

# BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 93, No. 7

March 1996

## County Board Chair to Visit Barcroft Meeting

Concerned about what the County Board is doing? Well let the board know yourself at the March meeting of the Barcroft School and Civic League. The session, at 7:30 p.m. on March 7, will provide an opportunity to meet James Hunter, chairman of the County Board.

Hunter will speak to us about what he perceives the state of Arlington is today and where it is going in the future.

We specifically requested that he address several issues: increased gang activity and what the local government and neighborhoods can do to work together to curb gang activity; plus, economic development and its role in maintaining Arlington's low real estate tax in relation to other jurisdictions in the metro area.

The evening will conclude with a question and answer period. The meeting will be held in the Barcroft Community House, 800 S. Buchanan St.

## Lutheran School Gets OK for 20 More Spaces

On February 3, the Arlington County Board approved a use permit for Our Savior Lutheran Church School on S. Taylor St. The permit allows the school to increase its enrollment from 160 students to 180 students. The Church has agreed to enclose the entire rear lot line with a fence and to plant trees and shrubs around their trailer. They are also setting up a task force with representatives of the neighborhood, including the BSCL, to discuss additional issues as they arise.

Thank you to Barcrofter Chris Monek for representing the BSCL at the County Board meeting and the many committee meetings leading up to the agreement. At the Arlington County Board meeting, Chairman Jim Hunter congratulated the BSCL and Our Savior Lutheran Church for reaching a consensus prior to the board's approval.

# Vote Turn-out Low in Special Winter Election

The BSCL's turn-out-the-vote campaign for January's special election was a dismal failure. Despite the signs we posted, only 520 Barcrofters voted, just about one third of the votes in 1992's presidential election. It was also 221 less than voted in the last special election in 1991. (Barcroft neighbor Karen Darner ran in the 1991 election, which may explain some of the heavier vote that year.) In this past November's election, 826 Barcrofters voted.

Those who did vote this time picked election winner Chris Zimmerman by a margin of about 2 to 1. Democrat Zimmerman polled 341 votes compared to 179 tallies for Republican Scott Stone.

Zimmerman, a long-time resident of the New Arlington-Douglas Park neighborhood across Columbia Pike from us in South Arlington, is the president of his neighborhood civic association and has a strong background in civic volunteer work. The Washington Post did its own campaigning by never letting anyone forget that Stone had been Ollie North's Arlington campaign manager.

Although nobody at the County level would ever admit it, we suspect that precincts that vote heavily get more governmental attention throughout the year. When we all vote, we all win, no matter which candidate is elected. There are no long lines at off-year and special elections, and it only costs ten minutes to participate fully in our democracy.

Please resolve to vote every year when you see the Barcroft signs up on election day. Staying home is taken as apathy, not protest. If you don't feel like voting for either candidate you can write in Dr. John Barcroft as your choice!

**Call the Barcroft Neighborline**  
**521-1116**  
**Get the latest information**

Barcroft on the Internet: <http://www.bhsi.org/barcroft.htm>

## Barcroft News Staff

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<i>Contributions Editor</i>	<b>Volunteer needed!</b>

**Deadlines:** 1st (ads) or 10th (editorial material) day of the month preceeding the issue month.

## BSCL Officers for 1995-96

<i>President</i>	Jim Kerr, 892-6458
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<i>Restoration</i>	Jim Kerr, 892-6458
<i>Signs Manager</i>	Jack Turner
<i>Traffic</i>	Elaine Squeri

The *Barcroft News* is printed by the Stanley Adams Printing Company.

## Coffee House A Big Hit with Music, Poetry

Barcrofters enjoyed another coffee house in February thanks to the efforts of Margaret Brown and her husband Craig.

About 30 people came on a Sunday night to the Community House to enjoy coffee, cider, snacks, and entertainment that included several poetry readings and guitar music.



**Folk Rock --** *Singer-songwriter Craig Blackwell plays his guitar at the February Coffee House. (photo by R. Swart)*

The rich cappuccino was prepared by Martine Tremblay and John Woodworth. Others who assisted with the evening's preparations were Phyl Kinsey, Joelle Thompson, Sue Kelly, Brandi and Jerry Walters, Beth Lienard, Robert Wilson and Daphne Miller.

