

Barcroft News

December 2007

Vol 105, Issue 4

President's Report

by Heidi Wicker.

Please join your neighbors on Thursday, December 6, at the Community House at 7:00 pm (note new, earlier time this year) for an evening filled with cheer to usher in the holiday season. We will have stories, music and, if we're very good, possibly a visitor all the way from the North Pole! Drinks and snacks to share would be greatly appreciated.

At our October community meeting, the BSCL hosted a well-attended and spirited candidate's debate, gamely organized by our Vice President Bryant Monroe. Kudos Bryant for the great turnout!

We also provided an update on the efforts of the Arlington police to curb illegal activity at Columbia Pike and Four Mile Run. Our police precinct captain, Michelle Nuneville, reported that there was a county-wide effort to educate vendors on the county's vending laws from October 15-November 15, with increased enforcement efforts starting November 15. They are also working with the Northern Virginia Park Authority to obtain more enforcement powers along the trail for Arlington police.

In addition, our fellow surrounding neighborhoods are working to schedule a meeting with a variety of county officials in the next few weeks to discuss the illegal vending and other issues (code enforcement, public drinking, littering, traffic obstruction, etc.) facing the Columbia Pike/Four Mile Run area.

I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe holiday season, and hope to see you at the holiday party on December 6!

2007 Holiday Get Together featuring live music by the Barcroft Holiday Band



Thursday, December 6 at 7:00 PM

Note the Farlier Start Time!!

Please bring a refreshment to share.

Hope to see you all there!

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Deadlines: 14h (ads) or 15th (news/editorial material) day of the month preceding the issue month.

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All phone numbers are area code 703.

Keep up with events by joining the Barcroft chat group and news list.

Go to: www.bscl.org.

Classifieds

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BSCLMEMBERSHIP

Is your membership current?

A new membership year started in September. The form you need is available at BSCL.org

Thanks to those who have already sent in their dues, and for the contributions that were sent along with them - keep 'em coming!

Become a member today and receive the Barcroft News for free...



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The Holiday Season...

Is the time for good cheer, that is true.

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Thank You! Thank You!

This publication of *The Barcroft News* arrived on your door step thanks to many neighborhood volunteers.

A big **THANK YOU**

to our new publisher, Marge Miller and to our many, many distributors.

They volunteer to make sure you get a copy of this fine publication.

Selling Your House? Sell Your Schools!

Opinion By Annie Harold

Although I am not looking to purchase a house, I sometimes stumble across balloons announcing an open house. I often take a detour on my walk and find myself inside. The other browsers I encounter already know that they are an easy commute away from the nation's capitol, in the heart of a progressive, resourceful county and close to parks, bike trails and businesses. They may even know the excellent reputation of Arlington Public Schools. Still, they may not know about our wonderful neighborhood schools. They should be given the opportunity to learn about them while they consider their home purchasing options.



During a recent visit to an open house in Barcroft, a young couple asked the realtor about our neighborhood elementary school. Imagine my dismay when the second sentence describing our school was something like, "...however, you can choose almost any elementary school in Arlington." She mentioned the proximity of Barrett Elementary and continued to extol the virtues of Washington and Lee High School.

I didn't have to look at the young couple's faces to know the message they received about our schools.

If you are selling your home, be sure that your agent is aware to the great things happening in our neighborhood schools. Encourage them to visit the schools or to contact the parents in the local PTAs. Quiz them! Don't hire them unless they have done their homework.

It is important to our community that we communicate the strengths of our schools. It is important to your sale that potential buyers know that they have an excellent choice for education here in our neighborhood.

On the way out, I noticed that the realtor displayed past copies of *The Barcroft News*. I was almost certain she had not read the contents. If she had, she might have known of some the recent accomplishments of our neighborhood schools.

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SATURDAY, Dec. 8

Barcroft Elementary School

9am to Noon

Parents are invited to bring their children to Barcroft and let them do a little holiday shopping on their own. The Multi-purpose Room will be transformed into a shop full of affordable items. Parents send children in with money and a shopping

In Memory of Phyl Kinsey

Phyllis Kinsey, a Barcrofter since the early 50's, passed away on November 9, 2007.

Phyl and her husband Bill, who died some years ago, raised son Perrin and daughter Pennie in the house on 7th St they bought from the builders, Walter and Robert O'Hara, in the early 1950's. They spent some years in a country house in King George, but Phyl returned to Barcroft in the 1990's where she was cared for by Pennie in her final years.

Phyl had been President of the BSCL in 1979, and was active for many years in the association.

Phyl helped to organize the successful effort to preserve our park on Arlington Hall, handing out big colored B's to the many who turned out for the decisive County Board meeting. She was such a sweet person and so trustworthy that some wore their B into the County Board room who had come for other issues. She attended BSCL meetings up until this fall.

