

May 2011

# Barcroft News

Vol 108, Issue 9

## May BSCL President's Report

By *Bryant Monroe*

Please join us for the May BSCL meeting. State Delegate **Patrick Hope** will be our special guest. He'll be joined by his Legislative Assistant Mary Dooley, and will discuss the soon-to-end 2011 legislative session. He will be answering questions and listening to your concerns. While the State is not a direct player in the growth of the National Guard Bureau and the State Department facilities on George Mason Drive, he is prepared to offer his help as we wrestle with this growth. Please come early, as he'll need to conclude his visit soon after 8:00 PM.

We also hear from **Elizabeth Kiker**, Chair of the Barcroft Parks Committee to catch us up on plans for the park at the corner of Columbia Pike and Four Mile Run. This committee has done a great job working with Arlington County staff, and the new park promises to add a very popular feature to our piece of the W&OD trail. Thanks to Elizabeth and her colleagues for their hard work.

The April meeting was a nice chance to meet Kirsten Buhls, a master gardener who works with the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service. There were free seed packets for all, and great discussion of gardening tips from Ms. Buhl and our own expert Barcroft gardeners. Thanks Kirsten!

May is your last chance to join the leadership team at BSCL, we **elect new officers at our June meeting**. Our community needs your help as we work on a wide range of issues. As you know in recent months we've worked on important concerns with the fire on 8<sup>th</sup> Road, the development of Buchanan Gardens, and the growth of the Guard Bureau and State Department. Barcroft has a very strong reputation for being involved and ready to engage, and your help will keep us at this high level. Please consider taking a turn as an active participant.

**I look forward to seeing you at the BSCL Meeting on Thursday May 5 at 7:30 PM.**

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**News Deadline:** 15th day of the month preceding the issue month.

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*Fundraising* Chris Ditta

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*Traffic Committee* Heidi Wicker

*4th of July Parade* Andrew Hunter, 979-8247

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*Crime* **vacant**

*Parks* Elizabeth Kiker  
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*Parking Committee* **vacant**

*Volunteers* **vacant**  
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**Arlington County Civic Federation**

*Delegates* Eric Harold, Randy Swart,  
 Pat Williamson, Jim Kerr

*Alternates* Karen Darner, David Michelson,  
 Elaine Squeri, Mark Wigfield

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**Neighbor to Neighbor Ads**

**FOR SALE:** Retiring teacher selling teaching materials and books for all ages. Please contact Teresa at 703-685-4335.

**Lawn Mowing** - Spring, Summer and Fall - call Bou or Moussa at 703-521-1953

**Mother's Helper** —6th grader would love to do any odd jobs you can think of! Rebecca Bean 703-553-4093  
 beccab50@gmail.com

**Mother's Helper and Pet Sitter** - 6th grader, (includes: taking out trash and watering plants) Call Tyler LaPointe at 703-979-1083 or 703-585-8507

**Vacation-related help**—Responsible teen can water plants, bring in the paper and mail, care for pets, mow lawn, handle trash cans, etc. Dylan Vega 703-271-5987  
 dylanvega@gmail.com

**Alexandra's Babysitting** - teen available week nights and weekends. Alexandra @ 703-892-6712

**Babysitter** - 11th grader available after school and weekends. Please call Jenna at 703-685-1071

**Teenage Babysitter** - Week nights and weekends: Sarah @ 703-521-8756

**Babysitter:** Red Cross certified 11th grader available. Call Abby at 703-892-1090

**Babysitter** --6th grader , Red Cross certified. Jenny Claire 703-998-5338

**Rebekah's Pet Care** (walking, feeding, sitting) 703-521-8756.

**Yard Work:** Teen available for mowing, raking and other yard work. Call Thomas at 703-979-5838

**Babysitter:** 16 year old for evenings and weekends. Call Allison 703-979-5838

**Ongoing Need:** Baby items, books, educational toys, household items etc for the Even Start Program at Barcroft School. Call Jenny Lindenauer at 703-228-8846 or email: jennifer\_lindenauer@apsva.us

**Barcroft Community Playgroup** 9:30-11:30am Friday mornings at the Community House. Contact **Jenny Ditta** [chrisnjenny4@comcast.net](mailto:chrisnjenny4@comcast.net) or **Jason Kiker** [jkiker@gmail.com](mailto:jkiker@gmail.com), or just stop by!

