



Barcroft News

November 2005

Vol 103, Issue 03

President's Report

By Pat Williamson

Please join us on Thursday, November 3, at 7:30 pm, for the regular monthly meeting of the Barcroft School and Civic League. Blair Cameron, with the Arlington County Fire and EMS Department., will provide a presentation on the our most local first responders to Barcroft and hear our questions and concerns.

The October 6 meeting was a great success. A quilt, handcrafted by neighbor Jill Herndon, was presented to Scott Brinitzer as a gigantic thank you for all the amazing landscape design, planning and maintenance he provides at the Community House. Truly the Community House is the crown jewel of the neighborhood thanks to volunteer efforts that Scott provides.

Heidi Wicker was elected to serve as Recording Secretary. Her excellent meeting minutes are posted on our website, www.bscl.org. We thank her for volunteering and look forward to serving with her.

Elizabeth Rives, neighbor and tree steward gave a second presentation this month on planting the right tree in the right spot. She reminds us that "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is today." We look foward to her coming back to speak again in the early spring.

A lively debate of the three candidates for Arlington County School Board rounded out the meeting. Skillfull moderator Eric Harold kept everyone on time with their questions and their answers. We were joined by other 22204 neighbors.

See you on November 3.

Barcroft Community Coffee House—FAMILY SHOW

Storyteller Jim Weiss
Friday, November 18th, 2005
4:30pm Admission is \$5
Doors open at 4:10pm

Please call or email to reserve your seat today!
703.486.0457
communitycoffeehouse@comcast.net

Note: \$\$\$ is cash-only and paid at the performance

"Jim Weiss' voice is liquid gold." - CNN

"This man can weave a story that reels you in." -
Children's Book Review

"...even adults will find it difficult not to be caught up in the spell." - Parent's Choice

Hope to see you and your children there!
Danny & Beth Malks (Coffee House Founders)

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Deadlines: 10th (ads) or 15th (news/editorial material) day of the month preceding the issue month.

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Go to:
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Stay on the Right Side of the Road.

TRAV FICK is in a head-shaking mood when driving our Traffic Calming Cushions. As you know, to slow traffic to 25 mph, humps are one option and then there are cushions. Cushions are humps tailored to allow Emergency vehicles (ambulances and fire trucks) to legally straddle the center line of the road, e.g., Buchanan Street, to get to their emergency destination quickly. The rest of us drivers, obliged to drive 25 mph in neighborhoods, do not need that favor and in fact MAY NOT straddle that line. It is illegal for us to do so. Driving cushions is not difficult, certainly not dangerous, IF DRIVEN AT 25 miles per hour. We drive guiding the right hand set of wheels on the hump, the left-hand set in the "trench" of a cushion.

To remind drivers of this direction, newly designed bollards are in place on Buchanan Street in Barcroft. Bollards are vertical rods installed in the roadway to keep drivers to the appropriate side of the road. The problem with the new bollards after September 24 was a technical one: the wrong wrench was sent to install them so there were problems. This technical problem is by now solved. However, removing bollards without County permission is not an option. Therefore, when a problem occurs, call the County's Transportation Division of Planning, 703-228-3681, and report what has happened. Then we can all be on our way safely and legally..

Were you frightened by the neighbors?!

Thank you to all the enthusiastic porch and front yard Halloween decorators. Hope you didn't scare anyone too much. There were a few skeletons out there on Halloween. I wonder if fear caused them

to jump out of their skin!

Look for the contest winners in the next edition of the Barcroft News.

Sweet Sounds and a Thank You from Wakefield

The Wakefield Music Parents Association extends a heartfelt thanks to our community members who so generously supported the Music Department's recent Tag Day. On Saturday, September 24th, music students (with parents) walked, knocked, sang and played their way through many WHS neighborhoods. Students were delighted with the positive response of our community and the many expressions of verbal and monetary support that were received. It is truly a bonding event for the kids to talk to community members who remember and share stories of their own high school music days or just

want to extend words of encouragement.

We also appreciate those neighbors who have taken the time and energy to mail in checks since the 24th. If you're still interested in supporting our young musicians, please send your checks to WMPA c/o Linda Allen, treasurer, 1105 South 23rd Road, Arlington VA 22202.

Finally, mark your calendar for Wakefield's (free!) winter concert on Thursday, December 15th at 7 pm! We hope to see you there!

Scoop The Poop!

Eric Parker (S. Abingdon St.)

