

BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 90, No. 7

March 1993

MARCH MEETING: “Dr.” John Returns

Spring is coming! The March meeting of the Barcroft School and Civic League will feature “Dr.” John of Merrifield Garden Center and Cable TV fame. He will bring door prizes and will answer your lawn and garden questions in a practical and interesting manner. You can bring sample leaves of problem plants for analysis. Last year, “Dr.” John’s visit was the highlight of our spring program. We have asked him back in response to many requests. Come on March 4th and find out how to *really* make sure this spring season is special!

The BSCL will also take a few minutes to talk about priorities for the projects proposed under our Neighborhood Conservation Plan. The last priorities discussion was in January 1991, and a number of projects have been approved for funding since then. The Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee funds projects twice a year, and the deadline for submitting new projects for the June funding is coming up soon. If you can’t make the meeting but still have an interest, call David Michaelson at 553-3953 for a copy of the 1991 list.

February BSCL Meeting: Focus on Crime

by Chris Monek

In response to continuing Barcroft community concerns about crime in the neighborhood, the February BSCL meeting again focused on the subject of crime. The area of primary concern was the 900 block of S. George Mason Dr., particularly the locale in and around the shopping center and Hi Cue Billiards. Details of the incidents have been in the monthly crime reports. The goals of the meeting were to discuss the facts regarding the spate of recent incidents, to consider the County Board’s response to Barcroft’s letter of concern, and to ascertain what options are available to the County and to Barcroft in the drive to keep our community safe.

During the meeting, BSCL President Larry Goldschmidt announced the reactivation of the Crime Resistance Committee. He reported that the reactivated group had already held an organizational meeting on February 2 and that its chairman, Chris Monek, had also met with Arlington County Police to discuss crime statistics

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February Meeting

Continued from page 1

for the 900 block of S. George Mason. The Crime Resistance Committee will assist the officers and board of the BSCL in addressing crime issues. Larry advised Barcrofters that they may obtain information on the committee's activities or join the group by contacting Chris Monek at 920-1287.

Arlington County Board Chairman Jim Hunter attended the meeting, and the highlight was the community's discussion with him. Mr. Hunter described actions being taken by the Arlington County Police Department to reduce the level of crime-related incidents in the 900 block. For example, the police department's evening shift undertook a "directed patrol" of Hi Cue January 15-31 and intends to continue that action, which includes visits to the pool hall by officers. He also reviewed the limited options available to the County to regulate pool-hall operations in Arlington. Barcrofters voiced the strong opinion that pool hall operations so close to a densely residential community should be closely monitored by the County and expressed strong disappointment at the apparently limited means available to the County Board to take action. Chairman Hunter promised to contact the County Manager and identify a staff member within the County Manager's office who would work with our Crime Resistance Committee. It is the intention of the reactivated Committee to sort out what regulatory powers are available to the County government to act on the issues raised by Barcrofters.

Cpl. John Sheridan of the Arlington County Police Department preceded Mr. Hunter on the program. Cpl. Sheridan is assigned to Barcroft under the department's Community-Based Policing Program. He described the program as well as the new "No Trespass Program" being

implemented at the shopping center in cooperation with the merchants, including Hi Cue. He was accompanied by Deputy Chief Greg Brewer and Officer Jim Daly. All expressed hope that the No Trespass Program, which works to remove individuals from business establishments if they have been involved in prior criminal incidents there, would be as effective in the shopping center as it has been in other parts of Arlington. In response to a question, Deputy Chief Brewer said they could not estimate the extent to which crime problems in Hi Cue or

Barcroft News Staff

<i>Editor</i>	Sara Leigh Merrey, 521-0527
<i>Publisher</i>	Lisa & Mark Rom
<i>Advertising Manager</i>	Virginia Reinecke, 528-6600
<i>Neighborhood News</i>	Kathy Kerr, 892-6458
<i>Contributions Editor</i>	Randy Swart, 521-2080
<i>Mailing</i>	Aileen Woods & Paul Metzler

Deadline for submissions: 10th of the month preceding the issue month.

BSCL Officers for 1992-1993

<i>President</i>	Larry Goldschmidt, 521-3746
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<i>Hospitality</i>	Could be you
<i>Transportation</i>	Could be you
<i>Crime Resistance</i>	Chris Monek, 920-1287
<i>Neighborhood Conservation</i>	David Michaelson, 553-3953

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the shopping center were spilling over into Barcroft.

The February meeting was a productive session and has established an excellent basis for future Barcroft crime-prevention activities. The Crime Resistance Committee will maintain its contact with the County Board and the Arlington County Police Department. The Committee will continue to meet again and will report on its activities at the March BSCL meeting.

