

February 2011

# Barcroft News

Vol 108, Issue 6

*After a year off to hone recipes and practice salad tossing skills,  
the hosts are back for the annual-ish*

## Barcroft Spaghetti Dinner

Featuring *Eric Harold's Secret Sauce*  
and

*Live Music* by the unforgettable *Spaghetti Tones*

Sunday, January 30

5:00 to 7:00 PM

At the Barcroft Community House 800 S Buchanan Street

**\$6/ person** Kids under age 10 eat free

All proceeds go to the Community House Renovation Fund.

**MENU:** Spaghetti, salad, bread, beer and wine  
**TAKE OUT and VEGETARIAN OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE!**

**Thank you for bringing  
a dessert to share.**



**To volunteer**  
any portion of time  
from 3PM on,  
email Eric Harold  
[emharold@comcast.net](mailto:emharold@comcast.net)

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

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 Mike Behringer, Pat Williamson

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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  
 Bryant@bscl.org

*Demeter House* Darlene Mickey  
*Crime* **vacant**  
*Parks* Elizabeth Kiker  
 elizabeth.kiker@gmail.com

*Signs* Shirley Gay  
*Parking Committee* David Peacefull  
*Volunteers* **vacant**  
 Volunteers@bscl.org

*Web Master & NCAC Rep* 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

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**

[www.bscl.org](http://www.bscl.org)

**Neighbor to Neighbor Ads**

**For Sale:** Surveyors map of the Barcroft community dated Jan 15,1923. Shows area west of Geo Mason and north from the school with original street names. 21"x24". \$50. Email for info photos ElGuapoSCB@aol.com

**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** [chrisnjenny4@comcast.net](mailto:chrisnjenny4@comcast.net) or **Jason Kiker** [jkiker@gmail.com](mailto:jkiker@gmail.com), or just stop by!

**Wanted:**

Stories and ideas for the Barcroft News

## BSCL President's Report

*By Bryant Monroe*

The BSCL New Year got off to a busy start at our January meeting with guests from Arlington County, Captain Michelle R. Nuneville (Commander Arlington County Police Department Operations Division - District 3) and Fire Department **Lt. Gregg Karl**. While Assistant Chief Barksdale was unable to attend the meeting, Lt. Karl answered questions about the house burning on 8<sup>th</sup> Street South. Lt. Karl lives in Barcroft and we appreciate his participation at the meeting!

Barcroft neighbors remain upset and concerned by the house burning. We are pressing for answers and a change to Arlington's policy on burning vacant houses as a training opportunity for our fire fighters. It was agreed that the BSCL would pursue several actions on this issue. **First**, a committee chaired by **Scott Brinitzer** will assemble to monitor progress on the demolition of the burned house (which is quite a dangerous eyesore) and changes to the County's policy. **Second**, a letter will be sent to the developer requesting confirmation that the house be demolished as soon as possible. **Third**, BSCL will invite the Fire Department Chief to attend a future BSCL meeting (possibly March, subject to confirmation). Send Scott an email if you are interested in participating with the committee: [Scott@bscl.org](mailto:Scott@bscl.org)

**Randy Swart** arranged to have a representative from the Arlington Civic Federation in attendance who said that the Federation would also be following up with the County to advocate dropping this approach to training.

Police Captain Nuneville and her staff spoke in the second half of the meeting, and provided an update on crime in Barcroft. The crime statistics showed a decrease in crime since her visit last year. She offered tips on staying safe and protecting our homes and vehicles. Barcroft is very fortunate to have her and the community policing team working on our behalf.

**The February BSCL meeting on Feb. 3** will include the Alcova Heights Civic Association. We will focus on the growth at the National Guard Bureau and State Department facilities at George Mason Drive and Rt. 50. As we know, this has made parking difficult in parts of our neighborhood. National Guard, State Department and County staff will discuss the current status of the expansion project and concerns and questions from Barcroft and Alcova Heights neighbors.

A final note, I am seeking a Barcroft volunteer for membership on Board of Directors for the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization (CPRO). I have served several terms, and will need to leave the Board. It is a great group of civic and business leaders working to make the Pike a better place. Please let me know

**I hope to see you at the  
BSCL MEETING**

**THURS Feb. 3  
at 7 PM**



## "Donate To Renovate" Campaign Update

### Contributions of \$785 from Outside Arlington

*By Chris Ditta*

A big month in Barcroft Community House Renovation Fund contributions pushes us over \$15,000. Thank you! We are well on our way to reaching the goal of \$40,000. It's truly remarkable how we can band together to improve our community.

