

Barcroft News

June 2012

Vol 109, Issue 10

Come Celebrate

Our Nation's 236th Birthday & the 24th Annual
Barcroft 4th of July Parade

Barcroft Community House
800 S. Buchanan Street

Parade begins at 10:00 AM SHARP

Participants should arrive by 9:45 AM

Anyone can join the parade. No registration required.

Bring a dish to share!

This Year's Event will feature:

- The Color Guard
- An Arlington Fire Department Fire Engine
- Our own Barcroft Grand Marshall **Uncle Sam**
- Picking genius, Frank Cassels, "The Banjo Man"
- Infamous Balloon Wizard TJ Michaels
- An Award's Ceremony
- Food! BBQ! Drinks!
- Family and Friends
- The singing of our National Anthem.

Let's make this the Zaniest year ever!!!

Decorate those strollers and bikes, paint those faces and bellies or come dressed as your favorite super hero or rock star! Turn your bike into a helicopter, put wheels on your surfboard, make a fun float or banner !!!

Come and join in the fun and see why Washingtonian magazine rated Barcroft as one of the top 20 neighborhoods for families to live in the Metro area!

****Sponsored by the Barcroft School and Civic League****

Barcroft News Staff

Editor & Neighborhood News Publisher / Mailing editor@bscl.org
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703-969-6373

Advertising Mgr. NEEDED! Please volunteer!

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

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Fay Cheung

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Traffic Committee Heidi Wicker

4th of July Parade Andrew Hunter, 979-8247

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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 and Babysitter- 13 year old Red Cross Certified Rebecca Bean 703-553-4093 beccab50@gmail.com

Babysitter and Pet Sitter - 8th grade girl, (could also bring in newspaper, water plants, etc) Call Tyler LaPointe at 703-979-1083 or 571-244-7555 or email tylerchanlapointe@gmail.com

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 dylanrvega@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. Pet sitting 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 and articles for the Barcroft News. Contact Editor@bscl.org

Bacroft Garden Tour

The first Gardens of Barcroft Tour was held Saturday, May 20. The weather co-operated and there was a great turn-out. Almost 80 tickets were sold, raising \$757.00 for the Community House!

It was truly a fun afternoon for the whole neighborhood. Participants shared inspirational gardening ideas and offered each other tips.

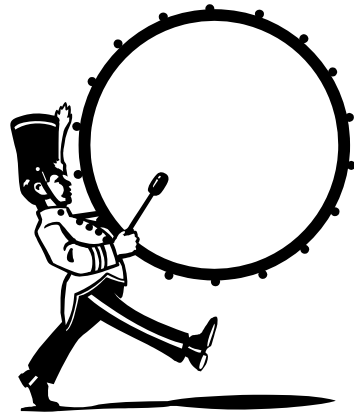
A special thanks to those who helped make it a success. **Keith Fred** created our beautiful tickets. **Keith Fred, Louise Shutler and Elaine Squeri** helped sell tickets as well as sharing their gardens on the tour. **Sharon Tope** helped with the advertising. **Noreen and Bruce Atkinson** organized the whole event and hosted light refreshments for all in their garden at the end of the tour.

Special thanks of course to all the rest of the gardeners who worked so hard on their beautiful yards and shared them with the tour participants.



Barcroft 4th of July Parade

The famous and fabulous **Barcroft 4th of July Marching Band** welcomes more participants. To help crank up the volume, contact **Melissa Bishop** at [703 379-7537](tel:7033797537).



For any 4th of July parade related questions, or to volunteer, contact: **Andrew Hunter** [\(703\) 979-8247](tel:7039798247).



