

BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 94, No. 10

Special Parade Edition, July 1997

Astronaut to Lead 9th Annual Barcroft Parade

This 4th of July, three fantastic events will coincide: Our nation's 221st birthday, our 9th annual Barcroft parade, and the landing of the Pathfinder Spacecraft on Mars. So come and celebrate the connection between our nation, our community, and our place in space at 10 a.m. at the Barcroft Community House.

Everyone is invited to march, stroll, dance, or ride along. Barcroft's own astronaut, Guy Gardner, will be this year's Grand Marshall. Guy is actually an ex-astronaut and Space Shuttle pilot who now works at the Federal Aviation Administration. But in our opinion, once an astronaut, always an astronaut.

Featured activities will include the stirring sounds of our very own marching band, a reading of the Declaration of Independence, free food and drinks, a show by Sparkles the Clown (word has it she might debut her astronaut bunny trick), kids' games, door prizes, and lots of

cool space stuff from NASA to give away.

Ribbon prizes will be awarded to the best float, the best group performance in the parade, the best individual space concoction and the best decorated house along the parade route. So think fast about floats, being a parade participant, or where you might want to set up your seat to watch the fun. Speaking of floats, there is talk of a possible 8th Road rocket in the making. And kids, design your own Martian Flag and bring it for display.

Children riding bicycles should remember that Arlington has an ordinance requiring bike riders under 14 to wear helmets. And there will be police at the parade!

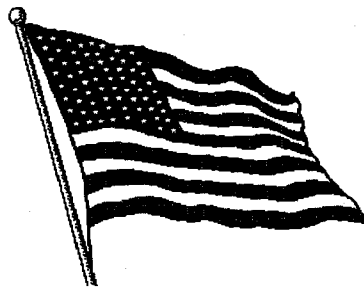
If you want to volunteer for anything, call parade Chairman Andy Hunter at 979-8247.

Band leader Tom Palance at 979-8366 would love to hear from anyone who has played, does play, or thinks they can play an instrument and who would like to join the band.

Also call Chef Dave Michaelson at
(continued on page 7)

Renovations Approved At Community House

The BSCL membership unanimously voted \$57,844.00 at the May 1 meeting to fund the renovation of the Barcroft community house. The Arlington County Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board voted at its May 21 meeting to provide the necessary Certificate of Appropriateness for the external changes. Work has already started with the removal of the old furnace.



New Murals Painted in Barcroft School Project

Arlington artist Faylinda Kodis (a former Barcrofter!) has helped students at Barcroft School design and paint murals for display throughout the school. The murals will be installed this summer. The art works demonstrate the multicultural nature of the school's population. They also focus on the activities of observing and recording data, which are some of the basic elements of learning at the school. Come and visit sometime this summer!

Call the Barcroft Neighborline

521-1116

Get the latest information

Barcroft on the Internet: <http://www.bscl.org>

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

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Signs Manager Jack Turner
Traffic Elaine Squeri, 920-7014
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The *Barcroft News* is printed on recycled paper with vegetable-based ink by the Stanley Adams Printing Company.

Demeter House Gets Extended Permit Terms

The Arlington Journal reported that in May that the Arlington County Board voted 3 to 2 in Executive Session the previous month to buy the 6th Street South property and lease it back to Vanguard Services. In addition, the board voted to extend the requirement of initiation of the use permit from one to three years.

BSCL was notified of the extension in a letter dated 29 April (after the Executive Session) but not the deal to buy the property which was reported in the Arlington Journal.

A group of concerned Barcrofters met with county chair Ellen Bozman in June to discuss this. At that meeting it was learned that Vanguard had secured private financing for the 6th street property by putting in another program temporarily while the Demeter lawsuit decision was still open to appeal.

At a Demeter Advisory committee meeting in May, Ms. Volz, president of Vanguard Services, said they were able to obtain financing by placing eight male residents in their Phoenix drug rehabilitation program in the 6th Street house. This is a by-right use of the property and does not require a county use permit. Vanguard still plans to put the Demeter program into the house in the event the neighbors' appeals are unsuccessfully exhausted. In the interim the plan is for the Phoenix residents to only sleep at the 6th Street residence and

be driven to the main Phoenix house for their meals and drug rehabilitation program. Vanguard Services is installing a fence following the neighbors' request but will wait until the resolution of the pending lawsuit until they commit to the planned landscaping and other renovations required in the Demeter Use Permit

