

December 2010

Barcroft News

Vol 108, Issue 4



**Everyone is invited to the
Barcroft Holiday Party
Thursday December 2
7:00 PM
At the BSCL Community House**

Featuring:

- *Music by our Barcroft neighbors*
- *Sing-a-long songs of the season from different cultures*
- *Refreshments*
- *And, if we have all been good, a special visitor dressed in red!*



If you like, bring cookies or treats to share!

Children should be accompanied by an adult.



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

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Parking Committee **vacant**
Volunteers **vacant**
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Arlington County Civic Federation
Delegates Eric Harold, Randy Swart,
Pat Williamson, Jim Kerr
Alternates Karen Darner, David Michelson,
Elaine Squeri, Mark Wigfield

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.bscl.org

Neighbor to Neighbor Ads

FOR SALE: Men's black leather coat, size XL, zip-out Thinsulate lining, above knee length, belted, \$90 OBO. Very good cond. Call Sharon, 703-819-5791

FOR SALE: Fiestaware tea set, sea mist (discontinued), service for 4, \$180. Maryland Terrapins dartboard set, solid wood, \$100. atecson1@verizon.net, 703-271-8448.

Mother's Helper —6th grader would love to do any odd jobs you can think of! Rebecca Bean 703-553-4093
beccab50@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
dylanrvega@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!

BSCL President's Report

By Bryant Monroe

November was indeed a busy month in Barcroft. The house burning on 8th Street S was a topic of much discussion. At our November BSCL meeting, we adopted a resolution asking the Arlington County Board and staff to rescind the County's policy of permitting the Fire Department to burn houses in residential neighborhoods.) (Please see Randy Swart's article on page 8 of this issue.) The fire received considerable news media coverage in the Sun Gazette, on the Channel 4 (NBC) and 9 (CBS) local news. Kudos to **Scott Brinitzer** for his articulate comments on camera that captured our neighborhood concerns. And kudos to **Randy Swart** for his solid research and the sound policy he worked into the resolution. We will be following up on this effort so that we and other Arlington neighborhoods can avoid the hazards of the burning process and the remaining ruins. Stay tuned.

We had a very informative presentation from Barcroft Elementary School Principal **Miriam Hughey Guy**. She shared an impressive story of their achievements and the continuing progress being made with our young students. The conversation also focused on the parking and traffic issues. The result was a resolution asking for County support on finding ways to make the busy times on Wakefield Street work better, and to help teachers and staff find

parking. Your ideas and help are most welcome. Ms. Hughey-Guy invited us to convene a future BSCL meeting at the school, highlighted by a tour of this very successful educational program. We'll get it scheduled and continue this important partnership.

Things are busy on the County government front, with the Pike Housing Study going into high gear and early efforts to think about a tight budget process in the year ahead. The Housing Study will be looking at plans to shape the evolution of residential neighborhoods along the Pike in light of the market forces and decisions by larger property owners in the years to come. As you may recall, last year the BSCL weighed in regarding proposed cuts to community policing. I suspect we'll want to weigh in on issues as the hard budget decisions are considered.

My final words this month are to get to our Winter Holiday meeting early —or risk standing in the back!

Last year it was standing room only for a great evening of music and great neighbors on Thursday Dec. 2. It starts at 7:00 PM, earlier than our usual meeting time of 7:30.

Happy holidays to all!



"Donate To Renovate" Campaign Update

Make Your Tax-Deductible Contribution Before Year Ends

By Chris Ditta

As of mid-November, 162 families have contributed to the Barcroft Community House Renovation Fund. Thank you so much for your generosity! At roughly \$13,000 collected, we need each of you to help us reach our \$40,000 goal. There is still plenty of time in this calendar year to send in your contribution - fully tax deductible - to renovate our very own registered historical landmark.

In the next few months, volunteers will be going door-to-door to request your participation in the community fundraiser. Keep an eye out for the Hot Chocolate stand as well. We will soon be printing Barcroft Map T-Shirts too!

