



BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 92, No. 1

September 1994

SEPTEMBER MEETING ZIP 22204 Postmaster

Neither rain, nor snow, nor dark of night will prevent James Brown, postmaster of South Station, from speaking at our regular September meeting of the BSCL. Mr. Brown must be a brave man to be willing to meet with us after all the negative news about the postal service in the newspapers lately. Even though there may be some pointed questions for Mr. Brown (he invited them), we Barcrofters can be expected to be hospitable to our speaker. Please come to the Community House at 800 S. Buchanan on September 1 at 7:30 PM to help us begin our fall meetings.

needed a low-key, nonpolitical event this year. In place of judges, we had reviewers, including Conchita Mitchell, who has graciously helped us with every parade; Miriam Hughey-Guy, our Barcroft School principal; and Gerre Medley, Barcroft School PTA president. Political types were asked not to leaflet on the Community House grounds, although we do permit the candidates themselves to come and visit. We will probably be reviewing that policy before the next parade.

A memorable landmark for this year's parade was the return of the Incredible Barcroft Marching Band. The band was organized by Tom Palance with about 20 Barcrofters, including Tom's wife, Lisa Palance, Jack Turner, Jim Lande, a Sousaphone, and an actual French

Parade Reflects Community Spirit

Barcroft's Sixth Annual 4th of July Parade was blessed with fine warm July weather and no rain. This year we had the return of the Really Good Marching Band and an especially lively picnic afterwards.

The Parade Committee, headed by cochairs Kathy Kerr and Talmadge Williams, decided we



Horn. It again sounded very solid and musical. Somehow Tom gets them all tuned to the same pitch. Tom says that part of the fun is letting people play some instrument other than their normal one—he himself played the snare drum instead of his usual trumpet.

The Community House was well decorated by Lisa Dowdell and Mary Anne O'Rourke. Parade Manager Marcia Oresky lined up the participants for the parade, and it kicked off with the parade color guard of cub scouts. There were dozens of bicycles, tricycles, imaginative floats, and a sensational Irish stepdance team with Kathy Kerr playing fiddle. Mr. and Mrs. Long, Barcroft's most senior couple at ages 100 and 99, respectively, presided over a float. Marchers outnumbered spectators as usual, but the crowd enthusiastically applauded the marchers and performers.

Back at the Community House, the food volunteers were ready for the hungry hordes. Food Manager Scott Allard, who again took the award for Sweatiest Person at the Parade, had fired up Jim Davis's huge barbecue grill to cook up the 500 tasty hot dogs. So many Barcrofters



Mr. & Mrs. Roy Long

made luscious desserts that everyone got some! Margaret Davis, Susan Christopher, Barbara Swart, and Chris Monek served. Frozen Additives Manager Dave Voorhees made sure we had enough ice cubes, whenever he was not MC-ing or minding the reviewing stand.

Among the festivities for the kids, organized by Beth Lodsum, were a water balloon toss and other games, crawling over the Arlington County Fire Department's huge fire engine, door prizes, parade prizes, and more. With reviewers rather than judges, there were prizes for

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Deadline for submissions: 1st (ads) or 10th (editorial material) of month preceding the issue month.

BSCL Officers for 1993-1994

<i>President</i>	Scott Allard, 521-0825
<i>Vice President</i>	Dave Voorhees, 979-8287
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<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Pennie Kinsey
<i>Board Members</i>	Susan Christopher, Pat Roach, Randy Swart, Talmadge Williams Kathryn Villegas, 920-1039
<i>Membership Secy.</i>	Jack Turner
<i>Signs Manager</i>	Could be you
<i>Arlington Hall</i>	Could be you
<i>Hospitality</i>	Could be you
<i>Transportation</i>	Chris Monek, 920-1287
<i>Crime Resistance</i>	David Michaelson, 553-3953
<i>Neighborhood Conservation</i>	Dennis Bennett (bldg), 892-6467
<i>Building and Grounds</i>	Scott Brinitzer (grnd), 892-0308

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Stanley Adams Printing Company.



all, awarded by Kathy Kerr with the help of Bill Nehrke's fine sound system.