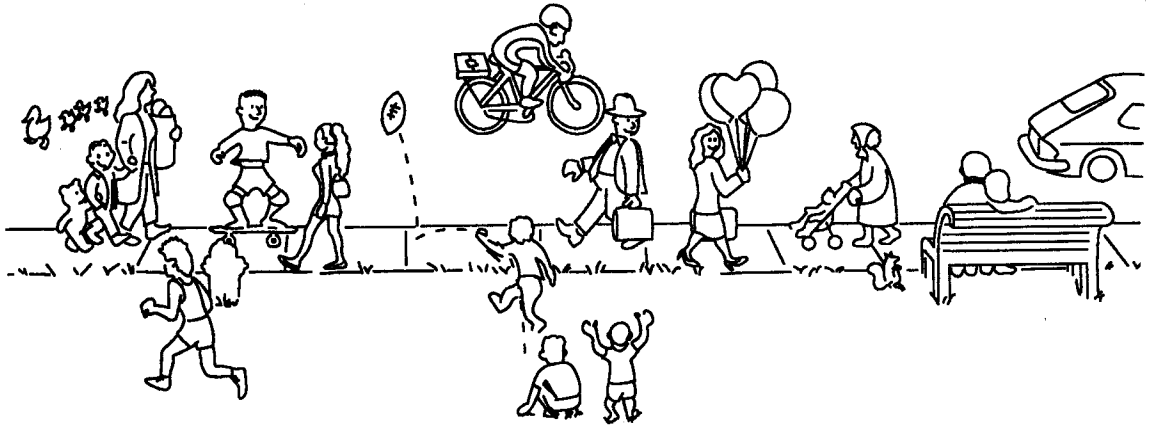
Arlington Still Needs More Election Officers

Ever wonder who are those people working at the polls when you vote? They're your neighbors, that's who. And the County Registrar needs more of them.

An election officer must be a U.S. citizen at least 18 years of age; a registered voter in Arlington County; a detail-oriented person, able to take direction and get along well with people. They are required to be at their polling places at 5 a.m. They must remain until the votes are tallied and called in to Election Central, and closing procedures are complete (approximately 8:30 p.m.).

Election Officers set up the polling places, check voters' names off lists, provide instruction on voting machine operation, tabulate the results, and close down the polling place. Most Election Officers work in their own precincts, but if no vacancies are available, you may be asked to work in another polling place or in the Central Absentee precinct. Attendance at a two-hour training session is required for all new workers. Election officers are paid \$85 for the day. For more info, call the Registrar's office at 358-3456, or send an email to voters@co.arlington.va.us.

Around the Neighborhood with Kathy Kerr



Welcome to new neighbors Julie Strandling and Joe Mendelson and their 9 month old baby Anna.. With a new baby, Julie and Joe were pleased to find a larger home here in Barcroft.

Congratulations to Barcrofters Ed and Lisa Perez of 8th Rd. S who are the proud (and tired!) parents of twins born on May 15. Their son, Lucas Moss, was born at 12:29 p.m. and their daughter Rachel Ruth arrived at 12:31 p.m. Ed and Lisa have lived in Barcroft since 1993. They both work in government relations. Hobbies? Rachel and Luke, of course!

In the mood for something exotic? Try out the pungent spices and unique flavors of Nigeria and the Caribbean at the Bukata restaurant on Columbia Pike, across from Atlacatl.

The atmosphere is pleasant; the restaurant is newly renovated, with murals white tablecloths and flowers on each table. Best of all, the main floor of the

restaurant is non-smoking, so you can breathe easily. There's a disco downstairs with a dance floor, where smoking is allowed.

The menu offers choices from the exotic to the ...somewhat less exotic. Try kid goat stew, yam fu fu (like gluey mashed potatoes--better than it sounds!) with stew, oxtail, gumbo and spicy Caribbean chicken and fish. If you don't like your food highly spiced, the cooks will gladly accommodate you. The less adventurous can try quiche, pasta and rice dishes. Also recommended is the appetizer sampler. Watch out though -- the price of the large juice drinks (served in pilsners, to the delight of our children) and beers can add up enough to surprise frugal diners.

The service was not speedy, so plan to relax and bask in your superiority over the poor fools ordering cheeseburgers at the Roy Rogers across the street. Children were highly tolerated; one of the owners is a Fairfax school teacher who made a point

of chatting with them. The kids had a great time dancing on the polished dance floor downstairs while waiting for the food to arrive. If you are in the mood for a unique dining experience, support a Barcroft business and give Bukata a try.

