

January 2011

# Barcroft News

Vol 108, Issue 5

## BSCL President's Report

*By Bryant Monroe*

Happy New Year Barcroft neighbors and welcome 2011.

**The Barcroft Holiday party** on Dec. 2 was a great evening. The band and cast offered music and stories that helped us kick off the Christmas season. Thanks to all who came, and especially to our wonderful band and those who performed and participated.

The **January BSCL** meeting welcomes two guests from Arlington County, **Captain Michelle R. Nuneville** (Commander Arlington County Police Department Operations Division - District 3) and **Fire Department Assistant Chief Ben Barksdale** will join us at the January BSCL meeting.

**Captain Nunneville** and her staff will provide an update on crime in Barcroft. Last year the BSCL passed a resolution that urged the County Board support community policing and the three district teams (these include Capt Nuneville and her

staff) in the County's budget process. With tight budget times ahead it will be something we'll want to think about once again.

**Chief Barksdale** has offered to join us to hear Barcroft concerns about the recent house burning on South 8th Street. I welcome his offer, and look forward to a good discussion of Fire Department training needs and community questions about the County's policy that allows these occasional controlled fires near our homes.

**The Arlington Mill Center project** will commence in 2011. The first phase involves demolition of the existing building, and plans are being considered for the housing element that has been stalled by difficult economic times. We have received a an affordable housing proposal for our review, and I will bring it to the meeting for those interested in taking a look.

I look forward to seeing you Thursday Jan. 6 at 7:30 PM at the Community House.

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

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*Rental Mgr.* barcrofthouserental@yahoo.com

*Restoration* David Michaelson, Jim Kerr  
*Fundraising* Chris Ditta  
*Landscaping* Scott Brinitzer, 892-0308  
*Traffic Committee* Heidi Wicker  
*4th of July Parade* Andrew Hunter, 979-8247  
*Columbia Pike* Bryant Monroe, 271-0944  
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*Crime* **vacant**  
*Parks* Shelley Fichtner, 486-0856  
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*Volunteers* **vacant**  
 Volunteers@bscl.org

*Web Master & NCAC Rep* Randy Swart, 521-2080  
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*Alternates* Karen Darner, David Michelson,  
 Elaine Squeri, Mark Wigfield

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:** [www.bscl.org](http://www.bscl.org)

**Neighbor to Neighbor Ads**

**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 11th 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** [chrisjenny4@comcast.net](mailto:chrisjenny4@comcast.net) or **Jason Kiker** [jkiker@gmail.com](mailto:jkiker@gmail.com), or just stop by!

**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??

## Holiday Party Fun

The Barcroft Winter Holiday Party on Dec. 2 included lots of audience participation. Thank you to coordinator and banjoist **Barbara Swart**, MC **Dan Junker**, song leader **Alicia Cackley**, and band members: **Michael Nazaretz**, **Steve Wilson**, **Maureen Locke**, **Kathy Kerr**, **Randy Swart** and **Rebecca Kraft**. Everyone enjoyed the **Harold Family's** performance of "The Grinch." Thanks to **Santa** for his timely visit and to everyone who brought those terrific treats. (Who made those white pepperminty things? Mmm!!)

## Neighborhood Babysitting Coop

Want a night on the town but can't afford the movie AND the baby sitter? We have your New Year's cost saving solution! Join Barcroft's Baby sitting co-op!

This co-op has been in existence for 9 years and our kids are growing up. We are looking for a group of Barcroft families with younger children who want to be slightly more deliberate in helping each other out and forming community.

The structure is all set, we just need you! Contact **Timi Kenealy** at [vakenealys@verizon.net](mailto:vakenealys@verizon.net) or **Betsy Severn** at [robbets@juno.com](mailto:robbets@juno.com) for more details and references.

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## BARCROFT RENOVATION

This classic 1950's home has been transformed into a stylish contemporary 4-bedroom, 2-bath showplace by a Barcroft neighbor and her team of experts. From the sleek new kitchen with elegant cabinets and quartz counters, open to a sunlit stairwell, to the sparkling new baths, every detail is exquisitely realized. Extras include woven bamboo floors, skylights, designer lighting, two fireplaces, custom hardware, carpet. Huge, bright lower level with inviting family room has in-law suite potential, and features high ceilings and ceramic tile floors. Original solid brick construction is improved with energy-efficient thermal windows, 40-year architectural roof shingles, and a new HVAC system. Glass doors from the dining room open to a charming patio and backyard.

