

BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 95, No. 6

February 1998

Chief Unveils Plan For Community Policing

Barcroft and five other neighborhoods will be the proving ground for a new "community-based" policing program being developed by the Arlington County Police. Arlington's new police chief, Edward Flynn, talked about the program at Barcroft's January meeting.

The idea behind community-based policing is to stop crime before it starts. To that end, some officers will be relieved of most day-to-day 911 calls to get to know the community better. One way to do that is to attend our monthly meetings. Another will be more bike and foot patrols.

Police will then work with other agencies of government to find solutions to our problems, whether they be graffiti, vandalism, traffic or worse. The idea, Flynn said, is to "break down the walls" between police, school officials, park managers, public works, and other services to come up with creative solutions to crime

problems.

A key component of the program is to tackle small problems before they get bigger. Such a theory has been put into
(continued on page 2)

Arlington Mill Center Focus in BSCL Meeting

Some of us may miss the convenience of the old Safeway at Columbia Pike and Four Mile Run. But at Barcroft's February meeting, you can learn what has taken its place.

The building now houses The Arlington Mill High School Continuation Program, where some 166 former high school dropouts have returned to get their high school diplomas. Sharing the facility is a new community center, which will eventually occupy the entire building.

The Barcroft School and Civic League will have some say about how that center develops. Come learn more about the programs on Feb. 5, at 7:30 p.m., at the Community House. Directors of both the school and the community center will be there to talk and take your questions.

(continued from page 1)

practice in New York City, Flynn said, where police have been cracking down on minor infractions and seeing a reduction in major crimes as a result. In Barcroft, that could mean cracking down on drunks near the laundromat and then seeing a reduction in auto thefts.

Flynn would not be specific about when the program will begin. But he said residents might notice more police officers and see stabilization of some of the bigger crime problems in the area. About 20 officers will be assigned to the program in the five neighborhoods.

Along with Barcroft, other neighborhoods included in the program are Green Valley, Shirlington, Fairlington, Columbia Heights West and the Columbia Pike business area. The areas were chosen because they are considered "transition areas," Flynn said, where concerns have been expressed about crime. One goal is to make sure the neighborhoods are secure and change the perception that they have a crime problem.

Statistically, Barcroft -- and the county as a whole -- are safe, Flynn said. For example, police statistics show that crime decreased by 28 percent last year in Barcroft. Calls for police service were down by 4.2 percent. The murder at Hi Cue pool hall at George Mason and Columbia Pike was the only increase in any single crime category -- a scary category, to be sure.

Countywide, there was a 15.5 percent decrease in crime and a 6.8 percent decrease in police calls.

Barcroft Neighbor Line Is Back in Business

The Barcroft Neighborline was temporarily suspended during the renovation of the Community House kitchen, where the machine resides. It is back up, and you can access it at 521-1116 for the latest on Barcroft meetings or info on snow cancellations if we eventually do get a Big Snow.

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

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Crime Resistance Chris Monek, 920-1287
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Signs Manager Jack Turner
Traffic Committee Elaine Squeri 920-7014
Parade Andrew Hunter 979-8247

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Renovation of Kitchen Completed by BSCL

The kitchen was installed in the Community House in the middle of January. It was first used for the big annual spaghetti dinner on the 18th. The cabinets are magnificent, and the new stove and refrigerators are beautiful to behold.

Join us for the February meeting and see how the renovation is shaping up under the direction of President and BSCL General Contractor David Michaelson, ably assisted by Bruce Atkinson, Tom Palance and others.

We discovered in the process of cleaning up after the cabinet installation that the County did not have a cardboard bin down at the recycling center on Columbia Pike. We don't know yet if this part of the recycling program has been suspended or not, but will report next month.