Barcroft seems a little "messy" to me lately. Dog owners, of which I am one, have a responsibility to the community to clean up after their pets. When I worked on establishing the GlenCarlyn dog exercise area I learned that leaving dog poop un-scooped is more than just being inconsiderate:

- Bacteria in dog poop can cause diseases in humans, including dysentery and cholera.
- Dog poop can be washed into storm drains and, from our neighborhood, reach Four Mile Run, the Potomac River, and eventually the Chesapeake Bay, where it can contribute to the creation of algae blooms which deplete the water of oxygen and kill fish.
- One word: Rats!
- Dog poop will over-fertilize and kill grass, creating a "minefield" look to

your lawn. Also, eating food from a garden fertilized, intentionally or not, by dog poop is unhealthy and kind of disgusting.

If the above are not a sufficient incentive, note that Arlington County Code authorizes a fine of up to \$100 for failing to scoop on public property. In our neighborhood, the stretch of grass between the sidewalk and the curb is public property regardless of how many times you've mowed it.

I ask my fellow dog owners to join me in respecting our community and our neighbors and to **please** clean up after your pet. If you use a dog-walker or dog-sitter, make sure they are aware of your desire to keep Barcroft poop-free.

If you'd like to know more (yes, there is more) you can find the full text of "The Straight Poop" on the web site for the Benjamin Banneker dog exercise area: <http://www.angelfire.com/va2/BannekerDogs/Poo.html>

National Recognition

Congratulations to Barcrofter and high school senior, Daniel Cackley who is being honored in National Hispanic Recognition Program. Based on his Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) scores, Daniel is one of six Arlington seniors named "Scholar," in the National Hispanic Recognition Program, scoring in the top two percent in the nation.

The National Hispanic Recognition Program, established in 1983, is a College Board program that provides national recognition of the exceptional academic achievements of Hispanic high school seniors and identifies them for postsecondary institutions.

Daniel attends Washington-Lee High School. He is the son of Phil and Alicia Cackley on S. Abingdon St.

Helicopter Study Report

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Council on Noise, Aviation and Aircraft at National and Dulles Airports (CONAANDA) recently issued a report on helicopter activity. CONAANDA was established in 1985 to address mitigation strategies for reducing aircraft noise. CONAANDA's mission is to provide a regional policy perspective on airport noise matters.

The study focused on helicopter activity in the metropolitan area that included analyses of noise effects, noise abatement procedures, economic effects, public benefits of helicopters, as well as future trends of helicopter activity in the region.

A copy of the 2005 Regional Helicopter System Plan report can be obtained by contacting George Nichols, Principal Environmental Planner, at tgnichols@mwcog.or or 202-962-3355.



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Photo Show in Arlington

There will be a Photo Show at Fort C.F. Smith and the Hendry House from November 11th to the 20th. The opening reception is on Friday the 11th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. The show will be open from 10:00am to 5:00pm on Saturday and Sunday both week ends. The Civil War re-enactors will be on site Sunday the 13th from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Live music will also be provided during the show from 2:00pm to 4:00pm the first week end.

The show continues throughout the week with classes being offered in nature photography, basic photography and a critique of the show.

Please call 703-243-7329 to reserve a space in the classes. There is a \$25 fee for each class which will be paid to the instructor.

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NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL NEWS

Barcroft Elementary School

Did you notice the buzz around the neighborhood during the first two weeks of October. That was the Barcroft Elementary School children enjoying a mid session break. I know, the crossing guards were still on duty and the children walked past your house in the morning. They did so with a happy gait because they were on their way to intersession.

Learn more about these great classes taught by interesting people, including Beth Malks (Barcroft neighbor and school supporter), on the next page.

Kenmore Middle School

Laura Cuorato and Judy Freeman, teachers at Kenmore Middle School, have been guiding their students in creative expression. The product of the student's work—poetry—was recently recited publicly.

On October 26th, Kenmore students participated in "Moving Words Student Poetry Reading." at the Barns and Noble in Clarendon. Congratulations to the teachers and the students for their participation.

Wakefield High School

You may have heard the sweet sounds of the Wakefield High School band in Barcroft last month. Read more on page 4.

Upcoming Events at Wakefield include:
 Home Football game: November 10, 7 pm
 PTA meeting: November 14, 7 pm

What's an Intersession?!

Intersession is one of Barcroft Elementary School's best-kept secrets. It is a time of renewed energy for the kids and the teachers. Barcroft's regular teachers get a well-deserved vacation. Intersession students spend two weeks in a more relaxed, no-homework environment. Students choose classes that are fun and interesting to them. They meet new friends because there is a different mix of kids than in their regular classes. The hands-on camp-style classes also incorporate some SOL objectives.

This year's first intersession was held in early October. 84% of Barcroft's students signed up for intersession even though they had the option to take vacation.