There were plenty of folks helping Crew Manager Jim Davis at clean-up time, including Larry Oresky, Scott Allard, Dave Voorhees, David Michaelson, Randy Swart, Barbara Swart, and Jim Kerr. It is always amazing to see the Community House back to its normal neat self after all the people, noise, decorations, and hullabaloo of the parade.

Mary Anne O'Rourke handled the permit applications and liaison with Arlington County. Her husband Michael O'Rourke provided the reviewer's refreshments. Anne Noll, Deb Wood, Maria Salizar, and Sara Collins signed up new BSCL members and gave out raffle tickets. Jack Turner served as signs manager and made the professional signs.

We blush to think of how many more are not listed here yet. One of the best features of our parade is the number of people it involves in this neighborhood event. Most of the parade jobs are broken up into small chunks to spread out the load. But we don't have everyone here, since we never can keep track of all the people who lend a hand during the event. For example, who made those fabulous chewies with the chocolate chips? We do try to add corrections in the October issue. But we need a Scribe for next year's parade to keep track of who pitches in. In fact, it could be you if you are so inclined.

Mary Anne O'Rourke has agreed to be cochair for next year's parade (Good News!), so give her a call now while you are thinking of it at 920-5619. With Mary Anne's leadership we all look forward to another great event next year. And our thanks to Kathy Kerr, Talmadge Williams, and Scott Allard for the organizing they did on this year's event.

Neighborhood Conservation Projects Approved

The Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee approved on June 9 two new Barcroft projects. One is at the intersection of 8th and Taylor Sts. and has been the subject of several meetings in the neighborhood. It will include new curb and sidewalk along one property as well as the addition of a small center median. The second project is the planning phase of the wall needed along Columbia Pike from Taylor Street down to the shopping center to stabilize the bank and control erosion. David Michaelson, our NCAC representative, presented the projects for approval.



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How Was Your Summer?

Barcroft was reasonably quiet this summer. Marvon McKinney's presence (and vegetables!) were sorely missed. Our parade this year enjoyed good weather and lots of neighbors at the picnic afterwards. Again this year the quality of the Barcroft Marching Band amazed everyone. [Some of us missed the traditional intrepid bagpiper, however.] Construction at Arlington Hall has been wrapped up. Marcia Oresky volunteered to be the advertising manager for the *Barcroft News*. And former BSCL President Ira Belcher agreed to be our publisher (labeling and mailing). The *Washington Post* did another article on Barcroft in the Where We Live section on July 23. It is a nice article emphasizing Barcroft's traditional values, quoting Scott Allard and Margaret Davis among others. We will have copies at the September 1 BSCL meeting.

The large lot at 4th and Taylor Sts., which is to have six new homes, remains undeveloped. We had two power outages during thunderstorms worthy of mention, and our Notable Trees are all still standing. The lawn sheep count has not increased. The Unitarians have almost finished their expansion. Work on the park at Dead Man's Curve is now almost complete, with BSCL President Scott Allard helping it along. You can walk along Pershing Drive all the way to the Barcroft Community house on a

nice, safe sidewalk! Jack Christman left for a year in Uzbekistan, so we need a new CPRO representative. Did more things happen? Maybe you didn't write a story on them yet for the *Barcroft News*!

Dead Man's Curve

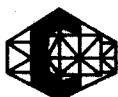
The Dead Man's Curve sidewalk project has been completed after more than three years' hard work! We can now safely walk from the north end to the south end of the neighborhood for the first time in years.

Unfortunately, no one in the Arlington County government took responsibility for this project, so almost every step was preceded by several phone calls and/or letters to whomever had to take the next step. The BSCL practically acted as "general contractor." Details below!

Arlington County Work Crew (ACWC) #1 installed drainage pipe and backfilled the parkland to the west of Pershing Dr. at Dead Man's Curve.

ACWC #2 removed the PCB-contaminated soil on the County parkland to the south of the old VEPCO site, adjoining ACWC #1's backfill to the south.