Arlington Hall Trail Creeps Forward

Your intrepid reporter visited the Arlington Hall site in late January to look at the section of bike path that a high official of the Foreign Service Institute told us was in place. Indeed the trail—all 100 yards of it—is in place, but it ends at Quincy Street and a wired-shut gate.

Our Barcrofter then interviewed Max Richards, Construction Czar, on the site. Mr. Richards informed our correspondent gently that he was technically trespassing by entering the site and then indicated the section of trail that Arlington County will be adding after the site work is finished in May.

Another interview, this time with Ritch Viola, Arlington County's intrepid Bicycle Coordinator, confirmed that the County plans to finish the trail by linking it to 2nd Street South at Glebe Road, where a new traffic signal will soon make the Glebe Road crossing safe. (If the signal is not installed, the trail will cross Glebe farther south, at 5th Street.) The County will also reconstruct the underpass under George Mason and pave the trail on the Barcroft side, providing us a safe way to get to TJ. Unfortunately, the timing for beginning the County work may be somewhat farther off than May.

For further information on Arlington Hall Plans, call Pat Roach at 920-8131. Pat chairs our Arlington Hall Committee.

Christmas Service Luncheon Again a Hit

We neglected to report in our last issue that the Barcroft Christmas Service Luncheon was again much appreciated by the honorees: police, fire, postal, school, public works, library, and other service workers who serve our neighborhood all through the year. Many of these workers are pleasantly surprised to be thanked by the community, and they are pleased to be remembered. The menu is modest but the sentiments are lavish.

This year's committee was again chaired by Talmadge Williams, ably assisted by Anne Noll and Susan Christopher. BSCL President Larry Goldschmidt was on hand to make guests feel at home. Other Barcrofters contributing were Lou and Flo Cohen (greeters and cakemakers), Ann Swain (bread baker), Phyl and Pennie Kinsey (bread bakers), and several generous people who donated money rather than food.

We hope the luncheon makes our neighborhood more personal throughout the year to the service people we honor at Christmas.

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March Gardening Tips

by Scott Brintzer

With spring almost here, many of you are thinking about getting outside and working in the garden. Here in Barcroft, the lawn is the part of our garden to which we devote most of our time, energy, and money. So before you head out to the garden center to stock up on seed, fertilizer, lime, and weed killer, I would like to give you a few hints for a successful lawn.

First of all, do not fertilize your lawn this spring if you applied fertilizer last fall. Fall is the correct time to fertilize. Fertilize now only if you failed to do it last fall. Please remember that fertilizer runoff is a major source of pollution in our rivers and streams. Sweep up and dispose of any that spills onto the sidewalk or the street.

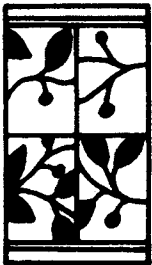
If your lawn is full of dead grass and bare spots, this is the time to dethatch it with a steel rake and apply grass seed. Remember, simply

spreading seed without first raking the area to be seeded will be fruitless. The seed must make contact with the soil for it to germinate. If you see a lot of moss in the lawn, or if you have not limed in several years, lime this month. Our lawns here in Barcroft are prone to be highly acidic, and the lime will lower the acidity of the soil to allow grass to grow.

Weed control is another item that you should consider in March or April. If you had a problem with crabgrass last year, you will need to apply a pre-emergent in April to prevent a re-occurrence of the weed this year. You will find a pre-emergent at the garden center. Remember, you cannot apply a pre-emergent when you seed, as it will kill the germinating grass.

I hope these pointers will help you make your property, and therefore the entire Barcroft community, more attractive this year.

(By the time you read this, perennials in the beds Scott planted at the Community House will be coming up again.)



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Barcroft Elementary School News

School Needs Games and a Wheelchair

Barcroft Elementary School is in need of complete games, blocks, Legos, action figures, and coloring books for rainy-day recess and for the indoor play area in Dr. Kahan's office, which is used daily. If you have good games your child has outgrown, please call Dr. Kahan at 358-5838. The school would also like to have a wheelchair in its clinic. If you have one to donate, please call Mrs. Beckford, the school's super-caring clinic aide or Dr. Kahan at the above number.

Last Chance to Help with Grocery Store Receipts!!

If you have been saving grocery store cash register tapes from Giant and Safeway for Barcroft School's computer drive, please get them to the school now. They need them if possible by the end of February. Dodie Granofsky will be packing them up and sending them to the stores "in early March." As of January 15 the total for Giant receipts had reached \$70,000, but the goal is \$100,000.