Entertainment was provided by Pam Crescenzo and Pennie Kinsey, who read their own poems, and singer-songwriter Craig Blackwell, who played acoustic guitar and sang numbers ranging from familiar Bob Dylan tunes to his own engaging songs.

Special thanks to the Heidelberg Bakery for providing delicious cookies

and to Margaret for her coconut coffee bread and "Wholesome Brownies." It was a nice evening to relax with neighbors.

## March 17 to Feature Barcroft Comedy Club

Calling all Barcroft standup comedians! The March coffee house event is a Comedy Club on Sunday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m. It will include green potables in honor of St. Paddy. There will be a special prize for the best joke about traffic circles (we're not making this up!)

Come to the Community House, 800 S. Buchanan, and do your routine, or just laugh with your neighbors about the lighter side of living in Barcroft. Small donation required. Call Tom Palance for further information at 979-8366.

## Round-up Time for Cook Book Recipes

The Barcroft Cookbook is coming along nicely. We thank all those who have contributed their favorites so far. We especially thank Betty Handy who arrived bearing not only her delicious recipe for zucchini bread, but a sample as well! (There are serious benefits to be had from this project).

We still need a few more recipes to round out the collection and we hope to finish the cookbook this month. So keep those cards, letters, phone calls, and e-mails coming and submit them as soon as possible to Barbara Swart. (Address: 4611 S. 7th Street, Phone: 521-2080, E-mail: [cookbook@bhsi.org](mailto:cookbook@bhsi.org)). The sale of the cookbook will benefit the Community House renovation fund.

## Spring Clean-up Set for Barcroft Elementary

With all of the snow we've been having, it's hard to think about spring, but it will be here before we know it. That means it's time to start planning for a community-wide effort to beautify one of the most important focal points of our neighborhood, Barcroft School.

Even if you don't have children who attend the school, many of you probably have ideas on how to improve the appearance of the school grounds, and we'd love to hear from you.

The clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, April 13, and the more helping hands we have, the more progress we can make. If you can't be there to help, perhaps you can make a donation toward the beautification fund. If you have any suggestions or would like to contribute in any way, please call Beth Lodsun at 979-1104.

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## Community House Plan for Renovation on track

The renovation committee has reached agreement regarding what renovations need to be done on the main hall of the Community House. The plan includes:

- Raising the ceiling to its original height, using the existing wood ceiling where available and installing matching ceiling wood in places where the original wood was taken out.

- Removing existing walls and wainscoting and replacing with drywall and new wainscoting.

- It's still unclear whether or not it will be cost effective to take up the existing tile floor to expose the wood floor underneath or simply to install a new wood floor over the top.

- Also undecided is whether the heating and air conditioning ducts and vents will be placed in the ceiling or underneath the floor and in the lower walls.

The committee is continuing to get estimates for the renovation. The goal is to detail the renovation plans and cost estimates in the May newsletter for presentation at the May general membership meeting.

Everyone is welcome at the renovation committee meetings the last Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Community House. Call Jim Kerr (892-6458) for more information.

# Traffic Committee Looking for Alternative

Recommendations are being drafted by the Barcroft Traffic Committee to be presented to the BSCL in March.

The Committee met in January and February to discuss: speed of vehicles in the neighborhood and on George Mason Drive; volume of vehicles traveling through the neighborhood; and several problem sites. The sites include: Left turn lane at light on Route 50 access road to N. George Mason Drive; traffic circle at Third, Wakefield and Pershing; intersection of Route 50 and Henderson Road; Columbia Pike at South Buchanan and South Four Mile Run.

As the committee gathers

information and ideas in its efforts toward "traffic calming," the members welcome input from the neighborhood. Especially needed are specific alternatives found effective in other neighborhoods that could be applied here, and additional sources of information about traffic planning. Contact Elaine G. Squeri at 920-7014, or members Frank Peartree, Vinnie Millin, Dick Carter, Cliff Roberts, Pat Haman or Iles Minoff.

## Last Call for Giants

If you have pink Giant Food cash register receipts for the Barcroft School computers-for-students drive, please get them to the school at once! The deadline is upon us.



