

# BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 93, No. 10

Special Parade Edition, July 1996

## Music, Marching Spark Barcroft's Hot Parade

This year Barcroft will celebrate its 8th Annual 4th of July Parade. Join together with neighbors young and old as we have lots of fun dressing in red, white and blue or in costumes, marching, making music and otherwise marking the independence of this nation.

The event gets under way at 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 4, at the Community House, 800 S. Buchanan. There are no requirements for advance registration. Just show up!

Remember, you don't have to march to participate. The parade is no fun without an audience lining the sidewalks and yards of the parade route. Applause and cheering are optional but most welcome!

Everyone is invited back to the Community House after the parade for games, hot dogs, cold drinks and other goodies. This is one of the best times of the year to chat with neighbors you don't normally see or meet new residents. It's all free, donated by neighbors and area merchants.

The Community House will be air-conditioned that day in case the weather gets too hot. This year look for some new events: a bake-off, an essay contest, and valuable prizes. Start lining up to march or dust off your lawn chair by 10 a.m. See you there!

## Essay Contest to Ask: Why I Like Barcroft

Each of us knows why we love Barcroft, so now is the time to put those sentiments on paper and enter the "Why I like Barcroft" essay contest. The competition, sponsored by the parade committee, will have three categories: Children (elementary school age), Teens (middle school and high school age) and Adults (everybody else). Please keep your entries simple and to the point. Essays should be no more than one page typed or two pages hand-written (about 250 words). The winning entries will be published in the September Barcroft News.

Submit your essay by July 2 to Mary Anne O'Rourke, 4516 S. 8th St., or by email at [barcroft@AOL.com](mailto:barcroft@AOL.com).

## Slate of BSCL Officers Tabbed for 2nd Term

At the May meeting, residents re-elected by acclamation the following Barcroft School and Civic League officers for the 1996-97 year: president, Jim Kerr; vice president, David Michaelson; treasurer, Dave Voorhees; recording secretary, Lisa Palance; and corresponding secretary, Mark Wigfield.

In addition, two directors -- Scott Allard and Scott Brinitzer (affectionately known as Scott A and Scott B) -- were approved. Please note that since most of the officers are incumbents and our bylaws limit officers to two consecutive terms, we will need some fresh blood for next year.

## Traffic Circle R.I.P.

The controversial traffic circle is history. On May 2, after another discussion of pros and cons, about 40 BSCL members voted to remove the circle. Although the vote was split, the clear majority of those present favored restoring the Pershing Drive-Wakefield Street-Third Street intersection to its original configuration. County workers removed the circle within about 30 days, at the BSCL's request.

The Transportation Committee, with new chair Vincent Millin, will continue to research other alternatives to slowing down the speedsters on Taylor, Wakefield, Pershing and Buchanan.

If you have a continuing interest, give Vinnie a call at 521-7331 to make sure you attend the next meeting.

## Help Needed to Mow Barcroft House Lawn

If you've been wondering how to help your community and want a simple task, sign up for a turn to cut the grass at the Barcroft Community House. It's good exercise and helps save money that can be put aside for the renovation. Thanks to those who have already volunteered, including Mike Lewis, of Green Acres Lawn and Landscaping, who offered to cut the grass before the 4th of July parade. To volunteer, call Jim Kerr at 892-6458.

### Barcroft News Staff

|                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Editor</i>               | Phil Cackley, 271-9743    |
| <i>Publisher/Mailing</i>    | Angie Woodward            |
| <i>Advertising Mgr.</i>     | Pete Fitzgerald, 521-3307 |
| <i>Neighborhood News</i>    | Kathy Kerr, 892-6458      |
| <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  |
| <i>Vice President</i>     | David Michaelson, 553-3953                                      |
| <i>Recording Secy.</i>    | Lisa Palance, 979-8366  |
| <i>Treasurer</i>          | Dave Voorhees, 979-8287   |
| <i>Corres. Secy.</i>      | Mark Wigfield, 979-0339   |
| <i>Membership Secy.</i>   | Peg Lefebvre, 521-0184  |
| <i>Board Members</i>      | Scott Allard, Tom Palance,<br>Larry Goldschmidt, Randy<br>Swart |
| <i>Events Coordinator</i> | Tom Palance 979-8366  |
| <i>Community House</i>    |   |
| <i>Facility Manager</i>   | Tom Palance 979-8366  |
| <i>Landscaping</i>        | Scott Brinitzer, 892-0308                                       |
| <i>Crime Resistance</i>   | Chris Monek, 920-1287   |
| <i>Neigh. Conserv.</i>    | David Michaelson, 553-3953                                      |
| <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.

