

BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 94, No. 7

March 1997

4 Mile Run Cleanup Slated for March 8

A Spring cleaning day for Four Mile Run stream has been set for Saturday, March 8. This urban waterway, which borders Barcroft, needs our help at least once a year. Trash is left behind by park users and also washes into the stream from rain runoff from county streets.

Several groups, including the Arlington County parks department and Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment, will be gathering at 9 a.m. on March 8 to begin the clean-up. There will be seven sites, ranging from Wilson Boulevard down to Barcroft Park. The sites closest to Barcroft will be in Glencarlyn Park and at Columbia Pike where it crosses the stream.

The cleanup will take place rain or shine. Participants should wear shoes that can get wet, work gloves and appropriate clothing. You may want to bring something to eat.

For more information, call the parks department at 358-6535.

Sparrow Swamp Plans Topic of BSCL Meeting

Have you been wondering what are the latest developments with Sparrow Swamp? The boggy area and former beaver habitat, off the W&OD Bike Trail, was drained last year to prevent damage to the trail.

If you're interested in learning more about the swamp's past, present and future, attend the March 6 meeting of the Barcroft School and Civic League. The program will feature updates on a plan to re-establish the swamp, as well as information about the proposed expansion of the bike trail.

In recent months, neighbors have seen surveyors taking measurements near the drained swamp -- which in February was home to five pairs of mallard ducks -- in preparation for the plans to re-establish the marsh.

The meeting will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the Barcroft Community House, 800 S. Buchanan. All are welcome to attend.

April Service Luncheon Looking for Volunteers

The annual BSCL Service Luncheon will be held on April 4 at the Community House. This is the time to thank the service people who make our neighborhood livable all year long: police officers, firefighters, teachers, librarians, parks workers, solid waste management people, mail carriers, etc.

We need donations of salad, main dish or dessert for the luncheon. We also need two or three people to help out on the day of the luncheon from about 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please call Randy Swart at 521-2080 to volunteer. Thanks!

County Appoints Group to Study Traffic Issues

The County has just appointed a new Committee on Neighborhood Traffic Calming. The group will make recommendations on procedures and techniques for calming down traffic on neighborhood streets. It has representatives from the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee, the Transportation Commission and the Civic Federation. Nancy Iacomini of Ballston-Virginia Square neighborhood was elected chair at the first meeting and can provide info (Home number: 525-0788).

The group has requested the County

Call the Barcroft Neighborline

521-1116

Get the latest information

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

staff to review a catalog of traffic calming measures and provide the County's current position on each one. Some were new and different: for example, in Fairfax City they have installed special warning signs and now have a \$200 fine for speeding on a neighborhood street. Arlington County has already changed its requirements for all-way stops, and has installed a number of them in various locations.

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

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Traffic Could be you!
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Lawsuit Court Hearing Delayed to Late March

The court date for a lawsuit filed by a group of Barcroft residents against the county board over the proposed Demeter House facility has been delayed to March 25-27. The plaintiffs wish to thank all the Barcrofters who have contributed to the lawsuit in a very successful fund raising effort. Funds are still needed. Checks are payable to "Barcroft Legal Fund." Contact Jane White. For any questions regarding the lawsuit, call Rocco Saracina, 920-0748.

Project to Upgrade Streetlights in Barcroft

The February BSCL meeting heard Sherrell Crow of the Public Works staff on upgrading streetlights. He explained how the new style lights on Buchanan are much more efficient and direct more light on the ground. They are also better at preventing light from shining into bedroom windows, and can be adjusted for individual homes. The contact in Public Works for starting the process on your street is Keith Harkins at 358-3575. Some upgrades can be done very quickly from available funding.

Scott Brinitzer has volunteered to coordinate a neighborhood-wide effort to upgrade all Barcroft lights to meet the new standard, providing adequate lighting everywhere and the improved esthetics of a uniform neighborhood light. This is important if adding light to one street simply pushes crime to the next one.

To prioritize neighborhood requests for streetlight installation, Sherrell developed and left with us a suggested

formula and a Lotus spreadsheet to calculate relative scores. Give Scott a call at if you are interested in working on the project. This will require funding though the Neighborhood Conservation program.

