



# BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 90, No. 8

April 1993

## APRIL MEETING: Candidates' Night

The featured topic for the April meeting of the Barcroft School and Civic League will be a Candidates' Night for the off-cycle Arlington County Board election scheduled for April 20. Although the slate of candidates had not been finalized at press time, there should be at least two people running for the County Board seat recently vacated by Bill Newman. The Democratic candidate is Jay Fiset, executive director of Whitman-Walker's Northern Virginia AIDS clinic, and the Republicans have endorsed Benjamin Winslow, a Sears salesman, running as an independent. As usual, we'll have each candidate who attends present a short stump speech and then you will have the chance to ask whatever questions you have. So be sure to attend the BSCL meeting on April 1 to gauge the field of this unusual election. Don't let a *Washington Post* article substitute for your judgment!

## The Blizzard

Who was the phantom who created the iced-snow monoliths along Abingdon St.?

## "Dr." John's House Call

"Dr." John Buckreis, the garden guru who appears on local cable TV with amazingly astute analysis of every plant problem known to the civilized world, again astounded us all with his encyclopedic knowledge of our lawns, bushes, trees, and gardens at the March meeting of the BSCL. He discussed common problems in Barcroft lawns, gave tips on saving money on garden supplies, diagnosed sick trees from branches brought in by Barcrofters, and gave out a plethora of nifty door prizes. You can find "Dr." John most Saturdays at the Merrifield Garden Center, with a long line of questioners waiting for his wisdom.

## Crime Resistance Committee Update

by Chris Monek

The March BSCL meeting included a report on the follow-up activities of the Crime Resistance Committee. The reactivated group reported that it had established contact with officials in the Arlington County Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development (DPHD) who could answer Barcrofters' ques-

tions about regulatory procedures available to the County government to control the activities and operations of pool halls and similar establishments. On March 1, the Committee and BSCL officers Larry Goldschmidt and Scott Allard met with a DPHD staff person. We received written, detailed responses to our numerous questions, and follow-up questions requiring additional research were developed. Although the County's regulatory controls are somewhat narrow, the Committee has asked the County to research several options and discuss them with the Committee before the BSCL meeting on April 1.

The Committee also reported that it is maintaining contact with the Arlington County Police Department. The police continue to monitor the situation in the 900 block of S. George Mason, and the Department continues to promote to the merchants in the shopping center the benefits of establishing and maintaining a No Trespass Program. The Committee will track this effort and report back to the BSCL.

## Park Clean-Up Time

Our park at Columbia Pike and Four Mile Run needs some cleaning. The County is unable to keep up with the trash, and if we want it to look tidy and cared for, we will have to pitch in. We do have some County-provided trash bags (call Randy Swart at 521-2080), or you can just reuse some of the plastic bags you get from the grocery store, which seem to multiply under the sink. The best time to go is on weekends, when there are lots of people around for security. Even better, take a friend or two along for company. We hope to arrange more landscaping for the area this spring.

## Community House Plans

Having finished the exterior painting of the Community House last year, we are ready to take on the inside this year. BSCL VP Scott Allard is checking with electrical companies to get bids on some much-needed electrical work, which should allow us to improve the lighting. Then we will be ready to patch the squirrel damage on the ceiling and do some interior painting. If you need an outlet for your interior decorating talents, call Scott at 521-0825 or Randy Swart at 521-2080.

### Barcroft News Staff

<i>Editor</i>	Sara Leigh Merrey, 521-0527
<i>Publisher</i>	Could be you
<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: **1st** (ads) or **10th** (editorial material) of month preceding the issue month.

### BSCL Officers for 1992-1993

<i>President</i>	Larry Goldschmidt, 521-3746
<i>Vice President</i>	Scott Allard, 521-0825
<i>Treasurer</i>	Dee Kirkbride, 271-0519
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Laura Falvey
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Pennie L. Kinsey, 892-5962
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<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Kathryn Villegas, 920-1039
<i>Signs Manager</i>	Jack Turner
<i>Arlington Hall</i>	Pat Roach, 920-8131
<i>Hospitality</i>	Could be you
<i>Transportation</i>	Could be you
<i>Crime Resistance</i>	Could be you
<i>Neighborhood Conservation</i>	David Michaelson, 553-3953

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## Hunter Calls for Volunteering

Chairman Jim Hunter of the Arlington County Board has issued a call to all County residents, encouraging them to give two hours a month to improve our community through volunteer activities. At the Board's annual organizational meeting, he said, "Arlington enjoys a wonderful community spirit and much of that spirit comes about because people here care about each other." Hunter was known as an enthusiastic community volunteer himself for many years before his election to the County Board.