Construction Update

Barcroft School's new "media center" (formerly "library") is in the final phase of construction and may even be in use by the time you read this. The old building is getting a new roof, after which the interior renovation can really begin. Work on the old building was postponed until the new wing opened earlier this year. The trailers in front will be necessary until the old building is renovated.

School Issues Come to Fore

by Karen Rogers

Arlington's public schools are facing a number of issues confronting many surrounding jurisdictions: the need to accommodate an increasing student body in buildings that are near capacity and the need to serve an increasingly diverse population while guaranteeing a quality education for all.

Since its establishment last June, the Futures Planning Committee has been struggling with the complex issues involved in meeting the needs of our schools as they move toward the 21st century. The Committee is composed of a 16-member Steering Team of school staff and citizens and a 115-member Citizen Forum.

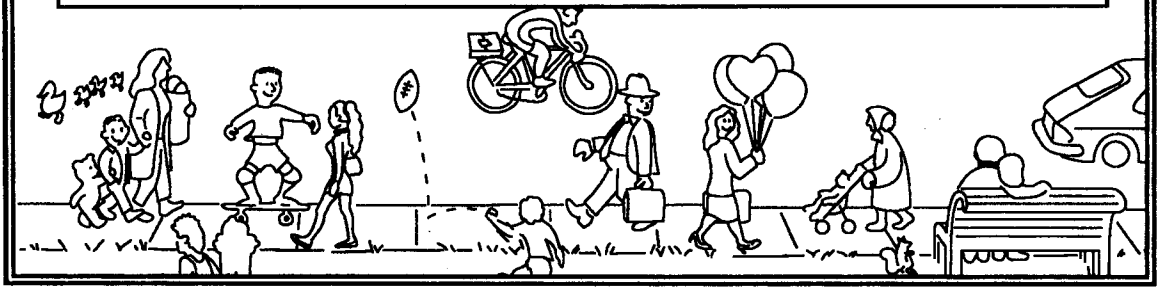
In order to share with the community the progress to date and to receive valuable input from all segments of the community on the important issues at hand, the Steering Team is hosting three community meetings in March. This is an opportunity for all segments of the community—parents, teachers, and citizens—to both receive information and have an impact on the exciting changes ahead for our schools. Following are the dates, times, and locations for the meetings:

- 3/10 7:30 PM Washington-Lee High School**
1300 N. Quincy Street
(in Spanish and English)
- 3/11 7:30 PM Yorktown High School**
5201 28th Street North
- 3/22 7:30 PM Wakefield High School**
4901 S. Chesterfield Road

All of the meetings will be held in the school auditoriums.

You can call me at 920-1845 if you need further information.

Around the Neighborhood With Kathy Kerr



It's been a long time since Barcroft Republicans have been depressed following a Presidential election. And it's been a long time since Democrats got to celebrate their candidate's success. I contacted a few of Barcroft's better known Democrats to find out how they participated in the recent inaugural festivities.

Kathryn Villegas, known for maintaining the BSCL membership list, enjoyed the warmth of her living room as she watched the inauguration on television. She says she celebrated more in person with the election of Jimmy Carter.

Callie Gass, husband Mike Stoil, and their children, Rebecca and Jacob, had company from Minnesota and attended the Minnesota delegation luncheon and ball the day before the inauguration. They all went to the concert at the Lincoln Memorial (where Diana Ross's enormous dress helped them to see her better) and stayed for the bell ringing and fireworks. The next day they all bundled up in heavy winter clothes and laced up their warmest boots. At the swearing in, Rebecca got a relatively good view by sitting on a police barricade. They lucked into some good curbside positions for the parade, even though they missed Clinton driving by.

I hoped that if anybody went to an Inaugural Ball, it would be Talmadge Williams. Turns out he didn't, but I did find out that he was recently married!


Talmadge, of 4th St., is one busy man, and it's hard to keep up with all that he does. Most recently he has been chairman of fundraising for the newly renovated Arlington Central Library. He is also a businessman and well known in Arlington political circles.

One of Talmadge's businesses is selling computers. He sold a computer to a woman who later sold it to her friend. The friend, Grace Rossner, was introduced to Talmadge last August in case she had any trouble with the computer. Such a romantic introduction! Grace and Talmadge were married on December 26, 1992. Congratulations and welcome, Grace, to Barcroft!

Grace is an attorney in Washington, DC. She grew up in Connecticut but has lived in the metro area for 25 years. Grace says that the wedding has transformed her from a single mother of one—a son who attends college at Amherst—to the mother of seven with eight grandchildren! Grace enjoys young folk and has devoted herself to working with teens through her church.