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.

PLEASE HELP!

Make Checks Payable to:
Barcroft Community House Fund

Mail Donations to:

BSCL c/o Gary Lefebvre, Treasurer
812 S. George Mason Dr., Arlington, VA
22204-1555

For Questions or Concerns:

Please contact **Chris Ditta**, Chair of the Community House Renovation Fundraising Committee 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

Try Yoga and Help the Community House!

Yoga and Qigong classes are offered Tuesday, Dec. 14 with **your donations for the classes going to help improve our Community House**. All levels of experience, including absolute beginner, are welcome. The 45 minute Qigong session begins at 7 PM. Yoga class starts at 8PM and will also be 45 minutes long. The gatherings are taught by Paul and Nancy Rischard who have offered classes at Barcroft since 2003.



Glencarlynn Park at Columbia Pike

By Kimberley Marchant

On Oct. 6th, a group of neighbors gathered to review the proposed concept for the Glencarlynn Park at Columbia Pike and Four Mile Run. The budget and a draft concept are approved but we wanted to revisit some of the key features before the project moves on to final design.



As currently proposed by the Parks Department, the new park is to combine environmental features of the area while encouraging new users to use a safer space. We confirmed that we like the new ideas that promote better sight lines into the park, using native plantings in bioretention areas, and new places for resting whether walking or biking. The concept also proposes a loop trail that branches off of the W&OD to bring bikers/users on an alternative route to the sidewalk at Columbia Pike and "game space" such as chess tables. See more details about the proposed concept at www.bscl.org

Our group is asking Parks staff to work with us to revisit the loop trail and the play element ideas, so we can best meet the needs of the existing and new park users that we want to attract.

We are putting forth some ideas such as incorporating a "natural playscape" that would feature open-ended, creative natural play structures that would echo the environmental features of the park. We propose a cycling path loop for slow cycling/blading/skating and for teaching new W&OD users to ride safely. Both of these elements would be unique to Arlington and our area.

There will be a special meeting about the revised concept for the park on **December 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community House**. If you have any questions or comments, we'd love to hear from you: contact **Kimberley** at kimberley.marchant@gmail.com and **Elizabeth Kiker** at 703-216-9728 elizabeth.kiker@gmail.com

Barcroft Snow Brigade

Do you need help clearing your snowy sidewalks? The noble Barcroft Snow Brigade is here to help. More volunteers are needed to shovel and plow. Thank you to **Randy Swart** for years of organizing the Brigade. Thank you to **Sharon Tope** for taking on the task.

Barcroft has 2 snowblowers provided by the County. **Jim Kerr** has one. **Randy** has the other one--but he now needs someone to take it over. Can you help?

For more info, to volunteer for snow clearing or to indicate your need for help with shoveling, contact **Sharon Tope** stope2@comcast.net 703-920-2567



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What's Happening at Barcroft Elementary—December 2010

By Jenny Ditta

Many thanks to all of our Barcroft neighbors who linked their **Harris Teeter VIC cards** to Barcroft Elementary school. **Barcroft has linked 3002 cards and earned over \$8300** so far in this year's campaign. We appreciate your support! If you have linked your VIC card to Barcroft, please keep purchasing Harris Teeter brand products from now until May, 2011.

There are many interesting events happening at Barcroft in December, and we invite you to join in the fun! 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.** This month, the **Monday Mornin' Movers will meet on December 6th and 13th.**

During the month of **December**, 5th Graders will host a **Toys and Games Collection Drive**. Barcroft teachers use games and toys as learning tools in the classroom. If you have educational toys or board games that you no longer use, please donate them to the school. Also in December, Barcroft's **Girls on the Run** team will participate in a **5K Reindeer Romp Run on Saturday, December 4th**. The team has been training for the race since October. Wish them good luck, and let's hope the weather is less wintry for this year's race!