**SUSAN SARCONI**  
703.795.6772

[susansarcone@mris.com](mailto:susansarcone@mris.com)

**MITCHELL SCHNEIDER**  
703.851.4416

[mrschneider@mcenearney.com](mailto:mrschneider@mcenearney.com)

BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR  
TO ALL OUR BARCROFT FRIENDS!



## "Donate To Renovate" Campaign Update

### Make Your Tax-Deductible Contribution For The New Year

*By Chris Ditta*

Thank you to everyone for contributing to the Barcroft Community House Renovation Fund. In the past month we've received over \$1,150 in donations.

Over \$225 of this amount comes from a generous donation made by the Barcroft Friendship Club. These friends of the Barcroft Community House raised the money from the sale of liquid refreshments at the November 20th benefit concert.

We are well on our way to reaching the goal of \$40,000. With **over \$25,000 still needed**, every donation -- whatever the amount -- counts. There is still plenty of time to send in your contribution. All contributions are fully tax deductible under IRS Code 501(c)(3).

Help us to renovate our very own registered historical landmark. **In summary**, funds raised will be used to renovate the interior of the Barcroft Community House to increase energy efficiency and **Go Green**. The ceiling and walls will also be replaced to increase aesthetic charm and acoustics, and we will also update electrical and lighting.

### PLEASE HELP!

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

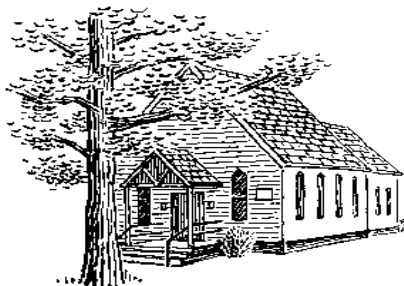
**Mail Donations to:**  
BSCL c/o Gary Lefebvre, Treasurer  
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22204-1555

**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](http://www.bscl.org/fundraiser.htm)

**For Complete Renovation History**  
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**For Community House Rental**  
[www.bscl.org/bch\\_rent.htm](http://www.bscl.org/bch_rent.htm)



## 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.

As of this writing, the County has not yet provided Barcroft with the 2 snowblowers we have had in the past! **Andrew Hunter** will be taking over the one **Randy Swart** was using. **Jim Kerr** will have the other. That is, IF we get them this yore info, to volunteer for snow clearing or to indicate your need for help ear!

For mwith shoveling, contact **Sharon Tope**  
[stope2@comcast.net](mailto:stope2@comcast.net)  
 703-920-2567



## Tree Stewards Class

By **Alison Willocks**  
 Barcroft 's Resident Tree Steward

The Tree Stewards are trained volunteers dedicated to improving the health of our urban trees. New volunteer training will be held on Tuesday evenings, Feb. 8 through April. Interactive training is provided by experts in tree care and citizen advocates.



For more information and to complete an application, visit the TreeSteward website at [www.treestewards.org](http://www.treestewards.org) or call 703-527-2349 ext.4.

## Glencarlyn Park at Columbia Pike

By Kimberley Marchant



A meeting to discuss the revised plan for the park was postponed. The new date is Jan. 5 at 7:30 PM. Valerie Mosley, Arlington staffer, will meet with us at the Community House.

See more details about the proposed concept at [www.bscl.org](http://www.bscl.org)

If you have any questions or comments, contact Kimberley at [kimberley.marchant@gmail.com](mailto:kimberley.marchant@gmail.com) OR Elizabeth Kiker at 703-216-9728 [elizabeth.kiker@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.kiker@gmail.com)

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## What's Happening at Barcroft Elementary—January 2011

*By Jenny Ditta*

Many thanks to our neighbors who linked their **Harris Teeter VIC cards** to Barcroft Elementary School! The **Barcroft PTA has linked 3002 cards and earned \$10,381.81** so far.

