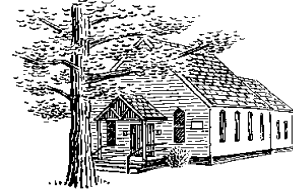


Barcroft School and Civic League
800 South Buchanan Street
Arlington, VA 22204



December 2012

Barcroft News

Vol 110, Issue 4

Come One, Come All! Barcroft Holiday Party ...

Everyone is invited to the Barcroft Holiday Party on Thursday Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the BSCL Community House.

There will be:

- Music by our Barcroft neighbors
 - Sing-a-longs
 - Refreshments
 - If we have all been good, a special visitor dressed in red! (hint to the side ...)
 - Cookies or treats to share are welcome.
- See you there! •



What remodeling project in the Washington DC area provides the highest cost recouped? According to the Remodeling 2011-2012 Cost vs. Value Report (www.costvsvalue.com) an entry door replacement (steel) yields 98.1% of the estimate job cost of \$1,207 at resale. Other popular improvements are a wood deck addition yielding 91.3% (est. cost of \$10,696). A minor kitchen remodel yields 85.1% (est. cost of \$19,700). Check out the website for Washington DC averages or contact me and I'll send you a hard copy or email you a PDF copy. Curious about resale values of improvements for your home? Contact me for advice on what to do (and more importantly what not to do) when investing on home improvements! If you have the desire to move up to a larger home, or just move in general, now is a great time to take advantage of the buying power today's rates offer.

How's the Market? Demand picked up in October and sales, new pending contracts, and median price gains are all above their 10-year average change from last month, an indication that buyers are still active in the market. The inventory of homes for sale continues to fall, which is playing a role in the gains. Active listings are nearly half of their level 2 years ago, and new listings for October are at their lowest point in over a decade.

WHAT'S YOUR HOME WORTH?
Contact me for a free market evaluation!

FREE Notary for Barcroft Residents!
Casey O'Neal, Associate Broker
RE/MAX Allegiance 703-217-9090

www.CaseyOneal.com

Real estate Tips for selling your home:

Visit www.HighestHomePrice.com

www.SettingYourHomePrice.com

Surviving Sandy ...

By Elizabeth Kiker

Let's hope Sandy was the last major storm to hit Barcroft this year. After the "Celebrate Power is Back On!" Fourth of July parade, we had the "Trick or Treat Even



Though the Power Is Still Off' Halloween. Barcroft neighbors, as always, gamely rose to the occasion, decorating

stoops with more lights than usual. The Pian-tanidas handed out glow sticks and candy, to help with visibility.

As of now, all cable, Internet and power is back after Sandy ... and, no matter how bad it was, we're thankful we weren't hit as hard as New Jersey. •

It's Time To Renew for BSCL!

Dues are \$5 per individual/\$10 per family. Drop off at Community House or mail to: Fay Cheung, Membership Secretary 618 S Taylor St. Arlington, VA 22204

Barcroft News

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Next Deadline Dec. 15th

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Jennifer@bscl.org

Membership Secy. Fay Cheung,
fay@bscl.org

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Kerr, Bryant Monroe

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@yahoo.com

Restoration: David Michaelson,
Jim Kerr

Fundraising: Chris Ditta

Landscaping: Scott Brinitzer
703-892-0308

Traffic Committee: Heidi Wicker

4th of July Parade: Andrew Hunter
703-979-8247

Columbia Pike: Randy Swart
randy@bscl.org

Demeter House: Darlene Mickey
Parks: Elizabeth Kiker,
Shirley Gay

Signs: Ken Edwards

Web/NCAC Rep Randy Swart
703-521-2080

Arlington Civic Fed. Delegates: Eric Harold, Randy Swart, Pat Williamson, Jim Kerr
Alternates: Karen Darnier, David Michelson, Elaine Squeri, Mark Wigfield
Barcroft News is printed on recycled paper with vegetable-based ink by Stanley Adams Printing.

Visit Us Online: www.bscl.org

Monthly Happenings

President's Report by Pat Williamson

There is a rumor that Santa Claus is planning to visit our Barcroft neighborhood on Thursday, December 6. The Jolly Old Elf always seems to know when we will have our beloved holiday celebration. Plan to join neighbors of all ages in singing along with favorite songs of the season with music provided by our wonderful Barcroft neighborhood musicians. Bring a dessert to share. Party begins as 7:30 p.m.

