

BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 95, No. 7

March 1998

Tree Care Subject of March BSCL Meeting

How do you keep your old oaks -- and other trees -- alive and healthy?

That's a big concern in Barcroft, with its many beautiful old trees. The Barcroft School and Civic League's March meeting will be devoted to that topic. Come and learn more about keeping your trees green and healthy.

The meeting is on Thursday, March 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community House, 800 South Buchanan Street.

Sock Hop, Potluck Set for Community House

Come find out what happens when a 1960's garage band reunites in the '90s!

A "sock hop" combined with a family potluck will be the venue for The Strays to perform their inimitable style of rock-n-roll on Saturday, March 21, at 6 p.m., at the Community House.

Admission is \$3 per person or \$10 per family (at maximum), with all

proceeds going to benefit the Community House renovation fund. The Strays are donating their live 60's rock sound.

Plates, cutlery and drinks will be provided. Bring a dish to share and socks to hop in! Optional items: Tie-dye attire, beads, headbands, etc. Dancing should start sometime between 7 and 8 p.m. Bring the family, all of your neighbors and friends for this FUN event!

Volunteers who want to help should call Kathy Kerr at 892-6458.

Stream Cleanup Will Target Granny's Creek

On Saturday, March 14, the Barcroft stream cleanup crew will meet at 9 a.m. at the head of Grandma's Creek (Buchanan and 6th Streets) to do our annual cleanup. We have hauled amazing things out of there in the past two years, so hopefully this will be an easier cleanup. We will make one pass down the creek and one back up, and should be finished by about 11 a.m.

You can help! Bring gloves and some plastic bags. We'll have at least one bike trailer and a wagon for hauling out

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Poster Contest for April Easter Egg Hunt

Hey kids, do you like to draw?

A contest is being held to promote a Barcroft Easter Egg Hunt. The posters will be displayed around the neighborhood to publicize the event; then they will be collected and brought to the Community House for judging. The winner in each age category will get a chocolate bunny!

Children from infants through 18 are invited to participate. Age categories will include infant to 3 years; 4 years to 6 years; 7 years to 9 years; and 10 years to 18. (For kids too young to write, the child can draw and parents may letter the necessary information.)

Posters must have the following information: Barcroft Easter Egg Hunt, April 11, 1998, 10 a.m., Barcroft Community House, admission \$1/child.

Submit your posters to Anna Peterson at 819 S. Wakefield by April 3. Call for more information at 521-8756.

Last Call for Boxtops

This year's effort to collect Box Tops for Education at Barcroft Elementary School has been very successful. Thanks to neighbors who have turned boxtops in to the school. If you still have any left, the school needs to get them by March 25. You can drop them off at the school office or call Harriet Moncure Williams at 553-0911 to pick them up. Every box top counts!

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the loot. Our cleanup ties into the Four Mile Run cleanup the same day, the week before stocking the stream with trout for fishing. If you want to join that cleanup call Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment at 358-6427. Both streams feed into the Chesapeake, so either way you are doing your part for the Bay.

Barcroft News Staff

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Contributions Ed. Could be you!!

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

BSCL Officers for 1997-98

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Plant 'Legacy' Moved to Community House

By the time you read this the bulldozers will have begun to turn Betty Handy's side yard on 8th Road into two more Barcroft homes.

Betty and her brother Walter were dismayed with the loss of plants in the yard. Many were originally planted in 1910 by her mother and father, who were active in the BSCL in its early years. She contacted BSCL board member Scott Brinitzer about transplanting some to the Community House grounds. Scott organized a sturdy crew of Barcrofters and they saved some humungous azaleas and rhododendrons, including one that took six strong men to move.

A couple of years before he planted those rhododendrons, Betty's father, Walter K. Handy Sr., was the man who wired our Community House in order to get enough customers for the power company to justify Barcroft's first power line. Betty's sister Mildred dedicated her Barcroft history article to him, and Betty still speaks fondly of him. That's quite a legacy to leave to a neighborhood like ours.

Moving the plants to the Community House ensures that the legacy will continue, whatever the developer may do with the lots.