**Wanted:** Stories and ideas for the Barcroft News. Contact Kathy Kerr 703-892-6458 or email: kathykerr@gmail.com

## 4th of JULY



Mark your calendar and spread the word to enjoy one of **Barcroft's** signature events. This year's 23rd annual **4th of July parade** will start in front of the Community House at 10 AM sharp. Rain or

shine — although in 23 years we have only had rain once!

In past parades we have had space shuttle floats, Ukrainian dancers, Chinese dragons, lawnmower precision drill teams, astronauts, boy scouts, girl scouts, bagpipers, swimming pools on wheels, hula dancers, aerobic dancers, folk dancers, fiddlers and always the perennials: Uncle Sam, tons of kids on their bikes and floats, patriotic pets, the Barcroft Marching Band, the Virginia National Guard or US Marines Color Guard, police motorcycles and the ever popular fire truck bringing up the rear. You just never know who will show up!

Preparations are underway. This year Eric Energy, a premier science entertainer will be on hand to thrill and educate the young and old in the Community House after the parade and during the picnic. Bring a dish for the picnic, build a float, ride a bike, march in the parade, dazzle the neighborhood with your talent, or just enjoy watching on the sidelines!

To join the Barcroft Marching Band call **Melissa Bishop** at 703-379-7537. If you have any other questions please call **Andrew Hunter** at 703-979-8247.

## Dog Poop

Let's see now. What inspires more ire in the neighborhood than finding dog poop in your yard, on the sidewalk or in the street? Word is from neighbors throughout Barcroft that there



seems to be even more than usual being spotted. Thank you to the many regular dog walkers who carry those all important and neighborly plastic bags with them. Poo on those who don't. Word is that it may be hired dog walkers who are not cleaning up the problem. If you hire dog-walkers, please be sure to provide them with plastic bags. There are neighbors who would gladly collect and provide bags (such as from newspapers or the grocery store) to anyone who needs them.

## New Police Coverage

*From Randy Swart*

**Captain Nuneville** is moving to another command as of April 24. She has been a tremendous asset to us as our District Commander, with her dedication, competence and depth of understanding of the community issues and concerns. We can all look forward to meeting **Captain Brett Butler** as he takes over this key post.



## Upgraded Park Nears Final Approval

by *Elizabeth Kiker*

Arlington staff members recently unveiled the final drawing of the park at the north corner of Columbia Pike and Four Mile Run. The Barcroft Parks Committee is thrilled with the plan, and will present it for neighborhood approval at the next BSCL meeting, May 5. Assuming the BSCL approves, construction will begin next Spring.

To see the plan, visit:

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/parksrecreation/documents/file81166.pdf>

There are many great features, from a re-alignment of the W&OD at Columbia Pike crossing to some innovative places for children to play. There will also be a meadow and a rain garden, both featuring native plants. Adults will find great spaces to relax and meet up, and parents can teach children how to ride a bike on a loop that will be marked and signed for a practice trail.

If you have any questions, contact me at [elizabeth.kiker@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.kiker@gmail.com). I look forward to hearing from you.



## Barcroft Volunteer Honored

Barcrofter **Joan Mulholland** was recently named as a 2011 Arlington Public Schools Honored Citizen. A Civil Rights activist and Freedom Rider, Joan shared her time and experiences with Barcroft School over 5 years. She regularly speaks to classes about her involvement in the Civil Rights movement, sharing her photographs and personal archives. She is also a regular participant in special events such as African American Read-In Day.

