

Volume 88, No. 6

February 1991

FEBRUARY MEETING

The BSCL meeting will begin with a presentation on the Christmas in April program (see the item on page 2). At least one Barcrofter has already benefited from it. Come see whether you want to donate a Saturday. The second part of the program will be a discussion of the intersection where 3rd St., Pershing Dr., and Wakefield meet. Barcroft can ask for Neighborhood Conservation funds to fix up the intersection, but we must have at least two designs for it, each with its own advantages. We also must decide whether to continue asking for four-way stop signs here, which the County is unlikely to approve.

Barcroft Artist in Show at Local Gallery

Nancy Tankersley of S. Taylor is thrilled that all three paintings she submitted for an Arlington art show were accepted. Two will be especially interesting to Barcrofters because they are glimpses of Barcroft's first 4th of July Parade—one is a crowd scene and the other shows two neighborhood children preparing for the parade. The third painting is a beach

scene. Nancy is especially proud that the crowd scene, "Before the Parade," won an Honorable Mention. Some Barcrofters may be able to recognize themselves in the crowd!

The paintings will be exhibited at the new Gallery at the Ellipse, 4350 N. Fairfax Dr., near the Ballston Metro. They are part of an Arlington Visual Artist Coalition show, "The Diversity That Is Arlington Art." The works were juried by Professor Frank Wright, who teaches painting at George Washington University.

Nancy is enthusiastic about the opening of this gallery because until now, Arlington has had only one place for artists to show their work—the Arlington Arts Center. The Gallery at the Ellipse is the result of a building permit option designating 5,000 square feet for gallery space to be run by the Arlington County Recreation Department.

The show is free and runs until March 16. Hours are Wednesday and Saturday, 11 AM-5 PM, and Thursday, 2–7 PM. For more information call 516-4466 or 358-6960.

Nancy shares studio space with 22 local artists at the Columbia Pike Artist Studios, 932 S. Walter Reed Drive. The first Saturday of every month is Open House, 11 AM-4 PM.

Arlington Christmas in April

On a Saturday in April, a volunteer group gets together in a one-day blitz to repair the homes of very low-income residents at no cost to them, using materials purchased with funds raised by the Robert Pierre Johnson Housing Development Corporation and the Arlington Christmas in April committee.

Repairs can be carpentry (kitchen floors, outdoor/indoor stairs), electrical (light fixtures, wall outlets, frayed wiring), and plumbing work (toilets, lavatories, leaking faucets); interior and exterior painting; replacing hot water heaters; weatherizing; and removing trash from yard and basement. The one criterion is that the work require a minimum of 10 volunteers, each for a full day's work.

About \$1500 covers the cost of the supplies and materials for a house. Any size donation is welcome. RPJ is a nonprofit organization and contributions are tax deductible.

If you would like to help in some way, come to the February BSCL meeting to hear more from a representative of the committee, or call 528-5606 for more information.



Donations for Community House

Two Barcrofters have made donations to the BSCL for the Community House. Phyl Kinsey donated a beautiful silver tray for the Hospitality Committee's use. After a fruitless search for a can opener during the Service Luncheon on Dec. 20, Anne Noll donated a new one. Thank you to both donors! By the way, the BSCL toolbox still needs a few good hand tools if you have spares in your basement.

Melia in Rose Bowl Parade

When David Melia of 6th St. was in first grade, he decided he would play drums with the Patriots of Northern Virginia. Now 14 years old and a freshman at Wakefield High School, David has been in parades for the Miss America pageant, the Daytona 500, DisneyWorld, and the Presidential inauguration. The Patriots has about 500 participants, aged 4–24, in a number of divisions, and the groups make one major trip each year.

David is the drum major for the Thundering Drums. This year the group—125 drummers aged 11–24—went to California to be in the Rose Bowl parade. His parents, Eileen and Dick, had plenty of opportunity to see how David was doing out there because NBC (channel 4) gave the parade great coverage!

