

BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 93, No. 2

October 1995

Traffic Circle Under Fire; Special Vote Set

The BSCL's September meeting came very close to voting to remove the temporary traffic circle at the intersection of 3rd Street and Pershing Drive. The consensus of those attending the meeting was clearly to remove the circle, which they said was poorly designed, dangerous, inconvenient, a problem for long vehicles and not effective in slowing down traffic. In addition it appears that the circle is forcing more cars to use 4th Street, instead of 3rd Street.

The proponents of the circle (five of the thirty or more in the room) noted that circles are the only traffic-calming measure that Arlington will permit the neighborhood under current rules. The County will not install four-way stop signs, traffic bumps, traffic humps, traffic lights, automated radar, chicanes or other measures. Budget constraints and the taxpayer's unwillingness to permit big tax increases have eliminated the option of having more police enforcement within the neighborhood. Circles are working well to slow traffic and discourage cut-throughs

for Arlington Forest and for Lyon Park, but one unsightly, isolated and perhaps hastily-designed circle is not a fair trial for the technique in our neighborhood.

Participants at the meeting decided to hold a special meeting to take a final vote on the circle on Wednesday, Oct. 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community House. This will be the only subject of the meeting. Any neighborhood resident can come to the meeting and speak. To vote you must be a member of the BSCL, so send in your
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Candidates to Speak

Candidates for local and state offices will be the centerpiece of this month's meeting, to be held Oct. 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community House, 800 S. Buchanan. Candidates will make brief statements and take questions. With the Nov. 7 elections shortly upon us, this is a good opportunity to see the politicians on our own turf. The meeting traditionally is a somewhat informal event and priority for questions is given to resident Barcrofters. Don't forget to vote!

Oct. 14 Fete to Include Roast Pig, Live Jazz

Sharpen your appetite and get ready for a bodacious pig roast sponsored by the BSCL on Saturday, Oct. 14. Chef Alan Dickerson, a neighborhood resident, will be using his delicious secret recipe. The event will run from 1 to 4 p.m. Beverages will be provided.

For your listening pleasure, the Potomac Jazz Orchestra will make its second appearance this year at the Community House.

Volunteers are needed to make this event successful. Here's what we need: Set up crew, clean up crew, servers, and food donations, especially side dishes and desserts.

A donation will be collected at the gate to fund the event. Any extra proceeds go directly to the Community House renovation fund. Adult donation is \$8; children under 15 are \$2. If you can help with the event or donate food, please call Tom Palance at 979-8366 by Oct. 8.

Recycle Those Catalogs

Arlington County has begun curbside collection of magazines and catalogs for recycling. Residents may include magazines and catalogs along with their bagged or bundled newspapers.

According to the county, the paper recycling market has improved enough to make magazine and catalog collection economically viable. The clay coating on magazine and catalog paper actually helps wash the ink out of newsprint during the recycling process.

Whew! This is just in time for that annual barrage of pre-holiday catalogs!

Community House Is Placed on Nat'l List

In August, our Barcroft Community House was officially entered into the National Register of Historic Places. Last May our building was placed on the Virginia Landmarks Register. Thus we have now completed a process started when our Arlington Historic Landmark designation was made about 10 years ago. Face it. We're (sort of) famous!

Barcroft News Staff

<i>Editor</i>	Phil Cackley, 271-9743
<i>Publisher/Mailing</i>	We need you
<i>Advertising Manager</i>	Pete Fitzgerald, 521-3307
<i>Neighborhood News</i>	Kathy Kerr, 892-6458
<i>Contributions Editor</i>	Kyle Walton, 521-3307

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

BSCL Officers for 1995-96

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<i>Vice President</i>	David Michaelson, 553-3953
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Barcroft House Fix-up To Proceed in 3 Stages

A \$50,000 renovation project for the Barcroft Community House has only just begun. We have an architectural plan and the foundation was repointed over the summer. Remaining work is expected to be completed in three stages.

In the first stage, the furnace will be moved from the kitchen to the basement. A handicapped-accessible bathroom will go in the kitchen. Electrical systems will be redone and the main meeting room will get new walls and a new ceiling.

During the second stage, we will redo the roof and refinish the original oak floor. A new deck with ramps will be built connecting the rear and side doors to provide handicap access.

The third stage will focus on renovation of the kitchen.

At some point in the future, we may put up a wood picket fence to replace the chain link fence bordering the property.

