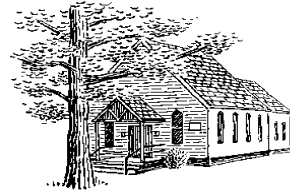


Barcroft School and Civic League
800 South Buchanan Street
Arlington, VA 22204



January 2010

Barcroft News

Vol 107, Issue 5

President's Report

From Bryant Monroe

Happy New Year Barcroft neighbors! 2010 is here, and if you're like me you're wondering can the holidays be over so soon. I kicked my Christmas off at the Barcroft Christmas party, and it was great evening. Thanks to all who came, and especially to those who performed.

We start the New Year with a **meeting on January 7** that will feature a special presentation on the Columbia Pike Land Use and Housing Study. This study is a follow-on effort to the Columbia Pike Initiative and the Form based Code. Working with County staff, neighbors from eleven civic associations along the Pike and other stakeholders are focusing on what the future may hold for the residential areas (particularly the multifamily locations) not covered in the earlier phases of planning. Many of these properties will evolve in the years to come, and it is our hope that the community can have a voice in how those changes occur.

Jennifer Smith of the Arlington County Planning Division will brief us on the study and its impact on Barcroft, and she'll walk us through the planning process. Of particular interest will be how you can be involved, and put your opinions into the mix. For some great maps

and photos visit the County's web site at <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/CPHD/forums/columbia/current/page66547.aspx>

Barcroft dues have now increased to \$5 per adult/\$10 per couple. If you haven't paid your dues lately, please use the form at the end of the newsletter.

Special thanks to **Marge Miller** who is retiring after many years of coordinating the distribution of the Barcroft News. She has done a tremendous job of working with the many volunteers who deliver the newsletter to every home in Barcroft. While I used to take the Barcroft News for granted, I now get to see firsthand that it doesn't make it to every doorway without many dedicated volunteers working hard. Thank you to **Linda Webb** who is taking over the distribution job.

I also want to welcome back **Heidi Wicker** to the BSCL team; she has agreed to chair the Traffic Committee. As you know this committee looks at parking issues, and with the National Guard Bureau expansion we are wrestling with some tough parking concerns. The committee needs volunteers, so give us a call and join this newly revived part of the BSCL team.

Tax Credit Extension Update

On 11/6/09 President Obama signed a bill into law extending the \$8,000 tax credit to first-time home buyers. The temporary credit is only available for purchases that go to contract before 5/1/2010 and that close before 7/1/2009. The tax credit has greatly helped to stabilize the housing market, and could make a larger impact by including more home buyers.

This new law also includes a tax credit for home buyers who "move up" or "trade-in" their home. Under the new bill, home buyers who are have lived in their home for at least five concurrent years over the past eight years, and purchase a new home, are eligible for a \$6,500 tax credit. The new house does not have to cost more than the original home. Also, the credit is available for home buyers who once owned a home (and lived there for at least five concurrent years over the past eight years), but have since sold it and have been renting.

The income limits are now \$125,000 per year for individuals and \$225,000 for married couples. Maximum house price is of \$800,000. Congress recently passed legislation to extend a temporary increase for "conforming loans" that mortgage financiers Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac may buy from lenders to \$729,750 through the end of next year. Those limits would have reverted to \$625,500 on 1/1/2010. Lawmakers approved the increase to avoid disrupting the mortgage market.

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

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clsullion@yahoo.com

Restoration David Michaelson

Fundraising JoAnne Barnhart, 920-0821

Landscaping Scott Brinitzer, 892-0308

Traffic Committee Heidi Wicker

Parade Andrew Hunter, 979-8247

Columbia Pike Bryant Monroe, 271-0944

Demeter Darlene Mickey

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Shirley Gay

Parking Committee **vacant**

Volunteers **vacant**

Web Master & NCAC Rep Volunteers@bscl.org
Randy Swart, 521-2080
randy@bscl.org

Arlington County Civic Federation

Delegates Eric Harold, Randy Swart,
Pat Williamson, Jim Kerr

Alternates Karen Darner, David Michelson,
Elaine Squeri, Mark Wigfield

Neighbor to Neighbor Ads

Teenage Babysitter - Week nights and weekends:
Sarah @ 703-521-8756.

Babysitter: Red Cross certified tenth grader available for neighborhood babysitting. Call Abby at 703-892-1090.