Barcroft will miss one of our neighborhood characters.

Secret Holiday Shop for the Little Ones

list for parents, grandparents, siblings etc. where they will be assisted by adult volunteers.

Parents visit in the music room and enjoy warm beverages, yummy snacks and soothing music while the younger set shops.

Inside the shop there will be many helpers to guide your child through the choosing process, paying and having the presents wrapped. They will enjoy a new confidence in being able to surprise those they love.

Arlington Arts Center

The Arlington Arts Center will hold a reception on Friday, December 7 from 6 to 9 pm to celebrate the openings of HOPE AND FEAR and WINTER SOLOS 2007. The reception will include a performance at 6 pm of a new work by Lucy Bowen McCauley of Bowen McCauley Dance.

HOPE AND FEAR

Curated by artist and former AAC curator Carol Lukitsch, HOPE AND FEAR features eight area artists whose paintings, sculpture, prints and drawings explore their hopes and fears. A dream-like quality unifies the predominately figurative works in this exhibition, as does a deep concern for the environment and the quality of human life.

WINTER SOLOS

Jennifer Levonian is working on short animations which address her continued interest in examining narrative clichés about love, romance, and the transience of life.

Joe Mannino's large ceramic hand sculpture graced the grounds of AAC for several years. In his Winter Solos installation, the hand theme reappears in more large sculptures; he will be showing large photographs as well.

Young Kim's installation at the Arlington Arts Center consists of 10 life-size portraits made of granular salt and red clay powder composed on the gallery floor. These ephemeral works, swept away at the end of the exhibit, serve as meditations on time, memory and the human condition.

NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL NEWS

Barcroft Elementary School

Students at Barcroft Elementary School spent a recent Friday night enjoying pizza and cheering for the Washington Wizard's professional basketball team. More preciously, the school was cheering loudly for every point scored by player Gilbert Arenas against the Boston Celtics that evening.

Why the sudden interest in Mr. Arenas?! He and the team owner, Abe Pollin, started a program called "Gilbert Scores For Schools". Mr. Arenas pays a school \$100 for every point he scores at home games; Mr. Pollin pays \$100 for each point Mr. Arenas scores on the road. Barcroft entered a lottery for this program which was featured on the front page of *The Washington Post*, Oct. 30.

The students and parents had a lot to cheer about during the game. Barcroft Elementary will receive \$2,100 to support technology, athletics and/or nutrition/health programs thanks to "Gilbert Scores For Schools"!

Kenmore Middle School

Kenmore presented *User-friendly Independent Study for Middle School Students* at the Virginia Association of the Gifted (VAG) conference held in Williamsburg, Va., Oct. 25-27.

Wakefield High School

ABC7 meteorologist, Brian van de Graaff recently came to Wakefield and spoke to students in Kimberly Warschaw's earth science and AP environmental science classes. He covered a wide range of weather-related topics including how meteorologists forecast the weather, what it is like behind the scenes at a television studio, and how he first got started in the business.

Hablo Espanol?!

Hablo Espanol? If you are a student at Barcroft Elementary School, you will soon answer with a confident – Si!

Barcroft Elementary School started a Spanish program for all students known as FLES or Foreign Language in the Elementary School. Barcroft implements a sequential FLES model, in which language skills are developed systematically, beginning in Kindergarten and continuing through 5th grade. Students receive from 120 to 135 minutes of instruction weekly.

Many students come to Barcroft with an excellent understanding of Spanish because it is the primary language in their home. Instruction is differentiated in content and process for students who are native speakers of Spanish. These students study the same themes as their non-Spanish speaking classmates, but the activities planned for them offer enrichment and acceleration that furthers their proficiency in Spanish.

The expectations for students learning Spanish as a second language, who complete the K-5 FLES sequence, are to attain the novice-mid to novice-high level as described in the performance guidelines of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. At a novice-mid level, the student can engage in simple conversations, can speak and write

short sentences and can read and understand brief text, among other skills. Fluent speakers of Spanish at Barcroft will continue to develop literacy skills commensurate with the expectations of Arlington's Spanish for Fluent Speakers (level 1) program.

Students in the FLES Program learn Spanish by focusing on the functional aspect of the language. Thus, students develop vocabulary and structures that allow them to communicate about themselves, their world and their needs. FLES teachers incorporate a variety of strategies that are appropriate for students' age and learning styles. Some of the teaching activities in the FLES classroom include singing, reciting poems, performing skits, etc.

The FLES curriculum in Arlington reinforces other subjects through Spanish. For example, students in Kindergarten practice math skills by counting by 2s and by 10s or by making a bar graph of the students' favorite colors.

Students' language development is assessed formally twice a year.

For more questions about the FLES program, please contact the foreign language office at (703) 228-6096 or Barcroft Elementary School principal, Mrs. Hughey-Guy at (703) 228-5838.

