



BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 97, No 4

December 1999

Join Us for Holiday Caroling at the December Meeting

Every December, we set aside business to welcome in the holiday season. We invite everyone, all ages, to gather to sing Christmas carols, hear talented neighborhood performers play and sing, hear a reading of 'The Night Before Christmas,' and await a surprise visitor (hint: carries his own bag). This is really one of the special treats that goes with living in Barcroft. Contributions of cookies or other finger foods are welcome. Thursday, December 2, 7:30 p.m.

Giving Thanks

The Staff of the *News* give special thanks to our Barcroft neighbors who contribute so much to the life and health of our community.

No-Sweat Fundraiser Beginning to Sweat A Little

BSCL Treasurer Gary LeFebvre reports that donations to the "No Sweat" Fundraiser for community house renovations had netted nearly \$2,500 as of Nov. 4. That's good, but still far short of the amount estimated \$8,000 we need to install a new wood floor and other renovations in the community house. Give now and get write off your donation on your 1999 taxes. Please send your donations to:

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

Since last month, we have learned of the availability of some state and federal grant (continued inside)

Fundraiser (continued)

money for renovations. But the grants depending on matching donations. So your donations are more important than ever. And while this was originally billed as a "No Sweat" fundraiser relying on many small donations, the possibility of a grant means that larger donations that would quickly add to our pool of funds for the match would be most helpful.

Our historic community house at 800 S. Buchanan is now the second phase of ongoing renovations. The kitchen has been redone, and electrical and heating systems replaced. The next step is to replace the worn-out tile floor, followed by removing the old beaver board to expose the original ceiling. The house is already a centerpiece for the community. Preserving and restoring this important symbol of the neighborhood should be a priority for all of us. And once renovations are complete, it will become an even better place for community events and for use by residents for private parties and other occasions.

The renovation committee generally meets on the third Thursday of the month at the community house at 7:30 p.m., at the community house. Anyone who wants to participate is welcome. But first contact committee chair Jim Kerr at 892-6458 or jim@bscl.org to confirm the meeting.

Barcroft Celebrates Neighborhood Day

Barcroft celebrated neighborhood day with two events: in the morning a dedicated

group met at Barcroft School for a landscaping and fall cleanup session. The group constructed a trail to the bird habitat area in the rear of the playground, and planted flowers and bushes with an emphasis on native plants.

In the afternoon the Barcroft Imprecision Drill Team performed with lawnmowers in the County's Neighborhood Day Parade. The team included Karen Darner, Jim Kerr, Patrick Smaldore, Barbara Swart, Randy Swart (with gas can hat), Dave Voorhees and Mark Wigfield. The team had a great time and was featured on Channel 31's coverage of the event.

Barcroft News Staff

<i>Editors</i>	Mark Rom, 486-2983
<i>Publisher/Mailing</i>	Lisa Rom, 486-2983
<i>Contributions</i>	Mark Wigfield, 979-0339
<i>Advertising Mgr.</i>	Jim Kerr, 892-6458
<i>Neighborhood News</i>	Kathy Kerr, 892-6458

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

BSCL Officers for 1999-2000

<i>President</i>	Mark Wigfield, 979-0339
<i>Vice President</i>	Marie Korn, 521-8069
<i>Recording Secy.</i>	Bruce Atkinson, 979-4868
<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>	Alake Hinton

The *Barcroft News* is printed on recycled paper with vegetable-based ink by the Stanley Adams Printing Company.

Demeter, and more at the meeting expressed willingness as well. There is immediate need for landscaping help, probably best approached by emailing Scott Brintzer at sbrintzer@aol.com. Scott is the Barcroft landscape designer who has been helping Vanguard spruce up the property. Volunteers can also call Marlyn McKants, the Program Director for Demeter, at 533-1365 ext. 11 (voicemail) or Kathy Dooley, 533-1365 ext. 16. Volunteering is complicated by the fact that the location of the house is confidential to prevent complications for the clients who live there, and there are Federal confidentiality requirements that the residents must waive for a volunteer to assist. But it can be done!