Potomac Hiking Trail: Unique In Arlington

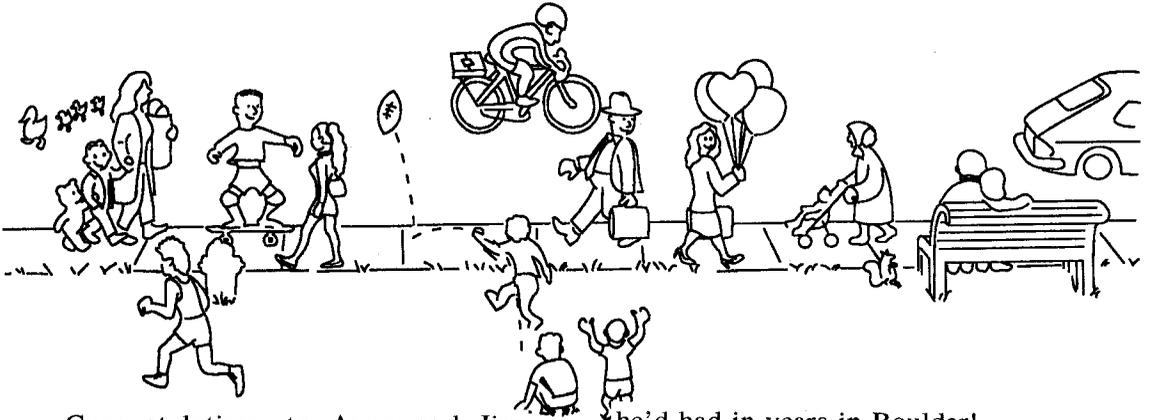
Ready for a Winter adventure? If you are fit and can walk a "billy-goat" trail you may enjoy the ten mile Potomac Heritage Trail (PHT) from Roosevelt Island to the Beltway. Or you might just do the four mile section to Chain Bridge. For any section of the trail, the Park Service recommends hiking boots or sturdy shoes, and we would add that you will be in an isolated area where a group may be more comfortable than a single hiker. High water can cover parts of the trail, but normally it is open.

The PHT winds for ten miles along edge of the Arlington side of the Potomac between the river and the steep rocky hillsides above. Most of it is fairly level, but the trail is rough and rocky, with short, steep scrambles and with mud available for your step at most times of the year. In winter the unimproved stream crossings can be icy. The trail is not ADA-accessible, and is not going to be. Some day it may be part of an ambitious 700 mile trail running the length of the Potomac. This ten mile section of trail is marked with blue blazes.

The trail is not hard to follow in Arlington. Our access begins at the Roosevelt Island parking lot, easily reached by bicycle, metro or car. A sign at the north (upstream) end of the lot directs you to the start of the trail. From there up to Chain Bridge, you reach the trail by hiking down Windy Run, Donaldson Run or Gulf Branch. The first access is 1.7 miles further upstream at Windy Run, accessible by neighborhood street from Military Road and a hike down the stream bed. Then 1.4 miles further up there is another access at Donaldson Run, followed by the Gulf Branch access about a half mile further up, down Gulf Branch from the Nature Center just off of Military Road. The next spot where the trail meets civilization is another half mile up at Chain Bridge.

From Chain Bridge the PHT continues upstream on Park Service land to Fort Marcy, Rt. 123, Turkey Run and finally to a Fairfax County park, Scotts Run Nature Preserve. There is parking at
(continued on page 6)

Around the Neighborhood with Kathy Kerr



Congratulations to Anna and Jim Garibaldi whose new baby is Sophie, born July 14 (too late to be the youngest baby at the 4th of July parade.)

Sophie's big brother Stephen, age 3, attends the Arlington Unitarian Preschool. Anna is the director of marketing for MCI. Jim is the vice-president for JBG Rosenfeld Retail Properties. Jim and Anna moved to Barcroft more than 2 years ago. Since then, they have had a lot of fun completely remodeling their home.

Welcome to new neighbors David McTaggart and Susan Young on S. Buchanan St. who moved to Barcroft from Boulder, Colorado. They were married out in Boulder in September, 1997 and then moved here. Each has two adult children ages 19-26. David works in marketing and sales. Susan is a psychotherapist. They have a golden retriever named Cyrus. David says that in his first two weeks in Barcroft he had more interaction with friendly neighbors than

he'd had in years in Boulder!

Kenmore Middle School student Ashby Williams took top honors in the county's "Reflections" competition in the literature section. Ashby, a 6th grader who attended Barcroft last year, took first place at both Kenmore and in the countywide judging. Ashby lives on South 6th Street.