There were 28 new contributors including several from outside Arlington. Former Barcrofter **Nancy Walsh** contributed \$500 from her retirement home in Alexandria in appreciation for the work from our snow removal neighbors the past few years. Another \$100 was received from 40+ year Barcroft resident **Gloria Quinlan** from her Front Royal Assisted Living Community, stating that she still cares about Barcroft and keeps up with our community events and people. Several of the Tuesday Yoga Group instructors and participants from Springfield and Falls Church also made significant donations.

On January 29th from 9 AM– 1 PM is the Barcroft School Rummage and Bake Sale where the PTA has pledged to donate 10% to the House Fund. Plus if you keep meaning to donate to the Fund, you may stop by the Rummage/Bake Sale and drop off your check with us.

Don't miss the **Spaghetti Dinner** Sunday Jan. 30 5 -7 PM for food, fun, music and friends. All proceeds from the dinner go to the Community House Fund.

All contributions are fully tax deductible under IRS Code 501(c)(3). Funds will be used to renovate the interior of the Barcroft Community House to increase energy efficiency and Go Green.

#### **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**

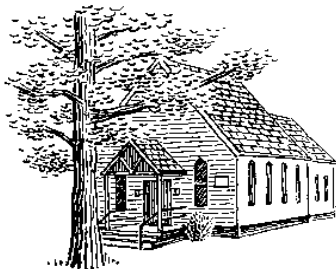
[www.bscl.org/fundraiser.htm](http://www.bscl.org/fundraiser.htm)

#### **For Complete Renovation History**

[www.bscl.org/renovate.htm](http://www.bscl.org/renovate.htm)

#### **For Community House Rental**

[www.bscl.org/bch\\_rent.htm](http://www.bscl.org/bch_rent.htm)



## Barcroft Snow Brigade

The County snow blowers are here and volunteers are poised for the next blizzard. Thank you to our noble snow brigade and also to the unsung heroes of Barcroft who have shoveled their neighbor's walks and even cleaned off some cars. One such "snow fairy" has been helping her neighbors on S. Pershing near S. Woodrow St.

For help with shoveling or to volunteer, contact **Sharon Tope** 703-920-2567 [stope2@comcast.net](mailto:stope2@comcast.net)



## Glencarlyn Park at Columbia Pike

By *Elizabeth Kiker*

There was a fascinating presentation by Valerie Mosley of Arlington County Parks at the Jan. 5 meeting of the Barcroft Parks subcommittee. Mosley had taken our neighborhood's ideas (submitted last year) about how to transform the area at the intersection of Columbia Pike and the Four Mile Run trail, and transformed the drawings presented to Barcroft in September 2010.



The parks department really listened to our ideas, concerns and solutions --- they did great by our neighborhood! The current plans include natural playscapes; a learning loop for children to ride bicycles and tricycles; seating, tables and water fountains and much more. You can see the proposed drawing on the Barcroft web site [www.bscl.org](http://www.bscl.org)

We're also looking for more interested neighbors to help as we finalize design, coordinate with nearby neighborhoods, and create a fantastic place for the entire neighborhood.

If you'd like to get involved, drop me a line at [elizabeth.kiker@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.kiker@gmail.com) or call 703-216-9728.

### Quartets from Potomac Harmony Chorus Offer Singing Valentines

Quartets will serve the DC Metro area from Fri, Feb 11, through Mon, Feb. 14. Order by Feb. 8

For info, email [singingvalentines@potomacharmony.org](mailto:singingvalentines@potomacharmony.org)  
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## What's Happening at Barcroft Elementary—January 2011

By Jenny Ditta

The Barcroft PTA **Rummage and Bake Sale** will be **Saturday, Jan. 29, from 9 AM – 1 PM. Ten percent of the proceeds from the Rummage/Bake Sale will be donated to the Barcroft Community House Renovation Fund**, so we hope that our neighbors join us and shop, shop, shop!

Join us for our weekly **Monday Mornin' Movers (MMM)** exercise program. Depending on the weather, we meet at the outdoor track or the gym **from 8:30 – 8:50 a.m. MMM meets on Feb. 7, 14, and 28.**

As part of our Black History Month celebration, the school will host **African American Read-In Day on Monday, Feb. 7.**

Neighbors are invited to read selected books to the Language Arts classes for 15 -20 minutes. To volunteer, contact Reading Specialist, Ms. Dora Sue Black, [DoraSue\\_Black@apsva.us](mailto:DoraSue_Black@apsva.us).

