



BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 96, No 3

November 1998

November Meeting: For Peace's Sake, Slow Down!

During 1997, Barcroft conducted a survey of residents about traffic through the neighborhood. The majority of respondents cited speeding as the priority problem. The streets mentioned were Pershing and Buchanan, Abingdon, Wakefield, Taylor, 4th Street and 6th Street. On November 5 the BSCL will hold a working meeting to discuss traffic calming measures.

In preparation for this meeting, the Traffic Committee has for months researched what other communities have found successful, what the requirements are, and what is involved technically. On September 21, it met with Jeff Sikes at the County Traffic Planning office to preview six measures the Committee selected as possibilities to slow traffic in Barcroft. It

appears that the most practical way to reduce speed would be humps and perhaps nubs. Of course, before considering any measures in any neighborhood, the County needs to determine that there is statistically the problem with speed that was observed by the residents. Data collection mechanisms recently purchased in Australia were put in place at our request and the following information was gathered on September 28: the number of vehicles passing on various neighborhood streets, their speed, and type of vehicle: car, van, truck, and other information. This data should be analyzed and ready for our November 5 meeting. In addition, we ask Barcrofters to visit two places to see humps and nubs. Humps are now in place on N. 26th Street between Harrison Street and George Mason Drive. Nubs are located on South 2nd Street east from Fillmore and on Pershing Drive between Glebe Road and Washington Blvd. It is strongly suggested that residents visit these sites during the coming week prior to the

BSCL meeting. Attend the November 5 meeting if you have questions or concerns about traffic in our neighborhood.

October Meeting Report: Arlington Parks

Arlington County parks designer Chris Munson, who has labored patiently to put the Arlington Hall park together to suit our neighborhood, appeared at the October BCSL meeting. He presented the playground equipment that is the last design question, and received enthusiastic approval. The color choice (bright vs. muted) is still to be made by the group of neighbors he has been working with. Many adults present were thinking muted, but a child in the audience saw the colorful photos and reacted with such spontaneous joy that we began to reconsider. Chris Munson is the most competent and neighborhood-sensitive County official we have had the pleasure of working with in recent years.

Steve Coffee of Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment presented their concept for interpretive displays on Chesapeake Bay conservation at our park on Columbia Pike and Four Mile Run. ACE has limited funds for the displays, but not for general park improvements. The Barcrofters present approved the theme and voted to apply for Neighborhood Conservation funds to grade and landscape the park. TJ Murphy of 7th Street (486-1734) has taken on the task of working with ACE on this project, and David Michaelson has applied

to NCAC for the funding and for design help. After police appeals for pruning of brush at the park, Barcrofters began a cleanup there in early October. The County responded and finished the job, reducing recent problems with vagrants whose trash, feces and drunken presence were denying the park to community use.

Henderson Road and Route 50: Too Close to Home!

The most important traffic issue this month is unhappy news: one of our own neighbors died earlier this year after an accident on Route 50 and Henderson Road.

A Barcrofter of 30 years, CDR Bernard (Bert) M. Kassell, USN (Ret.) was broadsided as he was driving across Arlington Boulevard. The truck driver that hit him was later convicted of speeding and running the red light. This driver not only struck Mr. Kassell but careened and then hit a second car at the intersection. On March 11, the Commander passed away, after a month's hospitalization. Ironically, Commander Kassell had taken the time last October to type a thoughtful response to the Traffic Survey. He also used to warn his wife never to venture on to Route 50 at the change of light until she saw that traffic had stopped. We are very sorry that he died in such circumstances.

CDR Kassell's death is not the only one which has occurred this year in the immediate areas as the result of a failure to obey a red light on Route 50. In June a woman was killed at the intersection of Manchester Street and Route 50 when an individual ran a red light on route 50.

These wrecks should make us angry about all carelessness – including our own -- on the road and leave us impatient with traffic committees, traffic engineering, etc. So...what can be done? As frustrating as it is, it is back to the committee, traffic planning, and step-by-step efforts to demand responsible driving.

There are three initiatives being taken regarding speeding and traffic lights. The committee has submitted to the BSCL a letter to the Virginia Department of Transportation requesting signs east and west of that intersection to alert drivers that a traffic light is immediately ahead. In Arlington, off-duty officers may sign on to various sites for the same purpose; we will have Officer Thomasson covering Henderson and Route 50 the month of October.

Volunteer Personal Financial Counselors Needed

Help a fellow Northern Virginia identify goals, organize financial records, develop a spending plan, or get debt under control. Virginia Cooperative Extension provides training and manages the program. Training will be on Wednesday evenings,

January 6 through February 10, 1999, from 6:30 p.m. till 9:30 p.m. Call 228-6417 to volunteer or for more information, contact: Extension Agent, Management, Housing & Consumer Education
Unit Coordinator
3308 South Stafford Street
Arlington, VA 22206-1904
703/228-6417 FAX 703-228-6407
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Deadlines: 1st (ads) or 10th (editorial material)
day of the month preceding the issue month.

BSCL Officers for 1999-1999

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Crime Resistance Help keep us safe!
Neigh. Conserv. David Michaelson, 553-3953
Signs Manager Jack Turner
Traffic Committee Elaine Squeri 920-7014
Parade Andrew Hunter 979-8247

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Barcroft School

November

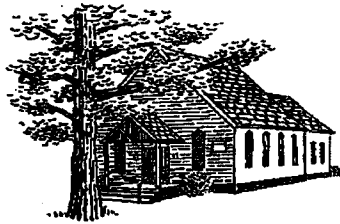
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and Civic League: umber 1998

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	13	14 Barcroft Fall Festival
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**Want to Dance, Eat
 Birthday Cake, or Toast the
 Wedding Couple?**

**You can do these things, and
 more, on a budget, at the
 Barcroft Community House**



**Large space, small rental fee;
 Sparkling new kitchen & restroom**

Call Tom at 979-8366

**Special Low Rates for BSCL
 Members!**

Sunny Neighborhood Day: Barcroft Celebrates!