Please continue purchasing Harris Teeter brand products until May, 2011. This school year, the PTA will target funds raised to purchase interactive, touch-screen technologies for the classrooms such as SmartBoards.

After Winter Break, **classes will resume on Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Please join us for our weekly **Monday Mornin' Movers** exercise program. Weather permitting, families and students meet at the outdoor track **from 8:30 – 8:50 a.m.** And if it's too cold or rainy outside, we meet in the Gym. **Monday Mornin' Movers will meet on Jan. 3, 10, 24, and 31.**

Every **Tuesday evening in January from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.**, there will be a special Grade Level **Chat with the Principal**, Mrs. **Miriam-Hughey Guy**. Join us for **Tea and Cookies**, come with questions, and learn more about Barcroft Elementary School. All Barcroft Elementary parents and neighbors are invited to any and all of these chats. The **Chat for 1<sup>st</sup> Grade will be Jan. 4**, for **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Jan 11**, for **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Jan. 18**, and **4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grades on Jan 25**. Child care will be provided.

On **Tuesday, January 11**, Barcroft is holding an **Information Night** for all prospective Kindergarten parents from **6:30 - 8:00 p.m.** Kindergarten teachers, Math and Literacy Coaches, and school administrators will give

presentations and answer questions. Please join us!

Enjoy a **Winter Concert** on **Friday, Jan. 21** at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. The concert features the 4th and 5th Grade Chorus, School Band and Orchestra, and Spanish Chorus. All are welcome!

As an FYI to our neighbors with young children, on **Monday, Jan. 24**, there will be an Arlington Public Schools **Kindergarten Information Night at 7:00 p.m. at Washington-Lee High School**. All parents of preschool age children who are eligible to attend Kindergarten in the Fall of 2011 are encouraged to attend. The snow date is Jan. 31.

Barcroft Elementary will host an **Orientation/Open House for prospective parents** of Barcroft Elementary from 9:15 – 11:15 a.m. on Tuesday, February 8. Look for more information in next month's Barcroft News.

The annual PTA **Rummage and Bake Sale** will be held on **Saturday, Jan. 29**, from **9:00 a.m. – Noon**. Please join us to buy some great household bargains and delicious home-baked goods! All neighbors are welcome to donate furniture, clothing, toys, household goods, CDs, and other knick-knacks during the week of Jan. 24-28. Please drop off all items at the school. There will be tax receipts for the donations.

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

[www.apsva.us/15452010312423667/site/default.asp](http://www.apsva.us/15452010312423667/site/default.asp).

## Kenmore Middle School

### Kenmore Middle School is Looking for a Few Good Judges!

Our enterprising future scientists have just begun their careers, and need your help. Please come to our Science Fair and give them the guidance to develop skills to solve our current and future problems. Judges will encourage students' efforts while offering constructive criticism. We provide sched-

ules and forms that will help you interview and evaluate their work. We have found that objective outsiders can reach our students in profound ways.

**When:** Jan 19 (Wed) from 12:00 - 2:30 p.m.

All specialties are welcome. Judges will evaluate a variety of topics. If you can help, please contact:

Liz Castillo [elizabeth\\_castillo@apsva.us](mailto:elizabeth_castillo@apsva.us)  
(703)228-6800

## Arlington Forest United Methodist Church

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8:30 Casual Worship, Godly Play-Sunday School 10:00 a.m.,  
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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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## Around the Neighborhood

*By Sharon Tope*

On Nov. 20, there was a band performance at the Barcroft Community House to raise money for AFAC and the Community House Renovation, which was a great success. One of the entertainers that night was **Kathy Kerr**, who lives on S. Abingdon St. Kathy and three of her musical friends played Old Time Appalachian music for a segment of the program that evening.

Kathy and her husband **Jim**, who has held many positions in the BSCL, have lived in Barcroft since 1981, when Jim got a job here after graduating from Michigan State, where the couple met. They like Barcroft so much that, after living in two different houses in Barcroft, they bought their present home on S. Abingdon. Their first house was on 2<sup>nd</sup> St. S. **Randy and Barbara Swart** then lived across the street and made a point of welcoming them. That must have started the love affair with the Barcroft neighborhood. Kathy's first job in the area was as a nurse at George Washington Hospital, followed by a stint in a doctor's office.

