



BARCROFT NEWS

MARCH, 1988

MARCH PROGRAM: LANDLORD-TENANT RELATIONSHIP AND COUNTY INSPECTIONS

Our March program will feature two closely related topics: Landlord-tenant relationships and the County's inspection division.

The landlord-tenant discussion will be led by a member of the Arlington Landlord-Tenant Relations Office. It will cover the rights and duties of both renters and landlords, rent control (or non-control), rent subsidies, and where to go for help if something goes wrong.

The County Inspection Division is one of the places you might go if your landlord refuses to fix the plumbing, for example. They inspect rental properties, and other properties too, if there is a complaint that something is not up to the County code. A representative of the Inspection Services Division will come to tell us what those codes are and how to have the County check up when that vacant house next door has six foot high weeds. This is not a "Big Brother" division-- it is mostly concerned with basic community health requirements.

As always, the meeting will start at 7:30 on the first Thursday of the month (March 3) at the Barcroft Community House, 800 S. Buchanan St. If you have never seen the inside, that alone is worth the visit!

DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE: IS IT A PROBLEM IN BARCROFT?

An open letter from the Arlington County Services Board:

Dear Resident of Barcroft:

The Arlington County Services Board is responsible for programs to cope with alcohol abuse and drug abuse in Arlington County. We need accounts of the problems caused by alcohol and drug abuse from residents in several parts of the County. If you are concerned about problems of this kind in your neighborhood please write us about your observations. If we get several letters we hope to organize a meeting between Barcroft residents and members of the Arlington County Community Services Board. The purpose will be to give Board members a chance to learn about alcohol and drug problems in your neighborhood.

Please write to: Mr. Raymond Pelissier, Arlington County Services Board, 2600 16th Street S., Arlington, VA 22204. Mr. Pelissier can also be reached by telephone at 920-6288, and is usually home between 5 and 7 PM, or 7:30 to 8:30 AM. If there is enough interest we will schedule a BSCL meeting on this subject.

**COMMITTEES REPORT PROGRESS ON THE
NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION PLAN**

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Five committees reported at the BSCL's February meeting on progress in preparing their sections of the Barcroft Neighborhood Conservation Plan.

Zoning and Land Use has already prepared a draft of its section, which was reviewed at the meeting. Copies are available from Laurie Kelsch, who chairs the committee (920-9429), and who welcomes comments from any Barcrofter.

Members of the History and Demographics Committee are busily working on projects to be assimilated into their draft. They meet periodically to discuss historical resources available and coordinate their efforts. Call Phyllis Kinsey at 892-5962 if you want to participate.

Neighborhood Inventory is continuing its work on the physical inventory of streets, streetlights, curb and gutter, sidewalks, traffic signals, etc. The work is divided up by block captains. Call Dick Carter at 521-5976.

Parks & Recreation is moving ahead on various issues, including establishment of some "pocket parks," possible erection of a Barcroft Neighborhood sign at 8th Street South and George Mason Drive, improving access to Four Mile Run park, encouraging good house and yard maintenance, and wishing everyone's garden could look like the one at 4th and Buchanan. For info call Pope Woodard at 979-6529. Residents of the townhouses at Abingdon and Arlington Boulevard reported that they had established their own do-it-yourself "Pocket Park" by landscaping the triangle where Abingdon meets the access road. It looks great!

Traffic & Transportation has been charging ahead on solving Barcroft's concerns about intersections, left turn lanes, signals, signs, markings, speeding, snow removal, bus service, and more, led by committee chair Elinor Schwartz. (920-5389)

The committees who do not yet have drafts for their sections are working on them, and hopefully we will be able to put the first draft of the whole Plan together before our summer break.

WANT ADS

FOR SALE: 17 foot aluminum canoe. \$100. Call Dick Williams, 521-0731.

WANTED: METRONOME. Either electronic or mechanical. Please call Ann Wester, 521-2841.

NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE!! Many of the residents of the 4600 block of Fourth Street South have joined together to hold a MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE on March 12, 1988. Items will include baby goods, furniture, vintage clothes and whatever else we discover in our Spring Cleaning! Join us for the fun. Look for signs on Abingdon and Buchanan for directions on Saturday, March 12, 9 AM to 4 PM. Rain or Shine! For more info call Frieda Wildey, 920-9538.

WANTED: PART TIME OFFICE EMPLOYEE. Need part time office help willing to learn, answer phone, do filing, act as receptionist, etc. Hours good for mother with children. Willing to pay up to \$5.00 per hour. Please call 892-9540. NICHOLAS J. CHABRA & ASSOCIATES, Attorneys at Law, 945 South George Mason Drive, Arlington, VA 22204.

WANT ADS are free to non-commercial BSCL members or \$5 for businesses. Send to Editor, 4649 Second Street S., Arl 22204. March 10 is the deadline to get an ad in for your April yard sale or service.

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**RAINBOW TROUT ARE COMING TO BARCROFT!
CLEAN-UP DAY COMING FIRST ON MARCH 5**

The County has announced a program to begin this year to stock Four Mile Run with rainbow trout. Trout season opens on March 19, when you may begin to destock the stream if you can catch any. Don't forget to get a license first if you are between 16 and 65 years of age. Best Co. in Shirlington has them for \$7.50. (You do not need a trout stamp added to the license to catch trout in Arlington.) Kids and old-timers over 65 do not need a license, and there will be a special section of Four Mile Run designated for kids 12 and under. Members of the N. Va. chapter of Trout Unlimited will be there to give the youngsters pointers.

The County's purpose is to add another leisure activity for us Barcrofters, and to focus attention on Arlington's water resources. Four Mile Run has suffered the ravages of time and our heavy population growth. Before it silted in, it had been navigable by grain boats all the way up to the Arlington Mill at Columbia Pike. Now it is too shallow to support the trout beyond May when the water warms up, so catch while you can. The 4,000 fish will all be 7" or more, so they will all be legal "keepers."

The County proposes to have a Stream Clean-Up day to clean up Four Mile Run. The chosen day is Saturday, March 5th from 9 AM to 4 PM. Then the following Saturday (the 12th) there will be Habitat Improvement Day to add some riffles and bubbling pools so the trout will be happy during their short stay in Arlington. For more information, call project coordinator Steve Klemm at the Arlington County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Resources, 558-2475. He is looking for a leader to organize the Barcroft contingent, so look out!

If the weather cooperates it could be a good time to get out and enjoy some exercise in the open air. Come to the BSCL meeting on Thursday, March 3 to find out who else from Barcroft is planning to be there.

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BARCROFT ROOTS

On the opposite page is a reproduction of the front page of the third issue of the Barcroft News, June, 1903.

Officially, the first Barcroft News was written, edited and published in 1903 by O. Edward Haring, the son of Oscar Haring, who ran a general store at Columbia Pike and Four Mile Run (about where Hairloom is now) at that time. Eddie Haring was then 18 years old. He was "a very bright, likeable fellow and the hero of all the neighborhood belles and the ring leader in all the sports and social events as well," according to Louise Payne's recollection. More recently we have been told that the actual writer and printer of the paper was Sydney Marye, an Uncle of Eddie Haring who also lived in the neighborhood. Marye's daughter, Adeline Robertson, still lives in Barcroft and although she was just a babe at the time she remembers that it was a family joke that Sydney insisted on crediting the paper to Haring. (Adeline was mentioned in the 1903 Barcroft News as "the baby at the Maryes" and 85 years later she is being honorably mentioned in a Barcroft News once more!)

The four pages of the paper were only 4" wide by 5 3/4" long. The little newspaper served a community of 20 houses, and the masthead proclaims that it was published in "Barcroft, Va." The "Personals" give an interesting peek at life in Barcroft 85 years ago. People did lots of visiting, gardening was popular, and the Barcroft Mill was still operating. Other features covered local events, the condition of Columbia Pike, the running of the railroad up Four Mile Run, and County elections. There were ads for building lots, groceries and baled hay. There is a dig at Falls Church in the issue on the next page, and there was constant sniping at Southern Railway, who ran the trains Marye and other Barcrofters used to get to work. It was a great little paper, and a patronizing review in the big Washington Times called it "the smallest and most novel newspaper published in America."

