

BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 94, No. 1

September 1996

Group Home Asks for Special Use Permit

A special BSCL meeting was scheduled to be held late in August on the subject of a proposal by Vanguard Services to operate a group home at 4317 S. Sixth Street.

Vanguard contacted the BSCL to tell us they want to buy the house for a program for women recovering from substance abuse. The house is a large white one on a pipestem lot near the corner of Sixth and Taylor.

The program would need a special use permit, which would be voted on by the Arlington County Board of Commissioners, probably later this fall.

Members of the BSCL board checked and found that Vanguard has been well received in the neighborhood where they are now operating. The 6th Street house would have about 15 mothers and 5 to 7 children, with as many as 22 total residents, plus staff in three shifts, around the clock.

Vanguard officials said the residents do not have cars and would not receive visitors at the house.

The News went to press a week before the scheduled meeting, but we are printing articles presenting two opposing viewpoints on page 3. The question could come up again at the September BSCL meeting, which is ostensibly an open house for new neighbors. For more meeting information, please call BSCL President Jim Kerr at 892-6458 or the Neighborline at 521-1116.

Fall Festival to Feature Music, Dunking Tank

A neighborhood festival featuring live music, children's games, food and a dunking tank will be held Saturday, Sept. 7, at the Barcroft Community House.

The first annual Fall Festival, sponsored by the Barcroft School and Civic League, will begin at 4 p.m. and is a fund-raising event to benefit the renovation fund for the Community House.

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\$3 Dues for BSCL Members -- Pay Now!

With September upon us, it's time again to pay dues for the Barcroft School and Civic League. Dues this year have increased to \$3 per person (\$6 per couple).

Use the enclosed insert and mail your dues or drop a check off at the home of BSCL Treasurer Dave Voorhees, 201 S. Pershing. Or bring your dues to the first meeting in September.

Dues-paying members can vote on election of officers. In addition, the larger our paid membership, the more easily BSCL can claim to represent the neighborhood when dealing with county or other officials.

Community House for Rent; Rates Listed

Looking for a place to hold a meeting, class or wedding? The Community House, located at the corner of South Buchanan and South Eighth Street, is available for rent to Barcroft residents. Tom Palance, activities manager of the Community House, should be contacted if interested in making a reservation. His number is 979-8366. The money raised helps to pay for the restoration of the Community House.

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)

Deadline for Voter Registration is Oct. 5

Neighborhoods with lots of non-voters somehow tend to be ignored. If you are not registered, or have just moved here, now is the time to register at your Barcroft address. Call the county's voter registration office at 358-3456 for information. The deadline to be registered for the fall election is Oct. 5.

Barcroft News Staff

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

BSCL Officers for 1996-97

<i>President</i>	Jim Kerr, 892-6458
<i>Vice President</i>	David Michaelson, 553-3953
<i>Recording Secy.</i>	Lisa Palance, 979-8366
<i>Treasurer</i>	Dave Voorhees, 979-8287
<i>Corres. Secy.</i>	Mark Wigfield, 979-0339
<i>Membership Secy.</i>	Peg Lefebvre, 521-0184
<i>Board Members</i>	Scott Allard, Scott Brintzer, Tom Palance, Randy Swart
<i>Community House Facility Mgr.</i>	Tom Palance 979-8366
<i>Crime Resistance</i>	Chris Monek, 920-1287
<i>Landscaping</i>	Scott Brintzer, 892-0308
<i>Neigh. Conserv.</i>	David Michaelson, 553-3953
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<i>Signs Manager</i>	Jack Turner
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Barcrofters Give Opposing Perspectives on Home

Structured Program Deserves Consideration

I have always seen group homes as a source of hope, strength and support for the individuals who are in need. To me, group homes are built around the premise that clients are seeking a way of bettering themselves. (A Demeter client said so succinctly: "We are not bad people. We are sick people trying to get well.") Therefore, when I heard that a house on my block was being considered for a group home use permit, I wanted to seek the actual facts and details of the program and the clients it would serve.

Vanguard staff and the clients of Demeter House have welcomed my inquiries with both warmth and openness. They have listened to both my questions and concerns. I actually have spent over eight hours in this process and viewed the program for two hours.