Arlington Mills Center Draws High Marks

Barcroft activists were disappointed last year when the Arlington County board temporarily shelved its plans to establish a major community center at the old

Safeway on Columbia Pike. Instead, about three-fourths of the new Arlington Mills Community Center was given to a continuing education program.

Located just across Four Mile Run from Barcroft, the community center was seen as a way of addressing gang activity and other youth problems in the surrounding Columbia Heights West neighborhood. The old store is in the center of what the Latino gang "Little Locos" considers its turf.

But Barcroft residents left the BSCL's February meeting feeling better about the facility. Suzanne Swendiman, principal of the school, described how it is, in fact, helping meet community needs. And she also talked about some of the activities at the community center portion of the building, which is open to Barcrofters.

The school is slated to occupy the building for the next five years only, after which the entire facility may be devoted to the community center.

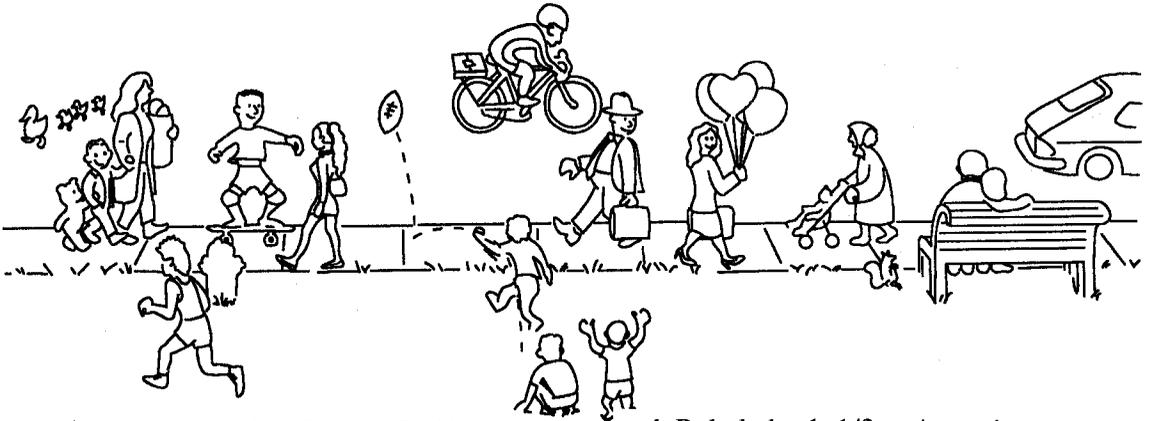
The Arlington Mills school is actually an existing program moved from the Hoffman-Boston building near the Army-Navy Club because of renovations. It's designed for students, who, for one reason or another, dropped out of high school but now have returned to get their diplomas.

Their average age is 18 to 22; 16-year-olds are the youngest students accepted to the program. The oldest ever to graduate was 63.

Some students were still attending one of the county's high schools, but were urged by a counselor to transfer to

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Around the Neighborhood with Kathy Kerr



Angelo and Iris Ioffreda (pronounced "I-O-fray-dah") moved to Barcroft last June after a long search for a new home. Longtime Arlington residents, they had lived near Wakefield High School but with two children hoped to have a larger home. They were delighted to find a brand new house on South Buchanan St. that was just right.

Their children are Francesca, 4th grade and Chris, 1st grade. The children go to Key School's Spanish Immersion Program and Iris is the co-chair of the Key PTA. Francesca loves soccer and is on a select travel team. Chris is enjoying after-school karate at Key. Iris works for the IBM consumer software division as a retail rep for Edmark, Crayola and World Book encyclopedia; all of which are now owned by IBM. Angelo works for a public relations firm and his main account is America Online.

Scott and Anna Peterson moved to their new home on South Wakefield St. last October with their daughters, Sarah age 4

and Rebekah, 1 1/2. Anna is a stay-at-home mom and Scott is an architect. They say that they have met more neighbors here in just a few months than they ever met in 7 years in Falls Church. They are diving right into neighborhood activities.

