

September 2010

Barcroft News

Vol 108, Issue 1

BSCL President's Report

From Bryant Monroe

Ongoing Construction at the National Guard Bureau/State Department

Our neighbors in Alcova Heights have raised the issue of ongoing construction work at the National Foreign Affairs Training Center (NFATC) and the Army National Guard Readiness Center (ANGRC). The Alcova Heights Civic Association recently sent a letter to Congressman Moran about the increasingly poor relationship between Alcova Heights and NFATC. They note "it is getting to the point that residents are angry and very upset with the lack of communication.

For example; at 6 PM Friday night September 10th, the NFATC began an overnight paving project inside their facility but adjacent to homes in Alcova Heights. The work continued until early Saturday evening with jackhammers, pavement removal equipment, loading and unloading dump trucks. For the entire night there was constant high level noise, traffic, and very loud explosion-like blasts. It was all the more disturbing given that it was the early morning hours of September 11th.

Persons throughout Barcroft also could not sleep and did not know what was happening. The NFATC gave absolutely no notice about this construction to the neighborhood. In fact, Arlington police were forced to respond to a neighbor's calls and by Saturday morning they were referring residents to call the Federal Police since they had no jurisdiction on the NFATC property."

I will work with our Alcova Heights colleagues to make our concerns about the construction are known as well, and will look to schedule a future BSCL meeting on this issue.

Glencarlyn Park

The September meeting featured a discussion of Arlington County's planned improvements to the Glencarlyn Park where the bike trail meets Columbia Pike. County planning staff from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources heard comments and suggestions from Barcroft neighbors concerning if and when a playground might be built, and what features will draw the most users. The discussion ended with several volunteers joining Barcrofter **Shirley Gay** for follow-up efforts with the County. This project is on track, and in the months ahead BSCL will be providing feedback and support. More to follow on this in future newsletters.

October BSCL Meeting -- Candidates Forum

The **October 7st meeting** will be hosting our annual candidates' forum. **Election Day is November 2**, and this year's ballot includes County Board and School Board races. The ballot also includes the Eighth District Congressional seat, and several constitutional amendments and bond issues. We will have brief remarks from the candidates, a question and answer session, followed by time for informal conversations. **The meeting starts at 7:30 PM.** I look forward to seeing you there!

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

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Arlington County Civic Federation
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Pat Williamson, Jim Kerr
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Neighbor to Neighbor Ads**For Sale:**

Comfortrac Lumbar Traction Device Original price: \$429
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703.685,0715 (4635 South 5th St.)

Mother's Helper —6th grader would love to do any odd jobs you can think of! Rebecca Bean 703-553-4093 bec-cab50@gmail.com

Mother's Helper and Pet Sitter - 6th grader, (includes: taking out trash and watering plants) Call Tyler LaPointe at 703-979-1083 or 703-585-8507

Vacation-related 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
dylanvega@gmail.com

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

Babysitter - 11th 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 10th grader available. Call Abby at 703-892-1090

Babysitter --6th grader , Red Cross certified. 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

Babysitter: 16 year old for evenings and weekends. Call Allison 703-979-5838

Ongoing Need: Baby items, books, educational toys, household items etc for the Even Start Program at Barcroft School. Call Jenny Lindenauer at 703-228-8846 or email: jennifer_lindenauer@apsva.us

Barcroft Community Playgroup 9:30-11:30am Friday mornings at the Community House. Contact **Jenny Ditta** chrisnjenny4@comcast.net or **Jason Kiker** jkiker@gmail.com, or just stop by!

Around the Neighborhood

Lemonade Stand Raises Money for Community House

In August, Barcroft Playgroup participants, **Julie, Hoke, Jane and Claire Smith** and **Jenny, Chris, Julianna and Lauren Ditta**, set up a lemonade stand at the corner of S. Abingdon and the Rt. 50 service road. Neighbors and passersby bought 6 dozen cookies, drank 3 gallons of lemonade, and helped the Barcroft Playgroup raise **\$133** for the Barcroft Community House Fund! Satisfied customers **Barbara and Randy Swart** add that: "They were great cookies too!"