ACWC #3 poured the sidewalk from Dead Man's Curve up past the VEPCO site. They did



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not cut the tree limbs obstructing passage because "they weren't allowed to."

ACWC #4 sodded the area between the new sidewalk and the park. The PCB holes had not been filled (see ACWC #7), so that area was left unseeded. ACWC #4 did not seed the area on the other side of the new sidewalk.

ACWC #5 watered ACWC #4's sod only after strong urging from the neighborhood that the newly placed sod needed it. (July was hot!)

ACWC #6 seeded the bare soil between the sidewalk and the parkland, which was cleared by ACWC #1.

ACWC #7 filled in the holes left by ACWC #2, driving machinery over the area sodded by ACWC #4.

ACWC #8 replaced most of the signs removed by ACWC #1.

BSCL Work Crew #1 then cut the cedar tree limbs in front of the VEPCO site, which were left by ACWC #3, to allow passage.

Thanks to everyone who worked to this end, especially Dave Michaelson.

Marvon's Garden Project

by Dave Voorhees

The members of the Marvon's Garden Project (MGP) met several times during the summer to find a way to obtain the late Marvon McKinney's property for public use. A representative of the Trust for Public Land met with us to discuss various strategies.

We broke into subcommittees to determine fund-raising methods and potential uses of the property. Meanwhile, the McKinney heirs (two brothers and a sister) have put the property on the real estate market, asking \$275,000.

To give the MGP time to raise money to purchase the site, it was decided to write a letter to the heirs, through their attorney, explaining the Barcroft community interest in purchasing the site as a park to be called Marvon's Garden. We requested an option to buy the property in order to have time to raise money.

The attorney has replied to our letter, stating that he has forwarded it to the heirs for their consideration, but we have had no further word. They have reportedly received offers from at least two developers for the property, but apparently neither meets the full asking price. The MGP members feel that with no encouragement from the heirs and no plausible way to raise \$275,000 in our community, we must wake up and stop dreaming of a park named in honor of Marvon McKinney. Instead, let's think of a more modest memorial to Barcroft's most famous farmer.

Membership Dues Due

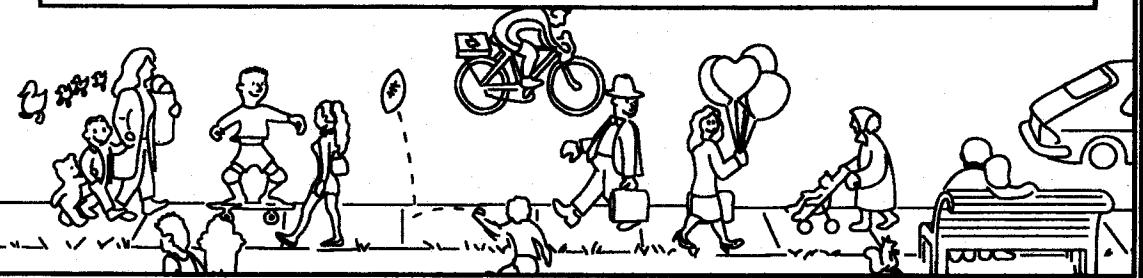
Our September meeting begins the new membership year for the Barcroft School and Civic League. Last year we set a new record for paid memberships — 573. The BSCL also received many generous donations in addition to the dues. We thank everyone who contributed some extra dollars. They will come in handy this year, as the community house must undergo some repairs.

Dues for the BSCL are still a bargain at \$2 per person (\$4 for a couple). Bring your dues to the September meeting, or send a check payable to the Barcroft School and Civic League to Kathryn Villegas, Membership Secretary, 4301 Columbia Pike, #533, Arlington, VA 22204.

Tell Them You Saw It in The Barcroft News

When 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*.

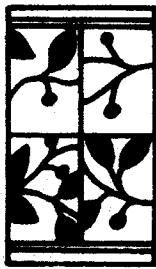
Around the Neighborhood With Kathy Kerr



Congratulations and Happy Birthday to Roy J. Long, who celebrated his centennial, that's 100th, birthday on April 19, 1994. Mr. Long lives with his second wife, Nelly, and has been a Barcroft resident since 1934. His son Bob reports that Mr. Long is fairly active but may be slowing down a little this past summer. Mr. and Mrs. Long did, however, attend our annual 4th of July parade!

