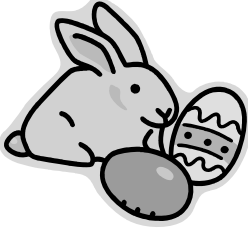


April 2012

Barcroft News

Vol 109, Issue 8



Hop on over to the Barcroft Community House for the beloved annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday April 7

10 AM—Gathering Time. Bring some breakfast treats to share

10:30 AM—Easter Egg Hunt for kids ages 0-4

10:45 AM—Easter Egg Hunt for kids ages 5 and up

- All are welcome.
- The eggs will have toys in them, and then the kids exchange the eggs they found for a (small) bag of candy.
- It's fun for the whole family, and the whole neighborhood.

**There's even a rumor that the
Easter Bunny will stop by!??**

For questions, call Elizabeth Kiker
at 202-425-0627.



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

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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

Teen Services to raise funds for People to People trip to Europe summer 2012. For a donation, will scan/print photos or consider other requests. Call Alys 703-801-9877

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 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 - 12th 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 --7th grader , Red Cross certified. Petsitting too. 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

Ongoing Need: Baby items, books, educational toys, household items etc for the Even Start Program at Barcroft School. Call Katie Costar at 703-228-8846 or email:

kathleen.costar@apsva.us

Barcroft Playgroup 9:30-11:30am Fri AMs at the Community House. **Jenny Ditta** chrisjenny4@comcast.net or **Jason Kiker** 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 Do you have an interesting neighbor she should interview? Are you interesting yourself?? Is there a new baby at your house?

President's Report by Pat Williamson

Plan to join us at **7:30pm on Thursday, April 5**, for the Barcroft regular monthly meeting. **Capt. Brett Butler, Third District Commander, ACPD**, will follow with a neighborhood crime report update and Tom Tiernan will give us updated information on the Our Savior Lutheran church plans for their School. **Elizabeth Prescott of Families USA** will provide a presentation on how to navigate the Medicare/Medicaid and new Health Reform arena. Many neighbors are dealing with caring for relatives as well as themselves and we hope this kind of information will prove helpful.

Michael Nazaretz has agreed to run for the Executive Committee member position (2015) left vacant by **Dave Peacefull's** move to Pennsylvania. If there are others interested in running for this position please let me know. We will vote on this position at the April meeting.

We are hopeful that more folks will be interested in leadership roles for BSCL. May is the month that we hold our annual elections at the regular monthly meeting which will be held on May 3. We are still seeking candidates especially for the Vice President and Recording Secretary slots. Please contact me if you are interested.

Our announced slate of candidates is:

President -- Pat Williamson
Vice-President —Eric Harold
Treasurer -- Jennifer Lis
Executive Committee Member (2016) -- Bryant Monroe

Thank you to neighbor **Fay Cheung** who has volunteered to accept appointment to the position of Membership Secretary.

What a joy it was to convene our March meeting in the beautifully renovated Community House. Master Gardeners Nancy Dowling and Henry Staples delivered a terrific presentation. So many great tips on indoor seed starting plus seed giveaways from both the Extension Office and AFAC's "Plant a Row" program. We are looking forward to a similar program next fall at our October 4 meeting featuring lawn care tips!



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Barcroft Garden Tour

The **Barcroft Garden Tour** will be
Sunday May 20, 2012

Tickets for the tour will go on sale soon!
\$10.00 for adults
Children 17 & under are free



On the back of the 'ticket' will be a map of Barcroft with numerically marked locations for each of the homes. We have a wonderful professional photographer in the neighborhood who will be taking street-view pictures of all the homes on our yard tour.

Let's make this a successful fundraising event for our Community House Restoration Project as well as a fun day strolling our neighborhood, meeting new people, and enjoying the splendors of some of the beautiful and interesting gardens of Barcroft!

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What's Happening at Barcroft Elementary

By *Jenny Ditta*

April promises to be interesting at Barcroft Elementary. **Spring Break** occurs on **April 2 – 6**. Students may enroll in **Spring Break Fit Camp** at Barcroft **April 2 – 5**. Fit Camp will offer fun activities such as soccer, martial arts, hip-hop and yoga .

The **April 10 PTA Meeting** will feature teacher presentations on creative thinking and practical ways to foster empathy in children. All are welcome to join us. Third Quarter **Report Cards** will be sent home on **April 12**.

The school will host a **Family Academic Night: Kids Marketplace** on the evening of **April 17**. All families and neighbors are invited to attend this wonderful event. Kids play a fun game that teaches them how to create and follow a monthly budget. Barcroft will observe **Professional Administrative Assistants' Week** on **April 23 – 27**. **Spring Picture and Class Portrait Day** will be **April 26**.

To learn more about What's Happening at Barcroft, go to: www.apsva.us/Barcroft

Wakefield High School News

April 21– Tech Expo – 9AM to 1PM.

Wakefield is the only high school in Arlington to sponsor this event, similar to a “science fair.” Students design technology-related project, judged by panels of professionals from the community.