When their first child, Allen, came along in 1983, she began her role as a stay-at-home mom. Allen was followed by Caroline, and Adrienne who were born at home. Kathy describes the home births of her daughters as a "great experience." With their kids growing up, their household now consists of Kathy, Jim, and Kathy's mom, Jeane.

Kathy's education includes a degree in social work from Michigan State, followed by two years of nursing school. She currently uses her nurse's training by volunteering at the Arlington Free Clinic as an intake nurse one evening per month—for the last fifteen years. She also provides breastfeeding support by leading two meetings each month for breastfeeding mothers. In addition, she's the editor of this paper, the Barcroft News, and often writes the "Around the Neighborhood" column, for which I'm the guest contributor this month.

Oh, yes, I should mention that Kathy loves to travel, going to Ghana a few years ago to volunteer in an orphanage for three weeks with her daughters. No electricity or running water there, so you could say it was primitive. Other destinations included Costa Rica, Panama and Nicaragua, where she used her good Spanish skills.

After thirteen years of being a mom, Kathy was ready for work outside the home and began working part-time at Key Elementary in the office, where she uses her Spanish for the Spanish immersion program. She liked working in the same school her kids attended and it turned out that she likes her job enough to stay on for almost fifteen years.

When Kathy isn't working, volunteering, or helping her mom at home, she's playing music. She studied piano and violin as a kid and now plays the fiddle and mandolin. She took up fiddle in the mid-1970s after attending to a fiddle competition where the performers were pretty awful. She wondered if she could do better, so she got started learning fiddle with the help of friends. She likes traditional folk music, focusing on melodies from Appalachia and the British Isles. Kathy attends "Open Band" at Glen Echo the 2nd Friday of each month. She's a member of Friends of Old Time Banjo, a group of jammers that meets monthly.

Her band, Gypsy Meltdown, plays for contradances twice a year at Glen Echo Park. They have toured from Pennsylvania to Georgia—who knew? Gypsy Meltdown has a CD called *Unleashed*, which is available through [www.CDBaby.com](http://www.CDBaby.com). The band was featured in the online NPR program All Songs Considered for their Open Mic segment in 2006. The group's web site is [www.gypsymeltdown.com](http://www.gypsymeltdown.com)

If you couldn't tell, Kathy is a fan of living in Barcroft, partly because of our active civic association. It's a good place to live and we have interesting neighbors who are also our friends.

***Have you paid your annual BSCL dues?***  
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL through August 2011**  
*Please complete & return with dues (\$5 per adult/\$10 per couple)*

Community House Renovation Fund Needs Donations - Please Help if you can.

**Make Checks Payable to: BSCL**

**MAIL 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/Family Membership (\$10.00)	\$ _____
Additional Tax Deductible Contribution to the Community House Fund		\$ _____
Total		\$ _____

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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 arise)       |

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Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

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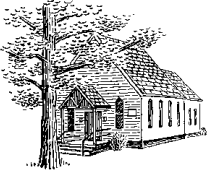


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### **Will mortgage rates go back down?**

Although rates are still near historic lows, they have been headed up... and indications are that those unbelievably low home loan rates may be behind us. There are only a few things that could bring back the lows that we saw in early November:

\*\*If the tax cut package doesn't get passed, it would be very bad news for the economy and Stock market - but it would help interest rates.

\*\*If the Fed's recent round of Quantitative Easing falls on its face and doesn't meet its mission of creating inflation, boosting Stock prices, lowering unemployment and creating consumer demand - Bond prices could make some gains as the threat of deflation reemerges. But this is a long shot.

\*\*If the financial problems in Europe worsen significantly - which would drive investors into the safe haven of the US Bond market - it could help Bond prices, but probably only modestly.

Realistically, the chances of these events happening are unlikely - and in the end, rates may see some brief and fleeting improvements, but experts believe they will likely continue to creep up over time. And when you include the stimulative action of extending the present tax rates and adding further cuts, it's tough to see Bonds or home loan rates improving much.

*The good news is that rates are still extremely attractive and are still near historic lows for now. If you or someone you know has been thinking about purchasing a home, NOW is the time to get started. Contact me for a free no obligation consultation!*

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