The Haring/Marye Barcroft News was the third publication printed in our County and the first neighborhood newsletter. It was published "fortnightly" for about six months. Later when the Barcroft School and Civic League began publishing its newsletter it was natural to use the name Marye and Haring had originated. So the roots of the Barcroft News go a long way back.

This front page appeared as an illustration in an article titled "A History of Printing in Arlington (Alexandria) County" by Robert Nelson Anderson. The article was published in the Arlington Historical Magazine in October of 1959. The caption says "...said to be one of the earliest items to be printed in what is now Arlington County, Virginia." The author had probably never heard of Sydney Marye, and of course assumed that Haring had published the paper. A close look at the 1903 Barcroft News shows that it was a quality publication despite its size. It was very well edited, the spelling was exceptionally accurate, the grammar was exemplary, the general tone was mature, the viewpoint was adult, and the printing was quite professional. Would young-blade-around-Barcroft Eddie Haring have had the skills to produce such a paper? Marye was an employee of the Government Printing Office, and seems more likely to have published the paper as a hobby, attributing it to Haring because of his job at GPO. That would explain two articles about union activities at GPO, and numerous articles about commuting to Washington on the train. From these indicators it seems likely that Mrs. Robertson's memory is correct, and Sydney Marye was actually responsible for the paper.

Thanks to Mrs. Robertson our BSCl archives have copies of the papers, which you can see for yourself if you join the History and Demographics Committee in its work on the Neighborhood Conservation Plan. Call Phyl Kinsey at 892-5962. Her committee is unearthing lots of Old Barcroft things. And look for more excerpts from the 1903 Barcroft News in future issues.

The Barcroft News.

VOL. I.

BARCROFT, VA., JULY 5, 1908.

No. 3.

PERSONAL.

Miss Kate Roberson is spending this week with Miss Edith Corbett at Bethesda, Md.

Misses Alice and Ethel Smith left last week to spend several weeks in Tarrytown-on-the-Hudson.

Mr. Ben Smith and Mr. C. E. Lightfoot are both quite ill with malaria.

Miss Lou Loeb, of Washington, is visiting Miss Kate Munson.

Mr. and Mrs. Bradbury have returned from a trip to Lexington, Va.

Judge John Pelham left last week for his home in Alabama.

Capt. Bales and his charming daughter, Miss Inez, were the guests of Miss Johnston at Miles Away last Sunday.

Mrs. Chamberlain is quite puffed up. This is due rather to poison oak, however, than to pride.

Mrs. B. R. Dewey and Stuart, her son, are the guests of Mrs. Schick.

Major and Mrs. John D. Russell, of Washington, are spending the day with the Marves.

Capt. L. L. Bridges, of Hyattsville, Md., who has been "under the weather" for "quite a spell," is very much better.

Mrs. J. R. Sprigman and her daughter, Miss Mary, are visiting Mrs. Schick.

Mr. Barbour will preach at the chapel every Sunday at 3:30 p. m. until further notice.

Misses Mary and Emma Pelham, of Georgia, nieces of Judge Pelham, are spending a part of the heated term at Miles Away.

Mr. Richard Wirt, of Alexandria, paid Barcroft a visit yesterday, and took some of our young ladies to town in the evening to see the fireworks.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnston and their daughters, Dorothy and Nan, have taken up their summer residence at the White house.

Miss M. E. Girdner, of Thomasville, Ga., on her way to Boston, stopped over yesterday to call on Miss Mary Pelham.

Capt. Merrifield "pulled off" a typical New England village Fourth of July at Falls Church, a small town up the road, between Barcroft and Herndon. The captain is a "down Easter" who makes railroad trains, elections, festivals, and all else with which he has to do Merry. Here's to the captain and to the flag that "set us free"—from England.

o o o

There is some talk of the property owners hereabouts getting out an injunction restraining electric road surveyors. So many have been about these diggings lately that they are trampling the crops.



