

# BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 97, No 3

November 1999

## **November Meeting: Demeter Drug Rehabilitation Program**

Demeter House, the group home in Barcroft for women recovering from substance abuse, is scheduled for review by the county in December. The Barcroft School and Civic League will devote its November 4 meeting to a discussion of the program. The meeting begins at 7:30 at the community house. Comments received at the BSCL meeting will be presented to the Arlington County Board at its December 11 meeting, when board members are scheduled to vote on the Demeter "use permit" required for group homes in residential areas.

The neighborhood overwhelmingly opposed the location of the Demeter program in the neighborhood when it was (continued inside)

## **No-Sweat Fundraiser Nets \$1,260 (So Far)**

BSCL Treasurer Gary LeFebvre reports that donations to the "No Sweat" Fundraiser for community house renovations had netted \$1,260 as of Oct. 7. That's still far short of the amount we need to install a new wood floor in the community house. The floor could cost between \$6,000 and \$10,000. But you can still give! Please send your donations to:

The Barcroft Community House Fund  
C/O Treasurer, BSCL  
812 S. George Mason Drive  
Arlington VA 22204

The renovation committee has decided that replacing the worn-out asbestos tile floor should be the next step in the on-going renovation of our historic building. Not only will that make the house more attractive for community use. It will also enable us to raise the rent to outside groups using the house -- rent that pays the (continued inside)

## Demeter House (continued)

proposed over three years ago. The community feared the program would bring increased traffic, noise and crime, as well as hurt property values and undermine the residential feel of the quiet street on which the house is located. But the county board by a vote of 3-2 approved the use permit required to operate the home. Although the county approved the permit in October of 1996, Demeter's substance abuse program has only been operating in Barcroft for six months. One of the conditions of the use permit was review in six months after occupancy.

The program is approved for maximum occupancy of 18 people at any one time -- a reduction from earlier plans to house 22. Other conditions of the use permit require extensive landscaping, formation of a neighborhood advisory committee, prohibitions on visitors, limits on parking, 24-hour staff coverage, and adequate maintenance. The address was also to be kept confidential -- a condition that was mistakenly breached when the program was listed in the telephone book.

Several of Demeter's immediate neighbors who most vehemently opposed the program responded by moving out of the neighborhood. But prices of most of the surrounding homes apparently haven't suffered, in the opinion of one area real estate agent who knows the neighborhood well. No problems have been reported yet by the neighborhood advisory committee.

November's meeting will provide both an opportunity to air concerns about the

Demeter program and to learn about it. Demeter officials have been invited to attend to explain the program and answer any concerns. Hopefully, the neighborhood will find that its initial concerns about Demeter were unfounded. But most would agree that frequent reviews and community input are the best way to keep any problems at bay.

## Needed: Delivery Person for Barcroft News!

South 9th Street route. Get your exercise and help the community at the same time! Call Lisa Rom 486-2983 for details.

### Barcroft News Staff

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<i>Neighborhood News</i>	Kathy Kerr, 892-6458

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

### BSCCL Officers for 1998-1999

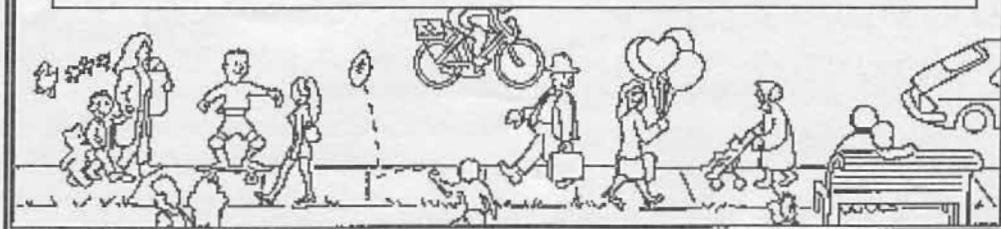
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<i>Vice President</i>	Marie Korn, 521-8069
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<i>Treasurer</i>	Gary Lefebvre, 521-0184
<i>Corres. Secy.</i>	Sharon Tope, 920-2567
<i>Membership Secy.</i>	Peg Lefebvre, 521-0184
<i>Board Members</i>	Scott Brinitzer, Jim Kerr Tom Palance, David Michaelson