The wedding took place at Rock Spring United Church of Christ in North Arlington. Grace described it as a lovely family affair. Music was provided by Barcrofters Roger Cornell (guitar) and Linda Titolo (celtic harp). Susan Christopher brought fresh greens from her family's country land to decorate in the season.

March Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Civic Federation Mtg. , 7:45 PM, Arlington Hospital	3	4 BSCL , 7:30 PM, Community House. Call 521-3746 for info	5	6 Columbia Pike Artist Studios Open House , 11 AM-4 PM, 932 S. Walter Reed Dr.
7	8	9	10 Bluebirds , 7-8 PM, Long Branch, free, adults only. Call 358-6535 for reservations.	11	12	13
14	15	16 Spring Walk , 9:30-11:30 AM, Long Branch, free, adults only. Call 358-6535 for reservations.	17 Tiny Tot Trot , 10:30-11:15 AM, Long Branch, free, 1½-2-year-olds w/adult. Call 358-6535 for reservations.	18	19	20 VERNAL EQUINOX 
21	22	23	24 Spring Fling , 3-4:30 PM, Long Branch, free, 3rd & 4th graders. Call 358-6535 for reservations.	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	March 5 & 6 Harmony Bonanza , the Arling-tones Barbershop Chorus's annual spring show. Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre; evenings at 8:15 PM, matinee Sat. at 2:15 PM. Tickets: matinee, \$5; evenings, \$9 & \$7 (seniors/students). Call 527-6195 for further information.		

The Williamses are busy gearing up for the expected firehouse election that will occur this spring if Arlington County Board member Bill Newman receives a much-expected judicial appointment. Watch for more about the election in the *Barcroft News*!

Tell Them You Saw It in The *Barcroft News*

Whenever you patronize the businesses that advertise in the newsletter, please be sure to tell them you saw their ad. They need to know that it pays to advertise in the *Barcroft News*.

Pave Grandma's Creek?

This year Arlington is revising the bicycle and pedestrian section of its Master Transportation Plan. A draft of changes to the plan was unveiled recently at a hearing at the Courthouse. The draft suggests that a path be paved down the ravine known locally as Grandma's Creek, which begins at Dead Man's Curve (the old VEPCO power station) and runs down to the W&OD trail along Four Mile Run.

A Barcroft representative present at the hearing noted that the neighborhood had discussed the possibility of such a trail while preparing the Neighborhood Conservation Plan. Although some felt that it could provide a nice route for a bike trail connector to the W&OD, the neighborhood consensus was for preservation of the area with its present footpath but not a paved trail. Our Neighbor-

hood Conservation Plan only calls for access improvements to both ends of this "wilderness-like walkway."

Under our usual procedures, the BSCL will ask that paving this path be dropped from the draft, based on the widespread community consensus reflected in our Neighborhood Conservation Plan. Once again the usefulness of having a blueprint for neighborhood aspirations has been demonstrated. If you do not have a copy of the Plan and want one, call Randy Swart at 521-2080.



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BSCL Finances

Where is the BSCL spending its money this year? The following is a summary of our 1992-93 budget.

Income

Dues	\$1,000
Rent	2,400
Newsletter ads	<u>2,000</u>
Total	<u>\$5,400</u>

Expenses

Newsletter	\$2,050
Insurance	575
Parade	500
Utilities	300
Telephone	225
Service Luncheon	200
Contributions	150
Office Supplies	150
Postage	100
Refreshments	100
Memberships, fees	100
Maintenance	<u>100</u>
Total	<u>\$4,350</u>

The surplus will accrue in the building maintenance fund. We are expecting some expenditures soon for foundation pointing, electrical work, and interior refurbishing for the Community House. Last year's big expense was the exterior repainting.

Environmental Issues Report

On March 10 there will be a special joint meeting of the Friends of the Parks and Arlington Releaf to hear from our Virginia House of Delegates representative, Karen Darner, on environmental issues in the just-ended state legislative session. Karen will also answer some additional questions about state issues but would like to have them in advance. The meeting will be in the home of Barcrofter Susan Christopher, at 500 S. Abingdon Street, and will start at 7:30 PM. Call Susan at 892-6265 for further information or to add a question to the list for Karen.

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Historical Society to Tour Boundary Markers

On March 27 the Arlington Historical Society will conduct a bus tour of the original boundary stones for the District of Columbia, when it extended to the Virginia side of the Potomac. For the most part, the stones now mark the borders of Arlington. The west cornerstone is easy to locate on a map, since it is the place where Arlington, Fairfax, and Falls Church come together. Another stone is in the median strip down the hill from the Giant near Bailey's Crossroads. Some of the stones have been moved for construction or have disappeared. The tour will be conducted by Karl Van-Newkirk and costs \$45. For more information, call Teddy Saulmon at 243-7946 or the Arling-

ton Historical Museum at 892-4204. Reservations should be made before March 12 and mailed to 1993 Spring Bus Tour Series, The Arlington Historical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 402, Arlington, VA 22210-0402.