In all, it was clear from the November meeting that the Barcrofters present, whatever their initial position regarding the program, wanted to put the past difficulties behind them and move on to help this program fit as well as possible into the neighborhood. Vanguard's evident good faith in adhering to the conditions of the use permit has been the key to moving forward. We have closed one chapter in this saga, and as we open the next one it looks like it will be a much better read.

Demeter: This Just In

County staff say they'll probably oppose the idea of reviewing Demeter's zoning use permit again in six months, as the neighborhood requested. Instead, guidelines indicate to staff that the second review need not occur for another year. The board will weigh their opinion against

the neighborhood's and make a decision. The BSCL urges people who want to support the neighborhood's position to attend the county board's Dec. 11 meeting, which begins at 9 a.m. at the 2100 Clarendon Blvd., 3rd floor. Contact Mark Wigfield with any questions at 979-0339, or at mark@bscl.org.

Giving Thanks for Jack,

by Mark Wigfield

Before dawn on the first Thursday of every month, signs reading "Barcroft Meeting Tonight" magically appear around the neighborhood. And just as magically, they disappear after the Thursday night meeting is over.

But it isn't magic. It's the work of Jack Turner, long-time Barcroft resident who, year in and year out, has been faithfully stringing up the meeting signs on telephone poles and trees around the neighborhood. You might know Jack by his trumpet, which he plays in the 4th of July parade and other events at the community house.

As someone involved in organizing Barcroft meetings for a several years now, I give thanks every time I see those signs. I'm glad that balancing on a step ladder in the dark hanging signs on the night before a meeting -- and doing the same thing after the meeting is over -- is one thing I don't have to worry about. But I certainly don't take it for granted.

So this Thanksgiving, one of the people I'm grateful for is Jack Turner. Thanks, Jack!

Pay BSCL Dues – Why?

You have been seeing and hearing a lot of reminders to 'Pay Your BSCL Dues for 1999-2000? But do you wonder "Why should I do that? I can go to any BSCL event I want; they are not limited to members. The *News* keeps us informed, and it is distributed to both members and non-members. If I want, I can even go to the meetings. They let everybody in. It seems rather silly to pay dues. Moreover, if I join I might be asked to do something."

Rest assured: nobody is pressured to volunteer. And while you are free to attend meetings without joining, you can vote only if are a BSCL member. As for the *News*....It costs about \$300 per issue to print, and volunteers distribute it to save the cost of postage. Dues don't begin to pay for this, but every little bit does help.

But perhaps the most important reason for being a member is that it shows pride in and support of the your neighborhood. This carries a lot of weight when dealing with the Arlington County government. The larger the membership, the more weight the association carries. Joining also says something very nice about you. It says that you care about yourself and what goes on around you. It might even say that you care about your neighbors. It definitely says that you take responsibility. Speaking of neighbors, you get to meet a lot of them. They are very nice and interesting people.

There are approximately 800 homes in Barcroft, not counting the apartments. The

membership form goes out in September each year. As of early November, 223 (28%) of households were paid members. Last year the final count was 290 (36%), and the year before was 281 (35%); 1996 was significantly greater with 366 (46%).

So, why should you bother to join and pay dues? For all the right reasons....Please send your dues to:

Peg LeFebvre, Membership Secretary
Barcroft School and Civic League
812 S. George Mason Drive
Arlington VA 22204

Holiday Gifts at the Barcroft Store

There are still a few Barcroft Cookbooks left for holiday giving. This is the final printing, so get them while they are still available. There are recipes and stories about Barcroft neighbors, and pictures of the community house, 4th of July parade, and other scenes of Barcroft on the cover. And the price is right at only \$10.00. Proceeds benefit the Community House restoration fund. For a copy, call Barbara at 521-2080 or e-mail a request to barbara@BSCL.org. The cookbook will be delivered to you.