Barcroft Renovation Bids Expected in April

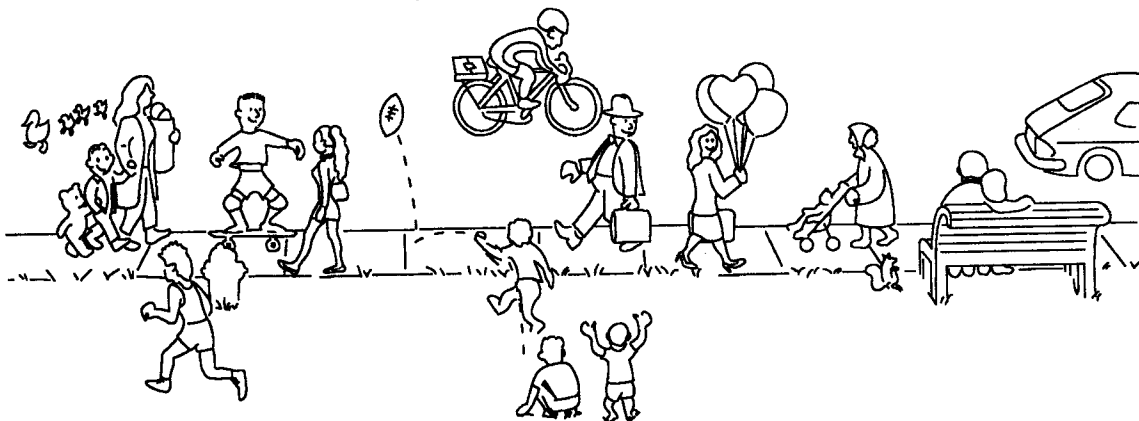
The BSCL continues to act as general contractors. We recently received a good electrical bid and are obtaining bids for heating and air conditioning, drywall, and carpentry work. We plan to bring all bids before the membership at the April meeting.

The best news is: Barcrofter Mike Kiernan has generously offered free labor for all our restoration plumbing needs. His company, Tyler Inc., is Class A licensed and will obtain all required permits.

In other civic league news, president Jim Kerr will soon be appointing a nominating committee of three BSCL members to recommend candidates for our May elections. If you are interested in serving on the committee, contact Jim at 892-6458.

Due to term limits, all of the BSCL officers are unable to continue in their current roles. At the March meeting we may also be voting for a temporary Board of Director replacement for Scott Allard who is getting married and has moved out of the neighborhood. We will all miss Scott and his service to our neighborhood. His term also expires in May.

Around the Neighborhood with Kathy Kerr



There's only one place in Arlington to hear great music in an intimate and smoke-free environment -- the Barcroft Community House! The Community House was near full capacity on Feb. 15 as everyone enjoyed the music of "The Hot Club of Washington D.C." playing swing and jazz music from the 1930s and '40s.

Many thanks to: Uptown Bakers of Arlington for donating bread, muffins and desserts; the band for donating their music; Kathy and Jim Kerr, Marie Korn, Daphne Miller, Tom Palance, Anne Marie Millin, Julie Gorke, Mark Wigfield, Cara and Colin Wigfield-Gorka, Maureen Locke, Lauren, Becky and Steve Wilson, and Jim Lande.

Extra special thanks to the Women's Club of Arlington for graciously permitting us to use their parking lot for this event. This event resulted in a donation of over \$100 for the Barcroft Community House Renovation.

Foxes: from The Arlington Environment newsletter (adapted by Kathy Kerr)

One of the most exciting animals in Arlington is the fox, which might be seen trotting through the woods on a sunny winter day, or paying a surprise visit to your back yard. The red fox is a resident of meadow and edge habitat, although the grey fox, a woodland species, may also be around. Foxes are active in late winter, mating in January and February and building dens shortly thereafter. They are most active at dawn and dusk.