Here are JUST SOME examples of the great courses offered:

Movement and Culture class produced high quality student performers who were honored to dance at a reception at the Clarendon Barnes & Noble for Educators' week kick-off on October 17. They did a great job and seemed to be having a really fun time dancing. *Fantastic job kids!* People in the store were asking, "where did those kids learn to dance so well?" Those present were happy to spread the word that those were Barcroft School intersession dancers performing with their dedicated dance teacher, Michelle Clark.

Theatre classes are offered in which children write their own plays and perform them for the rest of the school.

"Let's Play Ball" is a fun course all about baseball taught by an instructor from the Virginia Baseball Club.

Fall Theme Art Class which toured the Hirshhorn Museum and sculpture garden. There was a gardening course, a quilting course, and a building construction course. Kindergarteners were learning to dance th Virginia Reel in their PE class.

In **"Math Fun and Games"** class 4th & 5th grade students were unofficial games testers for the ThinkFun (formerly Binary Arts) educational game company. Students played a variety of games from ThinkFun and many other companies and worked toward gaining status as "Da Vinci Scholars" as they mastered advanced levels of the various self-play games. They learned how to formulate a game scoring rubric, draft a business letter, and were taught advanced concepts in mathematics and problem solving through wonderful games and logic puzzles such as MathDice, MathDice online, Su/Do/Ku, Da Vinci's Challenge, Coda, Rush Hour, Tipover, etc. They were the first class to ever take a field trip to the ThinkFun company, based in Old Town and enjoyed delivering their business letters to the founder and CEO, asking questions, touring the offices, seeing the graphic art department, seeing math games in their prototype stage and best of all, playing the latest games not yet on the market.

Remedial classes are also offered to students who need to get up to speed in any of the core subject areas.

The list goes on and on...

Thanks for long hours spent by Barcroft's dedicated intersession coordinator, Jeannette Kwok.

RECIPE CORNER

Submitted by: Katherine Grace McGwier

This is from Sue Bartow
We love it
Really tasty

CHICKEN MARBELLA

Pre-heat Oven @350

Approx. 2 lbs Boned/skinned Chicken breasts
3-4 cloves of garlic
4 Bay Leaves
1 Tbsp Thyme
1 Tbsp Rosemary
1/2 Cup Red Wine Vinegar
1/2 Cup Olive Oil
1/2 Cup of Pitted Prunes
1/2 Cup of Spanish Green Olives
1/4 Cup of Capers (and a little juice)
1 Cup of Brown Sugar
1 Cup of White Wine

Combine Chicken, garlic, herbs, Salt and Pepper to taste, vinegar, oil, prunes, olives, capers and bay leaves in large bowl

Cover and marinate overnight
Arrange chicken in a single layer in a baking dish
Bake for 30-40 minutes basting every 15 minutes

Check for doneness

Serve with rice

May be served cold



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CAN ARLINGTON KEEP RETIREES?

Seniors are getting younger and Arlington County's Office of Senior Adult Programs has announced a community brainstorming event, "Flourishing after 55," to discuss the future environment for seniors in Arlington.

The discussion will be held:
Sat., Nov. 5, 9:30 a.m.-noon, NRECA building,
4301 Wilson Blvd. (near Glebe Rd., free garage parking).

Guest speaker will be Abigail Trafford, columnist, "The Washington Post" and author of "My Time: Making the Most of the Rest of Your Life."

Residents will have an opportunity to share their visions of what they see as being needed to ensure seniors a good quality of life and how Arlington County can shape an environment for successful aging.

This event kicks off a long-range planning process spearheaded by the Office of Senior Adult Programs.

To register, call 703-228-4745.



**We welcome you to join us
For Shabbat Services
Fridays - 6:30 pm
Saturdays - 9:30 am
Call or email the office for details.**

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Hurricane Katrina

Gumbo at the Barcroft Community House

On September 25, a Gumbo Feast and Katrina Benefit was held at the Barcroft Community House. Money raised went to the SWAN-Children's Relief FUND. This fund helps provide families of Baton Rouge's River Center Shelter Preschool with some their most immediate needs.

Thank you to community members who attended the benefit and gave generously to the cause. Over \$1700.00 was donated to the fund. This generous support not only gave real help to families living in the shelter, it gave moral support to the founders of the preschool who are working long hours for those in need.

RECIPE CORNER II

Recently a neighbor on S. Abingdon St. posted an email to the BSCL chat list looking for a piano bench. I had one to give away.

As a thank you, she made some incredible muffins for our family. Here is the recipe.

Submitted by: Kathy Kerr (also on S. Abingdon St.)

MORNING GLORY MUFFINS

Preheat oven to 350.

