanks for volunteering!

Barcroft News Staff

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We need you!

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Neighborhood News

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

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We need you!

The *Barcroft News* is printed by the Stanley Adams Printing Company.

Pig Roasted!

The October social event was a Pig Roast, and it was a gas. Alan Dickerson arrived at the Community House in a pouring rain at 5 AM in the morning to begin barbecuing the pigs, and they were cooked and succulent when the guests arrived. Barcroft's own Tanglefoot supplied old time, Irish and Canadian jigs and reels, with one waltz tune so pretty and catchy it brought dancers to the floor. The musicians were Kathy Kerr (fiddle), Julie Gorka (piano), Michael Reid (concertina) and Jim Besser (hammered dulcimer and guitar, *simultaneously*. In the photo you can't see his feet!).

There were side dishes from a raft of Barcroft neighbors, including Phil Anderson (cole slaw), the Doyle family (baked beans), Laura



Chief Pig Roaster Alan Dickerson enjoying the fruits of his labors



Tanglefoot at warp speed. From left: Julie Gorka, Kathy Kerr Michael Reid, and Jim Besser

Devin (pasta salad), Sue Kelly (apple crisp), Phyl Kinsey (wild rice salad), David Michaelson (macaroni and cheese), Daphne Miller (zita pasta), Jennifer (onions), Carol and Betty Roller (cake, cupcakes and potato salad), Jane Roningen (broccoli salad) and Sharon Tope (baked beans).

Barbara Swart had the new red Barcroft tee shirts on sale. We have now sold 121 of the original 200. Call her at 521-2080 before they are all gone. They make fine Christmas presents.

The success of these events continues due to the work of Tom Palance and his crew of event supporters, including Peg and Gary Lefebvre, Daphne Miller, Tom and Sharon Tope, Barbara Swart, David Michaelson and James Davis.

Marvon's House Rescued

On a misty September Sunday, Marvon "The Farmer" McKinney's house was moved from 4th and Wakefield to the rear of the house at 379 S. George Mason Drive.

About 50 Barcrofters watched as a crew of "just some guys" who had never moved a house before towed the house down 4th Street. Aside from some oak limbs they did little damage.

The visionary who made all this happen was Bobby Jones, who recognized the quality of the house under old carpet and peeling paint. His reward was a "free" house with hardwood floors, oak trim, a cedar closet, a new 50 year roof and enough strength to be moved without breaking a window. The move cost only \$8,000, and Mr. Jones has an addition for his home with real Barcroft character. Riding along on his new back doorstep he said he had not yet gotten to the part on how to fix it up.

The day before the move, a Barcrofter walked sadly around the site bemoaning the pace of change in our neighborhood. When she was a girl, kids whispered that Marvon was "The Cat Killer" who trapped cats and threw their bodies up on the roof of his house. When her cat disappeared she had actually gone up there to see for herself! The rumors probably had no foundation at all. Marvon would never have thrown a smelly dead cat up on his roof.



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Long-Time Voters Honored

To mark the 75th anniversary of the renaming of Arlington County, the Registrar held a reception in September to honor the County's 75 longest registered voters. Among the names we spotted at least two Barcrofters: Louis Powell and Frances Kennedy. Were there others we did not recognize?

Please vote on November 7. This is an off-year election, so the lines will be short and it will take you about 10 minutes. Not many will vote, so your vote will really count. No matter which levers you pull, your neighborhood benefits. We want the winners to remember that Barcroft votes!



Bobbi Bradley, GRI

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Call me if you have questions or need more information. . . .

