

BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 93, No. 6

February 1996

Garden Tips Featured at February Meeting

Stop thinking about snow and start thinking about Spring! The Feb. 1 meeting of the Barcroft School and Civic League is designed to help you do just that with an appearance by John Buckreis -- "Dr. John," the garden guru from Merrifield Garden Center.

Dr. John will present a slide show and answer questions about garden problems from Barcrofters. He has been featured at BSCL meetings in past years, where his encyclopedic knowledge of plants has been well received.

The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Barcroft Community House, 800 S. Buchanan St.

In addition, start thinking about a barbecue contest slated for April. A panel of outside judges will consider Barcrofters' special barbecue recipes -- anything from ribs to brisket to turkey! For information or to volunteer to help with the event, call David Michaelson at 553-3953.

We Came, We Saw, We Shoveled: Snow Report

The Blizzard of '96 hit Barcroft with 16 inches of snow on Sunday, Jan. 7, and more the following week. But neighbors adjusted with their usual aplomb, shoveling out buried cars and holding impromptu pot lucks to combat cabin fever.

If you shoveled your sidewalk, give yourself a pat on the back. If you shoveled out a neighbor's sidewalk, give yourself a hug! Many neighbors helped each other by sharing food, exchanging videos, pushing cars and much more.

Here are some stories that we collected last month:

Barcroft did have a 'blizzard baby.' A couple on 8th St. S. drove in their 4-wheel-drive vehicle to a hospital in D.C. early Monday morning -- before most roads had been cleared -- to make it in
(continued on page 3)

**PLEASE VOTE
JAN. 30 !!!**

Big Crowd Beats Cabin Fever with Spaghetti

For two hours on a Sunday night, Jan. 14, the Community House was jammed with Barcrofters who forgot about blizzards and barely plowed streets to partake in a neighborhood spaghetti supper.

About 110 persons, including many families with small children, some older residents and a few Barcroft newcomers, showed up to eat salad, scrumptious spaghetti with Italian sausages, garlic bread and desserts.

BSCL board member Tom Palance organized the event as a fund-raiser for the Community House renovation fund. A total of \$256 was added to the fund.

A group of musicians played in one corner as people chatted at the tables and lingered over desserts. For die-hard football fans, a small television in the far corner provided coverage of the NFC title match between Green Bay and Dallas.

In all, it was a perfect cure for cabin fever at the end of a long week of snow shoveling, late buses and overcrowded Metros and no school.

Joining Tom Palance as cooks were Howard Deardorf and David Michaelson. Helping serve were Allan Dickerson and Barbara Swart. Taking admissions were Lisa Palance and Peg LeFavre.

Desserts were donated by many, many people, but a special thanks goes to Shirley Gay, who brought an apple pie warm from the oven. It disappeared faster than snow melting in July.

Music was provided by Steve Wilson on guitar, Mickey Sakovich on violin, Julie

Gorka on keyboards and Michael Nazaretz on accordion.

Other thanks go to Daphne Miller and Margaret Brown for publicizing the event. Set-up crew included Bruce and Noreen Atkinson, Craig and Margaret Brown (newcomers in the neighborhood!), Randy and Barbara Swart, and Lisa Palance.

Clean-up crew included Jim and Kathy Kerr, David Michaelson, Vinnie Millin, Mark Wigfield, Steve Wilson and Maureen Locke.

Barcroft News Staff

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

BSCL Officers for 1995-96

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

Blizzard Report . . .

(continued from page 1)

time for a hospital, not a home, birth! (For details, see Around the Neighborhood, Page 6)

Everyone's worst fear during a winter storm is that their furnace will give out. Unfortunately, on Monday it happened to Tom and Lisa Dowdell of 5th St. S. They were able to get a repair truck in through unplowed streets to repair the furnace enough to keep the pipes from freezing -- but not enough to make the house livable. Neighbors Marge Miller and Peter Fontaine opened their home to the Dowdells and their two young children. Thank you also to other neighbors who helped them out.