Look for a Hot Cocoa Stand later in the Fall!



*Barcroft Playgroup alumni **Jane and Claire Smith** run the lemonade stand, while Barcroft neighbor **Brian Vega** has a treat!*

***Julianna Ditta and Jane Smith** and Barcroft Playgroup attendee **Anna Finley** take a break and sample the merchandise.*



"Donate To Renovate" Campaign Update

Barcroft Community House "Donate To Renovate" Campaign Hits \$8000 Mark

By Chris Ditta

Thanks to you, the Barcroft Community House Renovation Fund has **raised nearly \$8,000 toward our \$40,000 goal.**

23 families made tax-deductible contributions throughout August and the first week of September. This means that a total of 56 families have donated since July. Thank you so much for your generosity!

In the next few months, volunteers will be going door-to-door to request your participation in the community fundraiser. We are also working on seeking grant funding for part of the renovations.

To recap, the interior of the Barcroft Community House will be renovated to increase energy efficiency and to help the Community House **Go Green**. We will replace the ceiling and walls to increase aesthetic charm and acoustics, and also update electrical and lighting.

We still need your help! Any amount you can donate is appreciated. And if every remaining household donates \$40, we will meet our goal!

PLEASE HELP!

**Make Checks Payable to:
Barcroft Community House Fund**

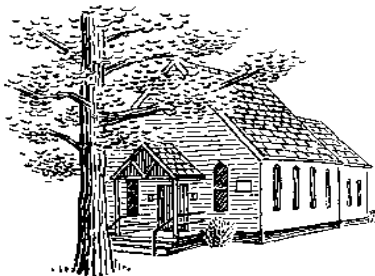
**Mail Donations to:
BSCL c/o Gary Lefebvre, Treasurer. 812 S. George Mason Drive - Arlington, VA 22204-1555**

For Questions or Concerns:
Please email Chris Ditta, Chair of the Community House Renovation Fundraising Committee, or call him at (202) 258-1240.

For Fundraiser Details
www.bscl.org/fundraiser.htm

For Complete Renovation History
www.bscl.org/renovate.htm

For Community House Rental
www.bscl.org/bch_rent.htm



Our New Park

After much work by Barcroft volunteers and Arlington's Department of Parks and Recreation, we are so close to the long-held dream of a new addition to **Glencarlyn Park at Columbia Pike and Four Mile Run**. The budget and draft concept are approved and a site survey is on order BUT -- we still need more help from you.

As the project moves from concept to final design, we have a last opportunity for input on some key features of the park. The only catch? They need to hear from us quickly!

Join in on **Wednesday, October 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community House**. See the current concept and discuss ideas. We especially want to hear from our most avid Four Mile Run users, families, and bikers!

If you have any questions or want to give feedback but can't attend the meeting, contact Kimberley at:

kimberley.marchant@gmail.com.

A CAPPELLA AUTUMN IV

The Arlingtones Barbershop Chorus and quartets will perform a cappella barbershop harmony featuring the DOWNTOWN Quartet. 2 p.m., Sat. Oct. 9. NRECA Conference Center, 4301 Wilson Blvd. Free garage parking-entrance off N. Taylor St. Door \$12 / Advance \$10.

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Barcroft Elementary

October will be busy at Barcroft Elementary School. Barcroft operates under a Modified School Year Calendar, which means that classes begin about a month before other schools, and each quarter there is a multi-week break. This October marks the end of the first quarter. Therefore, between **Monday, October 4th through Friday, October 15th**, students can either enjoy a two-week vacation from school or take interesting **Intersession Classes**. These Intersession classes are consistent with the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL), and introduce students to new learning experiences, such as cooking, singing, printmaking, environmental awareness, and nutrition.

There are many interesting events happening at Barcroft in October, and we invite our Barcroft neighbors to join in the fun! Regular classes resume on Monday, October 18th, and our Barcroft neighbors are invited to attend our weekly **Monday Mornin' Movers** exercise program.