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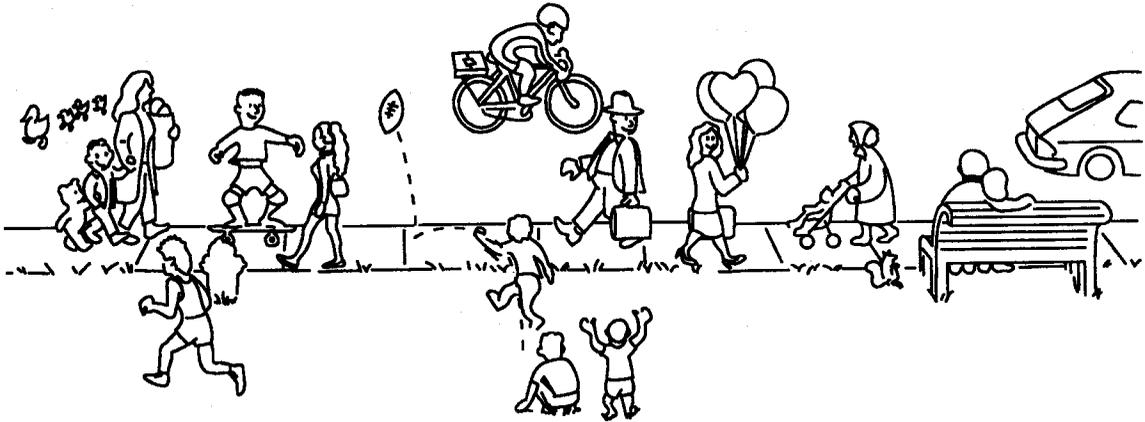
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Around the Neighborhood with Kathy Kerr



Welcome Home

Three years ago, two Barcroft families left the area for government postings. They planned to return, however and rented out their houses. This summer, both families came back.

Tom Boothe, a Navy captain, was transferred to Pt. Mugu in California. Happily, the Bootes are now back in their home on 6th St. S. Betty is a teacher. Danny age 12 is a 7th grader at Kenmore. Peter, age 17, is a senior at Wakefield and is a National Merit Semifinalist! Peter went to Kenmore Middle School through 8th grade, then grades 9-11 in California

Tom Boothe is well-known for his canoeing addiction. Owner of at least 5 canoes, he often paddles on the Potomac and enjoys flatwater canoe racing.

Michael Nazaretz of 4th St. S. was transferred to the American Embassy in London with his family. Upon returning to their Barcroft home, Rebecca found ivy growing on her garden hose, meaning her garden hadn't been watered for three years... The Nazaretz's arrived back just in time to send their daughter Anna off to college at

Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore. Their son Andrew is a high school sophomore at H-B Woodlawn.

Michael plays accordion and has rejoined his former band "Lox and Vodka" well-known for klezmer music. Rebecca is once again dancing with Tisza Ensemble--a Hungarian dance troupe.

Community House Donations are Officially Tax Exempt

Thanks to former Barcrofter Pat Roach, the IRS has granted tax exempt status to the Barcroft Community House Fund, All donations made to the Barcroft Community House Fund since it was established in November 1994 are tax exempt. Pat and spouse Sue Sarcone also made a very generous donation of \$150.00 by paying for the IRS application fee.

We need advice from an interior decorator for the restoration project. We also need a chief fund raiser and a grantsperson. Finally, we are also looking for volunteers to help Harold Howard maintain the grounds of the Community House. Please call Jim Kerr at 892-6458.

Columbia Pike Artist Studios

by Nancy Tankersley

CPAS will have an open studio on Nov. 4 from noon until 4 PM. For those who love satire, be sure to see the featured show by artist Larry Isham. "Whimsy and Insults" is a baker's dozen of modest sized but flagrantly sarcastic paintings taking aim at today's social and political irritations and pointing out that we need not suffer fools gladly. Isham is a graduate of the University of Miami, and was a Smithsonian illustrator for 30 years. He began painting and teaching in 1983. If you miss the open studio, call him at 534-5994 for a private viewing.

Barcroft Exchange

For Sale: Portable dishwasher. Montgomery Ward, wood countertop, works well. \$125 call Dave at 979-8287.

