



BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 94, No. 4

December 1996

Holiday Music Fest Featured in December

It's time to sing!

Barcroft's annual holiday program and Christmas carol sing-along will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 5, at the Community House, 800 S. Buchanan.

This is the one BSCL meeting of the year where no business is discussed. For one night at least, we'll focus on something other than the difficult neighborhood issues of the past year. Peace in Barcroft, goodwill toward neighbors!

The famous Barcroft Christmas Band (which is related to the Marching Band) will perform. Mary Anne O'Rourke has promised to reprise her much-loved reading of "The Night Before Christmas."

In addition, individual neighbors or families are welcome to offer a holiday song or two. For information about the program or to find out about band rehearsal times, call Kathy Kerr at 892-6458. Bring a friend, bring some cookies; come join the warmth.

Swamp, Bike Trail Work Gain Funding

The county has fully funded a project to reestablish Sparrow Swamp, according to a county Parks Department official who spoke at the October meeting of the Barcroft School and Civic League.

In addition, the county intends to finish widening the W&OD Trail down to Columbia Pike in the near future. The trail will be paved to the current standard of 12 feet, and will be straightened and leveled at one point where it now crosses a hump alongside Huffman's Whitewater (at the power pylon just below Sparrow Swamp).

Parks official Dick Wark said the county funding was welcome news, particularly after a grant proposal to the federal Environmental Protection Agency was turned down.

The swamp, which borders the bike trail, was drained last March because it was weakening the bike trail berm. The BSCL has made a pitch to retain the separate Four Mile Run trail below, which is much appreciated by walkers and runners, and not remove it as was done up by Carlin

(continued on page 2)

Why I Like Barcroft

This is the last in a series of essays submitted to a contest for the 4th of July parade (can you remember that far back?) This month, an elementary school student writes.

I like Barcroft because I have many neighbors to play with like Sarah Butner, Steven Fleming and Ashby Williams and so on. I like the Barcroft School because my dad and I play basketball there.

We also bike ride around the neighborhood and we take my dog Comet through the woods behind our house too. I also like Barcroft because everyone in my neighborhood gets together for picnics and holidays. I am glad I live in Barcroft neighborhood -- it is a great place to live.

Rachel Sherman, age 9

Streetlight Coordinator Can Give New Info

Arlington County has a new streetlight coordinator. For info on getting better lighting on your block you can call Keith Harkins at 358-3734. We can get the new, more efficient lights installed through the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee funding mechanism. They are very effective when the older, higher lights are blocked by trees.

Call the Barcroft Neighborline

521-1116

Get the latest information

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

Trail . . . *(continued from page 1)*
Springs after the trail was widened there.

Don't forget this is the section of trail Barcroft has adopted, where you can go any time with just gloves and a plastic grocery bag to act out those impulses to promote the public good by picking up trash and bottles. It can be very satisfying.

There is a nice sign near Columbia Pike telling people that the BSCL has adopted this trail, so we have our reputation to uphold. Our section goes up to the first trestle, just past Sparrow Swamp.

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

BSCL Officers for 1996-97

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

Lawsuit Claims Board Wrong in Demeter Vote

A group of Barcrofters on 6th and 4th Streets filed a lawsuit early in November against the Arlington County Board over the Demeter House decision.

The suit maintains that the Board, which voted 3-2 to allow Demeter House to relocate to a home at 4317 S. 6th, acted without due concern for zoning laws and public safety.

The group is actively raising money to support the suit and would appreciate contributions from those who support the effort. Call Jane White at 521-0823 for more info.

No court date had been set as of press time, but it's unlikely any hearing would be scheduled until next year.

The subject of any possible official neighborhood support will be discussed again at the January BSCL meeting.

Prejudice Not Motive for Demeter Opposition

To the Editor:

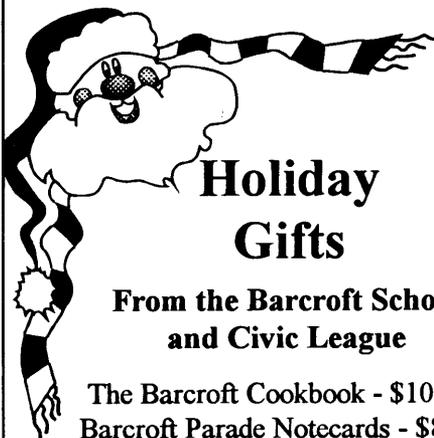
I wish I could be like Folger Cleveland. It must be great to occupy the moral high ground on South Pershing and dispense stern judgments to the people who will live every day with Demeter House in their midst.