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*Barcroft Resident for a Decade.*

### WET BASEMENT??

#### DO YOU HAVE??

- Damp spots on walls
- Cracked floors
- Fungus-mildew-rust
- Warped paneling
- Cracked walls
- Peeling paint
- Termites

#### WHY BASEMENTS LEAK

1. As the ground becomes saturated, the water table begins to rise, putting pressure against the basement walls and floor. Water under pressure seeks cracks caused by expansion and contraction of the cement floor and wall.
2. The footer is poured separately from the walls. The walls are built on top of the footer. Since it is impossible to get a permanent seal between the footer, walls and floor, water is able to enter at these joints.
3. Exterior footer drains malfunction, forcing water to seek the path of least resistance (your basement).
4. When a home is built, the exterior foundation walls are coated with a cement parging. They are then coated with foundation tar. Because this parging has no "elasticity" and your walls are porous, they begin to leak. When walls absorb water or fill up with water, they lose their "insulating" value. In fact, water will conduct the cold into your home. This is the reason that a dry basement is usually a lot warmer than a damp basement.

Basement leakage can cut down on your usable living space and reduce the value of your home.

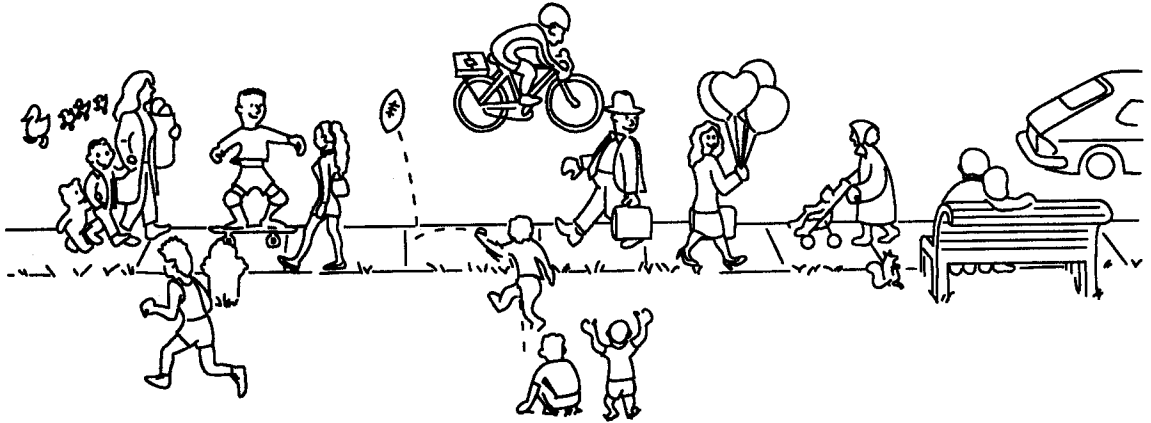
#### CONSULT A PROFESSIONAL FOR REPAIRS

- Determine if the firm belongs to the Better Business Bureau and find out if it has been in other cities or has been listed under a different name.
- Obtain the names of previous customers and talk to them about the quality of service.
- Check the firm's warranty and make sure it is understandable and contains no vague language or escape clauses.
- Be especially wary of the salesman who changes or rewords the warranty just to make a sale.

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

*Your Agent of Distinction.*

# Around the Neighborhood with Kathy Kerr



About 25 Barcroft children had the opportunity for heart-felt creativity at the Valentine's Workshop held at the Community House on Saturday, Feb. 10. The workshop teacher, Barcrofter Laura Devin, had all sorts of materials available to produce creations such as 3-D valentines and stained-glass hearts.

A favorite activity was making little gift bags out of regular business envelopes with ribbon handles. "Chef Mick" (Laura's husband) helped little hands to decorate wonderful sour cream cookies—heart-shaped of course. Watch for the recipe in the new Barcroft Cookbook. Also helping out were Diane Loomis, Lou Phelps, and Diana Walch.

The Devins moved to Barcroft one year ago. They have two boys: Corey, a kindergartner at Barcroft School, and Chauncy, age 3. They live on 4<sup>th</sup> St. S.

Laura grew up in North Arlington. She majored in art at Meredith College in North Carolina. She has worked as an interior finisher for an architect's office

and also as a graphic artist for a newspaper and a magazine. She enjoys painting houses -- interior and exterior. She began work on a degree in marriage and family therapy, with the hope to combine counseling with art.