***What's Going On
In Barcroft?!***

**Join the Barcroft
chat group and news email lists!**

**Go to:
www.bscl.org/chatlist.htm**

**Visit the BSCL Website for lots of
photos, all the latest news , issues of
the Barcroft News all the way back to
1903 and plenty of Barcroft history.**

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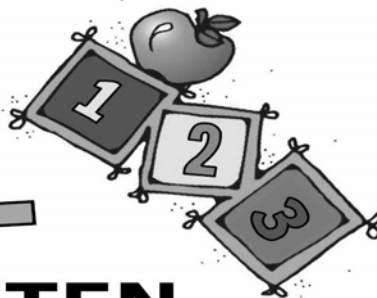
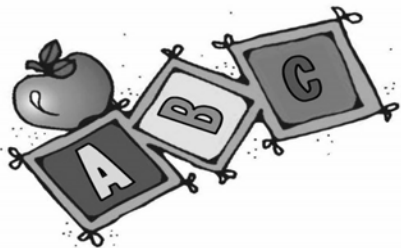
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What's Happening at Barcroft Elementary

By *Jenny Ditta*

June has been both busy and fun at Barcroft. In early June, the PTA hosted another wonderful week-long **Farm 2 Table** event for the students. Special visitors included a food stylist, local chefs, neighborhood food artisans, and a local farmer (and his tractor).

Many grades also took field trips, including visits to the National Zoo, Great Falls National Park, the Corcoran Museum, and Long Branch Nature Center.

Highlights beginning in mid-June include a **Spanish Chorus Solo Night on June 13** in which both chorus members and the audience can request songs and performances.

Annual **Field Day** activities will occur on **June 15**.

On **June 19** the school will proudly wish our 5th Grade farewell and good luck during the **Graduation Ceremony**. The **5th Grade** will enjoy a **Class Trip** to the Baltimore Science Center on **June 20**. Many grades will also celebrate with end of year parties and picnics. The **last day of school** is **June 22**. On that day, the school will host an **Awards Assembly**.

After **Summer Break** in **July**, the **2012-2013 School Year** will resume for our Barcroft students on **August 1**. The **Pre-K and Kindergarten Open House** will be held on **July 31**.

We hope that everyone enjoys a lovely summer. We'll talk again in September!

On a personal note, Barcroft Elementary has truly enjoyed working with **Kathy and Jim Kerr** these last few years. They were so enthusiastic in helping us to raise money for our wonderful track. And Kathy has always been happy to publicize all of our PTA and school events. We will miss you, and we hope that you enjoy your new home in Colorado!

To learn more about What's Happening at Barcroft School, go to:

www.apsva.us/Barcroft

Wakefield High School News

Wakefield High School will soon be celebrating its 60th anniversary.

May 16-18, 2013.

There will be tours of both the old and new schools, along with a dance and party and sales of memorabilia such as bricks and even pieces of the gym floor!

Watch for more info on the Wakefield Alumni website

<http://www.wakefieldalumni.org/>
or join the Wakefield Alumni facebook page.

Farewell to your Barcroft News Editor and Ad Managers

From Kathy Kerr

After 31 years here in Barcroft, **Jim Kerr** and I will be moving to Boulder, Colorado the fall and are giving up our BSCL volunteer positions. I have enjoyed being the Barcroft News editor for quite a few years and Jim has served as the ad manager. Thanks to all of our advertisers, the Barcroft News costs are covered .

We love Barcroft and will never find better neighbors anywhere else! But we want to live closer to our children who are settling down west of the Mississippi.

Would you like to help with that Barcroft News? A new editor has stepped forward but

she will need a lot of help. The editor produces 10 issues of this newsletter each year (summers off!)

The ad manager communicates with advertisers, collects the payments and provides the editor with the ads.

To find out more about these positions, feel free to contact us. 703-892-6458 or email kathykerr@gmail.com

Very best wishes to everyone in Barcroft. We will come back to visit and will always think of Barcroft as "home."



Enjoy Summer Break with Us

Sunday Worship Services
8 am and 10 am

Sunday Christian Education
Resumes September 9

Homeless Shelter Bagged Lunch Program for Youth:
June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9
9:30 am *Come join us to assemble lunches for a local Homeless Shelter*

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The Kleczek Family of Barcroft

600 S. Taylor St. was the family homestead for the Kleczek family where Chester “Chet” Kleczek lived for 55 years. He purchased the house in 1955 with his wife, Grace, toddler daughter Paula and infant daughter Pam.. The couple had grown up, met and married in Boston where Paula was born. Then they moved to Rhode Island where Pam was born.

When they moved to Arlington for his job with Westinghouse, Grace announced “I am a Yankee and this is as far south as I’m going!” The house had no air conditioning. When the DC area summer heat arrived, they were advised by a neighbor that “when it’s hot, we just sit.” Grace was too active for that and soon they purchased some window air conditioners.