### Community House

<i>Facility Mgr.</i>	Tom Palance 979-8366
<i>Restoration</i>	Jim Kerr, 892-6458
<i>Fundraising</i>	Bill Huddleston 920-2011
<i>Landscaping</i>	Scott Brinitzer, 892-0308
<i>Traffic Committee</i>	Elaine Squeri 920-7014
<i>Parade</i>	Andrew Hunter 979-8247
<i>Columbia Pike</i>	Barbara Clemens

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## Around the Neighborhood with Kathy Kerr



Betty Handy and her family were the original owners of their farmhouse on 8th Rd. South. In the past year the lot next to the house at the corner of Buchanan St. was sold and a house was built there. Then the original Handy home went on the market.

Welcome to new neighbors Sara Amy Leach and Gary Mason who are now the proud owners. Recently arrived from Tupelo, Mississippi, Gary and Sara work for the Department of the Interior, National Park Service. They had looked at quite a few homes for sale here in Barcroft. They discovered the Handy house and moved in last August. Sara is an architectural historian and they had owned an older house in Mississippi. Sara says their new home is in "tip-top" shape but they are doing some painting and minor fixing up. If you happen to have any historical pictures of the Handy house, please contact Sara and Gary.

Fortunately for the Handy family, Sara and Gary enjoy gardening. Many of the plants around the house have been there for decades. The little bit of gardening they've

done so far has turned up numerous bulbs. They suspect it would be better to wait until next spring to see what comes up

## Upcoming Events

**Craft Show** The annual craft show takes place Sunday, December 5, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Community House. Call Barbara (521-7822) if you want to donate baked goods.

**Yoga Classes** at the Community House. Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. To register for the classes or for more information, please call Pervin Davar at 354-3072.

## Barcroft Contra Dance

Friday, November 19, 8:00 at the Barcroft Community House Family Contra Dance, with caller Liz Donaldson, and live music by Jump Start (Kathy Kerr, fiddle, Julie Gorka, piano, and Jim Besser, guitar and concertina.) For dancers of all ages and levels--no experience necessary! Kids welcome with parent. Admission \$7, kids \$5, families \$15. Info: (703) 979-0339 or e-mail [mjccj@his.com](mailto:mjccj@his.com)

# Police Ticket Over

## Forty Cars

A sudden jump in the number of cars parked along S. Buchanan and S. 9<sup>th</sup> Sts. and 8<sup>th</sup> Rd. has created problems for some residents in those blocks. They reported litter, late-night noise, curbside car repairs (illegal except for emergencies), cars parked dangerously close to intersections and difficulty finding parking space near their house. While much of the parking seemed to be overflow from the Buchanan Gardens and Columbia Park apartment complexes, managers of both buildings told BSCL President Mark Wigfield that adequate parking is provided for all residents.

Mark also met with county staff, who agreed to assign its interagency task force to address some of the problems. While no one knows exactly what is causing the influx, there was some speculation that renovations at existing affordable apartment complexes in Arna Valley and Columbia Heights West could be crowding the Buchanan/Wakefield street buildings. A new parking permit program at one of the complexes may also have contributed. But staff agreed to take a number of steps, which include:

- Enforcement of parking and litter rules. At the BSCL's October meeting, Cpl. Mark Hackett reported writing over 40 tickets for illegally parked cars and county sticker violations.
- Erection of "no parking" signs to keep cars from crowding corners.

- Investigation of overcrowding at the apartments.
- Holding a "citizens rights and responsibilities" workshop at Arlington Mill Center for Buchanan Gardens tenants. Aimed at new immigrants, the program discusses tenant-landlord issues, provides a guide to county services, and a overview of county rules and regulations on issues like parking, car repair, litter, etc.
- Possibly installing curbside trash cans.

In addition, the BSCL is considering efforts of its own to bridge the gap between the single-family home owners and immigrant apartment residents. These ideas include translating our newsletter for distribution at the complexes, organizing outreach events such as English classes, working with service providers, and special events at the community house.