A volunteer in the Even Start program, she helps children and adults learn English, and every Tuesday morning can be found in the Barcroft Library shelving books. She has donated objects from her extensive travels for the school to display and use as teaching tools.

## Irish Music Sessions

For years Barcroft musicians **Steve Wilson** (flute) and **Maureen Locke** (guitar and bodhran) have enjoyed playing music at informal Irish sessions throughout the DC area. Now they don't have to travel far. Every Sunday 12-3 PM you can tap your toes to a live Irish music session at P. Brennan's Pub at 2910 Columbia Pike near Walter Reed. P. Brennan's recently celebrated their one year anniversary. Bring the family any time for great food and, frequently, live music.



## Buchanan Gardens Rehab

By **Randy Swart**

The Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing held a very informative briefing for Barcrofters on April 6. They are redeveloping Buchanan Gardens apartments on the hill where Buchanan St. meets Columbia Pike.

It was evident that APAH and its contractors have spent a lot of planning time attempting to reduce the impact of the construction on the neighborhood. They are renting a parking lot for their workers' cars, and they will keep the apartment parking open in evenings even when they excavate it for new utility lines. Trucks will enter and exit via Columbia Pike, not through the neighborhood, but you can expect some congestion on the Buchanan St. hill as they widen the sidewalks. They may be able to screen the temporary construction trailers from the park, and will be pulling back somewhat the existing fence that encroaches into the park after construction is finished in late 2012. They will adhere to Arlington rules on construction noise, and will not be driving pilings and shaking houses as the Arlington Mill construction is now doing. Residents will be moved between buildings as the construction progresses.

Find documents from the presentation on the BSCL Web page:

[www.bscl.org/apahsite.htm](http://www.bscl.org/apahsite.htm)

**Julie Rotherham** has volunteered to chair the liaison group that will keep touch with APAH during the construction period. Contact her at: [julielusher@yahoo.com](mailto:julielusher@yahoo.com)

## What's Happening at Barcroft Elementary—May 2011

By *Jenny Ditta*

Mondays at Barcroft include a special fitness program, Monday Mornin' Movers (MMM). Depending on the weather, we meet at the outdoor track or in the gym 8:30 – 8:50 AM.

Highlights for May include the Spring Concert, Wed., May 4, at 2 PM and 7 PM. Join us to hear the 4th and 5th Grade Chorus, School Band and Orchestra, Spanish Chorus, and other special student performances.

Staff Appreciation Week is early in May. The PTA will pamper the teachers and staff to thank them for all that they do for our kids. Parents and students will be asked to bring in special notes, cards, and/or pictures to thank their favorite staff members.

Fri. May 6 is Spring Picture Day. Both individual portraits and class portraits will be taken. Students come to school dressed to impress.

Through May 6, the PTA will host a Staples SchoolKidz School Supply Sale. Parents may pre-order school supplies for the 2011-2012 school year. If your child will start Barcroft in August 2011, and you want to participate in the sale, contact PTA Secretary, Jenny Ditta, at [chrisnjenny4@comcast.net](mailto:chrisnjenny4@comcast.net).

At an evening to be determined, Barcroft will host the Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Night Celebration. Please join us for special "Taste of Asia" cuisine, featuring a sampling of restaurant dishes and home-made specialties as well as wonderful family entertainment. All are welcome!

May is the month for standardized testing. Grades 3-5 will take the VA Standards of Learning (SOLs). The PTA supports the students with healthy snacks on testing days.

On Monday May 16, the Barcroft PTA will host a fundraiser at P. Brennan's Irish Pub and Restaurant, 2910 Columbia Pike (at the intersection of S. Walter Reed). Eat-in or take-out between 4:30 – 10:30 PM and 15% will be donated to the PTA. Enjoy a variety of fabulous entrees -- including Irish pub favorites with a sophisticated twist -- and an affordable kids' menu. Want to see a menu? Go to: [www.pbrennans.com/menus/dinner/](http://www.pbrennans.com/menus/dinner/). Garage parking is available. Please join us for the fun!