This is what I found:

- Demeter House is a residential program addressing the needs of mothers with a substance abuse problem. It is staffed 24 hours a day. Emphasis of the program is "to empower our clients to re-enter the community as responsible parents and citizens, to reduce their reliance upon government support and to break the cycle of addiction."

- The client is in a highly structured daily program. (They are never free to roam in the neighborhood.) There is peer group support and in-house community accountability.

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Demeter House is Too Big for Sixth Street

Many of us Barcrofters are opposed to the special use permit being proposed for the new location of Demeter House. We are highly supportive of rehabilitation programs like that at Demeter House -- we support our community through taxes, charitable contributions, and involvement in countless civic, religious and charitable organizations. We simply believe that use of a single family home for this large institution is inappropriate and will adversely and permanently affect the nature of our community as we know it.

Our opposition to the plan is based on several concerns. First, the plan has far too many people for a single-family dwelling. Demeter House's plan calls for 22 residents in a six-month program supported by a permanent staff. The result will be at least 44 new neighbors (22 for two six-month periods) in a single home, each year. Add to this the resident staff required to support a 24-hour facility, plus visiting administrative or management staff, and we face an enormous impact on the population of South 6th Street. Fewer than 60 residents now occupy homes on the block of South 6th Street bounded by Taylor and Wakefield. At any given time, the residents and staff of Demeter House will increase our population by 40 percent. This is simply too many people for one house in the middle of a quiet neighborhood with single-family homes.

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Some of the finest chefs in Barcroft will prepare roasted pork, barbecued chicken and hot dogs. Beans, salad, soda and beer also will be included.

Entertainment will include live music, children's games and face painting. A special attraction will be a dunking tank where you will have the opportunity to dunk your favorite (least-favorite?) BSCL officer.

For those with a creative flair, there will be a cake decorating contest and cake raffle to follow. The decoration should represent a Barcroft or Washington-area theme. Cakes will be judged and then raffled off to benefit the renovation fund.

Admission will be \$8 for adults, \$4 for children under 12. In addition, tickets will be sold at \$1 each for the dunking

booth and the cake raffle.

To make this event a success, we need your help! We need neighbors to donate food: coleslaw, baked beans, potato salad, macaroni salad, cakes or other desserts. In addition, we need volunteers to help: two adults to supervise children's games, six adults or teenagers to help set up and six adults or teenagers to help clean up. To volunteer, call Tom Palance before Sept. 4 at 979-8366.

Rain date: Sunday, Sept. 8, at 4 p.m.

Call the Barcroft Neighborline

521-1116

Get the latest information

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



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4th of July Parade is Cool, For A Change

The parade this year was a smashing success, helped along by the coolest July 4th anyone could remember. We paraded, with Ellen Bozman of the Arlington County Board as our official reviewer. Then we ate and drank, with food organized by David Michaelson, with help from our State Assembly Delegate Karen Darner and whole crew of others.

With Kathy Kerr MC-ing, we heard music, a reading of the Declaration of Independence by Richard Slater and the Star Spangled Banner sung by Elizabeth Keller.

Bill Huddleston told us all about the fundraising drive that is getting underway for the Community House restoration. Susan Christopher presented a check for \$500 that she donated to the Community House Fund when she sold her house to Alicia and Phil Cackley, who themselves donated another \$200!

Barbara Swart sold the new cookbook, the new note cards and our red Barcroft tee shirts to help with the fundraising. There was face painting and indoors we had a Parade Mural done by the kids, led by Nancy Tankersley (whose watercolor "Before the Parade" graces our new note cards).

We also had a demo of the Barcroft Neighborhood Home Page on the Internet. Then a quick cleanup and we were all gone by about 2 p.m., leaving behind a lot of lifetime childhood memories.

Thanks to Mary Anne O Rourke and her many helpers for a great parade! There are parade pictures up on our Web page at <http://www.bhsi.org/barcroft.htm>.

Essay Writer Says Barcroft is Friendly

The 4th of July Parade featured an essay contest on the theme, "Why I Like Barcroft." Here is one of the winners. Additional winners will be printed in succeeding Barcroft News issues through the rest of the fall.

Barcroft is a very special place to be with so many neat things to do. But why is it a special place to be? And what neat things do we do? These questions and more will be answered in the following essay.