Hunter suggests that people help informally in their neighborhood, citing as possible ideas assisting an elderly or disabled neighbor by carrying a recycling bin to the curb, shoveling snow, or raking leaves; checking on a sick or shut-in friend or neighbor; shopping for groceries; or picking up a prescription. You could also help by picking up trash as you go for a walk (try the park on Columbia Pike!), running errands for others, or helping with a neighborhood clean-up or fix-up project (our Community House is made to order for that one).

The BSCL has many outlets for your volunteer spirit. You can work on one of our annual events, such as the Fourth of July Parade or the Christmas Service Luncheon. At the moment we need a Hospitality Chair to provide juice and cookies (we pay the cost) for our meetings. And our Transportation Committee needs a Chair to cover the sporadic meetings on Arlington Boulevard plans or the issues that arise on speeding and cut-throughs inside the neighborhood. Call Larry Goldschmidt at 521-3746 to take advantage of one of these opportunities. In addition, our revitalized Crime Resistance Committee has work to do. If you want to serve on that one, you can call Chris Monek at 920-

1287. Barcroft School would also be pleased to hear from you at 358-5838.

Jim Hunter suggests that if you want information on other volunteer activities, you should call the County's Volunteer Office at 358-3222 or the Schools at 358-6004. He says, "Whatever you'd like to do, there is a place for your talent and ability to build a better future for Arlington County. Happy Volunteering!"

## Barcroft Yard Sale?

Every year somebody says, "Hey! Why don't we have a big yard sale!" A volunteer to run one only surfaces about every two to three years. Here comes another opportunity to donate your time. This year the annual community-wide yard sale in neighboring Arlington Forest will be held on Saturday, May 15. Individual families put out their stuff and put up signs, a volunteer puts them on a map and duplicates it for buyers, and the civic association buys an ad in the *Post*. The Forest is crawling with buyers on that day. Perhaps we could coordinate with them to make it a bigger sale and draw more buyers. There is still plenty of time for someone to call Larry Goldschmidt to volunteer to be the coordinator, call Chuck Carter of the Arlington Forest Citizens Association for advice, plan the yard sale, and have an article ready for the May issue of the *Barcroft News*. Get to it!

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## O'Rourke and Kerr to Cochair Parade

We are delighted to announce that Mary Anne O'Rourke and Kathy Kerr will cochair the Fourth of July Parade Committee this year. With two such enthusiastic and energetic leaders, we are in good hands. Special thanks to Mary Anne for volunteering just two weeks after giving birth to a daughter!

Many volunteers are needed to help bring the parade off. All of the jobs are small and easy, and written instructions are provided. You can march in the parade and still help out with something before or after. Please call Mary Anne at 920-5619 or Kathy at 892-6458 to volunteer. You can also sign up at the next BSCL meeting on April 1. (You won't be fooled, this is a great neighborhood event.) Don't worry if your vaca-

tion plans are not firm—we can find another volunteer later if it turns out you will be out of town.

Please come out on the 4th and share the Barcroft community spirit at a fun event!

## Arlington Museum Reopens

The Arlington Historical Society's museum in the old Hume School on Ridge Road has reopened. The first exhibition is "After the Great War: Reflections of Arlington in the 1920's." In addition to lots of great photos of old Arlington scenes, the museum has two new exhibits on the African-American community and Arlington during the Civil War. One room of the school is still a classroom, reminiscent of our own elementary school in the Barcroft Community House from 1908 to 1925.



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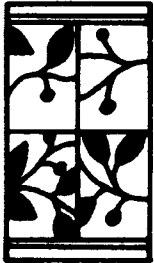
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## Community Inspections Now Code Enforcement

The County's Office of Community Inspections has been renamed the Office of Community Code Enforcement. This office is responsible for enforcing the County's ordinances on noise, care of premises, and health hazards as well as some sections of the building and zoning codes. It is the place to call with complaints about untrimmed trees hanging over sidewalks, abandoned cars, or garbage heaps. Talk to the offending neighbor first if you can, then call 358-3232. If you do not get a satisfactory response, contact Clarence Parker, acting director, at the same number.