CELEBRATE. VISIT. SING. EAT. ENJOY.

BSCL HOLIDAY PARTY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6 7:00 PM

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Sunday, December 16: 4:00 PM: Children's Christmas pageant followed by 5:00 PM pizza and sing-along in our common room. All are welcome!

Sunday, December 23: Community caroling. Gather at 5:00 PM at the church to sing traditional Christmas carols along the streets of Glencarlyn. Bring a flashlight and dress

warmly. Songbooks provided.

Monday, December 24: Christmas Eve services: 5:00 PM Holy Eucharist for all ages with

children's message; 10:45 PM Christmas music and caroling.; 11:00 PM Festival Holy Eucharist.

Tuesday, December 25: Christmas Day: 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist.

Sunday, December 30: 10:00 AM Lessons and carols.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:5

Big Changes Planned for Arlington Mill Community Center

A Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) has met twice to review the proposed redevelopment of the Arlington Mill Community Center. The third and last meeting will be held on *December 10, at 7:00 pm, at 2100 Clarendon Boulevard.* Items to be covered at this meeting include: Building Architecture (including LEED assessment); Open Space; Affordable Housing; Public Art/Cultural Amenitics; Signage; Construction Issues; and FBC Compliance.

BACKGROUND: The Arlington Mill Community Center is located at 4975 Columbia Pike, is County-owned and has been in use as a community center for approximately 10 years. The building was previously used as a grocery store. In May 2007, the County selected a preferred develop-

ment team to pursue a public-private partnership for this development. Since that time, the County, with assistance from the Arlington Mill Steering Committee, has been advancing conceptual redevelopment plans to meet the preferred vision and program outlined for this site.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: The project is a public/private and FBC project that is going through a community review process. Several technical adjustments to the FBC are proposed in order to facilitate the use of this tool. Two buildings are proposed, separated by a pedestrian alley. To the south of the alley, an app. 90,000 sf mixeduse building facing Columbia Pike will include ground-floor retail, community center uses and upper-story residential units. *(continued on page 9)*

Spooky Stoops Contest Winners

Were you creeping around in the dark on October 31st with the other ghosts, goblins, Obi Wan Kenobes and Pocahontases? If so, you probably noticed some super spooky stoops as you strolled. The *Barcroft Spooky Stoop Contest* judges were out as well. Below are descriptions of the spookiest stoops they found.

At 4508 S. 8th St......Ghouls were greeted with smoke, skeletons. Lit pumpkins were overhead and ghosts were flying in the tree. On the porch, a gentleman in a cowboy hat sat silently with a big bowl full of candy sure to please the young tricker-treaters.

The judges had a difficult time finding 4420 S. 1st Street because it was covered with spiders. A big and purple arachnid covered much of the front yard. Black and furry creatures infested the tree which was obscured by their webs.

Traveling down S. 4th Street and you couldn't miss 4649. Dancing skeletons, smoke, a ghoul dressed for bed caught the judges' eyes. Upon closer examination they noticed a skull with snakes coming out of his head and many tombstones. A portrait of a long since departed friend rested on a tree. A trick or treat sign in the tree beckoned unsuspecting guests.

At 4628 S. 2nd Street, the rock garden was decorated in spooky style. A ghoul coming out of his grave greeted our brave judges. They dared to enter the garden and found bats flying overhead, spider webs a plenty and human limbs without owners. This young contest participant spared none on the blood or the life size haunts. Live raccoons added another level of intrigue.

With all these spooky stoops in Barcroft, 800 S. Wakefield was the unanimous choice for first place this year. Despite original costume ideas, young people posed as witches and goblins behind life size cut outs made for Halloween photo memories. The judges were impressed by the homeowners tenacity when the paint on the tombstones

washed away in a rare rainstorm but were repainted in time for the big event. The pumpkins that lined the porch each had different expressions, wide mouths with and without teeth. The clincher for this home was their treat – glow bracelets gave our children better visibility and a safer path after the visited this award winning home.

Thanks to all the homes that participated in this year's contest. It was a fun and scary time in Barcroft!

<u> Arlington Mill (continued)</u>

A gymnasium wing stems from the main building and frames one side of a public plaza. To the north of the alley, a residential building (app. 175,000 sf) faces Dinwiddie Street. Approximately 30% of the total residential units throughout the project are proposed as affordable housing at approximately 60% of the area median income levels. In addition, the proposal seeks to attain a LEED Gold level rating for the mixed-use community center and a LEED Certified level for the residential building.

Some key elements for consideration for Barcroft residents include:

- The concept plan includes approximately 345 total parking spaces in a multi-level, belowgrade parking garage.
- The mixed-use community center building is six stories above Dinwiddie Street and Columbia Pike, while the residential building north of the alley is five stories above Dinwiddie Street.
- The current proposal is to close Arlington Mill Drive for all vehicular traffic except for emergency vehicles from Columbia Pike to just behind the proposed residential building
- The public plaza will extend from the community center along Columbia Pike to the park.