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

Yard Work: Teenager available for raking leaves and other yard work. Call Thomas at 703-979-5838

Babysitting: Brother and sister, ages 14 and 15, can babysit in Barcroft, nights and weekends. Call Thomas or Allison at 703-979-5838.

Mother's Helper/ Babysitting service available from 16 year old CPR certified girl, responsible and great with kids. Available every day after 3:30 PM and weekends. Call Christy at (703)-300-1989.

Ongoing Need: For new or used baby items, clothing, books, educational toys, furniture, baby gates, household items, food, etc for the Even Start Program at Barcroft School. Call Jenny Lindenauer at 703-228-8846 or email jennifer_lindenauer@apsva.us

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??

**BSCL MEMBERSHIP FORM -- 2009 - 2010
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2010**

Please complete & return with dues (\$5 per adult/\$10 per couple)



Make Checks Payable to: BSCL

Return to: Barcroft School & Civic League
c/o Peg Lefebvre, Membership Secretary
812 S. George Mason Dr.
Arlington, VA 22204-1555

<input type="checkbox"/> New Member Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership (\$ 5.00)	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Membership Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Couple Membership (\$10.00)	\$ _____
Additional Tax Deductible Contribution to the Community House Fund		\$ _____
Total		\$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ Apt: _____

Arlington, VA 22204 Home Phone: (____) - _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Do you wish your e-mail address shown on the BSCL Web Page? Yes No

Do you wish your e-mail address removed from the Web Page? Yes No

I/we would like to volunteer to help with:

<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Removal for Elderly/Disabled	<input type="checkbox"/> Yard Work for Elderly/Disabled
<input type="checkbox"/> Barcroft Players	<input type="checkbox"/> Food Events (Dinners, Cook-outs, etc)
<input type="checkbox"/> Distribution (Newsletters, Flyers, etc)	<input type="checkbox"/> 4th of July Parade & Picnic
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant Writing	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Efforts (as the need arises)
<input type="checkbox"/> Serve on a Committee - Please specify which: _____	
(Crime Resistance, Fund Raising, Restoration, Parking Traffic, Parks, Renovations, Landscape)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____	

ALL THE LATEST NEWS

Are you on the Barcroft chat group and news email lists?

Go to:

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Around Town

Update on Arlington Mill

By Heidi Wicker

On December 15, the Arlington County Board unanimously authorized the County to move ahead with the public portion of the approved plan for a new Arlington Mill Community Center, including the community center, plaza and gymnasium, with the goal to begin building as soon as possible. The residential component of the project will be built separately when the County finds a development partner for that portion.

Arlington Mill on Columbia Pike has been closed for about 15 months. A plan for redeveloping the site into a mixed use area with a community center, gymnasium, classroom space, retail and both market rate and affordable housing, in a public-private partnership, was approved by the County Board and a bond for the project approved by voters in 2006. Unfortunately, due to market conditions, the County has been unable to find a commercial development partner for the market-rate apartment portion of the approved plan.

Three options were proposed and discussed at a public meeting was held December 3. **First** was to tear down the existing structure, create recreational sports fields on the site and wait 5 years before building the approved plan. **Second** was to reoccupy the existing structure which would take about 18 months due to building maintenance and then wait 5 years before building the approved plan. **Third**, which was approved by the Board, is to split the plan into two phases: 1) build the public portion as soon as possible and 2) build the

residential component, to be located behind the community center, whenever a development partner is found.

On December 7, the County Board and most of the Steering Committee members (including Barcroft) expressed support for the phased approach because it is more certain to result in a new community center that would be built faster (3 years).

The County Board stated that the County should push forward with both phases at the same time, if possible. So, if a development partner is found for the residential component of the plan, the residential building could be built at the same time as the public portion.

The only modifications to the approved plan anticipated to implement the Phased Approach are elimination of the parking garage underneath the Community Center (parking would be added on other portions of the site instead) and possibly the housing intended to be in the public building. Regarding the residential building, the Board asked that if they cannot find a commercial development partner to build the residential building, one option is for the residential building to be all affordable housing.

It is exciting that the County is finally moving forward with this project, which was over 10 years in the making. There will be additional opportunities for Barcroft input as the project moves forward, so stay tuned.