Mary Anne O'Rourke's sister got married on Saturday, Jan. 6. Michael and Mary Anne of 8th St S. and their 4 children went to the reception that evening at the Key Bridge Marriott in Rosslyn. Three of the children spent the night with Grandma at the hotel intending to come home the next day. Due to the blizzard hitting on Sunday, the kids got an extra day to play hide and seek on the hotel elevator along with the hotel staff who were also unable to leave work! With their aunt's new father-in-law driving a 4-wheel drive vehicle, the children returned home on Monday along with Slinkys and other gifts from the hotel staff.

Mary Anne also reports that her family, once reunited, had a great time sledding on the hill by Alcova Park. Their neighbor Annie Hazel of 8th St. S had her daughter visiting during the storm. Her



After the Blizzard -- A car lies half buried along Eighth Road South, two days after the heavy snow. This shot is looking eastward from Buchanan toward Wakefield Street. (photo by R.Swart)

daughter, who grew up here in Barcroft, remembers the dream sled run that used to be available in the days before George Mason Drive was built. Starting at 8th St. S. near Wakefield, it was possible to slide all the way to the base of the big Alcova Park hill. At that time, all of the sledding was through woods!

It was interesting to note that with all that snow, there weren't too many snowmen (snow people?) in front yards. Probably this was due to the powdery quality of the snow, which make it difficult to pack. It also made the blowing and drifting much worse in the early part of the week.

Some enterprising children discovered that the Arlington Hall parking lot (off South Taylor Street) had been used as a dumping depot by county trucks off-loading snow. The children started using the huge piles to make snow igloos.

Among neighborhood impromptu parties was one given by Natasha and
(continued on page 9)

Special Election Set For January 30

On Tuesday, Jan. 30, Arlington will hold a special election to fill the County Board seat left vacant by Mary Margaret Whipple's election to the State Senate. The two candidates appeared at our January meeting and debated the issues.

As always, you can vote at Barcroft School, 625 S. Wakefield, from 6 AM to 7 PM. When you vote, you help put your neighborhood on the map, so please take the time. You won't see a lot of hoopla on TV news to remind you, but you will see the BSCL signs out on voting day.

Oakton Church Gives Hint on Barcroft Rehab

Members of the Community House renovation committee have been visiting churches in Northern Virginia similar to our building to verify that our plans are historically correct.

Tom Palance told us of a Methodist church in Oakton which is very similar to our building. It has wood floors, wainscoted walls, plaster above the wainscoting and a cathedral ceiling like the original one in the Community House. The ceiling had been covered by a lower one, as ours has been, and the floors had been covered with tile similar to ours. Seeing the church restored gives a better appreciation for what our building can look like inside, and has inspired committee members to think again about restoring the original ceiling despite the cost.

If you are passing through Oakton, the church is on Chain Bridge Road (Rt.

123) just north of I-66 at the intersection with Hunter Mill Road, right across from Appalachian Outfitters.

The committee has examined the building from top to bottom and is now preparing estimates for various elements of the renovation. When the total is complete we will hold a general meeting to discuss the plan and how to proceed with the funds we have, plus whatever donations or grants we can find to complete the funding.

Valentine Workshop for Kids on Feb. 10

On Saturday, Feb. 10, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Laura Devin will hold a Valentine's workshop for children that will feature Valentine crafts and a little history of the holiday.

The session is free, but Laura is asking participants to help pay for materials. Laura also gives Tuesday after-school art and history workshops for children at the Community House.

Parents should call in advance to register for the workshop. Call Laura Devin at 920-7549. Children should bring a \$2 materials charge to the workshop. Laura also needs a few parents to volunteer to help out during the class.

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Community House Will Rent for Special Events

The BSCL Board of Directors recently approved a proposal to rent out the Community House to Barcroft residents. Activities such as business meetings, classes, small weddings, and other events can be held at the house.

By offering the building for rent to Barcrofters, it will become an asset to more of our community. The additional activities also will help to raise much needed money for the planned renovation.