Arlington Public Schools maintains an informative web site at <http://www.arlington.k12.va.us> It contains school-by-school Standards of Learning Test Scores; the Annual Academic Achievement Report (comprehensive posting of all standardized test scores), and job postings, and much more

Millennium Party

Shapes Up

Yes, there will be Barcroft Millennium Party at the Community House on New Year's Eve! It will be a relaxed fun evening, and you don't need a date. Dress is informal or whatever. We will start at 8 p.m. for those with kids, or later if you want. Kids can bunk out on the stage if they bring sleeping bags. Bring a pot luck snack in a serving container, and whatever you intend to drink. There will be a mix of live music from anybody who brings an instrument or voice and recorded music from ace Barcroft DJ Jeff Green, who has over 5,000 actual vinyl records and some new stuff too, but promises not to drown out conversation. At midnight we will ring bells, so bring whatever you have to ring. We have to clean up afterward for the party who rented the Community House for the 1st. The price is right--free. There may have to be a cutoff, so call Peg Lefebvre to reserve now at 521-0184 or email her at garynpeg@netkconnect.net.

There will be a final meeting of the Steering Committee on Monday, December 13th at 7:30 PM at Barbara and Randy Swart's house, 4611 7th St. S. Call them at 521-2080 or email millparty@BSCL.org if you have questions

Barcroft Exchange

For Sale: General Electric washer and dryer, standard extra-large capacity, in excellent condition (can't be more than a

couple years old, belonged to Miss Betty Handy). \$350.00 for the pair. Twin bed mattress only (no box spring), very firm, hardly used. \$30.00. Three (3) off-white enamel-coated metal radiator covers, different sizes, fair-to-good condition, \$25.00 each. Please call Sara or Gary at 685-2827.

Wanted: Nanny for our sweet 12-month old baby girl. Nanny is needed 4 days per week, Tuesday-Friday, with occasional additional hours and occasional care for our 3 1/2 year old son. Must be a non-smoker and have own transportation to and from our house. The position is available immediately. Thanks! Betsy Howes-Bean and Chuck Bean. Home: 703/553-4093. Work: 202/452-3096. Email Betsy: Betsy.Howes-Bean@frb.gov Email Chuck: c.bean@mindspring.com

Position Wanted: Nanny available, 10 years experience, legal, drives own car, speaks English. Worked for Margaret and Craig Brown. Call Alba at 703-824-0435.

Craft Items needed for Arlington Community Outreach

The Arlington Community Outreach workers are working with groups of adults and kids weekly and are looking for donated materials to do projects with. If you think you have craft materials you think they might use call Ginger Geoffrey, a volunteer with Arlington Community Outreach at (703) 243-7181 to see if your craft materials could find a new home and use!

New Demeter House Era Begins: BSCL Makes Demeter Residents Honorary Members

At its November meeting the Barcroft School and Civic League discussed its relationship with Demeter House, a large group house in the neighborhood. The occasion was our preparation for a County Board hearing on renewal of the use permit granted to Vanguard Services for the program.

We have documented on other pages the long battle over the initial decision to place this large program in a residential house on a quiet Barcroft street. When the County Board decided to grant the use permit, several families around the site chose to move out of the neighborhood. Given their bitterness, the decision to leave was not unreasonable, although it left behind a bad taste for the harshness of the adjustment process, and dampened any enthusiasm for early acceptance of the program.

In the interim three years, Vanguard used the house for some time as a dormitory for men from the Phoenix program who attended program activities elsewhere during the day. There was no neighborhood friction from that usage. Then in the spring of 1999 the program was finally moved to the house from its former inadequate location.

Our neighborhood liaison committee, headed by Daphne Miller, has maintained close contact with Vanguard during the

interim period, and now is keeping a watchful eye on the operation of the program. There are 29 special requirements in the Vanguard use permit, ranging from a limit of 18 clients to how the trash is to be handled. The close observation of those special requirements is the key to having the program fit in our neighborhood.