Neighborhood children still had an opportunity to Trick or Treat at many homes on Halloween. Worries about no electricity were circumvented as neighbors set out treats and lights to welcome our young ones. The Hurricane Sandy power outage dragged on for many of us for several days and the loss of internet services lasted even longer.

We are working with Arlington County and Dominion to send representatives to attend a 2013 monthly meeting. At the meeting we will plan to hear how the process should work for the two entities to work together in the future.

Hoping you all had a very happy Thanksgiving. See you at the Holiday Party! •

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Neighbor to Neighbor Ads

These ads are free to BSCL members. The listings will be run for three months from the original listing.

Violin Teacher/Math Tutor: High school senior/musician (13 years experience), teaching beginner and intermediate violin. Also tutoring elementary and middle school math. Contact Austin at (571) 244-8102.

Babysitter + Pet-sitter: Mia Field, 15.5 year old Wakefield sophomore, available to sit evenings/weekends. References. 703-946-7188 or mia.e.field@gmail.com

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

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

IN-HOME DAY CARE

Bordering South Arlington, Columbia Pike, Carlin Springs and Falls Church.

I'm Bishrul, I live in Falls Church, and I am a child care professional with more than 10 years of Nanny experience. I'm certified in first/Aid and CPR. I have a child care permit by the County. I am honest, caring, patient, loving and trustworthy. I have always loved being around children. I have two grown up sons and I'm looking for to take care of infants/toddlers in my home in Falls Church (22041). My single family home is ideal for children, with lots of toys and I enjoy cooking, crafts, painting, reading, singing and playing outside activities with kids.

I can provide your child with special one-on-one attention. I have cared for multiple children in the same family including twins and have cared for babies in Nanny Shares. Mostly, your child will have a home away from home in a safe and loving environment. It is a great alternative to a Nanny Share.

College-aged Babysitter - holidays and summers: Sarah. 703-521-8756

Baby-sitter + Pet-sitter + Vacation Help: 8th grader, Tyler LaPointe, 571-244-7555 or tylerchanlapointe@gmail.com

Babysitter: 8th Grader Rebecca Bean is Red Cross Certified. Call 571-344-4134 or beccab50@gmail.com

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

Vacation Help—Responsible teen can water plants, bring in the paper and mail, care for pets, mow lawn, etc. Dylan Vega 703-271-5987 dylanrvega@gmail.com

Baby items, books, toys, household items needed for the Even Start Program at Barcroft. Jenny Lindenauer at 703-228-8846 or jennifer_lindenauer@apsva.us

Barcroft Community Playgroup 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Friday mornings at the Community House. Call 703-216-9728 or just show up! •

Wakefield Events

By Noel B. Deskins, Wakefield High School
12/1, 12/7, 12/8 - Fall Play (Yellow Boat) -
7 p.m. in the auditorium

12/12 - Winter Orchestra/Chorale Concert -
7 p.m. in the auditorium

12/13 - Winter Band Concert -
7:30 pm in the auditorium •

Barcroft Elementary: Start December at the Diner!

By Jenny Ditta, Barcroft Elem. Liaison

Many thanks to our neighbors for your support at this year's Election Day Bake Sale. We appreciate your patronage and your donation of baked goods. Thanks to you, the PTA raised \$2400 that day, 10% which will go to victims of Hurricane Sandy.

Celebrate a wonderful 2012 with the PTA at the Clarendon Silver Diner located at 3200 Wilson Blvd. On Monday, December 3, between 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., the PTA will host a Silver Diner "Moms, Dads and Grads" Night. Barcroft teachers, staff, neighbors, families, and student alumni are cordially invited to join us this evening. A portion of the proceeds raised during this evening will be donated to the Barcroft PTA to be used to fund student field trips.

Why cook dinner when you can join us for delicious food and fabulous company? The Silver Diner has an extensive menu, including traditional diner food and healthy options. There is plenty of free parking in the parking lot in the back of the restaurant. For a menu, directions, and other information about the Silver Diner, Clarendon, go to: <http://www.silverdiner.com/restaurants/clarendon>.