A Remarkable Leader at Wakefield High School

Wakefield High School principal Doris Jackson has been named the Arlington Public Schools 2007 Principal of the Year and winner of The Washington Posts Distinguished Educational Leadership Award for Arlington.

"Doris is a highly effective, respected, and charismatic leader. Her unwavering focus on instructional results, and her commitment to the belief that all of her students can learn and achieve at high levels have accompanied her work as an outstanding principal," said Superintendent Dr. Robert Smith.

A native of Washington, D.C., Jackson received her bachelor's degree in English from the District of Columbia Teachers College in 1968 and a Master of Arts in Teaching with an emphasis in guidance and counseling from Trinity College in 1973.

She began her career teaching high school English in the D.C. Public Schools in 1968. Jackson was with DCPS for 22 years as a peer teacher and a school counselor at the elementary, junior high and high school levels.

In 1990, Jackson joined the Arlington Public Schools as the director of counseling at Wakefield and served in that capacity until 1998 when she was named assistant principal. Jackson was named principal of Wakefield in 2002.

In her years at Wakefield, Jackson has provided leadership to three very successful programs: the AP Network which affords students the opportunity to take college - level courses in high school and receive credit; the Foundation for Academic Success for ninth graders, which is designed to prepare students for success in the intellectual, social, and physical domains of adulthood; and the Cohort Program for Minority Males, a group that recognizes the needs of college-bound African-American and Hispanic males that keeps them on the path to higher education.

Under Jackson's leadership, Wakefield was presented with the 2006 Inspiration Award by the College Board as one of three schools in the country recognized for outstanding work with diverse populations. Additionally, it is one of the Washington areas top high schools and consistently scores high in The Washington Posts Challenge Index and has made Adequate Yearly Progress in four of her five years as principal.

"Ms. Jackson never fails to credit the teachers, students and parents for all that we have achieved," said assistant principal Chris Willmore.

"Her relationship with the students is amazing," said Science department chair Maria Johnson. "She knows almost all of their names. As she walks the halls she often has conversations with multiple students just keeping up with their lives and letting them know that not only does she remember them, but she cares about them and is sincerely interested in their lives," she added.

Jackson has been recognized several times for the work she has done in education and the community. In 1990, she was selected to participate in the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund (JFMF) Teacher Program. Jackson spent three weeks in Japan where she met with teachers and administrators and worked with students. In 2007, Jackson was one of five principals from across the country that was featured in the *Newsweek* magazine article "The Principal Principle". This past September, Jackson's work in the Arlington community was recognized by the Arlington NAACP, which awarded her its 2007 Outstanding Community Citizen Award.

Jackson is one of 18 principals in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area who will receive the Distinguished Educational Leadership Award from The Washington Post. She will be honored at The Post on Nov. 28 and by the Arlington School Board at their meeting on Nov. 29.

Barcroft Elementary Winter Concert

Friday, December 14 Barcroft Elementary School 2 PM

Assembly will showcase the 4th and 5th grade instrumental students and the choruses in winter-time music.

Come and join your youthful neighbors for an afternoon musical celebration of winter. Bring those future Barcroft students who may live in your house!





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

Changes in the Virginia Recording Tax

Buying buy or selling a home has recording fees that county, city, and state governments charge. In Virginia a bill effective in July of 2007 said that the recording fees have to be collected on the <u>assessed value</u> of properties if the assessed valued is higher than the sales price. For sellers it is the current grantor's tax of \$1.00 \$1,000.00 of value will equals the higher of assessed value or the sales price. For buyers it is the County & State tax stamps for the Deed, \$3.34/\$1,000.00 of the sales price or the assessed value, whichever is higher.

The clerks are authorized to collect the tax stamps and the grantors tax on either the sales price or the property assessment. With so many houses now being sold below the assessed value the clerks have begun paying attention to this. Obviously, since it generates more income for the state and county, they are more intent on collecting the highest amount.

Also, the <u>grantors tax</u> is increasing from <u>\$1</u> per thousand to \$5 per thousand, effective Jan. <u>1.2008</u>. This will be on anything recorded on or after Jan. 1, even if it closes earlier.

Big Changes for VA Loans

VA recently announced that they will provide financing for eligible military personnel with loan amounts up to \$1,000,000.

This is a bold and impressive step for VA and of course requires a deeper understanding of these changes. VA loans are still limited to \$417,000 for 100% financing. However, with a calculated down payment VA will now fund loans for up to \$1,000,000 and they will allow you to add the VA funding fee on top of the maximum loan amount calculation (this is brand new for the VA).

Contact me for further details, and I can refer you to some competent mortgage professionals who can answer specifics on this program.

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