Tom Palance will act as activities manager, taking applications. The house has been rented on a trial basis for the past three months. In that time, revenue has doubled each month. Currently a Baptist

church is alternating Sundays with the Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church. Neighborhood artist Laura Devin is holding a weekly after-school art class for children. Last month Dean and Elaine Anderson magically transformed the community house for their wedding and reception.

Hourly rates for 1996 are as follows:

Community event, proceeds to Community House: FREE

Weddings, receptions, private party: \$45 (members), \$75 (non-members).

Business meeting, class, recital: \$20 (members), \$35 (non-members).

Contact Tom Palance for availability at 979-8366



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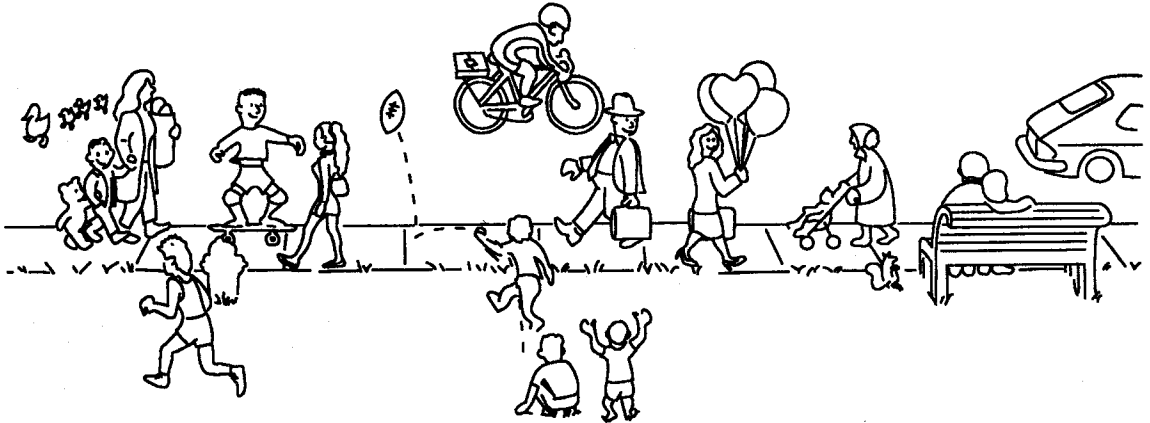
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Around the Neighborhood with Kathy Kerr



A little blizzard didn't stop Maria Grace Schneider. She was ready to be born no matter what the weather. Fortunately, her parents, Frank and Anna Schneider, are from the Northeast and are used to snow. At 3 a.m. Monday, Jan. 8, Anna knew it was time to go to Columbia Hospital for Women. She works for Mitsubishi Motors in government relations; one of the perks being use of a Mitsubishi 4-wheel-drive jeep.

The baby was born around noon. Even more special than being a 'blizzard baby', Maria Grace was born on her daddy's birthday! Frank does systems strategy consulting for IESC in Old Town. The Schneiders moved to Barcroft last summer. They live on 8th St. S.

Happy first birthday to Mary Lynn Clark, daughter of Ken and Lynn Clark on

7th St. S.. Mary Lynn was born Nov. 9, 1994. Her parents have lived in Barcroft for 3 1/2 years. Lynn, a former CPA, now stays home with the baby. Ken is a civilian worker at the Naval Research Lab. Beginning next summer they will be renting out their house for about 18 months. They will be living in California so that Ken can complete his doctorate in electrical engineering at Naval Postgraduate School.

Barcrofter Bill Nehrke and his family were saddened by the death of one of their favorite neighbors, Myrtle Wright, who passed away on Dec. 5. She was a longtime Barcrofter especially well known for her beautiful flower garden in her yard at 827 S. Wakefield St. Bill says that she often shared her cut flowers. He also got some apple tree starters from Mrs. Wright years ago and the trees still stand in his yard.

Calling All Cooks: Send Us Your Recipes

by Barbara Swart

The Barcroft School and Civic League Cookbook is currently being assembled. Several people in the neighborhood have already donated their favorite recipes. Contrary to the impression that some people got from the last newsletter, you don't need to submit recipes for a whole meal. One or more of anything from appetizers, main dishes, side dishes, salads or desserts will be fine.

