

The NEWCOMER

Lake Barcroft Newcomers' Club Newsletter



March 2007

March 23
May 4
May 12

Hail Spring! Happy Hour
Tequila Tasting
Sand Day

6:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.
Setup in a.m.



Chili cookoff winners pose with certificates and trophies. Top row (l to r): Lisa Lee, Shawn Cooley, Todd West, Heather Thomas, Miranda Thomas. Bottom row (l to r): Chun Rhee, Jerry Ellig, Sam West.

Next Event: "Hail Spring!" Happy Hour

When: March 23, 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Where: Home of Ron and Wilma Kaplan
6410 Crosswoods Dr.
Cost: \$7.00 members, \$10.00 non-members
RSVP: John McManus, jcmeman@yahoo.com
703-671-4190

Had enough cold weather? Welcome in spring with a low-key, "beer and pizza" happy hour. Just to make things interesting, we'll order pizza from several local locations! (A profile of the hosts appears on page 2.)

Chili Cookoff Warms February

About 60 neighbors turned out to sample a diverse array of chilis and cornbreads at the Newcomers' Club's chili cookoff on February 10. Kathy and Nolan Stokes, who moved to the lake just last summer, hosted the event at their home on Waterway Drive. (A profile of the hosts appears on page 2.)

Todd and Sam West took home the "Best in Show" trophy for their "Andou-mi Chili," made with andouille sausage. Five different animals were represented in the chili competition: beef, venison, turkey, pork, and lamb (the latter two in the andouille). Club President Miranda Thomas received top cornbread honors. She bested half a dozen competitors that ranged from cornbread homemade in a cast iron skillet to a box of Trader Joe's mix.

In addition to our hosts, special thanks go to the committee that put this event together: Miranda Thomas, John McManus, Joe Pisciotta, Colleen Coyle, Chris Lyons, Trish Gomersall, Kim Mills, Heather Thomas, Matt Friedman, and Warren Russell.

Coming in May ...

Get a head start on Cinco de Mayo with the Newcomers' Club's "Cuatro de Mayo" tequila tasting, to be held at the home of Todd and Sam West. Watch your e-mail and Lakelink for details.

Chili Cookoff Winners

Best in Show:	"Andou-mi Chili" Todd and Sam West
Best in Show Runner-Up:	"Rhee-Lee Good Chili" Chun Rhee and Lisa Lee
Most Creative:	"Oh Deer, Where Did That Wine Go?" Heather Thomas and Kent Christian
Hottest Chili:	"Meatnormous Jalapeno Surprise" Shawn and Krista Cooley
Best Non-Traditional:	"My Mom's Chili Recipe" Jerry Ellig
Best Cornbread:	"Roasted Red Pepper Cornbread" Miranda Thomas



Chili on display (l to r): "Six Pack Smokin' Chili," "Oh Deer, Where Did That Wine Go?," "My Mom's Chili Recipe," "Milli Vanilli White Bean Chili (Sync Your Lips Into It)," and "MO's Heart-Throbbing, Mouth-Watering Texas Chili." Not pictured: "Barger House Chili."

Meet Your Event Hosts ...

March Happy Hour: Ron and Wilma Kaplan

Arriving in April 2005, Ron and Wilma Kaplan are relatively new to Lake Barcroft -- but not to the Washington, DC, area. For the previous 39 years, they lived in southern Maryland. Their Maryland neighborhood was a new development when they moved in, full of young families who remained for decades and built a strong community.

Many of their friends retired and moved away, but Ron decided he wasn't ready to retire. Since 1977, Ron and Wilma have owned Ayers Hardware in the Westover Shopping Center on North Washington Blvd., which they manage along with their son and daughter.

Ron hails from Washington, DC, and Wilma from Evansville, IN. They met when Wilma's date took her to a party on the boat in Washington Harbor that Ron called home. Wilma jokes, "I went to a party on his boat and never left!"

When Ron and Wilma aren't managing the store, they're often traveling. Recent vacations range from camping in Egypt's White Desert to meandering along back roads through American small towns. Wilma missed most of the cold weather last month because she traveled south to enjoy Antarctica's balmy 50-degree summer.

Chili Cookoff: Nolan and Kathy Stokes



Editor's Note: We typically run a profile of the hosts prior to Newcomer events, but slipped up this time. Sorry for the oversight!

Kathy and Nolan Stokes, hosts of the Newcomers Chili Cookoff in February, are quite new to the lake themselves, having moved to their Waterway Drive home in May. Thanks to Nolan's background as son of an architect/builder, they closed on their house on April 29 and in two short weeks, removed multiple walls, installed an entire new kitchen and redid the floors. When they're not busy with their son Ryker,

Why did you move to Lake Barcroft?