Erika Very, an Alexandria wildlife rehabilitator, says that habitat destruction is a major reason people see foxes in the daytime. "With all the construction going on, foxes are frequently being evicted from their dens." Also, when the kits are young, the male may have to forage all day to feed them. The kits look like kittens, she says, for which they are often mistaken.

The fox's reputation for intelligence is well earned. While not as adapted to city

life as raccoons or opossum, they have learned to take advantage of the human world. A fox typically develops a circuit which includes dog food bowls and trash cans, although their diet primarily consists of rodents [rats and mice!], insects, and berries. Their range is usually one to two square miles, but they often travel farther, especially in winter. Contrary to one popular notion, they do not typically kill cats. For that matter, they are no bigger than an average cat.

Denise Chauvette of Gulf Branch Nature Center advises that some times the fox misjudges human habits. They may build a den under a back porch which is not used during the winter, only to be surprised when the humans come out in the springtime. Chauvette has received

calls from distressed residents about foxes showing up in back yards. "People assume that something must be wrong with the animal," she says, "but in fact the fox probably thinks it has found a safe place to loaf." A few years back, a red fox was a regular visitor to Gulf Branch and would stretch out on the roof of the Nature Center on sunny days.

Foxes bring out a variety of reactions in people. Some see them as threatening, others see them as cute. Foxes can carry rabies, and while rabid foxes are rarely encountered, they tend to be unusually aggressive. Like all wildlife, foxes are not pets and should not be approached. However, from the right distance, their presence in our community is a special treat to be enjoyed.



Bobbi Bradley, GRI, CRS *Barcroft Resident for Ten Years.*

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Spaghetti Supper Nets \$200 for Renovation

At least 100 people enjoyed the neighborhood spaghetti supper in late January at the Community House. Even though it was Super Bowl Sunday, the event netted a \$200 profit for the Community House Renovation Fund.

Special thanks to Tom, Lisa and Alisha Palance, Bruce Atkinson, and everyone else who helped out. Tom's folks, Howard and Jeanette Deardorf, of Stevensville, MD sacrificed the ballgame to help out!

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Ad Manager Position to be Filled by Albrecht

Debra Albrecht is the new ad manager for the Barcroft News. A native of the Midwest, Debra (and her husband, Dennis) moved to 7th Road South, about 1 1/2 years ago. She will help you place paid display ads or Barcroft Exchange notices. Call her at 979-4730.

Parking Rule Explained

The Women's Club, located next to the Community House, is a tempting place to park especially in snowy weather. However, please don't park there unless there is a sign stating that we have permission for a specific event. The Club pays a lot of money to have their parking lot kept clear of snow. Cars in the lot prevent the plow from doing a thorough job. Also, the Club has meetings and frequently rents out their facility. Members and renters expect full use of the parking lot. Due to problems in the past, cars illegally parked may be towed.



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Arlington Group Eyes Ways to Control In-fill

A subcommittee of the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee has begun work on recommendations for controlling in-fill development. In response to inappropriate in-fill houses, some communities have "lowered height requirements (Burbank, CA), limited house square footage (Beverly Hills, CA, Gulf Stream, FL and Hillside, Chicago), and limited land coverage (Mission Hills, Kansas City)."

Ted Weihe of Yorktown neighborhood believes that the County has the power to: (1) change the current "coverage requirement" limiting the percentage of the lot that can be covered by a new house; (2) reduce the 35-foot building height limit; (3) restrict pipestem development; (4) set new county policy guidelines for the Board of Zoning Appeals; and (5) increase penalties for developers who break the rules and reward those who are sensitive to neighborhoods. If you are interested in participating in the group you can call Ted at 533-2815 or Randy Swart at 521-2080.

Barcroft Directory Due

Peg Lefebvre, our Membership Secretary, is working a new edition of the Barcroft telephone directory. This one will include non-BSCL members as well as members. Peg is excluding all who have indicated on their membership forms that they do not want to be listed in the Barcroft Directory.

The Barcroft email address directory is always available on our Web page at <http://www.bhsi.org/barcroft>. If you have email but no Web access, send an email message to sendit2me@bhsi.org and we will send you a copy. Or send an email to randy@bhsi.org to be listed on the page.

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