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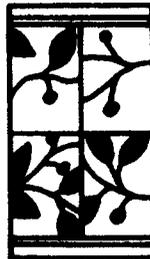
Stacy Kyle, 16 years old, sophomore, S 6th St.,
American Red Cross Babysitting Certification,
486-0019

Terri Lahlou, 29 years old, S. 4th St., 979-9565
(home), 527-8484 (work)

Liza Lord, 14 years old, American Red Cross Baby-
sitting course, 892-2443

Sasha Lord, 12 years old, Mother's Helper—will
entertain children while mother is at home,
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Lauren Wilson, 10 years old, Mother's Helper
—speaks Spanish, 920-9410



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Ledo Pizza - 1035 S. Edgewood St.
Pizza certificates

Crystal Thai - 4819 1st Street N.
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Brenners Bakery - 3241 Columbia Pike
Certificate for a cake

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Traffic Control: Pro

A new neighbor's view of Barcroft

We moved to South Abingdon in Barcroft area last year from the leafy quiet of South Park Drive in Arlington Forest because we would enjoy more of the forest in our new back yard. We are also impressed by how well people keep their yards here too and how many enjoy walking the neighborhood. What a surprise to realize what was beyond the front yard and sidewalks - through-way traffic, fast, frequent, and fulminating!

Commuter traffic from a neighborhood is one thing, twice a day, to be expected and perhaps a chance to greet neighbors. But to become the official short-cut between two principal arterials, Route 50 and Columbia Pike, is quite another. We all have investment in our property and interest in a quality of life. We chose to live here, not in the metro corridor or DC full of streets clogged with parked cars, fumes, business activity, crowds, etc.

Is this amount of traffic an inevitable part of suburban life? Of course not. Thanks to you, we have a Neighborhood Conservation Plan well worked out and approved. We can build on this groundwork and with concerted effort address official appeals to redirect the flow before the tide is indeed beyond control .

Perhaps one way to change the situation is to remind people, both residents and passersby, realize that this is a residential area that we want to keep clean, quiet, and friendly. We are seen simply as a convenient roadway, not families, friends, neighbors. If we would like to drive through, we must respect the place and regulate our speed which would in large part handle the noise.

What do you think? How could we do it? What engineering steps could be taken to assist this thinking? Let's talk about it, plan it, and change it..

Elaine G. Squeri 920-7014.

Traffic Control: Con

Forgive me, but I do not see the traffic circles doing much to solve the "problems" complained of. Indeed, they create other problems.

I personally have not observed the "highway speeds" of motorists on Barcroft streets. The assertion that "few observe the 25 mph speed limit" is inaccurate, I believe. Because of its unique barriers on three sides, Barcroft is not a good neighborhood for short-cutters...

Moreover, the traffic circles are an eyesore and a traffic hazard. For example, the traffic circle had someone drive through it shortly after it was installed. Was anyone hurt? It is simply a road hazard which is ugly and which prevents the intended use of the street: safe, effective transportation. It is difficult to drive around or anything except a mini-car or motorcycle. A barrier in the center of a street has a hazard and an inconvenience cost associated with it. No one really did a cost-benefit analysis of the traffic circle(s).

People seem to think that because they live in a certain neighborhood that they ought to also have absolute control of the use of the public streets in the neighborhood. The fact of the matter is that public streets are for everyone, not merely for nearby residents. It is a common fallacy for a person to think that all nearby traffic ought to come to a halt except for traffic to that person's home.

One is sorry to hear about a dog being hit by a car, but one wonders whether a traffic circle would have prevented it. A more genuine neighborhood problem is the number of illegal immigrants driving their beat up cars through Barcroft without obeying traffic and speed regulations. Some of the traffic problems may decrease if Arlington Police set up a "green card" street blockade, eliminating people who do not lawfully belong either in the neighborhood or in the nation.

William Dolan 4421 First Road South 685-0939