Plan to join us at the school on Thursday evening, December 13 for the Winter Concert. Performances will include: 4th and 5th Grade Chorus, Spanish Chorus, and

individual student performers. Winter Break begins December 19. Students have the option of attending Barcroft's Fitness and Nutrition ("FAN") Camp all day during December 19 - 21. Students return to school on January 3, 2013.

Many thanks to ALL of our wonderful neighbors who have linked their Harris Tee-ter VIC card to Barcroft Elementary. To help more, please link your Giant Card to Barcroft! Barcroft's ID # for the Giant A+ School Rewards Program is 02199. The program runs through March 28, 2013. Log onto www.giantfood.com/aplus to register online. Or dial 1 877 275 2758 for phone registration. If you do not know your 12-digit Giant Card number or if you need help, contact Meg Neill at meg.rob.neill@gmail.com.

We wish everyone safe and happy holidays, and we'll talk again in 2013! To learn more about events at Barcroft Elementary, go to www.apsva.us/Page/13363 or like us: www.facebook.com/BarcroftElementary. •



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Make Your Yard Sustainable ...

Making Your Yard Sustainable: A Landscape for Life Workshop Series will debut in January 2013. Classes will meet for six Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Fairlington Community Center, Room 118. Register by December 31st, for all six classes:

January 19: Overview: What Is Sustainability? and Soil in a Sustainable Landscape

January 26: Improving Soil Productivity

February 2: Conserving Water and Preventing Erosion* and* the Role of Plants in a Sustainable Landscape

February 9: Supporting Native Plants, Attracting Beneficial Wildlife, and Improving Home Energy Efficiency

February 16: Choosing and Using Landscape Materials Wisely

February 23: Review of Household Plans
Classes offer practical, ecologically savvy advice based on VCE's horticultural research and the US Botanic Garden's sustainability curriculum.

Participants will create a sustainability plan for their own yards with coaching from local experts. Space is limited to 20.

A materials fee of \$75 for all six classes includes a soil test, comprehensive instruction, and information about local conditions, programs, and resources to support each household plan. •



Want to make a connection with God?
St. John's Episcopal Church is a small congregation with a big heart. We believe that questioning and doubts are part of mature faith development. Always inclusive, we invite you to bring those questions inside the faith community where we help people establish a deeper relationship with God.
-Reverend Ann Barker, Rector

Sunday Worship Services 8 am and 10 am	Sunday Christian Education Adults 9 am - Youth 9:20 am
--	--

St. John's invites you to celebrate the birth of Christ with us.

December 4	Book Club- <i>A Kiss for a Yankee Dime</i> by Billie Jean Keith 7:30 pm
December 16	Children's Pageant at the 10 am service
December 23	Christmas Caroling in the neighborhood - 6 - 7 pm followed by refreshments
December 24	Christmas Eve Services - 5 pm family service and 11 pm
December 25	Christmas Day Service - 10 am
December 30	Hear the Christmas story in Bible lessons and Carols - 10 am
January 1	Book Club <i>Village School</i> by Miss Read 7:30 pm

St. John's Episcopal Church

415 S. Lexington Street Arlington, VA 22204 703-671-6834 stjohnsarlington.thediocese.net



Missing You ... Thanks, Kerrs and Lefebvres!

By Mark Wigfield

You may have noticed something missing in Barcroft this fall. Or rather, someone missing.

That would actually be four someones—two couples—who have given so much to the neighborhood over the years: Jim and Kathy Kerr, and Gary and Peg Lefebvre. The ever-spontaneous Jim and Kathy decided it would be cool to drop everything and move to Lyons, Colo., and the ever-sensible Gary and Peg decided it was time to move into a retirement community near Fairfax Circle. While we in Barcroft are happy that they are embracing change and starting new lives, we will miss them a lot.

Gary and Peg were fixtures at the Barcroft community house, staffing a membership table at every monthly meeting and many other events at the house, collecting annual dues and signing up new members. Gary was Barcroft treasurer for years. He was so good at it that the board exempted him from term limits imposed by the bylaws! Maybe even more surprising was that he agreed to stay on, year after year.

Peg, as membership secretary, kept meticulous records of who paid when, who was willing to volunteer for what, and which board members were delinquent on their dues. Peg is a fighter who on more than one occasion spoke her mind on tough issues.