Block-by-block parking stickers don't seem to be an option. And as some residents at October's meeting noted, it's no crime to park on public streets. Many of us live in Arlington -- and Barcroft -- because we value diversity, proximity to the area's urban center, and don't want to live in a gated enclave controlled by a homeowners' association rule book. Instead, we're a blend of suburban and urban that can be the best of both worlds -- as long as everybody follows the rules.

To get involved in these issues, please contact Mark at 979-0339, or [mark@bscl.org](mailto:mark@bscl.org). Discussion of these issues is likely to continue at the BSCL's monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. on November 4th.

## **Recycle Right, Win a Prize**

You could win a prize just by following Arlington County's recycling rules during the week of Nov. 7. As part of America Recycles Day, a team from the county will be picking through residential curbside recycling bins at random all week, looking for clean, properly prepared recyclables and no items that the recycling service won't accept. A prize goes to owners of the best bins.

Here are the county's recycling rules, which you should follow even when it's not recycling week:

Newspapers should be in a brown paper bag or tied in bundles. Mixed paper should be placed in a separate bag from newspapers.

OK items include flattened cereal boxes, junk mail and cellophane window envelopes. Phone books and paperback books are OK.

NOT OK: corrugated cardboard, hardcover books.

Containers should be clean, with the caps removed and discarded in the trash. OK: Glass bottles and jars of any color.

NOT OK: Ceramic mugs, window panes, light bulbs, mirrors, etc. OK: Plastic bottles, jugs with narrow necks that use screw-on tops (says 1 or 2 on bottom)

NOT OK: Tub-type plastic containers used for margarine, yogurt, etc. It costs the county money to remove such items from the recycling stream.

NOT OK : Dead answering machines, cell phones, personal computers – you get the idea.

The county hasn't chosen its prize yet. Suffice it to say it will be made out of recycled materials.

## **County Screening Artists for Four Mile Run Interpretive Park Project**

The process to develop an park along Four Mile Run at Columbia Pike has begun in earnest. The plans for the park, which will be located along the WO&D bike trail at Columbia Pike (between the Laundromat and the creek), would include interpretive signs describing our relationship to the Four Mile Run watershed, its water quality, and ultimately the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay. The County has been receiving proposals from artists who will help develop the landscape plans.

BSCL has agreed to support development of this park through the used of NCAC funds and therefore we have input in the process. The County will be screening artists who submitted proposals and selecting candidates for interviews. T.J. Murphy is a voting member on the panel representing BSCL. If you would like to get additional information, or provide input directly to T.J. you can reach him at 486-1734, or at SewerDude@aol.com.

## **Candidate and Voter Night**

Don't forget the Candidates Night at Arlington Mill Center, 4975 Columbia Pike, 7:30 p.m., October 27.

## Letter to the Editor

I attended my first Barcroft neighborhood meeting last week. I was struck by the warmth extended to me and my new baby girl. I was also struck by some of the coded language my neighbors used to discuss their concerns about lack of street parking, litter and car repair along S. Buchanan St., problems associated with residents of the nearby apartment complexes.

The concerns were genuine and legitimate. However, I had a sense that code violations were only part of the problem. Perhaps it makes some Barcrofters uncomfortable to see groups of young men and women who are Spanish-speaking, or less affluent, congregating on the public streets. Diversity is not always comfortable.

I heard comments which began with "they" or "those people." There were questions raised about how "we" ensure a prompt police response to "their" illegal actions. This language makes me uneasy. We need to be clear when we speak that the issue is law violations and not our own fears. Minor violations such as trash dumping and parking violations, are not the sole province of any one group of Barcroft residents.

When we moved here we had hoped to find diversity and tolerance among our neighbors. I know that this can become a reality if we focus on what is really important in our community.

Katherine Murphy, S. 7th St.

## Animal Lovers Unite: Pet-sitting Co-Op Forming!

Barcroft neighbor Paula Levin-Alcorn is organizing a pet-sitting coop that could help you find care for your animal when you're away for a day, a weekend, or longer. It also promises to be a great way to meet Barcroft neighbors. It's even open to people who don't have a pet but maybe would like to have a "loaner" now and then. Here's how to help her get it started:

Send Paula:

- Your name, address, phone number
- The type and number of animals needing care
- Type and number of animals you'd be willing to sit for
- Where you'd care for the pet: In your own home, at the owner's house, or either.