Around the Neighborhood

Thank you to everyone who helped to put together the Barcroft Winter Holiday Party on Thursday Dec. 3. Banjoist **Barbara Swart** coordinated the event. Other band members included **Michael Nazaretz** (accordion), **Steve Wilson** (flute), **Maureen Locke** (guitar), **Kathy Kerr** (fiddle), **Randy Swart** (mandolin) along with two Alcova Heights guest musicians— Rebecca Kraft and Monty. Everyone enjoyed MC **Dan Junker**, the **Harold Family's** performance of "The Grinch," and the **Cackley Family Singers**. Thanks to **Alicia Cackley** for leading the group singing, to Santa for his timely visit and to everyone who brought those terrific treats. Of special note, some wonderful pumpkin bars were made from a pumpkin organically grown in the backyard of **Annette Osso** and **David Michaelson** by their son **Daniel**.

All those who attended the Holiday Party will remember accordionist **Michael Nazaretz**, best known in Barcroft for his rendition of the song "Vo Sadu Lyi." The brief (about 15 seconds) but powerful song is perhaps better known as "Hey." Michael promises that this song will be included when his band, **Samovar**, performs, at the Kennedy Center Jan. 10.

Everyone is invited to hear **Samovar on the Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center on January 10 at 6 PM**. Admission is free, no tickets necessary. Samovar has been together for over 13 years. With as many as seven musicians, they specialize in songs and melodies from the Russian and Ukrainian folk tradition. Their colorful costumes further reflect these traditions. The band performs frequently throughout the Washington area and internationally as well, such as in Taiwan. Samovar has also appeared on the soundtracks for at least 3 movies. See their website for more information, soundbites and some videos: www.samovarmusic.com

As Barcroft's favorite accordionist, Michael has graced the stage at the Community House for many years at the annual Winter Holiday Party and as a member of the fabulous Spaghetti Tones at the BSCL Spaghetti Dinner. He is a familiar part of the Barcroft 4th of July parade as part of the Barcroft Marching String Band.

Michael began to play the accordion at about age 10. He grew up in Cleveland where a door-to-door music teacher found an ideal student. (His first accordion was more child-sized.) He first performed in a Russian folk music group in Cleveland in the early 1960s. Michael and his wife, Rebecca, moved to Barcroft in 1982. Since arriving in the DC area, he was an original member of the "Dunav" Balkan and "Lox and Vodka" Jewish/klezmer bands and has played with the Washington Balalaika Society Orchestra.

The Great Snow of 2009

On Dec. 19, "The Big One" dumped over 20 inches of snow virtually paralyzing the DC area. But our noble "Barcoft Snow Brigade" did their best to clear the walkways. Pushing a snowblower through snow that deep was not easy. Wielding a snow shovel was even more difficult. Many thanks to **Chuck & Benjamin Bean, Mike Collier, Andrew Hunter, Jim Kerr, Michael Novak, the Schweser Family, Randy Swart, Alison Willocks and Mark & Jake Wigfield**. (**Don McKeon** is a reliable veteran on injured reserve this season.) And thank you to the many other neighbors who cleared their own walks and especially to those unsung heroes who cleared off sidewalks and cars for their neighbors.



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Around Town

Farmers Market is Year Round!

Visit Pike Park at the corner of S. Walter Reed Dr. and Columbia Pike every Sunday from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm.

Flying Squirrel Lore & More

January 3, 2010, 5:30 - 6:45 PM at Long Branch Nature Center. 703-228-6535 For families. Registration required. Flying squirrels are found throughout the wooded neighborhoods of Arlington, but are seldom seen. After an indoor presentation, we'll tiptoe outside to see these little pixies glide in for an evening meal.

Super Easy Crock Pot Rice Pudding

From Kathy Kerr

With or without a blizzard outside, this will warm you up.

- 1 cup arborio or other short grain rice (uncooked)
- 1 cup coconut milk (or cream)
- 4 cups milk
- 1 tsp cinnamon or 1/2 tsp nutmeg or 1/2 tsp cardamon (*I used all three!*)
- 1 pinch salt

- 1/2 cup sugar (white or brown)
- 1 tsp vanilla



In your crockpot combine the rice, coconut milk, milk, spices and salt. Cover and cook on high heat for 2 hours. Stir in the sugar and vanilla. That's it. Enjoy!

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The Barcroft Community Playgroup

meets 9:30-11:30am Friday mornings at the Barcroft Community House.

Children from birth up are welcome.

Please contact:
Jenny Ditta (chrisnjenny4@comcast.net)
Julie Smith (jds342000@gmail.com)
or just stop by!



