

BARCROFT

NEWS

March, 1989

MARCH MEETING: TAX ASSESSMENTS AND REAL ESTATE VALUES--WHAT'S HAPPENING TO OUR PROPERTY TAX BILLS AND WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT.

Our March 2d BSCL meeting will feature a guest from the County Department of Real Estate Assessments and a panel discussion of Barcroft realtors.

The tax assessor will tell us how your assessments are prepared and why they are going up 29% this year. She will also explain how older folks on fixed incomes may qualify for a program to lower their tax payments. In addition, one of our Barcroft residents who appealed and had her assessment lowered will tell you how she did it.

The Barcroft realtors on our panel are all your neighbors, and have all advertised in the Barcroft news. They will not be selling anything at the meeting! They will discuss what has happened to property values and where they are going in months to come. They will also answer questions on whether additions to your home are likely to pay off, or what happens when you sell a home which has appreciated a great deal since you bought it, and how to avoid paying too much tax. This will be a great chance for people who seldom move to ask a realtor questions.

The program starts at 7:30 PM, March 2d at the Barcroft Community House, 800 South Buchanan Street.

COUNTY GIVES TAX RELIEF TO SOME SENIOR CITIZENS AND DISABLED RESIDENTS

The County will defer or excuse part of your real estate taxes if you are over 65 or disabled and:

1. You have income of less than \$22,000 per year.
2. You have assets of less than \$75,000 not including the value of your home.

The deferrals are interest-free.

Call the County Commissioner of Revenue at 358-3030 today to find out if you are eligible. If so, you must file an application before March 15. Many people complain about high real estate taxes, but this is the first program we have seen to give some relief where needed.

TROUT SEASON STARTS ON MARCH 18

Again this year the County Recreation Department will stock Four Mile Run with rainbow trout from Bluemont Park to Shirlington Road. The opening is preceded by a stream clean-up day on March 11 from 9 AM to noon. Volunteers are requested to help with the clean up on that day. Last year more than 400 people participated in the clean-up.

To fish in Arlington you need a valid fishing license if you are over 16 years old. For more info, call the Trout Hotline at 358-4000.

WHITHER ARLINGTON HALL? WHAT IS ARLINGTON COUNTY UP TO?

Last month we promised you an update on the State Department's plans for its share of the Arlington Hall site. But approval of State's plans by the National Capital Planning Commission has been delayed to resolve a new Arlington County request to build an indoor recreation center on the site. You may have seen an article about it in the Journal or the Sun, which have sometimes been our best sources of information on what is going on.

We understand from Community Planning, Housing and Development Director Bill Hughes that the County proposed a center with swimming pools and handball courts, and that the State Department rejected the proposal. The County did not consult with Barcroft or Alcova neighborhoods before making the proposal. (Swimming pools sound great, but what about a rec center's traffic? If the east side is built up with the new center, would State have to come over to our west side to build when the first expansion is necessary?) Meantime, Congressman Wolf stated at the Civic Federation meeting February 7th that he would support the neighborhoods, and that he had been responsible for killing the previous County proposal to put a "fire station" on the west (Barcroft) side. (Barcroft's representatives thanked him, although we had always thought that the objections of the neighborhood the night we packed the County Board room had something to do with killing the proposal.)

Another Arlington Hall issue arose when the State Department announced that it favored ending the bicycle/pedestrian trail across the site at Quincy Street instead of continuing on to Second Street South and the Thomas Jefferson Center. The shorter trail would be much less useful for Barcrofters, and BSCL President Pat Roach has sent a letter to County Board Chairman Ellen Bozman informing her that the BSCL maintains its position supporting the longer trail as planned in the County's Master Transportation Plan.

BARCROFT SCHOOL AND CIVIC LEAGUE OFFICERS FOR 1988-89

PresidentPat Roach 920-8131
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Contributions Editor: Susan Sarcone 920-8131
Editor: Randy Swart 521-2080
Around the Neighborhood: Kathy Kerr 892-6458
Mailing: Aileen & Paul Woods

The deadline for articles or ads is the 10th of the previous month unless the editor is running late. Call to check.