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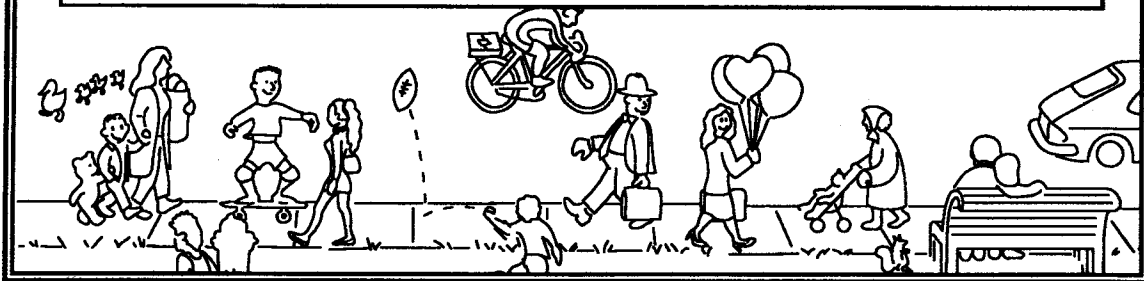
## The Gypsy Moths Are Not Dead Yet

Last spring's cold, rainy weather and the County's spraying program kept the gypsy moth population low for the year. The pests are still around, however, and their population will grow again this year or next.

You can reduce the birth of gypsy moth caterpillars in your yard by searching now (early April is almost too late) for the furry little tan lumps the females left last fall. They are soft and velvety on the outside, with a color similar to camel's-hair cloth or chamois. Look for them on tree trunks and the underside of branches, under ivy, in woodpiles, in lawn furniture, under gutters and eaves, on foundations, under decks, in fences, on birdhouses—almost any sheltered spot. Scrape them carefully off into a small jar of Clorox or alcohol to kill the larvae, since they will still hatch if just mashed into the ground. The egg mass contains up to 1,000 eggs, so if you find even one you have done a lot for your trees.

Banding your trees—especially oaks—with burlap and cleaning out the caterpillars that collect under the burlap is the preferred method of dealing with the caterpillars once they hatch. There are sprays if you go in for that sort of thing. The County's gypsy moth coordinator, James Bartalon, can provide further information on the availability of burlap bands. Please call him at 358-6400 if you need information or if you find more than 10 egg masses on your property.

## Around the Neighborhood With Kathy Kerr



Congratulations to two Barcroft families who welcomed new additions to their families in February 1993.

Christine Selma Rumpf was born on February 1. Her life is guaranteed not to be dull in her family's multigenerational household, which includes brother Lee, age 4; sister Anna, age 12 and a sixth-grader at Kenmore; and parents Dick and Nora. The third generation is represented by Grandma Stella Howell, Nora's mother. Christine also has an aunt and uncle who live behind the Rumpfs, just through the back gate. (And there is the dog, Tina.) Even with a new baby, Dick and Nora are also busy running a consulting business out of their home. Nora is well known for her volunteer work as well. The Rumpf family lives on 3rd St.

Christine's middle name is for her Grandma Selma, Dick's mother, who lives in Colorado Springs. Grandma Selma will be even more delighted to have a little namesake when she sees how adorable her little granddaughter is!

Just three weeks later, and just a bit overdue, Mary Anne and Michael O'Rourke welcomed child number four into their family. Deirdre Elizabeth was born on February 21. Her sister is Claire, a second-grader at St. Thomas Moore. Her brothers are Conor, who will be a kindergartener in the fall, and Evan, age 3. Barcroft residents for six years, the

O'Rourkes trust that their beautifully renovated home will suffice for their growing family!

A self-described "Barcroft Booster," Mary Anne has agreed to cochair this year's annual Barcroft 4th of July Parade committee along with yours truly. Mary Anne's enthusiastic energy with the parade in the past has brought us many fond memories. We're all glad to have you back as chairman!



Would you like to get to know some other Barcroft moms? Some of us who are home a lot can benefit from adult conversation while our kids play. If you are interested in getting together with some neighbors during the day, give me a call. We could meet in a park or at someone's home. Call Kathy at 892-6458.