Anna is organizing the first BSCL Easter Egg Hunt to be held April 11th. Scott has already been digging holes at the Barcroft Community House. Longtime Barcrofter Betty Handy sold her lots on 8th Rd. S. but couldn't bear to lose her family's original plants, many dating back to 1910. She generously offered the plants to the BSCL. Scott was happy to be part of the digging crew, along with Scott Brinitzer, Frank Schneider, Andrew Hunter, Tom Palance, "Dave from Maine" Hollowell, David Walter, Barbara Swart and some other wonderful Barcrofters. (Watch the next issue for the complete list when Scott B. returns from Australia.)

Not trying to toot the family horn here, but my daughter, Caroline Kerr, is

one of three Barcroft young people appearing in the musical production of "Winnie-the-Pooh" being presented this month by The Children's Theatre.

Caroline, a 6th grader at H-B Woodlawn, plays a Forest Animal, a red fox; Danny Cackley, a 4th grader at Key School, has a major part as Rabbit; and Eva Stern, a 9th grader at H-B, who lives on South 9th St., has the part of the Voice (that holds conversations with Christopher Robin).

Opening night is March 6 and the musical will be shown for two weekends at Thomas Jefferson Theatre. For information or to order tickets (how could you want to miss all this talent?), call 548-1154.

Walking your dog? Try our

unofficial but ideal dog run located at the big curve where Pershing turns into Buchanan. The fenced-in site is a dog's dream and you are almost certain to find another neighbor and dog there to romp with. Bring a dog biscuit to share! If the run becomes popular enough, the BSCL is interested in providing a trash container for pooper scoopers (to help protect Grandma's Creek from doggie pollution.)

Call the Barcroft Neighborline

521-1116

Get the latest information

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



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Trees Cut Along Rte 50 In Buffer Renovation

Trees cut down last month along Route 50 west of Barcroft are part of a road redesign project initiated by the Arlington Forest Citizens Association with the county.

The trees felled were diseased, old or in areas that have to be rehabilitated so that the buffer strip (area between Arlington Boulevard and the access road) can be redesigned to beautify the area and organize parking along the access road.

New plantings, including more trees and mid-growth ornamentals, will be added to develop a more effective screen between the heavy Route 50 traffic and houses in Arlington Forest houses. Plans call for construction of curbing to make parking and street width uniform on the access road.

Planning a Party?

Need a space to rent, on a budget?

**Don't Forget the Barcroft
Community House!**

**Large space, small rental fee;
Sparkling new kitchen & restroom**

Call Tom at 979-8366

Very low rates for BSCL members!

Barcroft Babysitter List

Here's that list again of Barcroft babysitters. Please note that the BSCL **does not** sponsor or endorse any of these sitters. The News is running their names as a community resource.

- **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.

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Rick Williams, Corporate Auctioneer V.A.A.F. #000485

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Arlington Mills because it better suited their needs and learning styles. Students are not admitted if they were expelled from school. Most of the 225 students attend because they want to be there, Swendiman says.

Many of the students are from the neighborhood. In that sense, the school addresses an important community need, she says, by giving students a second chance.

"Over 100 students graduated last year," she says. "They have overcome a lot to get their diplomas."

Although the community center is much smaller than originally planned, it includes a computer center, a preschool program, and an afternoon program for children. Being developed are aerobics classes, boxing, English training and

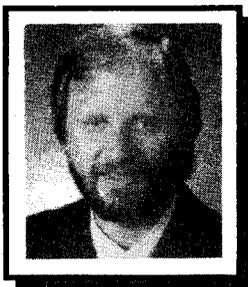
activities for teens. A major grant is being sought to address the problems of disaffected youth in the area.

Also based at the building is the police department's community-based policing program for the area.

Volunteers are welcome. And community input is taken through the Arlington Mills Advisory Committee, which meets once a month. Call Jeannie Mitchler, director of the recreation center, for more information.

Grocery Store Receipts Need to Go to School

Don't forget to drop off your grocery receipts for the "computers for students" collection at Barcroft School. You can also mail them to the school at 625 S. Wakefield St., 22204.



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