At this meeting of the BSCL the program received a good report card. The only recorded complaints have been about one speeding van driver, spillage of trash from over-laden trash cans on pickup day and weeds in the yard. (Loud music that had sparked another complaint on one occasion turned out to be from another house.) The general tone of the Barcrofters present was wary due to only six months experience, but approving of the way the program is being run to date.

The BSCL adopted unanimously a motion to report our good experience to the County Board but ask for another review of the use permit in six months as we continue to monitor the program closely.

The BSCL also adopted a motion to grant honorary membership to the 18 Demeter House residents. We expressed a hope that we can develop closer communication with the residents and be part of their rehab program. We invited them to come to our Christmas Program in December (and all other programs), and the Vanguard staff intends to organize a caroling stroll through the neighborhood with Demeter residents and Barcrofters as Christmas approaches. A number of Barcrofters have already volunteered to help out at

Barcroft Votes

Barcroft turned out more than 40% of our votes for the last election in this century, with 758 voters and 16 absentee ballots. That was much better than the 34% county-wide, and beat all but four other precincts. Your vote ensures that the neighborhood will be heard!

The heaviest hour was 7 to 8 a.m. (105 voters) and the lightest turnout was during the rain from noon to 4 (about 30 per hour). More than half of us (404) had voted by noon.

For County Board, Paul Ferguson (D) won 432 votes, followed by Mike Lane (R) with 386, Charles Monroe (D) with 379 and Frances Finta (R) with 212. Ferguson and Monroe won Countywide. For School Board, David Foster won Barcroft with 374 votes to Sharon Davis's 350, reflecting the countywide result. For State Senate, Mary Margaret Whipple won 496 of our votes, with Scott Tate receiving 223. Others were uncontested, including Barcrofter Karen Darner with 586 votes as our State Assemblyman, and Barcrofter Dick Trodden with 607 votes as Commonwealth's Attorney.

Our election officials this year included long-term Barcrofter Elizabeth Call, and newly arrived Barcrofter Michael Collier as Precinct Chief. Mike did a great job of keeping the proceedings well organized, and will be an asset to the neighborhood. You can be an election official next year, and it pays \$85 for the long day. Call the Registrar at 228-3456 for details.

Barcroft School Needs New Playground

Barcroft Elementary School needs a new playground! With current enrollment approaching 550 students, a hundred or more children are outside during any given recess -- more than the existing equipment was designed to serve safely.

For several years, Principal Miriam Hughey-Guy has asked the school system to expand or replace the current play equipment, but her request has been denied. Now she and the Barcroft PTA are trying to move ahead with this project as best they can.

Ms. Hughey-Guy is looking for parents -- or anyone in the community who is interested -- to serve on a committee that will look over various designs and vendor proposals and make recommendations for funding this project. There are community grants that Barcroft might be able to obtain; it's also possible the school system would look more favorably on Ms. Hughey-Guy's next funding request if neighborhood support is strong.

Barcroft parent Lander Allin, who helped Alcova Park gain funding for the playground renovation that will be carried out next year, is on the Barcroft committee, but more volunteers are needed. Anyone who wishes to serve on this committee should call Ms. Hughey-Guy at 228- 5838, or Eileen Putman at 892-1090 (email: eileenput@aol.com).

December Events December Events December Events

Thursday, December 2 ⇒ **BSCL Meeting**, “Demeter House Drug Rehabilitation Center,” Barcroft Community House, 800 South Buchanan St., 7:30 p.m.

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

Monday, December 13 ⇒ **Millennium Party Planning**, 4611 7th St. S, 7:30 p.m. Call Barbara or Randy Swart, 521-2080, for more information.

December 3, 10, 17 ⇒ **Parent-Child Play Group**, call Michelle Herwig, 920-8110 (rmherwig@erols.com) 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