You are invited to an **Orientation/Open House** for prospective parents from **9:15 – 11:15 AM on Tuesday, Feb. 8.** Tour the school and learn more about Barcroft. That evening, all neighbors are invited to attend Barcroft's **Family Academic Reading Night** at **6:00 PM.**

Also in February, Barcroft will celebrate the **100<sup>th</sup> Day of School.** Students will each bring in 100 pennies to be used in classroom math activities, and then donate the change to the Pennies 4 Peace project.

**African American Heritage Night and the Annual PTA Silent Auction** will be held on **Friday, Feb. 25, from 6-9 PM.** All are welcome to join us for an evening of great food, entertainment, and fantastic items up for bidding. Barcroft will feature the "Taste of Barcroft Cuisine Sampler" including foods cooked in the African-American and Southern traditions. There will also be special family entertainment including student performances to commemorate Black History Month. Many wonderful items will be available to the highest bidder. Please join us, and don't forget to bring your checkbook!

To learn more about What's Happening at Barcroft in 2011, go to [www.apsva.us/15452010312423667/site/default.asp](http://www.apsva.us/15452010312423667/site/default.asp).

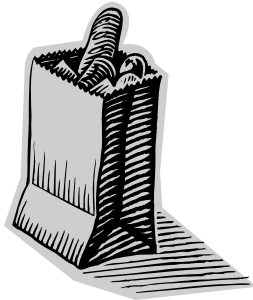
### Wakefield High School



All are invited to the **Orchestra Pyramid Concert "Saturday String Fling"** on **Feb. 5 at 12:00 PM** in the **Wakefield Performing Arts Center.**

The concert will feature the orchestras from all south Arlington elementary schools, middle schools, and Wakefield High School.

## Volunteer Opportunity



*From Shirley Gay*

Did you really appreciate your dinner last night? Did you feel like you could afford pretty much whatever you wanted the last time

you went food shopping? If you are like most of us, eating a nutritious meal and having the ability to purchase the food you and your family want and like are things you take for granted.

As volunteers for Food for Others, a Northern Virginia foodbank, **Jim Duffey**, Mary McBride, my husband, **Cliff**, and I have learned to love and value what we have. Each Monday afternoon, one of us picks up a carload of food and brings it to

two locations near Barcroft. Usually, two of us distribute at two sites, one near Columbia Commons Apartments and the other at the recycling lot on Columbia Pike. The whole job takes no more than two and a half hours. To receive food, folks need no referral. This makes the food more accessible for some than AFAC (Arlington Food Assistance Center.) Recipients are almost unbelievably appreciative.

After distributing for many, many years, Jim, Cliff and I now have health constraints which make this work more and more challenging. We'd love to help you learn the ropes. Interested? Even if you can only help temporarily or occasionally, please contact Shirley Gay, shirleywg@verizon.net or 703-920-1913.



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### ***What's Going On In Barcroft??***

**Join the Barcroft  
 chat group and news email lists!**

**Go to:**

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



## Around the Neighborhood

Elaine Heumann Gurian and her husband, Dean Anderson moved to Barcroft in 1988. In 2007, their home was destroyed in a catastrophic fire. Only 3 walls survived. They had to decide – rebuild or sell?

They love Barcroft because it is a family oriented, multicultural and multigenerational neighborhood. They wanted to stay. Elaine has worked for years designing and advising museums around the world. She was open to new ideas about designing her new home.

She spoke with neighbors and colleagues and created a team to redo the house. She describes the architect, Vicky Kiechel, as “radical.” They never dreamed of remodeling their home with round walls, loft spaces and more. Barcroft neighbor and flooring expert **Mark Trone** recruited some friends from Culpepper, VA to do all of the work. Barcroft landscaper, **Sue Tenenbaum** redid the yard. The team worked together beautifully to complete the amazing replacement home which was featured in an article in Washingtonian Magazine on May 1, 2009.

That teamwork inspired Elaine to buy another house here in Barcroft to remodel and sell. The idea was to fix up a deteriorating house in a way that preserves the neighborhood dynamic while using eco-friendly materials and local craftsmen

as much as possible. She assembled the same team--now including former Barcroft neighbor and realtor Susan Sarconne.

Elaine found a two-story 1950s rambler to renovate at 4306 8th St. S. Now the floors are ecological bamboo. Natural lighting is enhanced by skylights, glass bricks and a “solar tunnel” that allows natural light in the basement stairway through a system of mirrors. The quartz countertops are a renewable composite, unlike granite.