## **Dessert Bake-off to Follow Parade, Picnic**

All of us have our own unique talents. If your special talent lies in creating delicious desserts, Barcroft has a showcase for you. Every year, many neighbors bring and share their delectable morsels with all of us at the picnic following the 4th of July parade.

We hope to honor all of you this year by having the first ever July 4th bake-off. Bring your homemade dessert to the Community House by 11 a.m. and our expert and hungry judges will see which is the best one. If you don't want your desserts to be judged, just put a note on it to that effect and it won't be put in the competition. Good luck to all kids and adults who want to participate.

## **Marching Band Needs Barcrofters to Play**

Every year the 4th of July parade is made better and richer by the sounds of the Barcroft Band. For our 8th parade, we would like the biggest neighborhood band ever!

A rehearsal will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 3, at the Community House. This year, we are especially looking for middle school and high school players to enrich our sound. Remember, we most of all want to have FUN -- not sound like an orchestra. (Wasn't it last year that Tom played a plastic tub as a bass drum?) If you have a left-over flute, trumpet or xylophone from you high school days, dust them off and come along. All are welcome.

For more information, call Tom Palance at 979-8366.

## **County Seeks Money to Renew Sparrow Swamp**

A swamp at the south end of Barcroft could be resurrected as a series of small ponds in the next two years, if federal funding is approved for it.

Sparrow Swamp, located next to the W&OD bike trail, was drained March 13 by Arlington Parks personnel at the request of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority after an engineering study concluded water from the swamp was weakening the bike trail berm which serves as its embankment.

"The regional park authority was concerned about liability in case the trail collapsed, as well as the cost of replacing the section in danger," according to Greg Zell, director of nearby Long Branch Nature Center.

The county has applied for a \$52,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to replace the drained marsh.

"It would be a real shame to lose Sparrow Swamp permanently," Zell said.

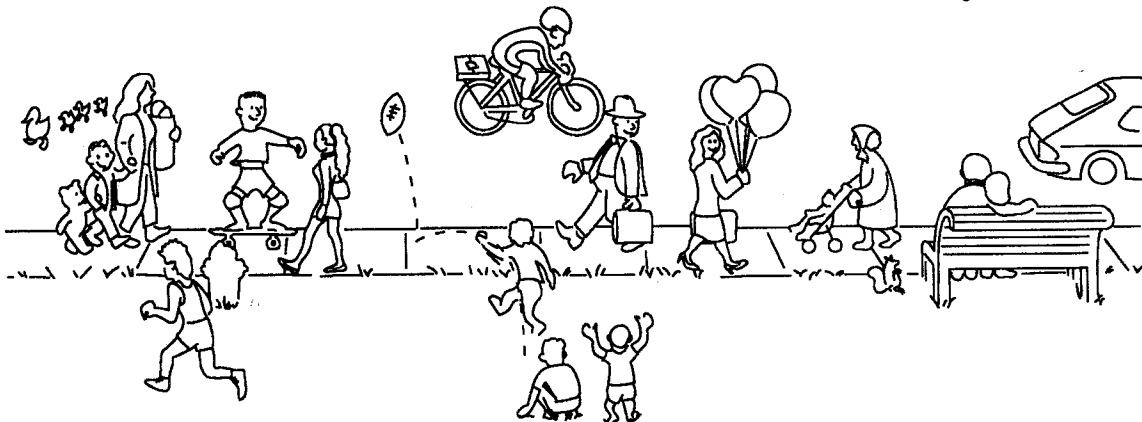
Arlington Parks and the regional authority already are working on a plan to build a pond that would not threaten the bike path, Zell said. In the meantime, he and his staff are keeping busy rescuing turtles and wetland plant stock from the drained site.

The timeline for building a new wetlands is not short. Zell said it could take until January 1998 to establish a pond, if everything goes smoothly with funding requests, environmental assessment and design.