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522-0002

Susan dee Cohen
Realtor*
979-5818

TALK TO o YOUR BARCROFT NEIGHBORS

Susan Sarcone
Realtor*
930-8131

Realtors* around your corner

MADISON CENTER HAS SPECIAL DAY PROGRAM FOR SENIOR ADULTS

Arlington County's Madison Center, at 3829 N. Stafford Street, has a program to assist adults who cannot or do not wish to be left alone during the day. Transportation can be arranged.

The center is based on the belief that older people should have a warm, supportive environment based on their needs and capabilities. The program is especially good for older adults whose spouses or families are away during the day, and who benefit from the wide variety of activities and companionship offered at the Center.

Madison Center provides a mix of social activities and health care. There are creative activities, music, discussion groups, community projects and just plain companionship. Health care includes counseling, therapies, and nutrition from the Center's hot lunch, as well as nursing services.

The Madison Center operates weekdays from 7 AM to 6 PM, and participants attend from 2 to 5 days per week. A daily fee is charged based on a sliding scale determined by the individual family's ability to pay. For more information, call 358-5340.

WANT ADS

These ads are free, folks. Just drop them off at 4649 2nd St. S. or call the editor at 521-2080. Don't you have a yard sale coming up this spring?

FOR SALE 1968 Ford 1/2-ton pickup. New rebuilt engine, new battery and brakes, no rust. \$1200. Whirlpool electric kitchen stove, black front, never used. \$250. New 200 amp breaker box and breakers. Good used tires. Please call 979-9021.

BABYSITTING Part time. 979-9021.

FOR SALE 1985 Renault Encore LS. 5-speed, air conditioning, power steering, 63,000 miles, AM/FM cassette. \$1200 or best offer. Call 892-2421.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE NEW TAX LAW AND FORMS?

or

TROUBLE WITH THE IRS?

or

STARTING A SMALL BUSINESS, NEED ACCOUNTING ADVICE?

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ARLINGTON

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The Barcroft News.

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O. EDW. HARING - - EDITOR.

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AUGUST 16, 1903.

TALK IS CHEAP.

We saw a long article in the Post several days ago about double-tracking the Southern railroad, buying new engines, putting down heavier rails, etc., and next day we read of a disastrous wreck just where all the extra hands were supposed to be at work.

How long, oh, how long will it take Southern railroad people to learn that it is very dangerous for two trains to try to pass each other on the same track, even if one is standing still at the time.

PERSONAL.

Mrs. F. C. Bell and son, Warren, have returned from a two days' visit to Mrs. Bradshaw, at Herndon.

Mr. Roy Pritchard, who has been visiting at the Palmer Mansion, left yesterday, accompanied by Miss Nettie Palmer, for Luray Cave, where they will join Mr. Pritchard's parents, also visiting the cave.

Mrs. Allen E. Wilson, of Washington, has been spending a few days with Mrs. Oscar Haring.

Mrs. T. T. Burke left Friday morning, for Pleasant Valley, to spend a few weeks with her son, Maurice Palmer.

Mrs. E. H. Klemroth has returned from an extended stay at Brunswick, Ga. She was much pleased with the far South, but says a longing for Barcroft was ever with her.

Miss Kate Roberson was a caller upon Barcroft friends last week. She didn't miss the opportunity of seeing the baby at the Marves'.

Miss Mamie Palmer is visiting her uncle at Herndon.

SNOW PLANS -- WHY WE WILL NOT HAVE MANDATORY SIDEWALK SHOVELING

Have you ever wondered why the County encourages but does not require homeowners to shovel their sidewalks when it snows? County Board members addressed the question at the January meeting of the Civic Federation. They said the County would have difficulty trying to decide who would be exempted (handicapped, elderly, etc), how the ordinance could be enforced, what type of fines could be assessed, and who would deliver the summons. They also noted that other communities who have adopted such an ordinance end up not enforcing it. They did not go beyond that, but there is also the problem that someone who slips on a snow-covered sidewalk and sues the homeowner would also sue the County for not enforcing the shoveling ordinance.