After Laura and Mick got married, they lived in Australia for a time and later Florida, where the boys were born. Laura taught art in a private school in Florida with grades preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. She was able to creatively present the same art project for all of the children by modifying it for each age level.

Mick currently works at the National Science Foundation in marine biology. He is finishing up his master's degree while researching larval ecology. He was a research fellow but now has a longer term position so hopefully the Devins will be staying in Barcroft for some time!

When the Devins moved here, Laura wanted to stay home with her children. She decided to provide after-school art enrichment workshops. The Barcroft

Community House was the perfect location for a series of classes last fall. Barcroft Elementary School has hired her for after-school workshops on Wednesdays in March. Watch for a future series of classes at the Barcroft Community House in April.

Laura's art classes are perfect for parents who want their children to have varied art opportunities but who don't have the right supplies and don't want to clean up the mess! As she teaches, Laura incorporates history and culture into the class projects. For example, for a multicultural art project she might talk about a country or region of the world, discuss the history and culture while encouraging children to respond with their own artistic ideas..

Call Laura for more information and to share ideas at 920-7549.

## Local Barbecue Contest Coming on April 28

Do you fancy yourself a master at creating dinner on the barbecue? Do you have one dish that your family and friends just rave about? Well now you'll have your chance to see just how good you are. The Barcroft School and Civic League will feature the neighborhood's first Barbecue Contest on Sunday, April 28, 1996. We will have judges to taste your treats. To register to participate or volunteer to help please contact David Michaelson at 553-3953. Don't wait to register -- the early volunteers will help to shape this event.

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A black silhouette of a woman in a yoga pose (Padmasana) with her hands in a prayer position (Anjali Mudra). Behind her head is a large, textured circle. To the right of the silhouette, the words 'Heal', 'Body', 'Mind', and 'Spirit' are written in a cursive font. Below these words, the text 'with Therapeutic Massage' is written in a similar cursive font. At the bottom of the advertisement, the name 'Jo Ellen Thompson' is printed in a bold font, followed by 'Licensed Massage Therapist', 'Barcroft Community', and the phone number '553-8336'.

# Old Time Fun Came From Local Caricatures

*(Reprinted from The Barcroft News, Oct. 26, 1903)*

## Just For Fun

Barcrofters were very highly amused one evening last week at an entertainment at Mr. Marye's. Our local artist had clandestinely made sketches of all present and exhibited them by shadow picture.

Among these were: Mrs. Shick, with her market-basket, catching a train; Judge Pelham, with his "shawl-neck" and "war-horse" game roosters; Miss Johnson welcomed home by a string of cats; Mrs. Klemroth gathering up her skirts in a rainstorm; Mr. and Mrs. Haring on Broadway, New York, after the settlement of the Harlem litigation;

Mrs. S. A. Marye in a battle-royal with Captain Kidd; Miss Virgie Doremus and one of her devoted admirers; the residence Miss Estelle Doremus hopes to build in Barcroft; Mrs. Syd Marye in her red-devil automobile on Columbia Pike; Mr. Syd Marye hastening up Arlington Avenue, a pair of scales in his hand, bawling out, "it's a boy! it's a boy!" to everyone; and our village blacksmith.

Everyone enjoyed the hits, even when they struck home.

Mrs. W. W. Chamberlain and Mr. Edward Haring are deserving of much credit for having conceived and so successfully carried out the novel entertainment.

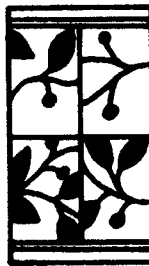
# December Crime Briefs

We missed publication of the December crime report, but in sum it contained a variety of incidents along Columbia Pike and a rash of thefts from cars. A larger than usual number of car break-ins was reported on the blocks of 7th Street, 8th Street, 8th Road and 9th Street between Buchanan and Four Mile Run.

## Barcroft Exchange

**LESSONS.** Folk harp and hammer dulcimer lessons available. Given by musician in Barcroft home. Call 892-2421.

**CHILD CARE.** Mrs. Claudia Bigelow, age 38, mother of one child (age 3). In our home next to Barcroft School. (703) 271-0442.