A shallow pond and wetlands have existed at the site almost continually since

*(continued on page 7)*

# Around the Neighborhood with Kathy Kerr



Condolences to the family and friends of longtime Barcrofter Eunice Wyncoop who passed away May 9. Mrs. Wyncoop had turned 90 years old last March. She is the mother of Annette Hedrick. Mrs. Wyncoop lived at 4303 6th St. S. from the 1940s until the 1960s, when she moved to Florida. Recently she was happy to return to Barcroft to live in the Wakefield Towers Apartments with her sister, Dorothy Kinsella. Mrs. Wyncoop was also a longtime member of Our Savior Lutheran Church. She worked at the Pentagon back when it was the War Department and retired in 1968. She cared for her parents, Arthur and Marie Bergeson in their family home at 4303 6th St. S.

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Congratulations to Carol and Matt Rohr who are celebrating the birth of their first baby Douglas Gerard born May 19. The Rohrs have lived in Barcroft for about 3 years on 5th St. S. Carol will be returning to work as a computer consultant later this year. Matt is an architect and has very generously donated his services to the BSCL Renovation Committee. He has

done extensive drawings of the Community House, which are being used to obtain bids and building permits for the renovation work.

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Congratulations also to Chuck Bean and Betsy Howes-Bean. Their son Benjamin Howes Bean was born March 25. They live on Woodstock Ct. Betsy is currently on maternity leave from the Federal Reserve Board. Chuck works for Eureka Communities, a fellowship program for directors of inter-city non-profit organizations.

Betsy enjoys gardening. She was born at George Washington University Hospital but grew up in North Carolina. Little Benjamin was also born at GW! The Beans attend First Presbyterian Church of Arlington where Benjamin will be baptized on July 14.

The Bean family has been enjoying taking daily walks around the neighborhood and along the bike path. They are also members of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. They rent cabins and go hiking every few months. Now

they have a new load for their backpacks!

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Barcroft teens Liza and Sasha Lord are offering a summer arts and crafts program for boys and girls ages 6-12. All crafts will fulfill Brownie Try It requirements or Junior Girl Scout badge requirements. Program dates are Aug. 26-30, 10 a.m.-12 noon. Cost is \$30/week or \$7/day, which includes all materials. For more information call 892-2443.

## **Barcroft Adoptee Gets New Sign from County**

Arlington County has finally erected a sign on the W & OD trail at the Columbia Pike entrance saying "This park has been adopted by the Barcroft School and Civic League." Hooray! Kudos for Scott Allard, who has struggled long and hard for this day.

## **Green Acres**

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## **Who Is Daphne Miller?**

Daphne Miller is Barcroft's volunteer coordinator, that's who! Daphne is the pleasant voice who calls if you have marked the "I want to help" box on your BSCL membership form and offers you a chance to pitch in.

A former loan officer, she has dropped out of the financial industry for the time being to concentrate on the two kids she and husband Brent are raising on 7th Road. Daphne enjoys making the calls, and her enthusiasm is contagious.

"It's fun for me. If you have an hour or two, we'll have something for you to do," she said. "A lot of people are too busy to take on big jobs, but we try to match whatever time you can spare to a volunteer task."

If that sounds good to you, Daphne's number is 920-5681.

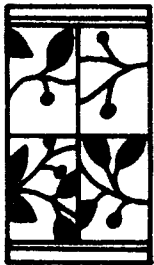
## **Gov't Surplus Center Good for Home Office**

If you need furniture to outfit a home office, check out the GSA surplus sales center at 6808 Loisdale Road in Springfield (near Springfield Mall). They are open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon, and have lots of stuff there to sell. Prices are comparable to yard sales: desks \$25, tables \$20, file cabinets \$30, bookcases \$13, etc. Sometimes they have computer sales as well. For best selection, be there when the doors open. Info number is (703) 557-7796.

## Barcroft Renovation Vote Delayed Until Fall

The June meeting to vote on renovations was postponed due to delays in getting contractor bids. We plan to give a brief update on the renovation plans at the July 4th parade. The actual community vote is now planned for the September Barcroft School and Civic League meeting.

Planned renovations include replacing the heating and electrical systems, adding air conditioning, adding a restroom on the main floor, remodeling the kitchen, removing the ceiling in the meeting hall to expose the original ceiling, and replacing the current walls with drywall. Depending on funds availability, we also plan to expose the original oak floors and make the building handicapped-accessible.