The County does encourage people to shovel their sidewalks voluntarily so that school children and those who walk to bus or metro are not forced to walk in the street. And a County pamphlet on the subject encourages all of us to help out handicapped or elderly neighbors who can not shovel.

MARK'S PRINT SHOP IS NOW THE STANLEY ADAMS PRINTING COMPANY--STILL GIVING US QUALITY PRINTING AND GREAT SERVICE

Mark's friendly print shop has moved and has a new name. Owner Mark Garrison has purchased the Stanley Adams Printing Company at 2049 Wilson Boulevard. You can still reach them at 524-0178. The new shop is better equipped, but we're still getting a bargain price for the Barcroft News and usually get same-day service. So we give them a plug now and then. They're good people to work with.

Kathy Kerr

MORE NEW BABIES--IS IT THE WATER?



**BARCROFT RESIDENT COMPETES IN THE
CONCHMAN TRIATHLON**

Barcrofter Meril-Lee Pattison, of Second Street S., recently returned from Grand Bahama Island where she competed in the Conchman Triathlon. The Conchman was organized by Remar Sutton, who writes the "Fit Over Forty" column in the Washington Post.

Meril-Lee followed a rigorous training schedule prior to the swim/bike/run event. She swam, ran or biked every day for an hour or more. "I've never been in such great shape!" she says.

In the Conchman, contestants swim one mile, bike 10 miles and run 4 miles. Each leg of the event takes about 40 minutes. Meril-Lee placed a very respectable 29th out of 51 in her age group. (She declined to identify her age group for the Barcroft News.)

While on Grand Bahama Island she apparently did some training and some partying, finding time to try conch salad and conch fritters, sample some local rum and swim with a school of dolphins. (She has a video of the dolphins, and many pix of the rest of the trip.) She also met Remar Sutton. She says the Bahamians have not yet discovered lawn sheep, and it was good to get away from them for a while.

Meril-Lee has now enrolled in a triathlon course, where she will receive instruction on training and racing in the events. She plans to compete in the Reston Triathlon soon. Meantime, you can spot her little white car easily--it's the only one in Barcroft with a Conchman bumper sticker.

It seems there has been an interesting trend here in Barcroft for neighbors living near each other to have babies at the same time. The Granofskys and the Rumpfs have adjoining back yards --and new babies born in December! (Is it something in the water?)

On Third St. S., Dick and Nora Rumpf are enjoying little Richard Lee, Jr. born December 16, 1988. The Rumpfs sing the praises of Children's Hospital. The baby was born at Columbia Hospital for Women but had to be transferred to Children's for a severe respiratory problem. He was given a 20% chance of survival. Whew!! Its great to report that he is now fine and very strong and healthy.

Richard Jr.'s big sister Anna is almost 8 years old and is in second grade at Barcroft. She says her teacher is strict but she likes school, especially the monthly science projects.

Dick is the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research Engineering and Systems at the Pentagon. Nora worked for the Naval Air Systems Command but will not be returning; she is enjoying being a mother-at-home.

Just over the back fence live the Granofsky's on 2nd St. S.. Alan and Sharon have two boys, John age 3 1/2 and Nathan age 1 1/2. On December 29, 1988 their little baby girl Anna Eileen was born. Sharon teaches piano in her home. With a new baby and three children she has only 6 students right now. She's a great teacher so perhaps she'll pick up more students in the future. Keep your ears open! Alan has one of the best jobs I know of. He plays in the Army Band and his instrument is the Herald Trumpet (you know--one of those really big long regal horns.) Alan says he was really kept busy during the inauguration. If you watched any of the inauguration on TV you probably saw him.