The cookbook will also include stories of community events, so a dish that was made for a service luncheon or the 4th of July Parade or any other event would be great. Even if it's something that you only wish you had made for an event, we'll tie it

in somehow.

If you have a recipe for the cookbook, call Barbara Swart at 521-2080 or drop it by 4611 Seventh St. S. or the Community House. Alternately, you can e-mail it to cookbook@bhsi.org.

Grocery Tapes Due

The "computers for students" drive will end at the close of February, so now is a good time to start dropping off your Safeway and Giant cash register receipts at the school. Safeway ended its program in mid-January. You can also mail receipts to Barcroft Elementary at 625 S. Wakefield St., Arlington VA 22204. Or even better, bring them with you when you come to vote in the special election on Jan. 30.



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Revitalized 8th Street Shows Tax \$\$ Help

by Scott Brinitzer

If you have walked or driven near 8th St. South in the past several months, you may have noticed a great deal of construction in the area between Wakefield and Buchanan streets. The construction was not related to the three new houses, but rather was the direct result of our neighborhood conservation funds in action!

Since mid-October we have seen our street completely reborn. We have received new curb and gutter, four new storm drains, a new, larger water line, several new natural gas lines, ornamental free-standing street lights, a completely redesigned and constructed street, new driveway aprons, and sidewalks on one side of the street.

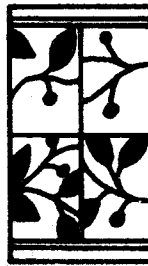
Those of us who have lived on 8th Street for a while find it difficult to remember what the street once looked like. The days of mud, standing water, pot hole-ridden pavement, and darkness (because of no street lighting) are gone.

While the construction was dirty, dusty, inconvenient at times, and noisy, the neighbors took everything in stride. The county subcontracted the work to several different companies, each with their own responsibility. We were fortunate to have a great "team" working on the street. Despite the occasional water main break and gas leak, the work progressed without a hitch. A delay in the delivery of the street lights from the factory in Pennsylvania was our

only major problem, causing the sidewalks not to be completed.

We have been lucky as a community to have several people work hard for this project to be realized. Our neighborhood conservation rep, David Michaelson, as well as the county program coordinator Lori Hirshfield and traffic engineer Sheryl Crow were all of great help.

As a neighborhood we should not underestimate the importance of a revitalized 8th Street. Neighborhood Conservation funds allowed us to take a street had seen better days, and completely upgrade it without losing the vital neighborhood character. Once the snow has melted, and warmer temperatures return, take a moment to walk down our street and see it for yourself.



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GARDENING CONSULTATION

More Blizzard Report..

(continued from page 3)

Charlie Lord on South Abingdon who invited neighbors to celebrate Russian Christmas. Over on 8th Rd. S., Jennifer and Rich Slater played hosts to over 20 neighbors who arrived for a spontaneous potluck. Word is that the food was great!

If you have a good story to share, please call Kathy Kerr at 892-6458 for the next issue of the Barcroft News.

Barcrofters have seen four great snows in this century:

The Knickerbocker Snow of Jan. 27-29, 1922

The biggest of all at 28 inches. It collapsed the roof of Arlen's Knickerbocker Theater in DC, with terrible loss of life.

The Blizzard of 1979, Feb. 18-19, 1979

We got 18.7 inches that time.

The President's Day Snow of Feb. 11, 1983

A biggie at 16.6 inches. One Barcrofter who had come in more than a little under the weather the night before called the police on the morning after and reported his car had been stolen. The police couldn't believe that possible, and persuaded him to go out and check, whereupon he found his car in a snowbank where he had been unable to get it into his driveway the night before. As we said, he was more than a little under the weather.

The Blizzard of 1996, Jan. 7-12.

Began at about 16 inches in Barcroft and grew. Much bigger drifts in some places. A final total of about 24 inches.