Barcroft News Staff

Editor	Sara Leigh Merrey	521-0527
Publisher	Suzie Taylor	521-1527
Advertising	Virginia Reinecke	528-6600
Contributions	Laurie Kelsch	920-9429
Neighborhood News	Kathy Kerr	892-6458
Mailing	Aileen Woods & Pa	aul Metzler

Deadline for submissions: 5th of the month preceding the issue month.

BSCL Officers for 1990-1991

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Hospitality

Meril-Lee Jones
Anne Noll, 892-6710
Pat Roach, 920-8131
Laurie Kelsch, 920-9429
Joyce Hutchins, 685-4921

2

Barcroft's 1st Christmas Service Luncheon

Barcroft held its first Christmas Service Luncheon on December 20th at the Community House. Sponsored by the Barcroft School and Civic League, the Women's Club of Arlington, the Barcroft Friendship Club, and the Barcroft K Club, the luncheon honored "the service people who really make this neighborhood work," according to Committee Chairman Talmadge Williams.

Williams thanked the 75 service people who attended and introduced some of the guests, including County Board Members Al Eisenberg, Ellen Bozman, and Jim Hunter; County Manager Anton Gardner; Smokey Stover, Chief of Police, and a number of the police officers who respond to Barcroft calls;

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Alice Foster, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Resources, with other parks staff; Valerie Lemmie, Director of Environmental Services, with the staffers who collect Barcroft's refuse; Ellen Kahan, Principal of Barcroft School, with a number of teachers; Postmaster Kenneth Vlietstra and mail carriers for the Barcroft routes; and Fire Battalion Commander Leon Dodson and a crew of firemen from Battalion 71.

Al Eisenberg responded by thanking the neighborhood for making the effort to express how much they appreciate the services these people provide throughout the year.

Susan Christopher and a crew of her students from the Hoffman-Boston Adult Education program, Arlene Blakeney, Stephanie Bruss, Joyce Huffman, and Anthony Robin-





son, organized the food service. The students worked to earn extra credit for a sociology class project related to public service—everyone agreed that they earned an A+! Various Barcrofters contributed chili, rice, salad, cole slaw, garlic bread, cake, cookies, punch, and coffee. Heidelberg Bakery prepared a large sheet cake decorated with a remarkable likeness of the Community House (a Historic Landmark).

Committee member Anne Noll expressed satisfaction with the event afterwards. "It was a nice way to recognize the contributions all of those people make to our neighborhood every day," she said. "They're really essential to all of us."

BSCL President Randy Swart said that one very appreciative police officer noted that they feel people often see policemen as the enemy, and that very seldom do they get recognition for putting their lives on the line every day to protect the community. It was the first time he



had seen people rally to recognize the contributions of service people.

Climb Closer to a Cure

At 5:30 PM Feb. 20, dauntless challengers will climb the equivalent of a 10K runstraight up! The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Stair Climb will be held at the USA Today Building in Rosslyn. There will be prizes, trophies, and a survivors party for everyone concerned. The real winners, though, are those who benefit from the research funded by the proceeds of the climb. All entry fees and donations are tax deductible, and proceeds go to the Cystic Fibrosis Research Fund. The climb's success depends on you. They need climbers, either individual or co-ed 3-person teams, sponsors for climbers, and race day volunteers. Contact Ms. Lyn Linke, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, 6931 Arlington Rd., Suite T-200, Bethesda, MD 20814; 301-657-8444.



Arlington's Best Kept Secrets

Beavers Lodging in Sparrow Swamp

This comes under the heading of, "Pssst! Don't tell anybody, but" There are now two resident beavers in Sparrow Swamp, the area on the opposite side of the W&OD bike trail from Four Mile Run, just above 7th St. They have been busy damming up the drainage for the swamp, which has now become a good-sized pond and considerably larger than normal for this time of year.

Joyce Hutchins, the BSCL's Hospitality Chairperson, has seen the beavers on numer-

ous occasions. She says they are personable little creatures and very good neighbors.