MARCH EVENTS



Mar 2nd Thurs.	BARCROFT SCHOOL AND CIVIC LEAGUE 7:30 PM. 800 S. Buchanan St. <u>Real Estate tax assessments and panel discussion by Barcroft realtors.</u> Can you fight a high assessment? What about the program for seniors to defer taxes? For more info call 920-8131.
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- Saturday 4 & 18 Arlington County Board Meeting. 9 AM at the Courthouse. Watch it on Cable channel 31. For agenda information call 558-2261.
- Tuesday 7th Arlington County Civic Federation. Arlington County Budget. 7:45PM. Come as an observer. For info call 521-2080.
- Sat & Sun 11th & 12th 12 Dancing Princesses. Children's Theatre of Arlington, TJ Center 3 PM both days, plus 11 AM Saturday. Charge. Info 548-1017.
- Tuesday 14th County Board Public Hearing on the Budget. You can present your views on taxes and spending. Kenmore Intermediate School 7PM.
- Saturday 18th Barcroft School Fun Fair. Games, food, goodies, rummage sale. Barcroft School, 625 S. Wakefield St. 10 AM - 3 PM. 553-2333.
- Monday 27th Book Discussion Group. Read Eudora Welty's A Curtain of Green and discuss at the Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy 7:30PM. 521-2080.

TESLER AND WERBLOOD

ATTORNEYS AT LAW



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AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD
with Kathy Kerr



BIG THINGS ARE ABOUT TO HAPPEN AT BARCROFT SCHOOL

As a newcomer to the public schools this year I vowed to attend my first Barcroft School PTA meeting. I finally made it on January 24, when school Superintendent Arthur Gosling came to speak briefly about upcoming renovations for Barcroft school and county-wide issues such as the new middle school concept and busing problems.

Mr. Gosling seems to be very aware of the problems with the Barcroft school facility. He stated that although the cramped classroom sizes are within legal guidelines, they certainly are not desirable and are not comparable to other schools in the county. The good news is that help is on the way!

Architects did a study of the school and were able to identify which parts of the building are in good shape (such as the gym and multi-purpose room), which parts need a facelift (such as the wing with Kindergarten and first grades) and which parts need to be gutted (much of the original 1924 building--with all due respect to the historical aspects of the original 4 room school.) The school board is now evaluating how the improvements will be made and when. It would be handy if all of the work could be done in the summertime, but Mr. Gosling explained that this is not possible.

Karen Rogers informed me that many of the students in the Barcroft school district attend other schools. I will be interested to see if changes in the busing program and an improved facility might bring more of the neighborhood families back to Barcroft school. I hope that all parents have at least observed at Barcroft; the school has a lot to offer. I've heard neighbors describe Barcroft school as a nurturing place, like one big family. The school has a very diverse population which I find very exciting. This year the PTA is making French and Spanish lessons available to students. The school has also opened a very popular "store" where students may purchase supplies.

Now is the time for interested parents and parents-to-be to give input as to what they would like to see available at Barcroft. A committee is meeting to look at what is needed. For more information contact Barcroft school principal Dr. Ellen Kahan at 553-2333. We may end up with one of the best facilities in the county!

No matter where or if your children go to school, don't miss the annual Barcroft School FUN FAIR to held on Saturday March 18 from 10am to 3pm. There will be games, food, goodies, a rummage sale and more! It's also a great opportunity to see the school and get to know it better.

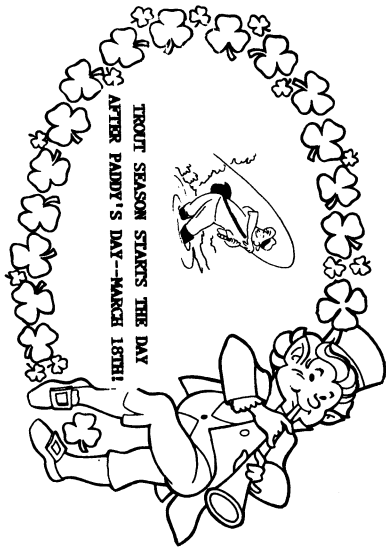
New neighbors, babies, grandchildren weddings, Bar Mitzvahs, anecdotes, anniversaries, talents, memories? Help Kathy keep up-to-date this spring on Barcrofters and their big events. Call her at 892-6458.

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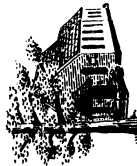
BROOKE RENTAL CENTER



TROT SEASON STARTS THE DAY
AFTER PAIDY'S DAY--MARCH 16TH!

NEWS

BARCROFT



BARCROFT SCHOOL AND CIVIC LEAGUE
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