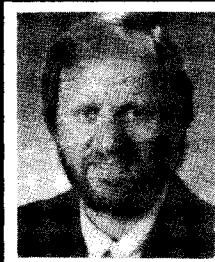
Students Take Part in Science Activities

On May 2, second graders in Ms. Black's class went to a sleep over at the Virginia Museum of Science in Richmond. The event was filled with problem solving activities including locating a thief (planted) with fingerprint detection. Additionally, on Science, Math and Technology Night (May 7), the community gathered for experimentation and an evening of hands-on science, math

and computer exploration. The major attraction was the life sized whale made of roofing plastic and inflated for a safe journey into the belly of the whale and coming out to tell about it. The evening was organized by Ms. Black, Ms. Keene and Mr. McCowan.

BSCL Meeting Ideas Sought by Wigfield

BSCL Vice President Mark Wigfield is looking for topics for BSCL meetings next year. Typically, topics include candidates' night, gardening, crime, etc. If you have any ideas, either new or tried-and-true, contact Mark at 979-0339, or drop a note by 624 S. Buchanan St., or send e-mail to mwigfiel@capaccess.org. Thanks!



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Students, Staff Help Clean Up School Yard

If you happened by Barcroft School on Saturday, May 3, you probably noted quite a bit of activity on the school grounds, despite early morning rain and threats of more to come. Approximately 60 students, parents, teachers, principal and a good neighbor from the Women's Club spent the morning weeding, pruning, edging beds, picking up trash and planting flowers to celebrate International Schoolyard day and to kick off a new program at Barcroft called Rediscovering the Schoolyard. This program has been implemented at several other schools around the county and is a collaborative effort among teachers, parents and students to make the curriculum more engaging and relevant through meaningful

hands-on learning opportunities outside in the schoolyard. Watch for more additions to the outside of the school such as a butterfly garden, rock garden, vegetable gardens and a compost area.

Teachers, students and parents are quite excited about this program and encourage community members to share their ideas and to participate in this new venture. If you have any questions or ideas, please call Annette Osso at (703) 553-3953. Special thanks to Papa John's on Columbia Pike and the Pines of Naples for providing pizza to the hard workers at a discounted price. If you patronize these establishments, please thank them for supporting our school.

Simple Ways to Help Urban Streams and Bay

What are some simple things you can do to help conserve our urban streams, such as Four Mile Run, and the Chesapeake Bay? It's not that complicated.

- Dispose of hazardous materials properly.
- Wash your car where suds cannot drain down into storm drains (suggestion: if possible, pull your car onto the lawn to wash it).
- Obey pooper-scooper laws. Dog droppings help contribute to high bacteria levels in Four Mile Run.
- Avoid over-fertilizing your yard. Never dump grass clippings into or near streams. And compost your yard waste correctly.

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Barcroft Students Win Many Prizes, Awards

A number of students at Barcroft Elementary School have won recent honors in a number of areas.

At a late spring Rocketry Day event in Arlington County, five Barcroft students were prize winners. Nick Conable won first place for the highest flight. Lyn Huynh had the second highest flight. Robbie Head had the third-longest flight. Sara Hall and Sara Toth came in second and third, respectively, for "best looking" rockets.

Terry Murphy, captain of the Barcroft Safety Patrol, won third place in the 1997 Metropolitan Area Safety Poster Contest.

Fifth graders Leah Adams, Gretel Truong, Alexander Danvers and Veronica Rios all were recognized with awards from the Arlington County board for their service to the school community and their academic excellence.

Cellular Phone Towers

Arlington is anticipating requests by cellular phone companies to put new antennae on some public property, mostly north of Lee Highway. The antennae are needed to provide strong cellular phone coverage in the hilly parts of Arlington. The County is developing guidelines for placement of new towers, which can be up to 100 feet tall and ten feet in diameter at the base.

Some North Arlington

neighborhoods are resisting, and the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee has supported them in calling for minimizing the new towers. The good news for Barcroft is that there are cellular antennae already installed on two apartment buildings on our boundaries, one on Columbia Pike and the other just across Arlington Boulevard from us. They should provide all the coverage we need without additional towers.

(continued from page 1)

553-3953 if you would like to bring a dish or make a dessert. As happened last year, there will be a dessert competition. See you there!

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BSCL Presents

4th of July Parade !

**Marchers (with 'floats', in costume or not) gather
at the Community House, 800 S. Buchanan**

Friday, July 4, 10 a.m.

**Picnic and other events following parade
at the Community House.**



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

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