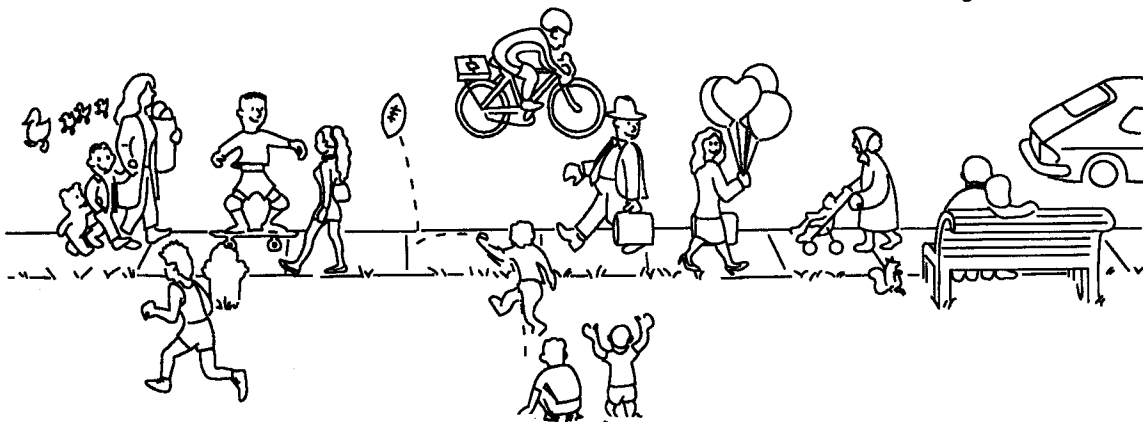
One of the things that makes Barcroft great is that it has a lot of fun things to do. For example: there's a lot of shady woods where kids can play by the creek. It is also fun because many of the streets aren't busy. You can go riding your bike almost any time you want. Barcroft is fun with so many neat things to do.

Barcroft is also great for all the people. There are so many kids to play with and so much room for the kids to play in. It's always great at parties and other special occasions because of all the people that come. Barcroft is a very friendly place to be.

Barcroft is also nice because of all of the parties. Some of the best ones are the Christmas party, the Spaghetti Dinner and the 4th of July. The Christmas party is nice

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Around the Neighborhood with Kathy Kerr



Congratulations to rising scientist Veronica Moreno, who lives on South Buchanan Street. Veronica's research about seed germination took second place at the Thomas Jefferson Middle School Science Fair last spring. Later, her paper was submitted to and accepted by the Junior Honor Science Academy.

Along with other selected middle school and high school students from across the state, Veronica journeyed to the University of Virginia. There, she presented her paper, "Too Wet to Grow," to scientists. This fall, Veronica is starting 9th Grade at Washington-Lee High School. She is the daughter of Cathy and Osman Moreno.

Welcome to some of Barcroft's newest neighbors, the Rev. Mason Cosby and family, who moved this summer onto 3rd Street South. Cosby is the new pastor at Arlington Forest Methodist Church, across the "street" from Barcroft on Arlington Boulevard. His wife, Claire, is a

school psychologist in Fairfax.

The Cosbys have three children. Sarah, 23, is completing her degree in religion at Virginia Commonwealth University. Sallie, 21, attends Hollins College in Roanoke. James, 18, is starting this fall at East Carolina University.

Rev. Cosby comes to Arlington after having served at the Great Falls United Methodist Church. He is originally from Chesterfield County, Virginia and received degrees from Ferrum, Randolph Macon College, Duke Divinity School and Scarritt College. He has been involved in building and expanding facilities in six churches.

The Cosby family enjoys picnics, fishing, sightseeing, singing, and playing Scrabble.

Contributions Editor Seeks Articles, Letters

Barbara Guglielmo has graciously volunteered to serve as Contributions Editor for the Barcroft News. She and her husband, Daniel, moved into the neighborhood three months ago.

When not working on the newsletter, Barbara splits her time between the public policy office of the American Psychological Association and pursuing a doctorate in sociology at Catholic University.

If you are interested in contributing articles for upcoming editions of the News, call Barbara at 979-1852.

Foxes Trapped, Moved Out of North Barcroft

Barcroft neighbors in the vicinity of Pershing Drive and First Street noted a sudden increase in the fox population, with two adults and cubs appearing in early summer.