Weather permitting, families and students meet at the outdoor track, and walk and run from 8:30 – 8:50 a.m. each Monday morning that school is in session. This month, the **Monday Mornin' Movers will meet on October 18th and the 25th**.

On **Friday, October 29th**, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Barcroft neighbors are invited to attend the Barcroft **PTA's Halloween Costume Party and Dance**. The night promises to be fun for the entire family! Come tour the Haunted House, enjoy

light refreshments, enter the costume contests -- including best costume -- and dance the evening away! Please join us for the fun!

Also in October, many Barcroft students have signed up to run in the **Marine Corp Marathon Healthy Kids Fun Run**, to be held at the Pentagon on **Saturday, October 30th**. This one mile Fun Run is open to children ages 6-13, and Barcroft students have run in it for several years. Wish them Good Luck!

And what is October without all of the candy and more candy! This year the Barcroft PTA will be participating in the local charitable candy drive, **Treats 4 Our Troops**. Between **October 29th and November 10th**, Barcroft families and neighbors can **drop off bagged candy and surplus Halloween candy into a bin at the school**. Treats 4 Our Troops will then deliver our donated candy to injured service men and women and their families currently residing at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC. Money donations are also welcome and will be used to defray delivery expenses. So please enjoy the Halloween festivities, and if you end up with more candy than your family needs, we'll make sure it goes to deserving people!

To learn more about what's happening at Barcroft, please visit our website: www.apsva.us/15452010312423667/site/

Wakefield High School

Wakefield Educator Named 2011 Virginia Region IV Teacher of the Year

Wakefield teacher **Colette Fraley** has been named 2011 Region IV Teacher of the Year. A National Board Certified teacher, Fraley is currently the social studies department chair at Wakefield and has served in a number of roles, including instructional lead teacher and department lead teacher. She teaches social studies, history and U.S. Government.

Fraley is one of eight teachers selected from each of the eight administrative regions in Virginia to be recognized with this honor.

Fraley, in her 10th year as an educator in Arlington, is the third Arlington Teacher of the Year since 2000 to represent Region IV which includes Arlington, Clarke, Culpepper, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Page, Prince William, Rappahannock Shenandoah, and Warren Counties and the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, Manassas, and Winchester.

The 2011 Virginia Teacher of the Year will be named at a banquet on Oct. 15. The state honoree will go on to represent Virginia in the National Teacher of the Year selection process.

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A Peek at the Pike's Past

By Carol Harvey

I've lived in Barcroft for 19 years, but the gentle man I bought my house from, **Matthew "Mac" Culbert**, had lived in Barcroft for 72. He moved to Barcroft when he was six years old in the 1920's, and remembered Columbia Pike when heavy woods alternated with an occasional farm or house.

That's the image I had in my mind as I attended the Columbia Pike bicentennial birthday party, commemorating the April 12, 1810 Act of Congress that authorized creating the Columbia Turnpike and two other turnpikes leading to the new District of Columbia.

Although an act established the permanent seat of the Government of the United States on July 16, 1790, it took 10 years to construct buildings for Congress. The new national capitol was no city to speak of. Two counties were designated in 1801: Washington County, east of the Potomac River and Alexandria County (including today's Arlington), west of the Potomac River.

The Capitol was isolated and underdeveloped. It needed connections such as turnpikes and canals to move people and commerce to and from the rest of the fledging country, so Congress authorized three turnpikes to be built by private companies. One would head northeast and

connect the District with Baltimore (today's Bladensburg Road); another was planned but not built to connect with the Montgomery County courthouse. The third was to be "One road from the western extremity of the causeway leading from Alexander's island to the boundary line of the district of Columbia, and the most direct and practicable route towards the Little River turnpike road, in the state of Virginia." The Little River turnpike moved goods and people from the port of Alexandria to the Shenandoah. A road to the Little River turnpike would allow people and goods to move more directly to the Capitol without having to go all the way to Alexandria.