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Barcroft Memories Of An Older, Quieter Time

By Kathy Kerr

Former longtime Barcrofter Annette Hedrick called to report the deaths of two special former Barcrofters. Truman Wallace, who lived for many years at 4418 4th St.S., passed away in December. Robert Brasse, one of many Barcroft Brasses, died in November. Mr. Wallace, Mr. Brasse and their families were part of a cluster of tightly knit neighbors living along and nearby S. Taylor St.

Mrs. Hedrick has many happy memories of Barcroft during the 1940s and 1950s. She remembers a time when one could tell if anyone was walking down S. Taylor St. by the barking of the neighbors' dogs as the person progressed. She says that everyone also knew just whose dog it was that was barking!

She told of a private neighborhood bus service. Neighbors sent money in on the weekends to provide funds for the service during the week. Starting in the 1930s, the bus was known as the A.B.& W busline which she believes stood for 'Arlington, Barcroft & Washington.' The bus drivers, Pop and Pete, knew everyone on the busline.

At night the drivers were very concerned about their passengers and waited for them to cross the street before proceeding.

A large extended family, the Brasses, lived in a number of houses up and down S. Taylor St. Brasse is pronounced 'Brasay'. The corner of S.Taylor and 7th St. S

was known as 'Brasses Corner' and was recognized as a destination by Pop and Pete. Riders simply said, 'Please let me off at Brasses Corner.'

There was some falling in love in that part of the neighborhood. Robert Brasse, one of many Brasse siblings, married his 'girl next door' Dorothy Cook. Mrs. Brasse now lives in Annandale.

Mrs. Hedrick recollects there was a wonderful woods at 6th St. S. and Taylor where neighbor kids loved to gather to play ball. The children would finish their chores and then give a special yell as a signal to other kids that they were ready to play.

Mrs. Hedrick remembers when the Arlington Hall School for Girls was a private boarding school. Many of the students had their own horses and sometimes the horses would get loose in the neighborhood. During the World War II, Arlington Hall became a top secret government workplace. Some Barcrofters took in roomers to provide accommodations for people working there.

Back then, there were many activities going on at our Barcroft Community house including neighborhood potluck dinners, dance lessons and bible classes.

Last year when Barcroft School celebrated its 75th anniversary, Mrs. Hedrick and some other of her special longtime neighbors attended the reunion. She reports that *nothing* looked familiar. The school has certainly grown from its four original rooms.

Barcroft Crime Report

The blizzard made it impossible to get crime statistics for December before press time for this issue. In lieu of a regular crime report, we offer entries from the Barcroft Graffiti Patrol.

November 15. Removed gang graffiti from the inside and outside of the telephone box on Columbia Pike at Four Mile Run and from the nearby wood rail fence.

November 28. Removed gang graffiti from a power pylon just below the first trestle north of Columbia Pike. There were marks of two different gangs.

December 28. Removed a gang marking from a tree by the W & OD where the path comes down from Eighth Street South.

December 31. Removed more gang tags from five of the nine split rails on the little fence along the W&OD above Huffman's Whitewater. Further up the trail above Sparrow Swamp removed a non-gang marking ("XXX was here") from a power line pylon.

We are pleased to say that Virginia Power has agreed to supply us some paint to match what they use on their power poles. We hope to eliminate the patchwork effect from painting out graffiti on the poles.

As always, you can call the Barcroft Graffiti Patrol at 521-1116 for graffiti anywhere. If you see it on County property, call the County's hotline at 358-2222 (the regular police non-emergency number).

Coffee House Set for Sunday, Feb. 11

A coffee house featuring local musicians will be held at the Barcroft Community House on Sunday, Feb. 11.

The evening will begin at 7 p.m. and will feature light refreshments and dessert. An admission charge will be collected at the door.

For more information or to volunteer to help, call Tom Palance at 979-8366.

Barcroft Exchange

LOST AND FOUND. Metro fare card found in early December on the sidewalk on South Taylor Street in Barcroft. The owner can claim the card by calling and giving the approximate amount of remaining value. Call Richard at 892-6891.

Call the Barcroft Neighborline
521-1116
Get the latest information

Barcroft on the Internet: <http://www.bhsi.org/barcroft.htm>

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