Concern about possible threats to children playing outdoors and to pets led a

number of Barcrofters to call the Animal Welfare League, which initially was reluctant to intervene but eventually permitted trapping of the adults and moving them. (They told some callers that children outdoors should be supervised if they are too young to know better than to approach a fox, and that pets should not be wandering around outside unsupervised either. Bet you didn't know that.) If you see wild animals in the neighborhood that are incompatible with normal urban living, please call the League at 931-9241.

Barcroft Fall Festival

Food, Live Music, Games
& Dunking Tank!

4 p.m., Sept. 7, Barcroft House



Why pay more to eat healthy?
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The Uncommon Market
1041 S. Edgewood Street
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Arlington's only community-owned food store since 1976

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because we get candy canes and get to play around outside. The spaghetti dinner is great because of the delicious spaghetti. The 4th of July is the best. It has all kinds of fun games that everyone can play and we get to go on a really fun march around the neighborhood.

Barcroft is a really special place to be.

Caroline Kerr, age 9

Many Thanks Go to 4th of July Parade Donors

Once again this year, many lucky parade attendees went home with a little more than they came with, thanks to the generosity of local merchants who donated raffle prizes. Prizes ranged from practical items such as lawn mowing, dry cleaning or an oil change to treats like ice cream cake or dinner for two.

The merchants who donated are listed below. Please be sure to patronize them whenever possible and let them know we appreciate their support of the BSCL. The following businesses donated items:

Atlatl restaurant, Brenners Bakery, Colour Oasis, Columbia Pike Automotive,

Country Curtains, Cowboy Cafe, Crystal Thai, Green Acres yard service, Ledo Pizza-Columbia Pike, Outback Steakhouse, Partyline Ice Cream, and New Forest Valet cleaners.

Barcroft Cookbook Is Great for Gift-giving

The new Barcroft Cookbook has sold well with its great color cover designed by Sara Leigh Merrey, featuring pictures of many Barcrofters at community events. The cookbook has over 130 favorite recipes from more than 60 Barcrofters, stories about the neighborhood, and even a food poem for good measure. The cookbooks make great gifts -- don't forget that there are only 100 shopping days until Christmas!

All proceeds from the cookbook will benefit the Community House restoration fund. To order a cookbook, please call 521-2080 or send an e-mail to cookbook@bhsi.org. You can also send a check for \$10 payable to the Barcroft School and Civic League to Barbara Swart at 4611 7th Street South, Arlington, VA 22204. We deliver direct to your door.



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(continued from page 3)

Second, Demeter House will cause a fundamental change in the character of our neighborhood. The people who live near the property proposed for Demeter House chose their homes because they were situated in a quiet, residential area. Demeter House will place a large institution in the middle of our single-family neighborhood. The appearance of our neighborhood will change as the house and grounds are modified to accommodate residents and staff. Unquestionably, traffic and activity in our neighborhood will increase significantly with all the support (trash, food service, care givers, administrators, etc.) needed to operate and maintain such a large institution.

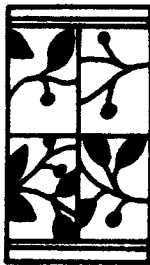
Finally, we believe Demeter House poses risks to the safety and stability of our modest, middle-class neighborhood and threatens property values. Many here have established roots in Barcroft, formed friendships with neighbors and spent much time and money to buy and improve our homes. Some neighbors, uncomfortable with the use of the house and the increased density, will move out, altering long-time friendships forever. As property values fall, home improvements will cease and many Barcrofters will experience financial losses they simply cannot afford or recover from. The risks are real: If we lose the character of the neighborhood, friends and neighbors depart, and our property values decline, there is no one to help us or replace our loss. The detrimental effects and risks associated

with this plan are unacceptable to our neighborhood.

A group of Barcroft residents

Barcroft Store Selling Cards, T-shirts, Books

It has been a long time since we had Haring's country store down at the Pike, but the Barcroft Store is open again with our new cookbook, note cards and tee shirts. The fabulous cookbook (a great gift!) is \$10, the lovely and elegant note cards, featuring a watercolor by Barcroft artist Nancy Tankersley titled "Before the Parade" are \$8 for 5, and the tee shirts are \$8 for extra large, or \$10 for extra extra large (no smaller sizes). Call Barbara Swart at 521-2080. Proceeds benefit the restoration fund.