Mr. Long is a retired refrigeration mechanic, a profession carried on by his two sons. Bob's brother lives in Pimmet Hills and continues his father's business, Long's Refrigeration. Bob has lived in Glen Carlyn for 31 years and has his own refrigeration business at National Airport.

Mr. Long has eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. His father was 105 when he died here in Northern Virginia in 1965. Mr. Long has a much younger brother living down in Florida—He is only in his 80s! Bob says he's not aware of any secret to the longevity of his family.



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G A R D E N I N G C O N S U L T A T I O N

Barcroft School PTA Shows Appreciation to Teachers

Last spring, the Barcroft PTA went all out to show Barcroft School staff just how much they are appreciated. And the story even made the *Arlington Journal*—complete with a photo!

While students were away at lunch, PE, art, or music, teachers got to have a beautiful break in a "spa" setting. All of this took place in a room transformed with bouquets of flowers and bowls of potpourri. Teachers sipped champagne glasses of sparkling fruit juice while enjoying oatmeal facials along with hand, foot, and leg massages. To complete the lovely am-

September Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9/3-5 CLYDE BEATTY COLE BROS. CIRCUS, under the Big Top at Quincy Park, next to the Central Library. To benefit the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing. Six performances: 4:30 all three days; 7:30 Saturday, 1:30 Sunday and Monday. Call APAH Circus Hotline, 276-7444.				1 BSCL Meeting, 7:30 PM, 800 S. Buchanan. Call 521-0825 for info.	2	3 Col. Pike Artist Studios Open House, 11 AM-4 PM, 932 S. Walter Reed Dr.
4	5 LABOR DAY	6 SCHOOL STARTS ROSH HASHANAH	7	8	9	10
11 GRAND- PARENTS DAY	12	13	14 YOM KIPPUR Begins at Sundown	15 HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH BEGINS	16 The <i>Mayflow- er</i> set sail for America 374 years ago.	17
18	19	20 INTERNA- TIONAL PEACE DAY	21	22 AUTUMN BEGINS	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 CHUSOK (Korean Harvest Moon Festival)	

biance, live music was provided by tux-clad Barcroft neighbor and school parent Harold Evans. Harold is a classical violinist and former White House musician. Harold's daughter, Jewel, is starting 1st grade this fall. His older son, Michael, also attended Barcroft.

Hats off to ingenious Barcroft School parents who provided a truly class act to show appreciation to their teachers and staff!

Volunteers Needed to Distribute Food

On two Monday evenings per month, a group of dedicated Barcroft neighbors drive out to Merrifield to load their cars and vans with donated food. They then return to Arlington to distribute the food at an apartment complex near the Safeway on Columbia Pike, followed by the Barcroft stop at the recycling bins across

from Blockbuster Video. Food is typically given out for at least 100 people at each stop. The food is collected and sorted by nonprofit volunteer organization Lazarus at the Gate. Generally they distribute outdated bread and produce donated by area grocery stores. There is usually a good supply of canned goods from various area food drives. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are handed out for each person, ensuring a semi-nutritious meal for all who have come for food.

Our neighborhood team of food distributors has dwindled and new volunteers are needed. Driving and heavy lifting are **not** required. You will need to be available one Monday evening per month from 5 to 7 PM. Van and station wagon drivers are especially helpful. However, extra hands (and warm hearts) of all ages are essential. Also, during the day drivers can pick up food at local groceries and bakeries. Call Kathy Kerr at 892-6458 for more information.

Barcroft Heads School Board

On July 1 the Arlington County School Board elected Barcroft Darlene Mickey to serve as the board's chair for the 1994-1995 school year.

Darlene has been a member of the board since 1991, and a Barcroft resident living on 4th St. for about as long. She is the executive director of the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization and has a daughter in the Arlington schools. Darlene's election as chair comes in a year when the School Board has many difficult issues to resolve, so we wish her well in a challenging position!