The **Jazz Band** will host a Coffee House on **Sat. April 21**, 7-10 PM in the Cafeteria with special guest jazz saxophonist and composer Brian Lenair. A native of Washington, DC, Lenair is well-known in the local music scene and has played with the likes of George Benson, Grover Washington, Jr., Peabo Bryson and many other jazz greats. Admission \$5 for students; \$7 for adults. Kids 12 and under free. Complimentary coffee and other refreshments will be served. Corporate sponsors include Starbucks, Best Buns, Costco and Cafe Caturra.

April 27 through May 5 - Disney's “**Beauty and the Beast**” musical sweeps onto the stage. Friday and Saturday nights at 7 pm with Saturday matinees at 1 pm. Tickets \$8 for students / \$10 for adults.

PTA FLOWERING PLANT SALE May 5. Items include flowers, herbs and flowering baskets. Pre-orders encouraged (due by April 19th.), with pick-up on Sat. May 5th at the school. For details, visit: www.apsva.us/wakefield/. We hope many Barcrofters will support this new fundraising event!

Will your student be new to Wakefield in 2012-13? Join the PTA/Booster list-serve now and become part of our school community. This list serve is the main communication to parents about school events, PTA, Boosters, sports, and the many accomplishments of our students. To join, send a subscribe request to: Wakefield_Booster_PTAsubscribe@yahoogroups.com/

Farewell to Two Longtime Barcrofters

By Kathy Kerr

Farewell to two longtime Barcrofters, **Dave Peacefull** and **Sharon Sundial** who recently moved away to Pennsylvania.

Sharon is originally from Ohio and Dave is from Connecticut, but they met in Cleveland. When Dave took a job with the Department of Defense, they moved to Arlington. Sharon worked as a social worker for Arlington County. In 1987 they purchased their home at 201 S. Pershing Drive.

Dave and Sharon didn't always have such unusual last names. Sharon, formerly Sharon Zundel, had an attorney help her to change her name to Sharon Sundial. Dave, formerly Dave Voorhees, simply went to the Arlington Court House, paid \$39 and was able to change his name to Dave Peacefull.

Active with the BSCL, Dave and Sharon have always enjoyed attending Barcroft events, especially the 4th of July parade. Dave served as BSCL treasurer and Program Chair. Most recently, he took over the job of posting the BSCL meeting and voting reminder signs around the neighborhood after **Jack Turner** passed away.

Dave and Sharon were involved in the Neighborhood Conservation Plan. This process involved many months of surveying neighbors regarding their desires and opinions about streets, sidewalks, street lights, traffic, speed bumps, traffic circles, stop signs, services, zoning, etc. (Visit www.bscl.org for more details about it.) As part of the process, some neighbors wanted to complete the sidewalk along S. Pershing, including in front of Dave

and Sharon's home. Dave just loves his big, healthy forsythia bushes and was very concerned that putting in the sidewalk would destroy them. But then he got out his tape measure and determined that the forsythias would be unharmed. Indeed, as of the writing of this article, they are just fine and in full bloom!

Another result of the Neighborhood Conservation Plan was the placing of speed humps throughout the neighborhood including one directly in front of Dave and Sharon's home. They found that the hump really did slow down the speeders along Pershing Drive.

Dave always enjoyed helping **Randy Swart** and other neighbors in removing invasive plants along Four Mile Run. (That is an ongoing task! See article from **Mark Wigfield** in this issue.)

Another aspect of the Neighborhood Conservation Plan was to protect our Barcroft Community House. Dave and Sharon appreciate that neighbors are so carefully maintaining, caring for, using and enjoying that unique building.

Active with the Arlington Unitarian Universalist Church, Dave and Sharon enjoyed being able to walk to church, as well as to so many nearby parks. Dave was also frequently seen on his bicycle wearing bright orange safety clothing.

Now residents of Pennsylvania, Dave and Sharon are enjoying life in Kendal/Crosslands, a retirement community near Longwood Gardens. The community has lots of events and they have already made many new friends.

Barcroft is just not the same without these wonderful neighbors. Best wishes to Dave and Sharon!

Successful Community House Renovation Fundraising

By **Chris Ditta**, BSCL Fundraising Campaign Chair

Exciting news that the Community House Renovation was successful. Thanks goes out to so many community members. We have about 110 so far who qualify to be named on the plaque for their contribution of \$100 or more. Awesome!

For any folks that would like to be included but have yet to qualify, please contact me or our treasurer, **Gary Lefebvre**, to find out where you stand. As it is now, a few dozen families have contributed very near the \$100 threshold.

Funds are still needed for additional maintenance and improvement activities such as finish and insulate the wood floor, paint the kitchen, refurbish windows and doors, build a storage shed, replace the chairs, and more! The official deadline for the Fundraising Campaign will come to an end on April 30, 2012. Donations to the BSCL are very much still welcome. All donations are tax deductible.