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GARDENING CONSULTATION

## Plan for 7th Street Dead-End Still Tied Up

Some months ago the County proposed a design for improving the dead end where Seventh Street ends at Four Mile Run park. This responds to our request for erosion control in the area, and for widening the street to full width to accommodate an unnecessarily tight street end. The tightness is made worse by the placement of a fire hydrant immediately beside the last driveway on the street. We rejected the first design, which would have placed a turnaround in the area between the end of the street and the trail.

The County has come back with a second design which does a little less damage to the park, but would still result in extending the street about 20 yards further into the park, removing the first row of trees that provide separation for the bike trail from the street. It looks like it's back to the drawing board.

If you want to comment, please take a look at the County's stakes and call David Michaelson at 553-3953 or drop Randy Swart an email to [randy@bhsi.org](mailto:randy@bhsi.org).

## New Group Will Help Tend Four Mile Run

A new group is forming to support the care and feeding of Four Mile Run. The Friends are headed up by Don Waye, whose phone number is 642-0700. You can also find out about the group from Scott Allard (521-0825 or email to [scotta@dgsys.com](mailto:scotta@dgsys.com)).

*(continued from page 3)*

the W&OD trail was converted from an abandoned railway line in the early 1980s. Today the site is marked with a small stand of dead trees, drying mud, and new vegetation.

Sparrow Swamp likely began as a small wetland when two drainage pipes under the trail's berm became clogged. The site became more established sometime during the early to mid-1980s when beavers built a lodge, diverting stream flow along a small tributary to Four Mile Run. (The tributary runs between South Abingdon Street and South Park Drive. Former longtime Barcrofter Susan Christopher reports this stream may have been called "Doc's Run." Anyone have any information about this?)

Although beavers build ponds for free, human-built wetlands cost a bit more. According to Zell, the minimum cost for a replacement to Sparrow Swamp would be around \$106,500. If the \$52,000 EPA grant is approved, the county would need to match it. The difference would likely come from scarce undesignated county funds. For this reason, citizen support of the restoration project is critical.

BSCL President Jim Kerr contacted Zell and learned that water migration from the swamp through the bike path was leaching soil and potentially causing structural damage to the bike path. Other utilities in danger besides the power lines include a sanitary sewer and a major communications cable. It is rumored that the communications cable carries air traffic control signals for the entire east coast.

The least expensive solution would entail digging a pond away from the bike

path. At the May meeting the BSCL membership voted to support the grant proposal to reestablish Sparrow Swamp. A letter was sent to County Board Chairman Jim Hunter in support of providing funds.

## New Farmer's Market On Sundays in S. Arl.

South Arlington now has its own farmer's market. Beginning in June, there will be a farmer's market on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. one block south of Columbia Pike on Walter Reed Drive. The market is jointly sponsored by CPRO and the Uncommon Market. For information, call 892-2776.

### Barcroft Exchange

**FOR SALE.** We got the wrong size! Must sell brand new natural cherry bathroom cabinet and cultured marble sinktop. 27 inches by 21 inches. If interested, please call Pat or Kevin Vincent at 486-1493.

**FOR SALE.** Children's items, including Childcraft crib with mattress, Big Wheel bike, tricycle, umbrella stroller and Fisher-Price roller skates. Call Sherry Gonzalez at 920-3145.

**FOR SALE.** Solid oak desk, 2' X 3', two drawers and a shelf. Queen size brass bed, mattress and box spring. Smith Corolla electric typewriter. Call 979-8366 and leave message.

**COMPUTER HELP WANTED.** Traveling Barcrofter consultant needs occasional administrative help. Is there a neighbor with a DOS computer who would like to work a few hours per month on billing, correspondence, etc.? Your house or mine. Children are welcome. Call Elaine Heumann Gurian at 920-4077. Or send email to [egurian@ix.netcom.com](mailto:egurian@ix.netcom.com)

**FOR SALE.** 2 wall mirrors, 3 1/2' by 6' and 4' by 6'. Looks nice above your mantelpiece or in the rec room. \$100 to \$125. Call 271-9743.

**BSCL Presents**

# **4th of July Parade !**

**Marchers (with 'floats', in costume or not) gather  
at the Community House, 800 S. Buchanan**

**Thursday, July 4, 10 a.m.**

**Picnic and other events following parade  
at the Community House.**

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Barcroft School and Civic League  
800 South Buchanan Street  
Arlington, VA 22204

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