Some people see "prejudice" or bigotry whenever a group of individuals opposes anything about a program like Demeter House. The fact that the people opposing the Demeter House relocation never descended to any sort of personal attack and confined arguments to legitimate land use and programmatic

issues doesn't seem to matter. Superior people like Mr. Cleveland believe they see right through it.

Our opposition (to the Demeter House relocation) was not based on prejudice, ignorance or lack of compassion. We believe the size of the population approved for Demeter House on South Sixth Street inappropriate for and damaging to a quiet residential area. We didn't make our homes in Barcroft in anticipation of living near a single-family house that would be converted to a large institution requiring a parking lot, dumpster and fire escape. I respect the opinion of people who support the relocation of Demeter House. But Mr. Cleveland's generalizations are offensive. The prejudice I see is in his letter.

Rocco Saracina , South Sixth Street



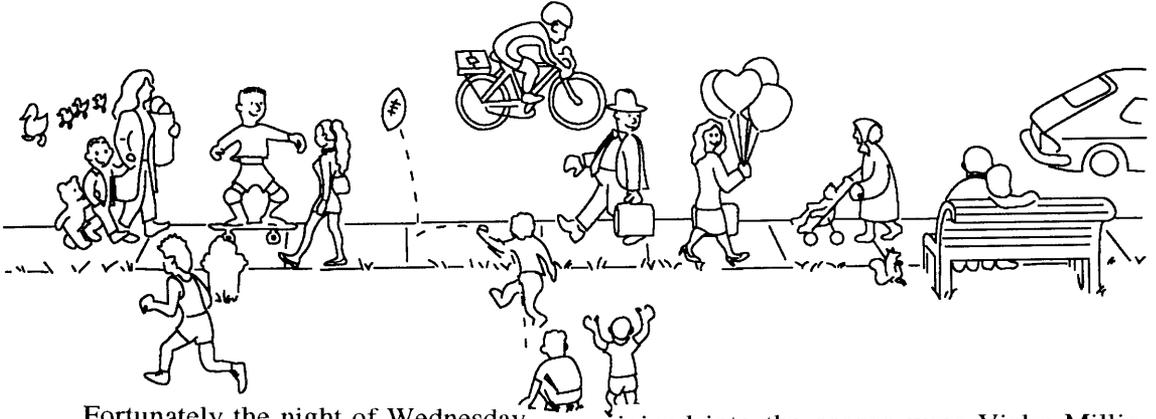
Holiday Gifts

From the Barcroft School and Civic League

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Around the Neighborhood with Kathy Kerr



Fortunately the night of Wednesday Oct. 30 was dark but not stormy. Over 120 people were brave enough to tour the spine-tingling Barcroft Haunted House.

The scary music, creepy costumes and convincing special effects proved a bit much for some of Barcroft's youngest residents. But a number of the older kids joined the crew to participate in the fun.

The use of additional walls, candles and a strobe light gave an "other world" feel sufficient to forget that it was actually OUR Barcroft Community House! The decor, costumes and acting were impressive and artistic.

Special thanks go to Tom Palance, unrecognizable in his costume, who had contacted local high school drama departments hoping one might help with the haunted house. Yorktown students Jill Brybounti and Ben O'Brien responded and organized some of their friends to participate.

Barcroft artist Laura Devin contributed ideas as did Ann Marie Millin.

Some of the older Barcroft kids who

joined into the scenes were Vicky Millin, Emily Anderson, Eva and Anna Stern, Allen and Caroline Kerr, and Lauren Wilson. Vicky Millin reports that her favorite part was leading people to a grave out in the back yard where suddenly a corpse jumped out shrieking and ran into the darkness. Spooky enjoyment also was had with the special effects sound system.

Everyone had a lot of fun. Although it was to be a fundraiser for the Community House, no profit was made after expenses but we did break even. Next year perhaps all of those enthusiastic Barcroft youths will be willing to put the show on themselves!

PTA Sponsors Holiday Shopping Event Dec. 7

Barcroft School's PTA will host a special holiday shopping event Saturday, Dec. 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the school. A "Secret Santa Shop" will let children purchase inexpensive gifts for adults. Adults can buy Disney and other merchandise. Proceeds go to the PTA.

Teaching Staff Grows At Barcroft School

Principal Miriam Hughey-Guy gave a decidedly up-beat presentation on Barcroft Elementary School at our November meeting. The school now benefits from additional teaching staff for programs to help non-English speaking children and for programs based on the number of kids who receive subsidized lunches.