On October 3rd Barcroft got in the spirit of Neighborhood Day in a big way. The Barcroft Elementary PTA organized a school tour and potluck that featured some great food (who made that mushroom quiche?) and fun with balloons and pictures with McGruff the Crime-Stopper Dog. David Michaelson and the BSCL provided the barbecued sausages--mmmmmm.

In the afternoon the same balloons showed up attached to the Barcroft Imprecision Lawnmower Drill Team, the hit of the County parade. This was the Imprecision unit, not the Precision unit from 8th Road. The maneuvers were a little ragged, but they had great fun blowing their whistles and chasing each other around the circle, and the drum major's gas-can bonnet and chromed leaf rake mace were worth the trip. Participants were Phil Cackley, Karen Darnier, Bill and Nancy Huddleston, Jim Kerr, Elinor Schwartz and Randy Swart.

Annual Barcroft Fall Festival: Coming Soon!

On Saturday, November 14th, starting at 3 p.m. BSCL will hold it's Second Annual Fall Festival. Some of the finest chefs in Barcroft will prepare roasted pork, barbecue chicken and hot dogs. Beans, salads, soda and beer will also be included.

The day will consist of music, children's games and face painting.

This is one in a series of fund raisers to benefit the renovation fund for the Community House. Admission will be charged for food. To make this event a success we need your help with the following:

Food - Baked beans, Cole slaw, potato salad, green salad, macaroni salad, cakes, desserts

Children's Games - 2-3 adults to help run and supervise

Set Up - 6 adults and/or teenagers to help set up tables, chairs, set out food, decorate, put up signs.

Clean Up - 6 adults and/or teenagers to help break down tables and chairs, clean up the yard, and bag the trash.

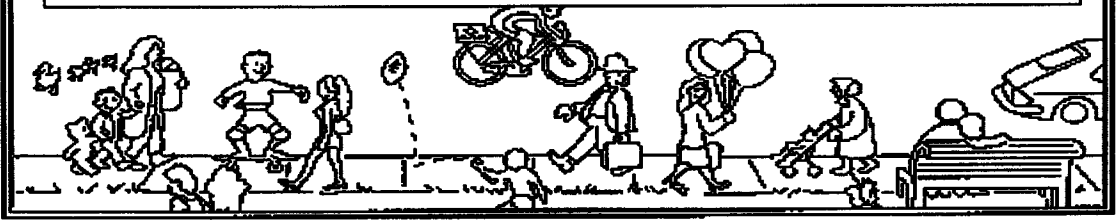
If you would like to join in on the fun and help make this Fall Festival a roaring success please call Tom Palance at 979-8366.

Come out to the Community House and Join Your Neighbors For Good Food and Good Fun.

Stay at Home Parents

Interested in getting together with other stay-at-home parents and children during the day for play groups? Lisa Rom would like to organize a regular play group in the Barcroft Community Center. Please call her at 486-2983 if you would like to participate or want additional information.

Around the Neighborhood with Kathy Kerr



Deepest condolences to the family and friends of Bert Kassell on 9th St. S. who passed away March 11, 1998. On February 12 he was crossing Route 50 from Henderson Rd. when his car was struck by a red light runner

Bert was 85 years old and was incredibly fit and active. Having never lost the discipline of being in the army, he took care of himself. As a senior competitive swimmer he swam 3-4 times a week and always participated in the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, bringing home gold and silver medals. (He was interviewed for a story in the Barcroft News a few years ago about his swimming successes.)

Together with his wife, Ann, Bert ran his own business translating documents for the government from Russian into English or French. He only recently retired. Ann, who was the bookkeeper, describes him as a brilliant man. He was also a volunteer

docent at the Museum of Natural History for 14 years.

An active Barcroft resident for 30 years, Bert helped get improved lighting for 9th St. S. Ann thanks her marvelous neighbors for their continuing support and assistance. Special thanks to the Stern teens who put out her trash each week.

Crime Report

September 24. 600 Block S. Wakefield. Televisions and VCR stolen from Barcroft Elementary School.

September 28. 900 Block S. Buchanan. Car window smashed and items taken.

September 29. 4400 Block Arlington Blvd. License plate stolen

October 3. 900 Block S. Buchanan. Stabbing.

October 4. 900 Block S. George Mason. Assault on male; car windows broken.

October 9. 900 Block S. Wakefield. Four tires/rims stolen from car.

Events November Events November Events

November 2, Monday ⇒ **Retirement Planning Seminar**, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St.

November 5, Thursday ⇒ **BSCL Meeting**, 7:30 p.m. Barcroft Community House, 800 S. Buchanan St. Discussion of Traffic Calming Measures

November 14, Saturday ⇒ **Barcroft Fall Festival**, 3:00 p.m. Barcroft Community House, 800 S. Buchanan St. Call Tom Palance at 979-8366 to volunteer.

Tuesdays and Thursdays ⇒ **Hatha Yoga Classes**, 6:30 p.m., Barcroft Community Center. For further information, call Ishwari at 703-998-0813.



Barcroft School and Civic League

800 South Buchanan Street

Arlington, VA 22204

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