## 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*.

# April Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> BSCL, 7:30 PM, Community House. Call 521-3746 for info	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Columbia Pike Artist Studios Open House, 11 AM-4 PM, 932 S. Walter Reed Dr.
<b>4</b> PALM SUNDAY	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> PASSOVER Civic Federation Mtg., 7:45 PM, Arlington Hospital	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Bird Walk for Beginners, 9:30-11:30 AM, 10-adult, Long Branch. Call 358-6535 for reservations	<b>9</b> GOOD FRIDAY Tiny Tot Trot: Eggciting Eggs, 1½- to 2-year-old walkers. Call 358-6535 for resv.	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> EASTER SUNDAY	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Birds of Prey, 6:30-7:30 PM, 8-adult, Long Branch. Call 358-6535 for reservations	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Pollination Ecology Walk, 9 AM-noon, adults, Long Branch. Call 358-6535 for reservations	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	

## CARNIVAL

SATURDAY, MAY 8

11 AM-3 PM

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## YARD SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 15

9 AM-2 PM

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# Barcroft Elementary School News

## BES Thanks You

Barcroft School and its PTA wish to thank all Barcrofters who brought Giant and Safeway receipts to the school to help with the Computers for Students campaign. We will provide a tally when the results are final. Principal Ellen Kahan would also like to extend her thanks to the individuals who donate peanut butter and jelly for her Feed the Hungry Student program. Your investment in Arlington's future will pay dividends for all of us.

## Intro to Kindergarten

On April 16 Barcroft Elementary School will hold its introduction to the Barcroft Kindergarten Program for parents and guardians of all Barcroft children entering kindergarten this fall. The program will be held at 9:30 AM in the Barcroft School Multipurpose Room. For more information please call the school at 358-5838.

## Friday Preschool Group

Each Friday from 10 to 11 AM, a special group of children meets at Barcroft Elementary School. Someday each of them will be a Barcroft student. Barcroft invites them on Friday mornings to enjoy play, art, and reading activities. All children three, four, or five years of age are welcome. Ms. Martha Howard leads the group with the assistance of Ms. Toni Gelston. Moms and Dads are not required to stay but should pick up children on time. It is a wonderful opportunity for children to start thinking

happy thoughts about school and enjoy some special learning activities. Please call the school office at 358-5838 if you are planning to bring your preschool child.

## Schools' Futures Committee Report On Video

The Futures Planning Committee, which is examining strategies for Arlington's schools, has produced a 45-minute video covering the three main issues facing the schools: crowding, diversity and student assignment, and focus schools with different educational themes. You can borrow the video from the Public Information Office (358-6000) or the office of Barcroft Elementary's Principal, Dr. Ellen Kahan (358-5838). Some of the issues require concentration, so watching it at home lets you rewind to "run that by one more time."

## Barcroft Babysitters

**My Chau**, S. 7th St., 521-9344

**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



## Crystal Thai Presents the Best of Proud Tradition

[From *The Arlington Forester*, March, 1993]

The *Washington Consumers Checkbook Guide to Washington Area Restaurants* confirmed what many Foresters already know, you can't find a better dining value for your money than the Crystal Thai at the Arlington Forest Shopping Center [at Arlington Boulevard and Park Street].

The nonprofit *Checkbook* bases its annual ratings of restaurant food, service, ambience, and value on more than 25,000 evaluations by *Checkbook* magazine and *Consumer Reports* subscribers. This year, it listed Crystal Thai as number three for "best value." Crystal Thai owner and manager Boon Wongchaikasem isn't that surprised by the rating, either. He notes that the

hospitality he and his native Thai staff practice stresses customer satisfaction and service and that Thai food itself is an exceptional value, both in terms of pocketbook and nutrition.

Boon said that in the last few years, Thai food has become the most popular exotic cuisine in the world. The distinctive flavors of Thai dishes, with hints of fresh coriander, coconut, fish sauce, and lemon grass, are the result of a special national talent for blending a great variety of spices and herbs. Thai cooking is a unique synthesis of Asian influences, and the country's cooks are adept at combining and incorporating dishes and ideas from their neighbors—India, China, Burma, Laos, and the southern Muslim countries of Malaysia and Indonesia.

Boon noted that a decade ago Thai food was a rarity in the west, and before that, virtu-



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ally unknown. It is now one of the favorite exotic cooking styles in the United States and Europe. Even more important than the increasing numbers of Thai restaurants, Boon said, is the growing availability of the ingredients that make this Southeast Asian cuisine so distinctive. Little by little, Thai delicatessens and supermarkets are opening in the larger cities, and the better ones now sell the fresh Thai vegetables and fruits served by the Crystal Thai.