When this house sells, Elaine intends to renovate another Barcroft home with the goal of finding affordable ways to help Barcroft go green and maintain its wonderful ambiance.

**It's never too late to renew  
your BSCL membership -  
or join if you are not yet a  
member.**

**Dues are just \$5 per adult.  
Drop off at the Community House  
or mail to:  
Gary Lefebvre, BSCL Treasurer  
812 S. George Mason Dr.**

**Not sure if you paid this year?  
Check the list at:  
[www.bscl.org/members.htm](http://www.bscl.org/members.htm)  
There is also a link there for the  
membership form.**

## Fox Sightings Around the Neighborhood

By *Kathy Kerr*

Foxes have been quite a hot topic in the BSCL chat email list (To join, visit [www.bscl.org/chatlist.htm](http://www.bscl.org/chatlist.htm))

On Jan. 5, a neighbor walking his English sheep dog noticed a fox was closely following them. He turned and yelled at it, but the fox just kept following, barking now and then. Frightened, he knocked on the door of **Sue Tenenbaum** who kindly offered to drive him home. Whew. Other neighbors report sightings at all times of day and hearing yelping at night.

Neighbors have been both frightened and fascinated by foxes in the past. In February, 2009, **Carol Harvey** wrote a great article for the Barcroft News. Here are some excerpts:

“Several Barcroft dog walkers report being charged by a large red fox. Is it rabid? No, it’s probably looking for love. Alonso Abugattas at Long Branch Nature Center, says that this is mating season. The foxes have raging hormones and are “a little crazy” right now. They are territorial and an approaching dog is **1)** a potential mate or **2)** a competitor for mates and/or territory. A fox wants the dog to know that it is the owner of the territory and will show off to scare others away. The fox is probably totally focused on the dog and not the human attached to it. Foxes are normally shy, but raging hormones can cause them to act abnormally. They are yelping in the woods at night, and should come back to their senses in a few weeks.

The fox will rarely come in physical contact with others. If it charges, make loud noises

and wave your arms to scare it off. **If it actually tries to bite, call Animal Control at 703-931-9241.**” For more info, contact Alonso at the Nature Center 703-228-6535.

I spoke with Alonso who thinks January is rather early for a fox to begin the mating season. However, he says that, just like humans, and, er, some of our neighbors, some foxes are just a bit wacky. For example, **Chris Gagliana** who writes:

“I hope they get to stay in the neighborhood - I’d much rather have a fox problem than a rat problem. ...Foxes do eat mice and rats. [Alonso says they also eat squirrels.] But I really find it humorous that a fox was trailing an English sheep dog, especially if it’s the full grown sheepdog I’ve seen around Barcroft a few times. As a former male teenager myself, (I should clarify - I’m still male, just not a teenager!) I’m well aware that hormones can make a guy do stupid things. More power to the fox if he could pull that mating ritual off, but I have to wonder if the fox didn’t have his beer goggles on that night.”



*This red fox was photographed recently by **Kim Collier** in her backyard*

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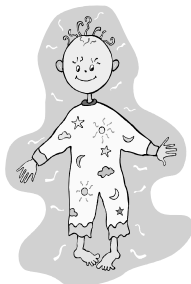
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**Neighborhood Babysitting Co-op**

Want a night on the town but can't afford the movie AND the baby sitter? Join Barcroft's Baby sitting co-op!

This co-op has been in existence for nine years. 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.

Contact **Timi Kenealy**  
 vakenealys@verizon.net  
 or **Betsy Severn**  
 robbets@juno.com



**Kale Chip Recipe**

What?? Sounds weird but these are great. Fresh kale is very inexpensive at Food Star! Make this with your kids.

**KALE CHIPS**

Heat oven to 300 degrees.

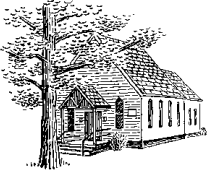
Lightly spray a couple of nonstick baking sheets with oil or use parchment paper.

1 small bunch kale, washed and patted dry  
 Remove the fattest part of the veins and cut leaves into pieces, not too small. Put in a large bowl.

In a small bowl mix together:

- 1 Tablespoon olive oil
- 1-2 Tablespoons lemon juice
- 1-2 Tablespoons nutritional yeast flakes (the secret ingredient! It's inactive, not like bread yeast. Gives a cheesy flavor. Available at natural foods stores).

Pour over the kale. Mix with hands and spread in one layer on baking sheets. Bake 30 minutes. Remove to bowl right out of the oven.



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

### **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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