Three years later, they had a third daughter, Patricia (or Trish). The girls attended St. Thomas More School. To get to school, the girls usually took a bus, but sometimes they walked to school through what was then called Arlington Hall owned by the Army. There were no guards or gates. There was a tunnel under Rt. 50 for them to safely cross over to the school. Arlington Hall used to play “Reveille” every morning and “Taps” each evening. There used to be an actual bugler but later recordings were used. This could be heard throughout Barcroft.

Summer was great fun in Barcroft. Kids were out and about all day long biking, playing in the parks and in the creeks. The girls often took their lunch and spent all day at Alcova Park for a County program supervised by a woman named Mrs. Cox with arts, crafts and sports activities. In the evenings, the kids spent hours playing a game called “four square” drawn with

chalk out in the street in front of the Cichon family’s house at S. 7th Rd and S. Taylor St.

There was a special place at the end of 6th St. South (now known as Grandma’s Creek) with some flat rocks with a little waterfall where kids loved to have picnics and stay cool in the shade. Sometimes kids, gone for hours on end, walked to the High’s Milk store at Columbia Pike and S. Dinwiddie to buy ice cream cones for 5 cents. Heading the other way, they could walk up to Glebe Rd and Columbia Pike to the library in the same shopping center where there is now a Boston Market. Sometimes they’d continue on to the Arlington Theater near S. Walter Reed to enjoy three movies for a quarter.

In the winter, after a good snow, the glorious 8th St. hill by Alcova Park was blocked off to traffic. This made a terrific sled run. The road at the bottom of the hill was long enough that sleds did not slide into traffic on George Mason Dr. A fire was built in a barrel at the top of the hill to help everyone stay warm. Often all participants enjoyed hot cocoa. The Barcroft School yard also had a popular hill for sledding.

The years went by, the girls grew up, and the family said goodbye to Grace, who passed away in 1986. Shortly after her death, Trish moved to Florida, Pam got married, and then Paula was married the following year. Chet sometimes went to Florida during the winter to visit Trish, but the Barcroft home remained his main residence. His first granddaughter, Laura, was born in 1989, and Lindsay arrived in 1993.

Though both girls are now in college, “Grandpa” Chet was like the Eveready bunny when it came to attending family dinners,

summer plays and school events with his daughters and granddaughters!

Meanwhile, back in Barcroft, there had been a fence around the home for many years. But gradually all that remained was just the front gate. In 1998, shortly after Chet's 80th birthday, his daughters asked neighbor **Sue Ten-nenbaum** (of "Annie's Garden" fame) to help with re-landscaping the property as a birthday present for their father. Sue and her trusty assistant, Roy, worked in the yard for several seasons. Chet and Roy were both of a similar age, and they got along well.

Sue came to know Chet as an outgoing, friendly man. One day she decided that the gate needed to reflect that outgoing nature—so she painted it a bright neon color! Before too long, Sue (and maybe some of the nearby neighbors) started to decorate the gate for holidays. There was a wreath at Christmas, eggs hanging from it at Easter time, and red/white/blue decorations for the Fourth of July!

But the gate served another purpose. A neighbor, Mr. Harwood, also lived alone further down on Taylor St. He walked by every day with his dog. As he passed, he would open the gate. When Chet saw the gate open, he would close it. Thus the two men quietly signaled to each other that "Yep, I'm OK today."

One winter evening another dog walker named "Wheeler" was passing the house. His dog stopped at the gate and simply refused to move. Exasperated, Wheeler said "What do you want?!" The dog pulled Wheeler into the yard where he discovered that Chet had fallen to the ground, was hidden in the shadows, and could

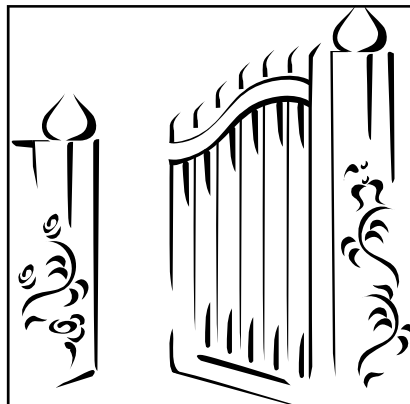
not get up. Wheeler's pug certainly earned his keep that day!