To learn more about What's Happening at Barcroft in 2011, go to: [ww.apsva.us/15452010312423667/site/default.asp](http://ww.apsva.us/15452010312423667/site/default.asp).

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**Do you have a rising Kindergartner** who will start at Barcroft in the Fall? **Julie Rotherham** is organizing some playground playgroups this summer so the kids can get to know each other.

Contact Julie at: [julielusher@yahoo.com](mailto:julielusher@yahoo.com)



### Kenmore Middle School

Kenmore PTA sponsors screening of the film "Race to Nowhere" — a call to action for families, educators, and policy makers to challenge current assumptions on how to best prepare the youth of America to become healthy, bright, contributing and leading citizens. Thurs, May 19 at 6:45 PM. Tickets \$10 in advance /\$15 at the door

### Wakefield High School

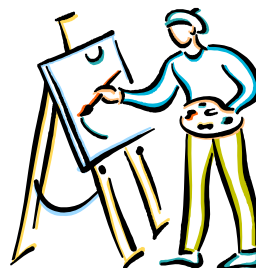
The Wakefield Jazz Messengers will perform at a Jazz Coffee House on April 29, 7:30 PM in the cafeteria. Also on the program, Urban Buffalo (Gunston band director, Matt Rinker's group.). Admission \$5.00; kids 12 and under free. Refreshments will be served.

\*\*\*\*\*

A "Parent Prom" fundraiser will be Sat. April 30th 7-10 PM at Wakefield. All proceeds benefit the senior class graduation activities fund. Music by "The Old Kids on the Block" playing your favorite rock 'n roll, oldies, pop and classic tunes. Tickets: \$20/person, \$35/couple. For info call 571-236-5359

\*\*\*\*\*

Wakefield will hold its Third Annual "Scholarship for the Arts" event on Thurs. May 26 at 6 PM with a Silent Auction. Student, staff and community art, photos, and sculpture pieces will be auctioned off! Music and dance performances from 7 -9 PM. Light refreshments will be served. Donations are greatly appreciated. For info, call 703-228-6711.



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## A Barcroft Brigadier General

by *Jim Perlmutter*

**John H. H. Turner, III**, son of **Lila Lane** and the late **Jack Turner** of South 4<sup>th</sup> St. S, was recently promoted to the rank of Brigadier General in the US Army Reserves. The ceremony was held on January 22, 2011, in Houston, Texas, where John is the Deputy Commanding General of the 75<sup>th</sup> Battle Command Training Division.

John attended Wakefield High School and graduated from the United States Military Academy. In addition he holds Masters degrees from the University of North Carolina and the US Army War College. He was also a Fellow at the National Security Management School, Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

After graduating from West Point John completed Airborne and Ranger training and

served in progressive command and staff assignments in Germany, Ft Knox, KY, and as a professor of history at West Point. During Operation Desert Storm John served both in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. John transitioned from active duty to the US Army Reserves where again he continued to hold successive positions of increased responsibilities. John also was activated for ten months in 2004.

John and his wife MaryAnne Sirotko-Turner live and work in Atlanta, Georgia, where he is the Director, Division of Community Engagement at the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention. In attendance at the ceremony, in addition to Lane, were John's brother, Nathan, a VMI graduate and Desert Storm Veteran, and his sister Amy Johnson and their families.

## Barcroft Tree Stewards in the Washington Post

On Sat, April 9, the Washington Post ran an article "Earlier Blooms Give Flower Lovers a Chill." It talked about plants and trees that are blooming earlier than they used to, and how that affects wildlife. For example the cherry blossoms along the Tidal Basin are blooming 6-9 days earlier than they did in the 1970s. The article included a photo of Barcrofters **Elizabeth Rives** and **Alison Willocks** who serve as tree stewards for our neighborhood. They have organized tree giveaways in the

neighborhood, and Elizabeth presented a workshop "Right Tree, Right Place" on trees that do well in Barcroft.