3 cups all-purpose flour
 1 1/2 cups whole wheat flour
 1 cup unprocessed bran
 1 cup quick-cooking oats (not instant)
 1 cup chopped walnuts or pecans

1 cup raisins
 2 1/2 firmly packed brown sugar
 1 1/2 Tbsp baking soda
 1 1/2 Tbsp cinnamon
 1/2 tsp salt
 2 cups vegetable oil
 5 medium carrots, grated
 3 medium Granny Smith apples, grated
 6 large eggs, beaten
 2 Tbsp vanilla extract

Combine flours, bran, oats, nuts, raisins, and brown sugar. Add soda, cinnamon, and salt and mix well. Blend in oil, carrots, apples, eggs and vanilla. Fill oiled muffin cups 2/3 full with batter and bake 30-35 minutes. (Note: Mine did better about 27 minutes, but that's just my oven.)

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Come to Arlington's Nature Centers

Bird Walk

Wednesday, November 2. 9 to 11:30 AM Adults: Join members of the Northern Virginia Bird Club for an informal walk through Long Branch and Glencarlyn Parks in search of migratory and resident birds. Experienced and beginning birders welcome. Bring binoculars and field guides. Free but reservations required. Long Branch Nature Center.

Snakes Alive!

Sunday, November 6. 2 to 3 PM Families: Here's your chance to find out all you ever wanted to know about these amazing and often misunderstood creatures! You'll even have a chance to meet some up close and personal! \$1 fee per person. Long Branch Nature Center. Reservations required.

Hanssen Spy Tour

Sunday, November 6. 4 to 5:15 PM Adults and teens 16 years and older : This 'top secret' program investigates the connection between infamous spy Robert Hanssen and Long Branch Nature Center. We'll discuss some of the FBI's operations and the cold cash stashed right by the Center's amphitheater. Get the inside scoop as you join us on our very own spy tour. \$2 fee per person. Reservations required.

Little Sprouts Story Time: American Indian Heritage Month

Wednesday, November 9. 3:30 to 4:15PM Ages 3-8 Children who love listening to stories and learning about nature are invited to join us at this year round program. At this story time we'll hear traditional tales from across the land. Then we'll do a quick craft, game, or maybe even meet the real live stars of our stories! Free. Long Branch Nature Center. Reservations required.

Hills and Dale Hike

Saturday November 12. 11AM to Noon Adults Let us be your guide as we tackle the trails around the nature center. We'll take a very vigorous walk up, down, and all around Long Branch and Glencarlyn Parks. While we're getting in a good workout, we'll also take in all our beautiful surroundings have to offer. Free. Long Branch Nature Center. Reservations required.

Gemstone Club: Topaz

Wednesday November 9. 4 to 5 PM Ages 7 and up: There will be polished gems and uncut crystals to examine, as we explore the geology, mining, legends, and literature for this gem. Each child will take home a beautiful gemstone in a protective display box with an attractive color photo card. The Gemstone Club meets once each month for a year's worth of fun and collecting. Attend one or all of the sessions. \$4 fee. Gulf Branch Nature Center. Reservations required.

"Chili" Nights Campfire

Saturday November 12. All ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The whole family is invited to join us at the Long Branch amphitheater for lots of old-fashioned fun. This engaging program will be filled with entertaining activities, which may include stories, special animal guests, games, songs and of course, treats like s'mores. \$5 fee per person. Long Branch Nature Center. Reservations required.

This list is only a sampling of programs offered at our county's nature centers. Please go to the county website for a complete listing.

For Reservations:

<https://registration.co.arlington.va.us/>
or call 703-228-4747



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

Improve vs. Move? A Common Dilemma

What's the best solution when you need more space? Should you improve the house or move to another? Here are some questions to evaluate the dilemma to improve your house or purchase another.

1. **How long do you intend to keep the house?** It makes little financial sense to pour money into a house only to sell it. If you've ever lived through a remodeling project, you know that the emotional upheaval you suffer during construction needs to be offset by enjoying the benefits of the completed job.
2. **Will you be able to recoup the cost of improvements when you sell?** Reviewing recent comparable sales will help you to determine how much if any the improvements will increase market value. Making improvements that don't add to market value will lose money especially if selling in 5 or less years (depending on the type of improvement.)
3. **Are the potential improvements logical given the age, size, and location of the house and lot?** Making expensive additions to a house that's full of functional obsolescence makes little financial sense, unless you improve the old section as well. It's much tougher to recoup the investment from home improvements if they aren't similar in style and design/era to the existing home. Also check the setback requirements for construction

tougher to recoup the improvements if they aren't similar in style and design/era to the existing home. Also check setback requirements for construction especially on rear and side lot lines to ensure feasibility of the addition.

4. **Could additions/changes over-improve the house?** Homes at the top of the market for the neighborhood take longer to sell since buyers look to buy on the median to lower end, hoping to maximize equity and improvements made.

Contact us for the "cost versus value" report and other helpful reports. Visit our web sites:

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