Just after Easter of 2010, another fall and related injuries caused Chet to move into a rehab center and then to assisted living. Chet had told neighbors that when he could no longer drive, he would rather pass on to the next life, and he got his wish. About five weeks after moving to assisted living, he passed away on July 21, 2010 at age 93.

His daughters, Paula, Pam and Patricia, returned to clean out their family home. Neighbors have been keeping an eye on the house and are glad that it wouldn't be sold for fear a large infill house might have been installed there.

As the girls spruced up the house, they took down the historic family gate. Trish decided to take it back to her home in Palm Harbor, Florida, where it now resides in HER yard!

Editor's Note: Thanks so much to **Paula Hillery** for sharing her family saga for my final Barcroft News article.



Robert E. Lee Wedding Anniversary

From *Carol Harvey*

June 30, 2012

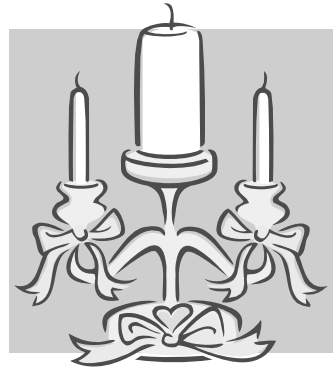
Robert E. Lee Wedding Anniversary

Join the National Park Service for a commemoration of the wedding anniversary of Robert E. Lee and Mary Anna Randolph Custis. Special talks, tours and living history will explore the Lee's marriage and their life at Arlington House. Period music and dancing will be conducted. Learn how to dance like the Lees!

The program will be held 1:00pm - 4:00pm. Check the Arlington House website (www.nps.gov/arho) for more details.

The program is free and appropriate for all ages. Arlington House is in the center of Arlington National Cemetery which is accessible by the Blue Line of the Metrorail.

Reservations are not required. Parking at Arlington House is available with a reservation for the program. Call 703-235-1530 for more information.



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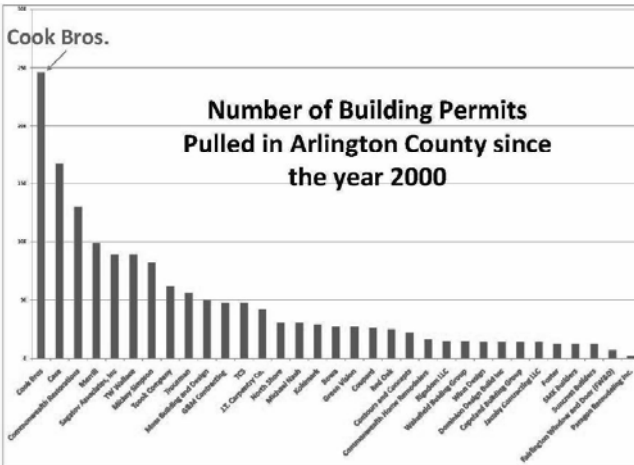
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The market is hot – volume, units and prices are up, time to sell is down – all great news for sellers! Northern Virginia homes sales in April increased more than 15% above April 2011 while active listing inventory decreased by 22% percent from last year. The average days on market for homes in April 2012 decreased 15% percent to 52 days, compared with 61 days in April 2011. Average sales prices increased by 5% percent from April 2011, to \$497,083, compared with last April's average of \$472,484.

In April 2012 Arlington County saw an average sales price of \$613,000, up 18% from April 2011, and active listings were down almost 19% from last year. Buyer traffic remains strong and demand has increased due to low housing inventories, greater urgency and high rental rates. Improved confidence and low interest rates have sparked demand.

Multiple offers are commonplace in many situations, and buyers have to make quick decisions. I have experienced multiple offers on 70% of my listings this year and with 60% of the buyers we have represented. If you are in the market to buy, it's not altogether impossible – in fact, this is still a great time for 2 reasons: 1) prices are still down from the peak – so values are good and 2) with interest rates as low as they are, the overall affordability is still excellent - 3.5% to 3.875% fixed rates!

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