Kathy Kerr was never on the BSCL board to my knowledge but for years wrote what was essentially the gossip column in the Barcroft News. Kathy always knew what was going on and always had fun telling it. More recently, she took on editing the Barcroft News, putting out nine issues a year -- not an easy task. Even if you never met Kathy, you probably saw her at the annual July 4 picnic, where she was a regular in the Barcroft marching fiddle band. Or maybe at the spaghetti dinners, where she was a founding member of the Spaghetti tones. Or at the Christmas party, in the band.

Unlike Kathy, Jim was on the BSCL board -- president at least once -- and a perennial on the executive committee. In the unlikely event there was a time he wasn't on either, he was there to help anyway. Jim was a cornerstone of major community house renovations that have transformed the building to an historic hall that is a centerpiece of the community. Handy and smart, Jim could look at a renovation or maintenance challenge and handle it—cheaply. He wasn't afraid of the rats or dirt he found in the crawl space under the house, nor of the protracted board arguments it sometimes took to get there. If there are any more Jim Kerrs in the community, please step forward.

Anyway, thank Gary & Peg, Jim and Kathy! We'll see you on July 4, right? •

Discover Nature in Winter ...

Cliff Fairweather, Long Branch Nature Center

Don't let the cold keep you from discovering nature this winter! There's plenty to do and learn in local winter woods, meadows and streams. Find out how you can identify leafless winter trees using bark, twigs, seeds and other clues. Explore the fascinating shapes, textures and colors left in a meadow by last summer's wildflowers. See a flower that blooms well before winter is done and is named for a stinky mammal and a vegetable.

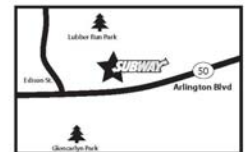
Discover birds that spend their winters in Arlington and head north in the spring -- Winter Wrens, Hermit Thrushes,

and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, just to name a few. While many of these winter residents feed on fruits and seeds, others find overwintering insects, spiders and insect and spider eggs to sustain them. And you just might be surprised how many insects are around in winter, if you know where to look.

Long Branch and Gulf Branch Nature Centers have a great line-up of programs to help you discover of nature in winter. From flying squirrels to winter insects, we've got programs for tots to adults. So pull on your boots and delve into nature this winter! You can find these programs at arlingtonva.us -- enter The Snag in the search window. •

Now Open in Your Neighborhood

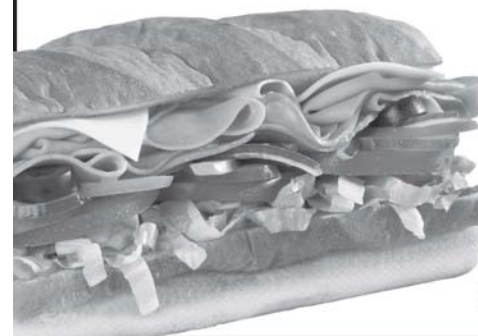
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Art Expo/Craft Fair

by Paula Levin-Alcorn

Attend the annual Art Expo/ Crafts Fair on Sunday, December 2 from 11:30 am to 4 pm. We will have over 30 local artists offering a good variety of crafts and a great opportunity for holiday shopping.

Where: Congregation Etz Hayim, 2920 Arlington Blvd, Rte 50, between Fenwick and Garfield Streets. Park in our lot on Garfield Street or on side streets

Bring cash and/or checkbook - not all artists accept credit cards.

Questions? Call Laurie Effron at 703 307 3205 or send email to leffron@gmail.com. •

Holiday House Craft Sale

The Hendry House at Fort C.F. Smith Park in Arlington is hosting the seventh annual Holiday House. The Holiday House is a juried arts & crafts sale by local artisans. The show will be open December 8-16th. The week end hours are Saturday 10am to 5pm and Sunday noon to 5pm. Wednesday hours are noon to 8:00pm.

There will be a children's corner with items priced under \$15.

This will be your last chance to get a quality handmade gift for that special person on your list.

Fort C.F. Smith Park is located at 2411 No. 24th St., Arlington, Va. •

Arlington Odds & Ends

Register for Enjoy Arlington Recreation Classes this Winter!