To finish all three phases, we anticipate a cost of \$50,000. We can pay up to \$40,000 out of existing funds, but need to raise the additional \$10,000. Donations are coming in as people pay their dues. Some have been as high as \$150!

This fall, our plans will be analyzed by the county Historical Landmark Review Board. Then we will solicit bids for the work so we can come back to the BSCL membership at the November meeting for a formal vote of approval.

Renovation Committee meetings are the last Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Call Jim Kerr, at 892-6458.

Resident Says Traffic Circle Helps Slow Cars

This month, Barcrofters will decide whether to keep the experimental traffic circle built on Pershing Drive earlier this summer. As we decide, I hope we'll keep the people who live on Pershing and S. Buchanan in mind. I am one of them.

Just to recount the problems the circle was supposed to begin addressing: Too much traffic moves much too fast. Late at night, cars pound by at highway speeds. During the day, few observe the 25 mph speed limit. I've seen cars pass other cars in front of my house in the 600 block of S. Buchanan. Sight lines are poor, making speed even more dangerous. Our neighbor's dog was hit by a car that never even stopped. Clearly, something has to be done to slow traffic and to discourage motorists from using our neighborhood as a cut-through.

The circle was supposed to be the beginning of a solution. A network of circles was to be built in the neighborhood. That way, traffic wouldn't divert from one street to avoid a circle on another. And that way, they would be frequent enough to keep speed down, and maybe even discourage drivers from cutting through Barcroft. But one circle alone can't control the speeding problem.

Despite observations to the contrary, the circle does slow down traffic at Wakefield and Pershing. For example, when I was biking with my kids on S. Wakefield recently, a driver on Pershing politely stopped at the circle to give us right-of-way. That never would have happened in the past. Before the circle was built, I've seen cars run the stop sign

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\$2 dues if you want to vote on this or other issues this year.

At the September meeting, residents also discussed the application of Our Savior Lutheran Church to increase the student body of their school by 25% and the renovation of Barcroft Community House. (See separate articles on both subjects, page 5 and page 3.) Committee reports included one by Chris Monek (920-1287) that the Crime Resistance Committee will meet again soon, and a note that the former Safeway store on Columbia Pike may become a furniture store, David Michaelson reported that work will start in the fall on 8th Street between Wakefield and Buchanan. The design for the intersection of 8th and Taylor is shaping up, and we will be asked to comment on it when it is 80% completed. David asked for and got some volunteers to get our Sign Committee restarted to approve a design for a neighborhood sign on George Mason and on Arlington Boulevard. Most important perhaps was a call by Jim Kerr for a volunteer to replace our retiring Membership Secretary, Katherine Villegas. The Secretary receives checks and passes them on to the Treasurer, and keeps a list so we will know who is eligible to vote at the special October meeting on the traffic circle.

Call the Hotline!

If you have comments or opinions about anything going on in the neighborhood, call the **Barcroft Neighborhood Hotline at 521-1116** and leave a message after the beep. You don't have to leave your name if you don't want to. To speak to a real person, call BSCL President Jim Kerr at 892-6458.

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Savior School to Grow?

At the September BSCL meeting, Chris Monek brought attention to a request for an increase of students at Our Savior Lutheran Church School on S. Taylor St. Currently the school has a use permit for 160 students and they would like to increase to 200 students. BSCL officers and affected neighbors were not notified of the intended change which was scheduled for adoption by the Arlington County Board on the Saturday following the September meeting.

At the request of the BSCL and immediate neighbors, the County Board deferred action until their Oct. 25 meeting so that Barcrofters can consider the impact on the neighborhood, if any, of additional students at the school. Call Chris Monek for more information at 920-1287.

Brush Cleared in Park

We were pleased to see the County clearing brush in Four Mile Run Park at Columbia Pike in early September. County workers cleared out underbrush behind the shopping center, on the east side of the park.

The result is to make the area much less spooky by improving sightlines, making the area easier to patrol. The crew did a nice job, and the appearance of the park continues to improve.

Don't forget that the BSCL has adopted that section of the park and the trail up to Sparrow Swamp as our special section to keep clean. You can just seize the initiative, pick up stuff and put it in the trash can there, or call Scott Allard at 521-0825 if you want to be part of our next team cleanup. Good, clean fun.



Bobbi Bradley, GRI

Barcroft Resident for a Decade.

MOVING EXPENSE DEDUCTIONS

If you move in connection with your work, you may be able to deduct many costs of the move. This includes travel and house hunting expenses, meals, lodging and other costs. There are limitations on the type and amount of expenses and you must itemize deductions to qualify. The deduction is available to both employees and self-employed individuals. Cross town moves are generally not covered but the deduction is available for moves both within and outside the United States. It is strongly recommended that you consult with a tax advisor for specifics on this subject.