Enrollment has grown sharply, but is not approaching the limits for the newly renovated school. Ms. Hughey-Guy left no doubt that we will not see the return of teaching in temporary trailers during her tenure at Barcroft. She invites parents and non-parents to visit and see how well the curriculum is working out. Call the school at 358-5838 for info.

Painting at Community House Set for Dec. 18

Restoration buffs frustrated by the delays in starting the work on our Community House -- take heart! We will begin painting the meeting room in mid-December.

Barbara Swart could not stand to wait any longer, and does not care that the walls will be replaced as soon as we raise enough funds for the whole project. (Painting expenses will be minimal, so the restoration fund will not be diminished even if the walls are redone this year.)

She is coordinating the painting, which will begin on Dec. 18. Call her at 521-2080 if you are interested.

Contribute to the Barcroft Community House Fund!

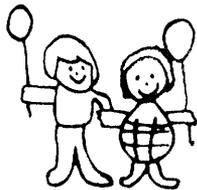


High Bacteria Count Noted in 4 Mile Run

In mid-October, the Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment sponsored a bicycle tour of Four Mile Run. The group traced the stream up to its headwaters, beyond Lee Highway. Along the way, cyclists heard about history and biology of the stream, which is in poor shape largely because it is used as a storm sewer.

Most revealing info of the day: health authorities recommend that you not dip even your bare hand into the stream, since it has high levels of fecal coliform bacteria. Turns out that more than 5,000 pounds of dog excrement washes into the stream every day.

ACE will repeat the tour next year and we hope to hear about it early enough to include it in the Barcroft News.



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Trees Cleared on 7th St.

In early November the county began widening of the end of Seventh Street S. where it meets Four Mile Run park. Unfortunately that involved clearing trees, eliminating the screening between trail and street. After the paving, the county will plant new trees. This is a Neighborhood Conservation program project, so if you have questions, please call David Michaelson at 553-3953 or send him an email addressed to osso@mindspring.com.

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Dog Fight on South Taylor Injures Man

Barcroft resident Michael Stoil was bitten and his small dog Fluffy critically injured in a dog attack last month at the corner of South Taylor and 6th Street. Michael was walking Fluffy shortly after 9 p.m. on Nov. 7 when a loose dog attacked Fluffy. As Michael attempted to save his dog, he was bitten by the loose dog, which was a cross between a rottweiler and an American pit bull terrier.

Unfortunately the loose dog was not immediately found and Michael, who suffered serious puncture wounds to his hands, started a series of rabies shots which have very unpleasant side effects.

The dog was later positively identified as one living with a family in the 4200 block of 4th Street South and was taken into custody. Under Virginia law, it is not required that the animal be destroyed and the dog was to be released to its Falls Church owner. The dog's caretakers in Barcroft will be charged with criminal negligence at a hearing set for Dec. 11.

As of this writing, Fluffy is home but it is still unclear whether she will ever fully

recover. Michael said he wishes to thank all the neighbors who called with information, sympathy and encouragement.

440 Barcroft Write-ins Oppose Hunter in Nov.

Voter turnout in Barcroft for the November election was down about 10 percent from 1992, but the write-in vote totals skyrocketed.

More than 440 write-ins were tallied after a low-key campaign to write-in the name of John Barcroft (the long deceased founder of our neighborhood) as a protest to the recent county board vote approving a special use permit for Demeter House.

County Board member Jim Hunter (who voted in favor) had no trouble winning in the precinct, nonetheless, with 594 votes to John Barcroft's 443.

A total of 1,360 Barcrofters voted on Nov. 5, compared to 1,506 in the 1992 election. President Clinton claimed 766 votes to Bob Dole's 470. But Clinton's coat-tails didn't work in Barcroft -- GOP Sen. John Warner had 651 votes to Mark Warner's 618. The neighborhood also supported all local bond issues.



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EventsEventsEventsEveDECEMBERntsEventsEventsEven

Dec. 5, Thursday -- **BSCL Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Barcroft Community House, 800 S. Buchanan St. Holiday music program, carol sing-along and cookies.

Dec. 7, Saturday -- **Special Shopping Event.** 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Barcroft School, 625 S. Wakefield. Fundraiser sponsored by the Barcroft School PTA. Adults can buy Disney and other merchandise. Children have special "Secret Santa Shop" to purchase inexpensive gifts for adults. Proceeds go to the PTA.

Dec. 20, Friday -- **School Vacation Starts.** Last day of school before winter break begins.



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

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