What better way to take a load off from the holiday hustle and bustle than a recreation class or program? County residents can register online beginning December 12. Classes begin January 22. Don't let fee be a barrier to your winter activities. You may qualify for a fee reduction. Learn more at www.arlingtonva.us

Celebrate Nine of Arlington's Unsung Heroes at the 2012 Harambee Ceremony

On Saturday, December 8 at 11 a.m., please join us at the Central Library to honor nine individuals who have positively impacted our community. The annual Harambee celebration honors and recognizes elders from our Arlington County neighborhoods for their contributions to their local African-American community. Visit the Harambee webpage for more information.

Help Us Plan the 44th Annual Tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr.!

If you are interested in sharing ideas to plan a celebration to honor Dr. King's work and life, email lcorridon@arlingtonva.us for details on participation. View the 2012 MLK Tribute flyer for details on last year's event.

Call for Nominations: Bill Thomas Outstanding Park Service Volunteer Award

Know a volunteer or group who has gone above and beyond the call of duty? This award was established to honor and encourage those residents who also demonstrate a passionate dedication and support for our dynamic programs, natural resources and public open spaces. Nominations are being accepted until February 15, 2013. Visit www.arlingtonva.us/departments/ParksRecreation/scripts/parks/BillThomasAward.aspx to make your nomination today. •

Arlington Forest United Methodist Church

"Where Love Changes People's Lives through Engaging Worship, Learning Together, and Serving Others"

4701 Arlington Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203, 703-525-0961

www.arlingtonforestumc.com and on Facebook

8:30 Casual Worship, Godly Play & Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Traditional Worship 11:00 Zumba Dance Tues/Wed. 7:30 p.m.



Breakfast with St. Nicholas, 12/1, 9a.m.

Children's "Island Christmas" Musical, 12/15, 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Caroling, 12/16, 2:00 p.m.

Children's Christmas eve service 4pm, Candle-light 7p.m.

Montessori Primary and Toddler Programs, Now Enrolling
"Your neighborhood church only a walk away"



You Don't Have to Interview the #1 Remodeler in Arlington... But... Why Wouldn't You?

For a larger Graph image and more information about the Graph, visit our website at www.CookBros.org/BarcroftGraph

Flavors of the Season: Cranberries

By Kari Hickman

Think cranberries are just for sauce? And maybe, if you're really ambitious, stringing with popcorn for that retro look on your tree? Think again. Give the most iconic berries of the season a second look with these zingy - and easy - recipes.

Cranberry Tea

- 2 cups fresh cranberries
- 8 cups water
- 2 T honey
- 1 lemon, juiced
- 10 whole cloves
- 1 cinnamon stick



In a pot, combine water and cranberries and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 30 minutes. Add honey, lemon juice, cloves and cinnamon stick. Turn off heat, cover and steep for 1 hour. Strain out cranberries, cloves and cinnamon stick. Drink right away or store in the fridge for a few days. When serving, add honey, to taste. Serve hot or cold! Makes 8 cups.

Cranberry Cream Pie

- One unbaked 9-inch single pie crust
- 12 oz. fresh or frozen cranberries, rinsed
- 1 cup sugar, DIVIDED
- 1 heaping tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 1 egg white
- 1 cup heavy cream



1. Preheat oven to 425F. Spread a thick layer of cranberries in the bottom of the unbaked pie shell. This comes to about a handful less than a full 12-ounce bag. Cover with 1/3 cup sugar. (Or use all cranberries and a bit more sugar.)

2. In a medium bowl, sift together the remaining 2/3 cup sugar and flour. In another bowl, beat the egg white until stiff peaks form, then fold it into the sugar mixture. Slowly stir in the cream until incorporated.

3. Pour the cream mixture over the cranberries (they will float to the top.) Bake the pie at 425F for 10 minutes, then lower the temperature to 350F and bake for about 40 minutes more until the custard is set. Let cool on a wire rack. •

Who Are the People in Barcroft? Jean Sweeney

By Lisa Piantanida (e-mail lisapiantanida@gmail.com to be featured!)

and shoveled my walk. I felt completely cared for.

My volunteer time is spent teaching classes at the Arlington Jail. •

Where Do You Live?

Jean lives near South Utah and 9th streets

Tell Me About Yourself

Hello neighbors, I'm Jean Sweeney.

I've lived in Barcroft more than 15 years, am a retired pastoral counselor, love walking the neighborhood and looking at your plants.

The best thing about Barcroft was a winter or so ago after I had a couple of falls, an unknown couple, "angels" for sure, came



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