You may well see them on a visit to the swamp if you walk

softly and do not throw things in the water. The current beaver comeback sometimes raises conflicts with tree preservation, but so

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Model on Display 4617 South Third Street Arlington, VA 22204 far any damage our Barcroft beavers might have done to trees has been eclipsed by Virginia Power's "trimming." Perhaps some intrepid nature photographer will capture the pair on film for the Barcroft News.

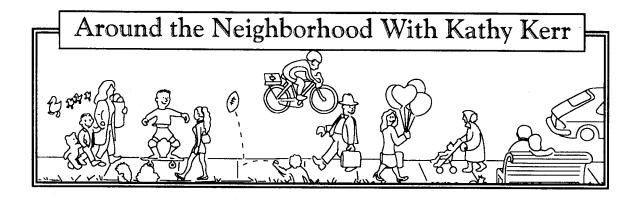
You can learn more about the

beavers by visiting the Long Branch Nature Center across Four Mile Run from Sparrow Swamp, accessible by foot or bicycle via the trail that crosses the stream on the wooden bridge near George Washington's Survey Marker. You can even reach it by car from Carlin Springs Road, if you don't mind using nonrenewable natural resources. Call the Nature Center at 845-7640 for more info.

4th of July Parade Committee

It's time to start planning for the big 4th of July Parade. Mary Anne O'Rourke has agreed to be a co-chair of the Parade Committee, but she needs help. If you would like to be the other half of this year's dynamic duo or a member of the committee, call Mary Anne at 920-5619. There's not much to do yet, but it's good to get an early start.





Happy 6-month anniversary to lovebirds Jim and Meril-Lee Jones of 2nd St. Back in December 1989, Jim struck up a conversation with Meril-Lee in an elevator at Skyline, where they both were working. He had to ask a few times before she agreed to go out, but by July 14, 1990, they heard wedding bells!

Meril-Lee has lived in Arlington for 15 years and Jim for 4 years. Meril-Lee works for Intracorp, a rehabilitation, disability management, and cost containment service. She is a manager for the mid-Atlantic area. Jim, retired from the Air Force, is thinking of starting a furniture restoration business. Jim's son, Tray, is an Air Force pilot and has been flying troops and supplies over to Saudi Arabia. Daughter Andrea is a ski instructor at Lake Tahoe.

Jim and Meril-Lee have taken two honeymoons so far. The first was scuba diving in Bonaire (off the coast of Venezuela) and the second was hiking in the Canadian Rockies up around Lake Louise and Calgary.



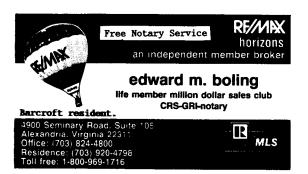
Suzanne and Robert Greenberg of 5th St. are enjoying their new daughter, Chloe, born November 11, 1990. Robert, a Falls Church native, met Suzanne in Seattle, where they went to school. Robert is an architect.

Suzanne, originally from Massachusetts, will be returning to her landscape architecture job in February. They have lived in Barcroft now for 1½ years and greatly enjoy the outdoors.



An extra special Happy Birthday to Lee Rumpf who turned 2 years old on December 16, 1990. Lee has had respiratory problems from birth that have resulted in two surgeries, multitudes of tests, and long stays at Children's Hospital. Lee had a tracheostomy (a tube in the base of his throat) for several months, which was just removed in October. Despite his medical history, Lee is a robust, sturdy, and delightful fellow. His interests include the sand box, toy cars, and real-life garbage trucks.

Lee lives on 3rd St. with his parents, Nora and Dick, and his big sister, Anna, almost 10.



February Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1–16 Streetcar Named Desire, Arlington Players, 8 PM, Thomas Jefferson Theatre. Call 549-1063. 8, 9, 15–17, 21–23 Murder Among Friends, 8 PM, Gunston Arts Center. Call 683-0502. 12–March 2 A Life in the Theatre (David Mamet), 8 PM, Gunston Arts Center. Call 683-6785.					1	2 Columbia Pike Artist Studios Open House, 11 AM-4 PM, 932 S. Walte Reed Dr.
3	4	5	6 Wednesday Bird Walk, 9:30 AM-noon, adults, free. Info, call 358- 6535.	7 Barcroft School & Civic League, Com- munity House, 7:30 PM. Info, call 521-2080.	8 Cub Scout Pack Meeting, 6:30 PM.	9 Venomous Snakes, 1–2 & 3–4 PM; kids 9 & up, adults; reservations, \$3 ea. Call 358-6535.
10 Arlington Symphony, 3 PM. Call 528-1817 Alone on Stage With Friends, 7:30 PM, Gunston Arts Center, 528-1817	11	12 Preschool Activity: Animal Valentines, 10:30- 11:30 AM, kids aged 3-5 with parent (also Wed. PM). Call 358-6535.	13 Natural Valentines, 7– 8:30 PM, adults, free. Reserva- tions & info, call 358-6535.	14 Valentine's Day Afterschool Spe- cial: Natural Valen- tines, 3.45–4.45 PM, kids grades 1–3. Call 358-6535.	15	16 Lift Every Voice, Black History Month presentation Gunston Arts Cen- ter, 2 PM, Free. Call 358-6960
17	18 Washington's Birthday	19	20 WCXR/Cystic Fibrosis Stair Climb, 5:30 PM, USA Today Building, Rosslyn. Call 301-657-8444.	21	Winter Bird Hike, 10– 11 AM, adults, free; handicap acc. Reserva- tions, 358-6535.	23
24 Stories of Color from around the World, Black History Month presentation, 2 PM, Free, Gunston Arts Ctr. Call 358-6960.	25	26	27	28 Afterschool Special: Owls, 3:45-4:45 PM, kids grades 1-3. Call 358-6535.		

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Food Delivery in Barcroft

At 6:30 PM on Christmas Eve, a van and several cars pulled into Hardee's parking lot at Buchanan and Columbia Pike. In the bitter cold, people started unloading ham sandwiches, tuna fish, bread, milk, cereal, and a rack of day-old doughnuts, a bonus that night. Two women and some children walked up, stated the number of people in their family, and were given food accordingly. Food was distributed to nearly 50 people that night. The cold must have deterred a lot of people, since this scene has been reenacted for more than a month now, normally serving better than 100 people.

The food comes from Lazarus at the Gate in Falls Church; 350 volunteers feed 1,000 Northern Virginians each day at the eight stops made by McKenna's Wagon, a food delivery program. It was started by George Mc-

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The Dry Extraction Carpet Cleaning System Manmon, a retired Georgetown University professor who lives in Annandale. The Barcroft stop was suggested by a Barcrofter, so food is now being distributed in our neighborhood every weekday evening.

That frigid night a young mother arrived without coat, scarf, hat, or gloves. She carried a baby dressed in a sweater and hat, covered with a thin blanket. Three warm sweaters were given out that night, and a toy was given to each child to make Christmas a bit more special for some neighborhood children.

If this work is to continue, we need more volunteers to commit to two hours on one day a month. Food is picked up in Falls Church, and anything left after distribution is returned.

Barcrofters can work together and get to know neighbors while helping other neighbors. Donations of money, food, clothing, toys, in fact anything, are also needed. For more information call Laurie Kelsch, 920-9429, or Lazarus at the Gate, 533-0328.

Special thanks to Hardee's for the use of their parking lot.

Barcroft Exchange

NECKLACE FOUND In 1990. If you lost one in Barcroft, call Howard at 892-5979.

OFFICE FURNITURE/EQUIPMENT FOR SALE Steno desk, \$75; 40" computer table w/shelf, \$75; Oak computer printer table, \$50; Wood bookcase, 5', 4 shelves, \$75; Steno chair, casters, \$50; 2 side chairs, \$20 ea.; GBC binding machine w/supply of coils, \$25. Call Virginia Reinecke, 528-6600.

LOST Tortoise-shell Rayban sunglasses in light brown case. Lost near 7th and Taylor. Please call Molly at 920-3836.