Other highlights in December include a PTA-sponsored **Holiday Shop on Saturday, December 11th**, scheduled from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Children have a chance to do some secret holiday shopping with Mom and Dad or a personal shopper. The personal shopper will assist the children in finding presents for everyone on their list. All budgets can be accommodated. Last year, there were a variety of items to choose from between 25 cents - \$3.00, and a limited number of items sold for more than \$10.00.

With the end of the second quarter, Barcroft Elementary will host a **Leonardo Learning Day on Thursday, December 16th**, from 9:15 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. Throughout the day, each grade will have an Open House for students, families, and other important visitors to see what students have learned this quarter. That evening, the 4th Grade will host a **4th Grade Leonardo da Vinci Fair**. Please join us! Barcroft will begin **Winter Break on Friday, December 17th**. **School resumes Monday, January 3rd.**

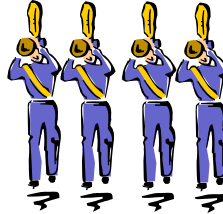
For more information, visit the school's website at:

www.apsva.us/15452010312423667/site/default.asp.

Wakefield High School

Everyone is invited to the
Winter Concert
Tuesday, December 14
7 pm in the auditorium.

The band, orchestra and choral groups will perform holiday favorites and other music.



The Wakefield Marching Warriors earned an "Excellent" rating at the VBODA marching band competition held on Oct. 30. This was the highest rating ever received by Wakefield at this event.

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Christmas Concert: Ad Hoc Singers, Sunday December 12, 11am
Family & Children Christmas Eve Service, Saturday December 24, 5 pm
Candlelight Holy Communion Service, Saturday December 24, 7:30 pm
Christmas Caroling, Sunday December 19, 4 pm

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Fire Dept Burns 8th St House

By Randy Swart

The Arlington County Fire Department burned the vacant house at 4616 8th St South between Wakefield and Buchanan on October 20th, at the invitation of the developer, who will take a tax writeoff and intends to replace it at some point. The CBS Early Show filmed a segment on fire safety.



The fire was expertly extinguished, but some residents asked why the ACFD would continue to burn houses in neighborhoods for training or TV stations when the billowing clouds of smoke are now known to contain toxics like asbestos fibers and lead. (The house has asbestos-cement siding.) The smoke flowed through nearby houses, including some with small children. At press time the house remains a burned out-up hulk, still smelling of smoke and no credit to 8th Street.

On November 4 the BSCL adopted a resolution requesting Arlington County to rescind the policy that permits the fire department to burn houses in residential neighborhoods. Channel 4 and Channel 9 covered it, interviewing **Bryant Monroe** and **Scott Brintzer**.

We have a Web page up with a link to videos, photos of the remains and more info at www.bscl.org

Tree Stewards Class

By Alison Willocks

Barcroft resident and Tree Steward

The TreeStewards of Arlington and Alexandria are trained volunteers dedicated to improving the health of our urban trees through educational programs, tree planting and care, demonstrations and tree maintenance throughout the community.

New volunteer training will be held on Tuesday evenings, starting Feb. 8 through April 2011, with some Saturday mornings. Fun and interactive training is provided by recognized experts in tree care and citizen advocates. Join us and learn how to care for trees on the streets, in parks, at schools, churches, temples, and your neighborhood.

For more information and to complete an application, visit the TreeSteward website at www.TreeStewards.org or call 703-527-2349 ext.4.



Around the Neighborhood

By Kathy Kerr

Farewell to longtime Barcrofters, **Betty Jane and Renny** Myers who recently moved to North Carolina. They will celebrate their 58th wedding anniversary this month. High school sweethearts from Washington-Lee, they first met in 1947. They married after graduation in 1952 when Renny was in the Air Force.

Their home at 21 S. Pershing Street is one of the largest, most beautiful houses in the neighborhood. The realtors described it as an architectural masterpiece; a center-hall Georgian Colonial. I've long admired the stately look of the house and assumed that it was a beautifully maintained older home, perhaps well over 100 years old. I was surprised to learn that it was built in 1960!