A company was formed to build the road and collect tolls to finance the effort. Congress said, "*It shall be lawful for them to appoint such and so many toll-gatherers as they shall deem necessary to stop any person or persons, riding, leading or driving any horses, mules, cattle, hogs, sheep, sulkey, chair, chaise, phaeton, chariot, coach, cart, wagon, sleigh, sled, or any carriage of burden or pleasure from passing through the said gates, until the said tolls shall be paid.*" The company built two toll gates: one at the top of the Pike; the other near Barcroft's Mill at Four Mile Run.

Congress was very specific about the tolls to be charged. You could move 20 sheep

or 20 hogs for 20 cents; 20 cows would cost 40 cents. (See Sidebar for more rates).

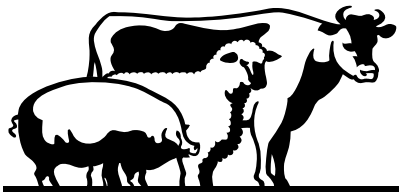
In 1817 the General Assembly of Virginia specified the maintenance condition of the road.

“... they shall clear a summer road eighteen feet wide and keep the same always in good repair, free from stumps, roots, rocks, stones, mud holes, ruts and other obstructions fit for the use of wagons and other carriages in dry weather between the first day of May and thirty-first day of October, and fit for the use of horses and foot travelers at all times.”

As they begin the construction to straighten the intersection at Buchanan Street and Columbia Pike, I'll remember that our “tolls”, now taxes, give my “carriage” year-round access to the turnpike that helped DC grow into a true national capitol.

Adapted from *Columbia Pike The History of an Early Turnpike* by John Paul Liebertz, Arlington County Historic Preservation Office.

DID YOU KNOW?:
Early toll roads were blocked by a long bar or pike which would be turned aside by the toll collector af-



Rates of Tolls collected near Barcrofts Mill for the Columbia turnpike

Individual/Animal	Price (cents)
Sheep (20)	20
Hogs (20)	20
Cattle (20)	40
Horse/Mule and Rider	12.5
Stage and wagon with two horses	30
Carriage with four horses	40
Led or driven horse/mule	6
Sulkey, chair, chaise, or carriage of pleasure with two wheels and one horse	20
Coach, chariot, coachee, phaeton, or chaiser with four wheels and two horses	37.5
Coach, chariot, coachee, phaeton, or chaiser with four wheels and four horses	50
Sled or sleigh used as a carriage of pleasure	12.5/horse
Sled or sleigh used as a carriage of burden	8/horse
Cart or wagon with wheels under four inches in breadth	12.5/horse
Cart or wagon with wheels over four inches and under seven inches in breadth	6/horse
Cart or wagon with wheels over seven inches and under ten inches in breadth	5/horse
Cart or wagon with wheels over ten inches and under twelve in breadth	4/horse

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

Market Trends in Northern Virginia

The Northern Virginia Association of Realtors® reports on July 2010 home sales activity for Fairfax & Arlington counties, the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church and the towns of Vienna, Herndon and Clifton.

A total of 1,663 homes sold in 7/10, 19% below 7/09 home sales of 2,053. Active listings increased by about 2% compared to last year, with 7,568 active listings in 7/10, compared with 7,439 homes available in 7/09. The average days on market (DOM) for homes in 7/10 decreased by about 23% to 48 days, compared with 62 days in 7/09.

Sales prices rose by 11% in 7/10 with the average sales price of \$511,309, compared with last July's average of \$460,807.

The median price of homes sold in Northern Virginia in 7/10 was \$450,000, which is a 10% increase compared with July 2009's median price of \$410,000. Pending home sales in July Decreased 23% with 1,738 sales pending compared to 2,266 in 7/09.

The Economy in Northern Virginia

Despite what's going on in the nation the economy is very strong in Northern Virginia with a gain of 22,900 jobs from February to May in 2010 which has helped sustain consumer confidence in the housing market.

Funds from the federal government have helped to make Northern Virginia more recession-proof than most other areas. Fairfax County receives more money from the feds through contracts than any other county in the United States. In the 2008 fiscal year, government contracts awarded more than \$17 billion to Fairfax County.

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