"When we were looking for houses near the store, we discovered few ramblers will hold 39 years of treasures. When we saw this house, we said, 'OK, our stuff will fit, let's take it.'"

What's your most memorable experience in the neighborhood?

"Meeting people and sharing with them. Also seeing the fox that crosses the street in front of our house."

What's the best kept local secret?

"There are two. Lake Barcroft and Westover, where our store is located, are only 3 miles away. But 90 percent of the people in Lake Barcroft have never heard of Westover, and 90 percent of the people in Westover have never heard of Lake Barcroft!"

What's your favorite cocktail?

Wilma: "Gin on the rocks."

Ron: "Gin and tonic is nice, but I'm mostly a beer drinker."

6, and daughter Lelia, 5, Kathy is an attorney and Nolan is a certified financial planner and investment adviser. Nolan is a local boy, born in Washington, while Kathy hails originally from Oak Ridge, Tenn. The two met 20 years ago when they were students at American University. They spoke to the Newcomers Newsletter on a recent snowy afternoon.

Why did you move to Lake Barcroft?

Nolan: Because my wife wanted to. We have a saying in my family: "Happy wife, happy life."

Kathy: "I had taken our kids to a birthday party in the neighborhood when a bald eagle – I swear – flew out of the sky and grabbed a squirrel in front of me. ... This is an oasis. Who knew it was here? We lived in Arlington for 15 years, and it was so congested. We wanted more peace and quiet ... a sense of community for the kids."

What's your favorite local restaurant?

Nolan: Moe's – that little taco and burrito place.

Kathy: We don't eat out much. We probably order more pizza for the kids.

What's your most memorable experience in the neighborhood?

Nolan: I would just say later afternoon happy hour on the lake in front of the dam. The sun's going down and we're

-- Chili cookoff hosts (continued from page 2)

jumping off the pontoon boat. It's unbelievable that this is even possible this close to Washington.

Kathy: Just after we closed on the house, Andy Cambern (a real estate agent in the lake and a former Newcomer who died suddenly last year) bought our kids fishing poles. They must've caught 15 fish just from the dock. It was just great.

What's the best kept local secret?

Nolan: It's the bass fishing. It's unbelievably good. I've caught more bass here in the eight months I've lived here than I caught in my whole life combined.

What's your favorite cocktail?

Nolan: Sam Adams on tap from the new Kegerator (thanks to Sam and Todd West's advice).

Kathy: Vodka tonics on the beach are pretty nice.

How do you think the Chili Cookoff went?

Nolan: I thought it was great. There are so many friendly people in the neighborhood, I want to do it again.

-- Kim Mills

Receiving This Newsletter

E-mail distribution allows the Newcomers' Club to provide a more timely, higher-quality newsletter at lower cost. If you need to add or update your email address, please notify us at lbnewcomers@gmail.com.

Newcomers' Board

Club members elected the following board members at the holiday party. Board members serve staggered terms to promote continuity.

At-large Board membership is also open to club members who volunteer to coordinate events or take on other important club functions.

President (2008)	Miranda Thomas randa777@yahoo.com 703-942-5775
Vice President (2007)	John McManus jcmcman@yahoo.com 703-671-4190
Treasurer (2008)	Warren Russell russelljw@cox.net 703-750-0596
Hospitality (2008)	Trish Gomersall pgomersall@cftc.gov 703-941-3322
Membership (2007)	Heather Thomas Heather@Wydlerbrothers.com
Welcome Bags	Sandy Chiong (2007) sandythebeachbum@yahoo.com 703-941-4790
Newsletter Editor (2007)	Jerry Ellig jellig@yahoo.com 703-941-4790
At Large	Joe Pisciotta Joe@Americanspiritcc.com 703-914-1453

Lake Barcroft Newcomers' Club Membership Form

Dues for the fiscal year are \$20 per household for Sept 2006 - Sept 2007.

Make checks (in \$US) payable to LB Newcomers.

Members receive discounted admission to most Club events.

Mail to Heather Thomas, 3319 Stoneybrae Drive, Falls Church, VA, 22044.

Names of Household Members:

Street Address:

Falls Church, VA

Zip Code: _____

Phone(s):

E-mail(s):

Is this a new membership? Yes No

New Member Move-In Date:

Volunteers Needed!

I want to pitch in to help make the Newcomers' Club go! Please contact me about:

- Helping with drop-off of gift bags and greeting new neighbors
- Hosting an event in our home (Club brings all supplies and provides setup/clean-up)
- Coordinating an event
- Assisting with setup/cleanup and/or other logistics involved with an event
- Writing, photography, or other work on the Newcomer's Club's newsletter
- Other (Be creative! How can you help?)