Many years ago, there was a tourist home across the street. Probably completed in the 1920s, it was built of stone and had a huge porch with stately white columns. The porch faced S. Pershing Drive. At that time, Arlington Boulevard was named "Lee Boulevard." There was a driveway that entered from Lee Blvd and S. Pershing. Betty Jane's mother, Mrs. Goldie Smith, wanted to buy the house for at least 20 years, so in 1942 she finally did and it became "Smith's Tourist Home."

At that time, there were no hotels in Arlington. Tourists came to stay there, as did workers who needed a bit longer term place to live. There were times when juries were sequestered and needed overnight housing, so they came to the Tourist Home, accompanied by the Arlington County deputy. Workers constructing the Pentagon found a home there. High school groups visiting Washington DC were split so that the boys were upstairs and the girls were downstairs.

Mrs. Smith had 7 children. When the Great Depression hit, she moved to the Arlington in order to help

her older children find work. Barcroft in the 1940s was largely agricultural. There were horses and cows. Where Hidden Oaks is now located off S. Pershing Dr., was a small dairy farm owned by the Payne family. Neighbors would walk over there to get thick, fresh milk from the 3 Guernsey cows.

When Mrs. Smith was 72 years old, she decided to build a house across the street from the Tourist Home. She designed the whole thing, bought all the materials and hired all the workers. The outside of the house is not stucco, rather it is silicone sand plaster, the same as the exterior of the White House. Although all of her 7 children were grown, she still included 7 bedrooms and 7 bathrooms in the plan. It was Mrs. Smith's dream home, but she never actually lived there. She rented rooms long term, to men only, and stipulated no use of the kitchen.

In 1978, the Tourist Home was sold to a developer who wanted to build the town houses that are on the property to this day. Mrs. Smith passed away just before the Tourist Home was demolished.

In 1979, Betty Jane and Renny moved into 21 S. Pershing. For Mrs. Smith, the pleasure had been in creating the house. For Betty Jane and Renny, the pleasure has been to live there for 31 years. The house is perfect for large parties such as their daughter's wedding reception and Betty Jane and Renny's 50th anniversary party.

Neighbors threw them a big farewell party. Renny said: "It's been a good ride here. I've enjoyed every day here." He marvels that Betty Jane's mother is the most remarkable person he ever knew. He added: "And I've met A LOT of people!"

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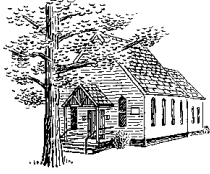


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What Are Discount Points?

Discount points are fees paid to a lender to purchase a lower interest rate, also known as a "rate buydown". The net result is a lower monthly payment over the life of the loan.

One point is 1% of the loan amount. The cost paid at closing for one point on a loan of \$400,000 is \$4,000. Typically, one point lowers the rate .25% to .375% for most loans.

Does it make sense to pay discount points?

That depends on a few factors. Usually, it is best to avoid discount points if you'll be in the home less than four years, are applying for an adjustable rate mortgage or plan to refinance within a few years. Discount points are generally a good idea if you plan to remain in the home over five years and don't plan on refinancing in the near future.

When considering discount points, it's best to conduct a break-even analysis done by calculating the monthly mortgage payment with no points, then subtracting the monthly mortgage payment with points. The difference

is the monthly savings. Then divide the cost of the discount points by the savings. The result is the number of months until you break even. Discount points for residential property are tax deductible in the year they are paid. Discount points are available when refinancing, deductible over the life of the loan. Consult with a tax advisor for details of deductions.

30 Year Fixed rates as of 11/13/10: Up to \$417,000: 3.875% - 1 point, 4.00% -no points.
30 year Fixed from \$417,001 - \$729,750
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4.875% - 1 point, 5% - no points.

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