Around The Neighborhood

No Spaghetti Dinner This Year

Due to scheduling problems and the Harold family's kitchen renovation, there will not be a BSCL Spaghetti Dinner this year.

Please keep your forks ready for next year!



Buchanan Garden Apartments Update

On Nov. 14 the Arlington County Board approved a loan to the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH), for the purchase of historic Buchanan Gardens to preserve it as affordable housing. Located here in Barcroft at 900 S. Buchanan St., it has 111 units. Built in 1949, they currently have major code violations and safety hazards.

APAH also received the Board's approval to add bedrooms to some of the units to make them more suitable for families and to those with disabilities. APAH also plans for a community space to include a playground. Call 703-276-7444 for more info.

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Barcroft Elementary

DECEMBER was busy

- Eligible students received H1N1 vaccinations at school.
- On Dec. 5 Barcroft's Girls on the Run participants braved a cold, wet day to run a 5K race in Reston, VA.
- Principal Miriam Hughey-Guy led a tour of the school for prospective Kindergarteners. Another Open House will be on Jan. 14th.
- Children enjoyed holiday shopping at the PTA's Holiday Shop. With prices ranging from 25 cents to \$12.00, they were able to find a gift for everyone on their lists. Parents bought home-baked goodies and stylish Barcroft T-shirts and totes.
- Barcroft hosted a Leonardo Learning Day Open House. Families viewed student projects in many subjects.
- Barcroft operates on a year-round schedule, different from other Arlington School. Barcroft Students have been out since Dec. 18 and will resume Monday Jan. 4.



JANUARY —Lots more will happen!

All Barcroft neighbors are invited to participate in the following activities:

- January 5 - PTA meeting 7:00 p.m., Superintendent Patrick Murphy talks about the budget crunch.
- Jan. 14 -Kindergarten Orientation 9:30-10:30 AM
- January 14th - **Winter Concert**, 2 PM and 7 PM 4th and 5th grade Chorus, Band, Orchestra, and Spanish Chorus
- January 18th - No School: Martin Luther King Holiday.
- January 21 - **Hard Times Cafe Fund-raiser**. Eat in or take out at the Cafe all day on the 14th and Barcroft PTA receives 20% of what you spend (excluding alcohol). Simply hand the cafe the coupon when you pay (see next page)
- January 23rd - Barcroft Family Fitness Night - Roller skating at TJ Community Center from 6:30-8:30 PM
- January 30th - **Yard Sale/Bake Sale, 9 AM til 1 PM**. All neighbors are invited to shop. Also please donate any gently used items for sale the week prior. Help the PTA raise money to expand the horizons of students through fitness, cultural awareness, educational field trips and more.

Barcroft Elementary

Barcroft students in grades 2-5 are currently participating in a mileage club program. The program is designed to increase students overall fitness level in a non-competitive way. Their ultimate goal for each student is to complete 20 miles or more by the end of the school year. For every five miles they complete, students receive a special token. Physical education teachers Denise Brown and Bikki Stricker implemented the program in the fall.

As part of their service to the community, **Barcroft** students collected non-perishable food items for the Arlington Food Assistance Center. Sponsored by the Student Council Association, the food drive ran from Nov. 18-24.

Barcroft needs volunteers to serve as tutoring buddies in reading and math, and also helping in a Homework Club. If you have at least thirty minutes to spare once a week, call 703-228-5838. High school students and neighbors are all welcome. We'll provide the training - you provide the invaluable help!

Help support Barcroft School! Link your Harris Teeter card to the Barcroft School. It's free, but it has to be re-linked every year.

http://www.harristeeter.com/community/together_in_education/link_to_your_school.aspx



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The Barcroft PTA Receives 20% Of What You Spend!

WHEN YOU EAT OUT OUR KIDS WIN!

By supporting the Barcroft PTA, you help us expand the horizons of our students through enhanced physical fitness, cultural awareness, educational field trips and more.

Clarendon Restaurant: 3028 Wilson Blvd., Arlington VA 22201

Hours On Jan. 21: 11:00 a.m.- 2:00 a.m. Phone: 703 528 2233; Fax: 703 528 2820.

FREE PARKING in the Arlington Department of Human Services Garage on 3033 Wilson Blvd. (off Highland St.) between 6:00 p.m. - 2:30 a.m. Or use the **Clarendon Metro Stop/Orange Line**.

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