## Barcroft Peace Corps Volunteers

This year the Peace Corps is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Barcroft is now the home of quite a few former Peace Corp volunteers and probably some current ones as well! Here are a few of their stories.

**Teresa Saunders** and her husband **Dan Junker** volunteered in Fiji, but not at the same time. She was there from 1981 to 1983 and Dan was there from 1984 to 1987.

**Ben Harris** served in Honduras from 1994 -1996 and his wife **Jenny Lindenauer** was in Gabon from 1995-1997.

**Vern Roningen** was in Malawi, (the first group there) from 1963 to 1965.

**Karen Darner** served from 1988-1990 in Jamaica as a speech therapist with an organization that provided special education to children on the island. Most of the children did not go to any school. She also tested hearing for an ENT who agreed to help the children for free. Karen says: "I loved it all, by the way."

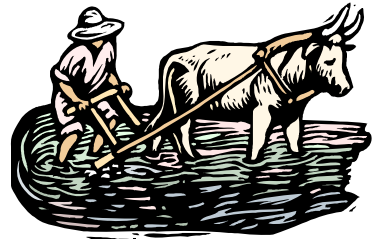
**Don McKeon** was a forester from 1974 to 1976 in Upper Volta, West Africa. It's now called Burkina Faso. He rode all over the Ouahigouya area on a small motorbike, setting up small tree plantations (mostly to provide villagers with firewood) and getting sunburned.

**Julie Rotherham** volunteered in Kyrgyzstan from 1997 – 1999. She says:

"It was an exciting time in Central Asia. My primary assignment was teaching English in a school, but I had a lot of side projects too. I ran a baseball program, taught a Saturday teacher education program for my town, facilitated the distribution of 1500 pairs of eyeglasses donated from the US and organized and ran the first ever national civics education conference for educators. Julie currently serves on the Friends of Kyrgyzstan Board.

**Andrew Hunter** served in Togo 1982-85. He was in the animal traction project, introducing oxen into the farming system: training them to plough, transport, and weed--to take the place of hand hoe technology. He worked with the local agriculture extension agents, blacksmiths and veterinary services setting up the infrastructure so farmers could adopt the technology. He did that for two years then stayed on to train new volunteers. He lived in a little village with no running water and no electricity and got around to visit the farmers riding on a 125cc dirtbike. He says: "It was a wonderful time."

*Will there perhaps be a Peace Corps contingent in the Barcroft 4th of July Parade?*



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**Columbia Pike Farmers Market**

Check out the fresh produce from local Farmers every Sunday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm in Pike Park, at the corner of S. Walter Reed Dr. and Columbia Pike.



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**Or send an email request to  
kathy@bscl.org**



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

### **Northern Virginia Market Trends**

The Northern Virginia Association of Realtors® reports on February 2011 home sales activity for Fairfax and Arlington counties, the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax & Falls Church, & towns of Vienna, Herndon and Clifton.

A total of 1,017 homes sold in February 2011, a 5.48 % decrease from 1,076 home sales in February 2010.

Active listings on the market decreased 4% from last year, with 3,495 active listings in 2/11, compared with 3,645 homes available in 2/10. The average days on market (DOM) for February 2011 increased by about 43% to 77 days, compared with 54 days in February 2010

Sales prices rose compared with those realized last year. The average sales price for homes in Northern Virginia in February increased by about 6% from February 2010 to \$441,826, compared with last February's average of \$415,369.

The number of new pending home sales in Northern Virginia in February showed an increase of about 24% at 1,640 compared to 1,326 new contracts pending in February 2010.

### **Arlington County Statistics**

comparing 2010 to 2011: Condos - Avg. Sold Price was \$365,403 in 2/10 - up 22% in 2/11 to \$445,512 Single Family Attached - Avg. Sold Price was \$526,679 in 2/10 - down 6% to \$495,908 in 2/11. Single Family Detached - Avg. Sold Price was \$667,993 in 2/10 – up 9% to \$730,872 in 2/11.

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