Please stop by and see the wonderful Barcroft Community House - a bit of true history and beauty amidst our neighborhood.

Barcroft News Delivery Help Needed

Thanks to all the nearly 30 neighbors who hand deliver the Barcroft New each and every month! More delivery persons are needed — especially for the 900 block of S. Buchanan St. Please contact **Linda Webb** to volunteer:

lindaatbarcroft@yahoo.com

Volunteers Needed To Remove Invasive Plants

Are you interested in rescuing some trees from ivy in Barcroft's section of Glencarlyn Park along Grandma's Creek? Plans are being made for those who enjoy the woods. Help save trees and other plants from being choked by English Ivy. Contact **Mark Wigfield** for more info or to volunteer.

mark.wigfield@gmail.com

(P.S. Pulling out ivy is great aerobic exercise!)

Bob Ryan Visits Barcroft

Monday, **April 2 at 1 PM** Bob Ryan, Senior Meteorologist for ABC7 and WLJA will speak at the Woman's Club at 700 S. Buchanan St. Ryan has been a broadcast meteorologist since 1980 and regularly appeared on the "Today Show" from 1978 - 1980. He is also well known for his charity work and for helping place weather stations in area schools.

Arlington Forest United Methodist Church

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Community Easter Egg Hunt, Sat. 4/7, 1p.m., Home of Lily the Bunny



Palm Sunday Parade/Service, 4/1, 10:30 a.m.

Morning Prayer during Holy Week 4/2-4/7, 6 a.m.

Holy Thursday Communion 4/5, 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday Service, 4/6, 12 noon

Easter Worship, 8:30 & 11, Pot Luck Breakfast 9:30-11

We hope you will join us during the Holy Season of Easter and the rest of the year!

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Barcrofters Volunteer at Arlington House

By Carol Harvey

I became a Park Service VIP (Volunteer in Parks), last summer after responding to a notice in the Sun Gazette. I've told stories about the Custis and Lee families to people from around the world and almost every state. I've seen how excited 4th graders are to learn that the piece of crockery in their hand is from a set that belonged to George Washington ("I'll never wash this hand again!").

Three other Barcroft neighbors are also Arlington House volunteers. Ask **Amy Delery**, **Jim Perlmutter**, **Alice Eichers**, or me about our VIP experiences. We'd love to have you join us.

Do you knit, do hand sewing, quilt, or enjoy working with student groups? The National Park Service is expanding its visitor services at Arlington House and seeks vol-

unteers to dress in period clothing, demonstrate skills, and give students memorable experiences at the House that gave Arlington County its name. Over 500,000 guests visit Arlington House each year, learning the unique history of the house and the Custis and Lee families that called it home.

Most visitors only walk through the house; the Park Service would like to attract visitors to the former slave quarters by having workers in period dress demonstrate spinning, weaving, sewing, food preparation, and other skills. One current volunteer used to work at Mount Vernon, and is an expert spinner and weaver. Another knits while he talks to visitors.

The **orientation for new volunteers will be held on April 21**. Contact volunteer coordinator Delphine Gross at: delphine_gross@nps.gov



Barcroft Volunteers at Lee Mansion.

◀: Barcrofter **Amy Delery** (left) in period dress (with Park Ranger Donna Cuttone and another volunteer)

▶ **Carol Harvey** in front of Lee Mansion



A Bit Of Arlington History

151 years ago this month here's what was happening at Lee Mansion—

The house blazed with lights Friday night, April 19, 1861, and was filled with relations and friends anxiously discussing the recent events. Finding it impossible to think about his problem amid the excitement, Colonel Lee went outside and paced back and forth under the trees while he pondered his future course. Still undecided, he returned to the house and went up to his bedroom. Downstairs, Mrs. Lee and the others waited anxiously. Overhead, they could hear Lee's footsteps as he paced the floor, stopping only when he knelt to pray.

It was after midnight when he finally arrived at a decision and sat down to write his resignation from the United States Army. That done, he came down with it in his hand to where his wife was waiting. "Well, Mary," he said quietly, "the question is settled. Here is my letter of resignation, and a letter I have written to General Scott."

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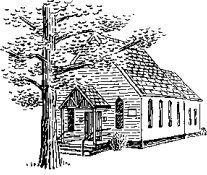
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DC-Area Housing Market Ranks Among Nation's Strongest

Metropolitan Regional Information Systems (MRIS) data shows the DC-area housing market improved over last year:

*Inventory is down more than 25% (currently representing a three-month supply—*the lowest in seven years*) *Purchase contracts are up 4.6% *Foreclosures are down 67.2%

*Average price is up 1.4% overall

*Arlington experienced an average price jump of 17.2% compared to January 2011

* First-time buyers made up 33% of the market in January of 2012, up from 29 percent in January of 2011, according to a recent NAR report. The number of investors remained unchanged at 23%.

*A market forecast by real estate statistical analyst Veros suggests that the DC market will grow at 2.9% in 2012, placing DC at #3 in its "Projected 5 Strongest Markets."

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