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GARDENING CONSULTATION

(continued from page 3)

- Clients may have one child with them during their stay. The house maintains a healthy environment for both mother and child. There is parenting education, communication techniques, nutrition counseling and life skills training.

- No on-site visitation is allowed.

Now, why does Demeter House want to relocate?

- The current program is housed in two houses separated by an alley and kitchen facilities are in only one of the houses. The alley is a public right-of-way.

- The land available at the present site is not enough to build an adequate facility. The houses are old, do not have central air conditioning and require more staff.

As a mother myself, if I had to choose where I would raise my family, I would consider one large house to be superior.

The other night when I spoke (at a mid-August meeting on the proposed group home), a number of questions came up. I am currently trying to research some answers. What I have found out so far is:

- Realtors must indeed reveal that there is a group home in the area.

- National trends do not support the belief that property values decrease when a group home is in the neighborhood.

- The two new homes that abut Demeter House on South Monroe Street sold for prices in the mid-\$230,000s.

- The process that Vanguard is involved with is the process required of all

seeking this type of use permit.

- Perhaps we have a misperception of where group homes are located -- it might well be that North Arlington currently has more group homes than South Arlington.

While there are legitimate concerns regarding the number of clients in the house and the environmental impact (i.e., cars, trash, upkeep of property), these are concerns that the neighborhood can negotiate. For me personally, people have always been of the utmost importance. My faith leads me to ask myself: "What is the decent human thing to do?"

At the mid-August meeting, the question of compassion arose. Webster defines compassion as "the deep feeling of sharing the suffering of another, together with the inclination to give aid or support or to show mercy." Is Barcroft willing to be a compassionate neighbor and be part of the solution to the substance abuse problem?

Eileen Melia
South Sixth Street



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Rehab Bids are High for Community House

Preliminary bids are in for the renovation work intended for the Barcroft Community House. Bids to redo heating and electrical systems, the kitchen, bathroom and main hall total over \$100,000. Even with anticipated fundraising efforts, this is beyond our means to accomplish in one phase.

We are now considering dividing the work up into smaller phases and managing the sub-contractors ourselves. The initial phase would entail the renovation of only the heating, and electrical, the kitchen and bathroom portions, leaving the main hall for a later phase.

Call Jim Kerr at 892-6458 if you are interested in helping and wish to attend a renovation meeting.

CPRO Yard Sale Date is Sept. 28 in 22204

Yard sales mania will reign throughout the 22204 zip code area on Saturday, Sept. 28, under the sponsorship of the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization.

CPRO is publishing a list of residents and businesses holding yard sales that day. People who want to be included on the list can pay \$10, which goes to benefit the group, by Sept. 11. Call CPRO at 892-2776.

The list of participating yard sales will be available on Sept. 28 at Columbia Pike Library or the week of the sales by calling CPRO.

Hazardous Waste Due for Special Drop-off

Household hazardous wastes can be safely disposed of during a special drop-off day at two Arlington County fire stations, Saturday, Sept. 28.

The drop-off, which runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., will give county residents the opportunity to get rid of potentially hazardous materials such as flammable solvents, old lawn or garden chemicals, bug sprays, or automotive fluids.

Materials should be in the original containers or properly labeled. Leaking containers should be packed in other containers to prevent spills. People bringing wastes should bring ID to verify Arlington residency.

Take hazardous wastes to Fire Station No. 1, 500 S. Glebe, or Fire Station No. 2, 4805 Wilson. For information, call 358-6832.

Barcroft Exchange

FOR SALE. Bed-- Antique mahogany twin poster, and dresser--dark walnut, traditional 6 drawer with brass handles. Call the Galloways at 521-2325 or 521-1753.

HELP WANTED. ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, Computer/organizational/detail skills needed. People oriented. 24-hour week. Salary negotiable. Send resume to Rev. Dr. Tim Gerde, Pastor, Arlington United Methodist Church, 716 S. Glebe Road, Arlington, VA 22204 or call 979-7527.

FOR SALE. Little Tykes toddler ride-on train and tracks. No battery. \$10. Call Kathy 892-6458.

WANTED. High school or mature junior high student as mother's helper to help care for 3 year old and newborn in our home. A few days a week, after school. Begin in September. Call 892-1830.