Paula will develop and distribute a list to all of those who signed up. People can then use the list to make their own arrangements.

You can mail the information to Paula Levin-Alcorn at 4415 S. 4th St., Arlington 22204. Or you can phone her at (H) 892-3131 or (W) 352-1656. Or e-mail her at (e-mail) [plevinal@braininjurysvcs.org](mailto:plevinal@braininjurysvcs.org)

## Barcroft Exchange

Housekeeper available. Excellent references. Call Lisa 486-2983.

## **Fundraiser** (continued from front)

bills to keep the place going. Currently, the house is running in the black -- but just barely. Gary reports we ran a slight \$70 surplus in the operational budget in September.

The committee is zeroing in a floor type, likely to be a pre-finished wood floor laid down on top of the existing floor. The committee agrees there's too much uncertainty about the condition of the oak floor underlying the tiles to make it a good candidate for refinishing.

The renovation committee is next scheduled to meet on Oct. 21, at 7:30 p.m., at the community house. Anyone who wants to participate is welcome. Contact committee chair Jim Kerr at 892-6458 or jim@bscl.org to confirm the meeting. A new fundraising chair is also needed as current chair Bill Huddleston is leaving the neighborhood. Your fundraising/grant-writing skills would be most welcome by the committee!

## **Friendly Reminder: BSCL Dues are**

Thanks to the 192 households that have returned their dues; please submit your dues if you have not yet done so. Dues are \$3 per adult (\$6 per couple).

If you've misplaced the form, you can pick one up at the November meeting. Or you can send your check with a sheet of paper giving your name, address, phone number, e-mail address (optional), and indicate if you are willing to help - e.g., distribute newsletters, serve on a committee, 4th of

July Parade/Picnic, or anything else that interests you. If you have any questions or need any more information, please call our Membership Secretary, Peg Lefebvre at 521-0184. She'll be glad to help.

## **Bike Registration**

The Arlington County Police Department is offering to come out to any neighborhood association meeting to register bicycles. They typically arrive an hour prior to the meeting, register the bikes outdoors, and finish registering bikes when the meeting begins. They can also be there for neighborhood picnics or other events, and find that registering bikes works much better at daytime events than after dark. If you would like to arrange bicycle registration for your event, please contact Aux. Officer Heather Hurlock at (703) 228-4051 to set up a time and date

## **Party of the Century**

You aren't going to Cancun, your boss insists that you be available in case of Y2K emergency, and you want a relaxed social evening where there will not be a single non-functioning traffic light between you and home. Maybe the Barcroft Y2K party is for you!

On Monday, November 8 the first meeting of the Barcroft Millennium Party Planners will be held at 7:30 at Barbara and Randy Swart's house at 4611 7th St. S. If you have ideas for the party or want to reserve your place (Barcrofters only, no guests, at least for now), please come to the planning session or send an email to Randy Swart at [randy@BSCL.org](mailto:randy@BSCL.org).

**November Events November Events November Events**

**Don't forget to vote in the Arlington County Election on  
November 2nd!**

Wednesday, October 27 ⇒ **Columbia Pike Candidates' Night**, Arlington Mill Center,  
4975 Columbia Pike, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 4 ⇒ **BSCL Meeting**, "Demeter House Drug Rehabilitation  
Center," Barcroft Community House, 800 South Buchanan St., 7:30 p.m.

Monday, November 8 ⇒ **Millennium Party Planning**, 7:30 p.m., 4611 7<sup>th</sup> Street South.

Friday, November 19 ⇒ **Contra Dance**, Barcroft Community House, 8 p.m.

Sunday, December 5 ⇒ **Crafts Festival**, Barcroft Community House, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

November 5, 12, 19 ⇒ **Parent-Child Play Group**, call Michelle Herwig, 920-8110 for  
place and time.



*The Barcroft Community House can be rented for  
your special event. Call 521-1116 for more  
information*

Barcroft School and Civic League

800 South Buchanan Street

Arlington, VA 22204