The framework for this rich and varied cuisine is the basic culinary tradition of Southeast Asia: rice and noodle based, more fish and vegetables than meat, more light meat than dark, and above all, spices and chilies for flavoring. Boon said it is this last element—the central role of spices—that for most people immediately characterizes Thai food. The eclectic use of spices gives Thai food status as a major cuisine.

The second thing that makes Thai cooking challenging and interesting is the sheer variety of types of dishes. Those distinctive qualities—spice and variety—stem from the country's position at the crossroads of Southeast Asia. Thailand lies between two sources of popular Asian cuisines, China and India, and has drawn extensively on both. There's more to it than just food: different peoples, cultures, politics, art, every aspect of life is reflected in the Thai ability to absorb outside influences and blend them into something unique. Its position, straddling both mainland and maritime Southeast Asia, has meant that Siam, as Thailand was known well into this century, has never had the choice of isolation. To survive, the country has accommodated waves of influence from its neighbors over the centuries.

Simply placing Thai cooking somewhere between China's and India's is an oversimplification. Most of that influence has been by proxy through its neighboring countries, which include Burma, Laos, Cambodia, and Malaysia.

Each has had an effect on Thailand at different stages of its history and Thai cuisine took the best from each, combining them in a distinctive way. Some of the ingredients come from even farther away. Chilies are originally from Central and South America. Thai food would certainly be different without chilies, and the enthusiasm with which they have been incorporated into so many dishes in the national diet is undeniable.

"That use of chilies," explained Boon, "leads to the misconception that Thai food must be chili hot. We have our hot dishes, but Thai cooking is basically about balance: a balance of spices, herbs, roots, and leaves, carefully blended to enhance, not disguise, the natural flavors and textures of the main ingredients. The best single word to describe Thai cooking is not 'heat' but 'harmony'—a harmony of tastes, colors, and textures, appealing to both eye and palate."

Boon stressed that Thai food is particularly light and nutritious. "It's the opposite of junk food," he said. "That makes it a cuisine the whole family can enjoy."

## Barcroft Exchange

**BABYSITTER NEEDED:** For twin boys Tuesday through Friday, 2–6 PM. Must be dependable. \$5/hour. Call 521-3018 and ask for Bob or Carol.

**FOR SALE:** Cupboard w/glass doors \$65, dining room table \$65, oak dresser w/three big drawers \$175, antique club chair (needs TLC) \$75, butcher block kitchen cart \$40, old stereo \$20, off-white wool carpet \$100, baby high chair \$35, baby umbrella stroller \$20. Please call 920-5158 and leave message on answering machine.

# Barcroft Crime Report

This month's crime report is for incidents in February. Most of them seem to have occurred on weekends (6-7, 13-14, 20-21, and 27-28).

As always, the addresses are the block where the incident occurred, not the individual house number. The incident on the 20th was reported extensively in the media.

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

- 2/3 4800 Columbia Pike. Drunk in public.
- 2/7 900 S. Buchanan. False police report.  
4300 Columbia Pike. Bullet fired through window.
- 2/15 600 S. Wakefield. Juvenile known to victim assaulted and attempted to rob victim of money.  
4300 Columbia Pike. Suspect threatened to kill victim after victim had suspect arrested for assault and battery.
- 2/19 900 S. Buchanan. Burglary.  
4700 6th Street S. Theft of auto cover.
- 2/20 900 S. Wakefield. Disturbed person took spouse and nine others hostage. After unsuccessful negotiations, SWAT team entered residence. Suspect killed, two officers wounded.
- 2/21 900 S. George Mason Dr. Car radio stolen.
- 2/24 900 S. Taylor. Car radio stolen.
- 2/26 900 S. Buchanan. Crack cocaine seized.
- 2/27 900 S. George Mason Dr. Pickpocket bumped into victim and stole wallet.  
900 S. Buchanan. False report.

We are indebted to Detective Bob McFarland of the Arlington County Police for providing this information every month.

For a copy of the actual police report or to join the BSCL's Crime Resistance Committee, call Chris Monek at 920-1287.

## READING TUTOR

Experienced Reading Specialist and classroom teacher will tutor your 5- to 10-year-old in my Barcroft home or yours this Spring or Summer.

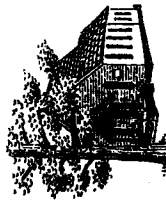
**Christie McNamara**  
**486-8399**



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