<p>Mar 3 FIRST THURS. OF THE MONTH</p>	<p>BARCROFT SCHOOL AND CIVIC LEAGUE 7:30 PM. <u>Landlord-Tenant Relations and County Inspection Services</u>. What laws regulate the landlord-tenant relationship and what do they mean to Barcroft renters and landlords? What can the County do about nuisance properties? Info 521-2080.</p>
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Fri-Sat
4th & 5th Arlingtones Barbershop Chorus presents its "Hee-Hee" show, featuring the 1986 Int'l Champ quartet and some of your Barcroft neighbors. Thomas Jeff. Center. Info 527-6195.

Saturday
5th Cleanup Day at Four Mile Run. Get it ready for the trout. Call Steve Klemm, Arl.County Extension Office at 558-2475.

Saturday
5th, 19th Arlington County Board Meeting. 9 AM at the Courthouse. Watch it on Arlington cable TV. Info 558-2261.
On the 19th the Board will set Real Estate Tax Rates.

Thursday
10th Deadline to submit your article, ad, cartoon, art, etc. for the April Barcroft News to the Editor, 4649 2nd St. S.

Saturday
12th Habitat Improvement Day at Four Mile Run. Get the stream-bed ready for the trout. Info Steve Klemm 558-2475.

Monday
21st Book Discussion Group. Discuss The Brothers Karamazov. Central Library, 1015 N.Quincy 7:30 PM. Info 521-2080.

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A FAMILY ROLLER DERBY

I recently discovered another of Arlington's best kept secrets--family roller skating Saturday nights at the Thomas Jefferson Community center.

If you go, you are bound to see Barcrofter Janet Kyle skating with her daughter Stacy, age 8, a second grader at Page Elementary. Janet is quite an advocate of roller skating at TJ. She says they really encourage families to come. The night I went, most of the skaters were kids 12 and under and their parents. Skating is from 6:30 to 9 PM. Janet says that it is a good idea to get there right at 6:30 to be sure to rent skates your size. The cost is \$1.00 if you bring your own skates (with polyurethane wheels) and \$1.50 if you rent them. The floor is rubberized, making it a little softer to fall down on. Janet reports that once a month there is a party; the community center provides punch and the regular skaters bring food. TJ also offers roller skating classes. Janet says they teach children how to fall so it won't hurt as much.

Janet grew up on a farm near Buckeye, Iowa. There was not much to do there for fun so in her early teens she would go about 3 miles into town to roller skate. She performed there semi-professionally doing square dances, two-steps and waltzes, all on roller skates--both forward and backward!

Janet and her husband David have lived in their Barcroft home on 6th St. South for 12 years. Married 15 years, they both work for C&P Telephone, where they met. David, a genuine Washington, DC native, is enjoying himself completely remodeling their basement.

During the summer Saturday night roller skating moves outdoors to the basketball courts. Teenagers are not allowed to skate then, just children and their parents. Then, skates and skating are FREE. Hard to believe! Roller skating lessons are also available at TJ. In fact my 4 year old Allen is in a 4 week class now and doing remarkably well.

All of those red faced kids leaving TJ at 9pm sure had blown off ALL possible excess energy. Great way to get the kids ready for bed!

For more information, call TJ at 553-8522. But be forewarned that on Saturdays no one will answer the phone after 5:50 pm--just trust that the place truly is open for skating.

BARCROFT IS BEJEWELED!


Congratulations to Beth and Harold Evans on Second St. S. whose new baby was born January 19, 1988. Jewel Elizabeth was named after her Grandma who lives across the street. Baby Jewel has a big brother Michael who is a second grader at Barcroft school.

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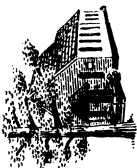
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NEWSLETTER



TROUT IN BARCROFT!!! SEE PAGE 3.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

- Advertising Manager: Talmadge Williams
920-7006
- Contributions Editor: Susan Sarcone
920-8131
- Editor: Randy Swart
521-2080
- Around the Neighborhood: Kathy Kerr
892-6458
- Mailing: Aileen & Paul
Woods