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## Barcroft Crime Report

Here is the crime report for January, courtesy of Officer Rick Schoembs. All addresses are the block where the incident occurred, not a house number. In deference to neighborhood sensitivities we do not mention race, ethnic origin, sex, age, religion, or other preferences, although the police reports have some of that information to aid in identifying suspects. Chris Monek (920-1287) has the original report.

- 1/2 600 S. Taylor. Burglary, entry through unlocked door.
- 1/2 900 S. Taylor. Suspect cashed forged check at bank.
- 1/2 900 S. Buchanan. Unlawful entry into vacant apartment.
- 1/5 4800 Columbia Pike. Fraud. Person picked up clothing for "friend" from dry cleaners.
- 1/5 4300 Columbia Pike. Stereo and baby seat stolen from car.
- 1/6 900 S. Wakefield. Car plate stolen.
- 1/7 900 S. George Mason. Assault with a cue stick.
- 1/7 4700 Columbia Pike. Robbery and attempted car theft.
- 1/7 800 S. Buchanan. Urinating in public. Summons issued by police.
- 1/8 4300 Columbia Pike. Assault by person trying to break into apartment.
- 1/8 4300 Columbia Pike. Assault.
- 1/9 900 S. Buchanan. Friend assaulted victim. Summons issued.
- 1/10 900 S. George Mason. Threats

exchanged during motorists' altercation after damage occurred.

- 1/12 900 S. Buchanan. Car plate stolen.
- 1/13 4300 Columbia Pike. Step-child forced way into apartment and assaulted victim, threatening to kill.
- 1/12 4200 Columbia Pike. Hit and run.
- 1/16 4100 Columbia Pike. Drunk arrested in laundromat.
- 1/18 4700 9th St. S. Car broken into.
- 1/20 4800 Columbia Pike. Car stereo stolen.
- 1/22 800 S. George Mason. Forgery of \$15 check stolen at job as nurse's aid.
- 1/22 900 S. George Mason. Suspect had a counterfeit note.
- 1/23 900 S. Buchanan. Victim threatened over phone by spouse's friend.
- 1/24 900 S. Wakefield. Tags and objects stolen from car.
- 1/27 900 S. Buchanan. Assault by fingernails.
- 1/28 900 S. Buchanan. Car broken into.
- 1/28 900 S. George Mason. Drunk.
- 1/28 900 S. George Mason. Hit & run.
- 1/29 900 S. George Mason. Drunk.
- 1/29 4300 Columbia Pike. Stereo stolen from car.
- 1/29 900 S. Buchanan. A person entered a bar and bought a \$20 bag of marijuana, then took it to the security guard in their building to show how easy it is to obtain drugs in this establishment.
- 1/30 4400 Arlington Blvd. Bank envelope and donation boxes stolen from office.
- 1/30 900 S. Buchanan. Victim cut by bottle thrown by friend.

# EventsEventsEventsEvenMARCHtsEventsEventsEventsEv

March 1, Friday -- **Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss.** 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Long Branch Nature Center. Families invited. Celebrate the birthday with The Lorax movie and other nature fun.

March 2, Saturday -- **Arlingtones Barbershop Chorus Spring Show.** "Been There-Sung That!" T.J. Community Theater, 2:15 p.m. & 8:15 p.m. Tickets \$8 and \$10. Call 527-6195 for information.

March 7, Thursday -- **BSCL Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Barcroft Community House, 800 S. Buchanan. County Board Chairman James Hunter will speak.

March 9, Saturday -- **Four Mile Run Stream Clean-up.** 9 a.m. to 12 noon. All ages. Volunteers will meet at the designated sites in Bon Air, Bluemont, Glencarlyn, and Barcroft parks. Call 358-3403 for information or to register.

March 14, Thursday -- **Beginning Birding,** 9 to 11 a.m. Long Branch Nature Center. Adults. This walk is timed just right to get you ready for the spring migration. Call 358-6535 for information.

March 16, Saturday -- **Trout Fishing Season Opens In Arlington County.** 9 a.m to dark. All ages. Call 358-3403 for information.

March 17, Sunday -- **Barcroft Comedy Club.** 7:30 p.m. Barcroft Community House. Small donation required. For information, call Tom Palance at 979-8366.



Barcroft School and Civic League  
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