Call me if you have questions or need more information. . . .

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EventsEventsEventsEveOCTOBEREventsEventsEventsEv

Oct. 5, Thursday -- **BSCL meeting.** Candidates night. Community House, 800 S. Buchanan. 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 7, Saturday -- **Fall plant walk.** Adults join naturalist for plant identification walk. Long Branch Nature Center. 2-4:30 p.m. Call 358-6535 for reservations.

Oct. 7, Saturday -- **Open House.** Columbia Pike Artists Studios, 932 S. Walter Reed. 11-4 p.m.

Oct. 11, Wednesday -- **Special BSCL meeting.** Vote on temporary traffic circle at Pershing and Third. (Only dues-paying members will vote.) Community House, 800 S. Buchanan. 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 14, Saturday -- **Pig Roast.** Join your Barcroft neighbors and eat! 800 S. Buchanan. 1-4 p.m. (donation)

Oct. 20, Friday -- **Fall foliage walk.** Adults join naturalist to view fall colors. Long Branch Nature Center. 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Call 358-6535 for reservations.

Oct. 21, Saturday -- **Birds of Prey.** Naturalist from Potomac Overlook park will give program on hawks, eagles, and other birds of prey. Community House, 800 S. Buchanan. Call the Barcroft Neighborline for time.

Oct. 31, Tuesday -- **Halloween.** Drive carefully and watch out for trick-or-treaters. Dusk and later.



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Erin Barksdale, 15 years old, 979-7665

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

Nhu Dang, S. Buchanan St., 685-8831

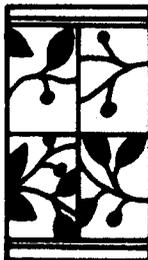
Stacy Kyle, 15 years old, 9th grade, S. 6th St.,
American Red Cross Babysitting Certification,
486-0019

Terri Lahlou, 29 years old, S. 4th St., 979-9565
(home), 527-8484 (work)

Liza Lord, 14 years old, American Red Cross Baby-
sitting course, 892-2443

Sasha Lord, 12 years old, Mother's Helper—will
entertain children while mother is at home,
892-2443

Lauren Wilson, 10 years old, Mother's Helper
—speaks Spanish, 920-9410



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A (Belated) Thank You

Thanks to many members of the community, the Wine and Cheese event held last April 29 was very successful. Two hours before the event the ever dedicated Randy Swart showed up and began helping me set up. Shortly after, much welcomed newcomers to the neighborhood Brandi and Jerry Walters came into the community house. They helped slice fruit and set up the room. The talented Mary Fitzgerald helped set the mood with her harp. Soon after the festivities began, Andrew Hunter made a run for some more wine.

Roger Cornell and Linda Titolo rushed from their commitment at Borders Books and joined Mary for some great music. It was good to see a wide variety of neighbors at the Community House. Our long time loyal Membership secretary Katherine Villegas was there the whole evening. Irvana Brown, representative of The Uncommon Market, donated some delicious cheese and crackers. Barb Clemens, Jack Reed and Tom Tope helped with the clean up. It was a fun evening. Special thanks are given to Daphne Miller, Joshua Land, and Christie Sens for helping with promotion. Because of you the evening was successful.

The purpose of these neighborhood events is to promote a sense of togetherness so that we may continue to keep Barcroft a great place to live. If you are interested in helping or hosting an event call me at 979-8366.

Tom Palance

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Voter Registration Change of Address Form

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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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on S. Third Street. That's unlikely to happen now.

Unfortunately, the circle itself has a major problem. Drivers emerging from Wakefield have to stick their noses too far into Pershing because of poor visibility. That's a safety problem that needs fixing.

Which is the point of this letter: I hope that Barcrofters will be receptive to suggestions coming from the county engineer at the meeting next month (Oct. 11). Maybe this circle can be fixed. I honestly don't know if anything can be done to improve it. But we would be foolish to get rid of the only solution the county gives neighborhoods like ours to solve traffic problems if the circle can be fixed.

Those who object to the circle just because it's inconvenient should think of the people who live along the street. We'd like to put an end to dangerous, speeding traffic. Those who would like to find a way to solve our neighborhood's traffic problems should come to the meeting with an open mind. Maybe we'll hear some suggestions from the engineer that will work for everybody.

Mark Wigfield

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