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Urgent Need to Improve Buchanan Gardens

Over the years, many Barcrofters have expressed concern about the condition of the Buchanan Gardens apartments (behind Blockbuster Video). On November 21, 1990, some of them held a meeting with tenants of the apartments to learn about the conditions there and explore ways to effect improvements. Geneva Cox from Catholics for Housing served as mediator, and Elizabeth Mansilla from the Barcroft School office came to act as translator. Food from Lazarus at the Gate was distributed to the 40 or so tenants who came.

Tenants reported that the owner, a suburban-Maryland resident, refuses to respond to complaints about leaky faucets, broken windows, a roof that leaks when it rains, no ventilation system for hot weather and no screens

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on the windows to keep the bugs out in summer, faulty heating in winter, a massive roach infestation, and much more. They were informed of their rights, and several tenants agreed to let the county inspect their apartments for code violations.

A letter is being sent to Al Eisenberg to inform the County Board of these problems. In addition, there are some nonprofit groups interested in purchasing the apartments and rehabilitating them as decent, low-cost housing.

If you would like more information, contact Susan Sarcone, 920-8131.

Neighborhood Sign Design

A committee including Barbara Swart and Meril-Lee Jones will meet in February to choose a design for the Barcroft Neighborhood signs. If you would like to help select the design, call Barbara at 521-2080 or Meril-Lee at 920-5942.



Shout It From the Rooftop!

Or maybe just from the pages of

Barcroft News. Is there something you want to get off your chest? Do you have an erudite opinion on the burning issues in our community, or the world? Watch this space for a new column—written by our readers. To give you some inspiration, we'll start with one or two columns written by our always-opinionated staff. But we really want to hear from you.

Drop a line to the Editor, using any format you like—quill, typewriter, computer, or even a message in a bottle.

Mail Carrier Commended

Some Barcrofters on Carrier Route 15 (bounded by 9th St., Wakefield, Pershing, Buchanan, and Four Mile Run) have banded together to write a letter of commendation for their mail carrier, Frank Pelino. Always known for his courtesy and professionalism, Pelino has been commended as unfailingly prompt, efficient, and accurate. The letter says, "We rarely get improperly delivered mail and have even received mail with incomplete addresses. Frank has also helped us with temporary and permanent address changes,

among other important postal matters." The letter was sparked by Pennie Kinsey on 7th St.

One patron who formerly lived at 4649 2nd Street South and now lives at 4611 7th Street South received a letter from the county addressed to him at "4495 South 2nd Street." He noted that the only time he receives inaccurately delivered mail is when Frank is on leave and a substitute carries for him.

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Barcroft Crime Report

Crimes reported during December. If you have information about an incident, please call the police at 558-2222.

12/3 4800 S. 7th St. Bike taken from porch

12/5 4300 S. 8th St. Burglary; entry through unlocked sliding glass door; furniture, electronic equipment, cash stolen

12/9 4400 S. 1st Place Attempt to steal radio from car

12/13 900 S. Buchanan St. Roommate dispute

12/14 4200 S. Columbia Pike Assault; suspect known to victim

12/16 900 S. Buchanan St. Apartment rental office broken into

12/18 900 S. Buchanan St. Gun discharged; subject arrested

12/22 600 S. Buchanan St. Car window alarm sounded; subject scared off

12/23 600 S. Taylor St. Rock thrown at house; window and screen damaged **4700 S. Columbia Pike** Fight; 2 subjects arrested **12/25 900 S. Wakefield St.** Radio and speakers stolen from car

4800 S. Columbia Pike Shoplifting 12/28 900 S. Buchanan St. Neighborhood dispute

Neighborline a Success

After some months of operation, we can say that the Barcroft Neighborline is a success. The answering machine at the Community House gets at least a few calls every week, and some weeks exceeds the counter's limit of 100. An important use is to announce committee meetings set up too late to be included in the newsletter. It was also handy for coordinating the brush cutting project, and it will be very useful if we have doubtful weather at parade time. The message is normally updated every week, but it can change any time. Dial 521-1116 to see what's up. If you have an announcement to be placed on the Neighborline call Randy Swart at the number listed on page 2.

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message on the line, call Randy Swart. 1116, to get the latest info. To place a Call the Barcroft Neighborline, 521-

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