In April the Society will tour Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest retreat in Bedford County.

Barcroft Babysitters

Stacy Kyle, 13 years old, 7th grade, S. 6th St., American Red Cross Babysitting Certification, 486-0019

Terri Lahlou, 28 years old, S. 4th St., 979-9565 (home), 527-8484 (work)

Kati Sharpe and Anne Roningen (available as a team), 13 years old; Kati, S. Buchanan St., 979-4520; Anne, S. 9th St., 521-1451

Erin Shaw, 12 years old, 7th grade, S. 8th St., 920-5934

Kathy Kerr Is Not Leaving Barcroft

Do not panic at the For Sale sign you see on 4th Street. Kathy Kerr and family are not leaving Barcroft; they are selling their house to buy a larger home on Abingdon, just around the corner. Kathy's column is an important part of the *Barcroft News*, since a neighborhood newsletter would be sadly lacking without people news. So we are delighted that the Kerr family will continue to be part of Barcroft.



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Barcroft Crime Report

This month's report is for incidents reported in January.

In early February a *Post* article and TV news covered the arrest of three members of a gang who were robbing patrons of a house of ill repute on Highland Street in Arlington Heights. The fourth member was apprehended the next day at Hi Cue Billiards. For more on our local pool hall, see the report on the February BSCL meeting elsewhere in this issue.

To report crimes or criminals, Arlington County Police urge you to call them on 911 or at their non-emergency number, 538-2222.

- 1/1 100 S. Abingdon. Harassing calls from spouse and ex-spouse.
4700 Arlington Boulevard. Obstruction of police officers.
4800 Columbia Pike. Suspects stole 12 rental videotapes.
- 1/7 900 S. Wakefield. Car vandalized.
- 1/8 4800 Columbia Pike. Shoplifting; rental videotapes.
- 1/9 900 S. Wakefield. Wallet taken from car.
900 S. Wakefield. CD player stolen from car.
4200 Columbia Pike. Car broken into, nothing taken.
- 1/11 4200 Columbia Pike. Car vandalized.
900 S. George Mason. Shoplifting.
- 1/12 4300 Columbia Pike. Attempt to break into car.
900 S. Wakefield. Wallet stolen by known person, victim refused to prosecute.
- 1/13 800 S. Buchanan. Inspection and County stickers stolen from car.
- 1/17 100 S. George Mason. Drunk in public.

- 1/18 4300 Columbia Pike. Car stolen from apartment building lot.
- 1/19 4300 S. Columbia Pike. Car stolen from apartment building lot.
- 1/23 900 S. Buchanan. Speakers stolen from car.
4800 Columbia Pike. Drunk, shoplifting.
- 1/24 900 S. George Mason. Grocery store burgled after front door pushed in.
900 S. George Mason. Theft. Suspect tried to pull victim toward car.
- 1/29 900 S. Buchanan. Domestic dispute.
- 1/31 4400 Arlington Blvd. Person entered church shouting profanities. Transported to station but not detained.

As always, we are indebted to Detective Bob McFarland of the Arlington County Police for providing this information every month. If you want a photocopy of the actual police report, please call Randy Swart at 521-2080.



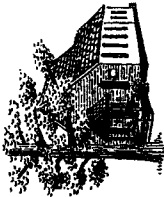
Barcroft Exchange

CHILD CARE Still looking for third child to join our two girls (27 mos., 3 mos.) for child care in our Barcroft home, four to five days a week starting as soon as possible. Call Suzanne Foster, 920-3439.

FOR SALE Technics dual cassette tape player. Dolby B/C; \$60.

WANTED Classical guitarist seeks guitarist, flutist, violinist, or other musician to play duets for fun and profit. Call Steve, 920-9410.

BABYSITTER NEEDED For twin boys Tuesday-Friday, 2-6 PM. Must be dependable. \$5.00/hr. Call 621-3018; ask for Bob or Carol.



Barcroft School and Civic League
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CALLING ALL BABYSITTERS

As a service to Barcroft parents, we would like to run a list of teenagers in the neighborhood who are willing to babysit. Please send your name, phone number, hourly rate (if you want), and any other information you think would be helpful to Sara Leigh Merrey, 4669 4th St. S. You can also drop it through the mail slot in the door. We will list your name until you ask us to remove it.