Will Tucker, also a 6th grader at Kenmore, recently won a big wrestling tournament in Alexandria. Will, who is 12 and has been wrestling for three years, took 1st place in the 75-80 pound weight class at the 10th Annual ISA Wrestling Tournament. Wrestlers competed from all over Northern Virginia. Will also is a member of the Beltway League wrestling team and is a member of Kenmore's team.

Call the Barcroft Neighborline

521-1116

Get the latest information

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

Barcroft Babysitter List

OK, here's the promised list of Barcroft babysitters, with some information to help you in calling them. Please note that the BSCL **does not** sponsor or endorse any of these sitters. The News is running their names as a community resource and News staff has not screened them in any way.

• **Stacy Kyle**, 18, 486-0019, rates depend on number of children.

• **Vicki Millin**, 13 (8th grade), 521-7331, pay is negotiable.

• **Katie Whelan**, 13 (8th grade), 521-1487, experienced, Red Cross training, rate is \$3 per child per hour.

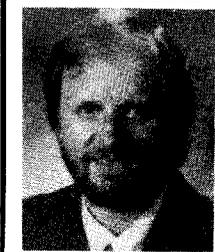
• **Julia Siple**, 13, 892-1243, certified Red Cross babysitter.

• **Jessica Snyder**, 12 1/2, 920-8774, experienced with all ages.

• **Cecilia Cackley**, 12 1/2, 271-9743, certified Red Cross babysitter, rate is \$4 per hour.

Child Safety Seats Inspected by Fire Dept.

Worried about whether you attached your child's car safety seat the right way? Arlington County's Fire Department inspects vehicle child safety seats for county residents. The Fire Department will do the inspection at a fire station near your home. For more information or to set up an appointment, call the Safety Seat Request Line at 228-4646



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(continued from page 3)

the Rt. 193 entrance to Scott's Run if you want to leave a car there for the return.

Another popular option is the "Key Chain loop," from Roosevelt Island to Chain Bridge, then across to the C & O canal and back down the towpath to cross at Key Bridge and return to Roosevelt Island. That one is 9.2 miles.

If you can handle its rigors, the PHT will give you a different perspective of the Potomac. In summer it is shaded by sycamores, oak, poplar and beech trees. It is not quite pristine wilderness, owing mostly to aircraft and boat noise, and there is ample evidence of the stone quarrying that changed the face of the Potomac bank back in the 19th century. But this is a piece of Arlington that is unique and well worth seeing. Conservationists saved it from being designated as a future bicycle

route during the 1985 update of the Arlington Master Transportation Plan, but there is no telling when pressure may arise to extend the Mount Vernon trail up to Chain Bridge, so see it now!

For further information about the PHT, contact the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, 118 Park Street SE, Vienna, VA 22180, tel. (703) 242-0315. Or you can contact the National Park Service office at Turkey Run, (703) 285-2598.

Barcroft Exchange

RABBIT. Grey lop-eared male rabbit, free to a good home. Comes with cage, food, bedding. If interested, call 920-5934.

FOR SALE. Weider bench press. Good condition. Includes barbell and four disks each weighing 14.3 lbs and four disks weighing 8.8 lbs. \$60. Call 920-5934.

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Warm January Weather Brings Unusual Blooms

Global Warming, El Nino or whatever, this has been a very mild winter so far. There are jonquils and daffodils coming up all over Barcroft, and a very optimistic forsythia began blooming early in the new year on 8th Street! The freezes of February cannot be far behind, though, and we wonder what will happen to the early flowers then.

Bike Donations Needed

ACE and Pedals for Progress will collect used bicycles to be sent to needy people overseas. Any bikes in usable or repairable condition are welcome. Call 228 6427.

Kenmore School To Sponsor Fest in March

Kenmore Middle School's FocusFest will be March 27 from 6 to 9:30 pm. Kenmore Focus Coordinator Shauna Dyer is looking for artists, groups and individuals in the community interested in performing, exhibiting or otherwise sharing their art and/or technology talents at this program dedicated to bridging the gap between art and technology. She can be reached at 228-6800. Last year's first annual FocusFest was a very successful family fun event featuring entertainment, participatory activities, art and literature exhibits and great food. Shauna says this year's will be even bigger and better.



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Feb. 5, Thursday -- **BSCL Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Barcroft Community House, 800 S. Buchanan St. Presentation on the Arlington Mill Center (the old Safeway store).



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

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