Unfortunately, School Board meetings conflict with our BSCL meetings. But Darlene was on hand for our 4th of July Parade and other

events through the year. Her husband, David Permut, is known to be a lawn sheep fan and is said to be working on a full-size model for their yard to complement the smaller ones already there.

State Police Not Online; Should They Be?

We made a distressing discovery in August. The Virginia State Police has no computerized database of stops made by officers patrolling the highways. This includes stops to assist motorists with car trouble as well as those to investigate accidents.

We learned this while trying to discover the whereabouts of a driver who was two hours late returning from Chesapeake, VA. The response to our query: they were not computerized and could not tell anyone anything about who may have had trouble on the road. We were informed that if the person had been injured in an accident, we would have been called—not a comforting thought.

Our story had a happy ending. The driver's car had broken down on I-95, and he had spent the ensuing hours waiting for a tow truck and then riding to the local car dealer, where he was finally able to call home.

It is disgraceful that there is no centralized database where highway accidents and motorists with car trouble can be identified by location. The officer recommended we contact our state assemblyman and express this. We urge you to do so. Anyone who has waited around for several hours not knowing what may have happened to someone driving on our increasingly hazardous highways will agree that the response, "they usually come home," is small comfort.

Sara Leigh Merrey

Unitarian Project Completed

by Carol Hopper

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington moved into their 26,000-square-foot addition to the sanctuary building on August 31. The year-long construction project created 22 new classrooms and adult meeting rooms, a fellowship hall plus a second large meeting room, two kitchens, a chapel, and staff offices.

The Arlington Unitarian Cooperative Preschool has moved into six of the new classrooms, providing weekday morning programs for 76 preschoolers. The church playground has added new equipment specifically designed for physically challenged children.

Important to the future of Barcroft neighborhood was the completion of a storm-water

retention system, to add to flood-control efforts in the Four Mile Run watershed area.

On October 2, dedication ceremonies for the new addition commence with a 3:30 PM procession from the 1948 auditorium, Reeb Hall, to our new facilities. Barcroft neighbors are cordially invited to join in the festivities, tour the building, and enjoy refreshments.

Barcroft Exchange

CHILD CARE. Barcroft couple with 3-month-old would like to share in-home child care. Our house or yours. Call Lisa Rom at 486-2983.

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Barcroft Crime Report

Stranger than Fiction Department

We don't have a crime report this month, so this incident report will have to do.

On May 21 at 10:30 PM a Barcroft neighbor was driving home from an evening concert in Alexandria when her daughter noticed a nice white car behind them—identical to their car. Somehow the car got ahead of them, stopped in the middle of Old Four Mile Run Dr., and turned off its lights. Our neighbor didn't think much of it and drove around it to cross Columbia Pike at the light by Goodwill. Again, somehow the car got ahead of her and stopped in the middle of S. Buchanan, just up the hill from Blockbuster. This time there was more traffic blocking our neighbor. A man got out of the car in a rage and approached her car, yelling and swinging a baseball bat. Fearing for her life and the life of her daughter, our neighbor luckily found a way to zoom past the man. As she passed him, he swung the bat and broke the window in the passenger seat behind her. At home she called the police, who said there was little they could do, since neither woman was able to get the license number of the man's car.

We hope this was an isolated incident; it certainly is terrifying. Was it an attempted robbery or an attempted carjacking? We'll never know. But this neighbor has now installed a car phone in her vehicle, as recommended to her by the police. The phone cost \$20; the service runs about \$25 a month. Calls are expensive but emergency calls are free. She thinks of the phone as insurance, and it is something all of us may want to consider.

Voter Registration Change of Address Form

If you wish to vote in the next election, you must be registered to vote using the address where you actually live. If you have moved and not yet updated your voter registration, complete this form and mail it to the Office of Voter Registration, #1 Courthouse Plaza, 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 320, Arlington, VA 22201.

Name:

New Address:

Former Address:

Soc. Sec. No.:

Date of Birth:

Date of Move:

Names of registered voters who moved with you:

Signature(s):

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