



## Bluemont Civic Association

*Representing Neighborhoods in and around Arlington Traditional School, Lacey Woods Park, Bon Air, Fields Park, Balls Crossing, West Ballston, and all along the former Bluemont Division of the Washington and Old Dominion Railroad*

**P.O. Box 5134 Arlington, Virginia 22205**  
[www.bluemontcivic.org](http://www.bluemontcivic.org)

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Arlington, VA  
March 4, 2013

Ms. Avis E. Black  
Area Real Estate Manager  
Eastern Division  
Safeway Inc.  
4551 Forbes Blvd.  
Lanham, MD 20706

Dear Ms. Black:

This past week, many in our neighborhood noticed that there were workmen taking soil samples with a drilling rig in the Bluemont Safeway parking lot. This apparent sign of movement toward the redevelopment of that store is the occasion for this letter.

As you are aware, the Bluemont neighborhood is overwhelmingly comprised of single-family and other low-density housing. Indeed, with the exception of the edge development along Glebe Road in Ballston, there are currently no commercial buildings above two stories in the Bluemont neighborhood. The residents of Bluemont highly value this community characteristic and the lifestyle associated with it. Many believe that a tall commercial building would be out of character in Bluemont, particularly when it is immediately adjacent to single-family residential homes. This important point has been emphasized in two recent surveys of Bluemont residents.

The residents of Bluemont have enjoyed and benefited from the location of the Safeway grocery store on Wilson Blvd and strongly support the modernization of that store and the possible addition of additional retail and services to the location. We consider Safeway to be an important part of our community and want that relationship to continue, therefore we were particularly reassured to hear from Safeway officials in December at our Town Hall meeting that Safeway plans to modernize the store under any circumstance.

At the meeting you attended with our Safeway Task Force last summer, you assured us that Safeway would be in direct contact with our civic association and our citizens as planning for this redevelopment proceeded. This sentiment was echoed by the Safeway representatives in attendance at our December 10<sup>th</sup> Town Hall meeting on the issue.

The Bluemont Civic Association looks forward to working with you and others at Safeway toward the goal of building a better Safeway store while maintaining the character of the Bluemont neighborhood.

Sincerely yours,

*-signed-*

George Rovder  
President, Bluemont Civic Association

Also signed by the following Officers:

Mark Haynes, First Vice President and Acting Secretary  
Dan Laredo, Second Vice President  
Nancy O'Doherty, Treasurer  
Larry Smith, Neighborhood Conservation Representative

Cc:

Mr. J. Walter Tejada  
Mr. Jay Fisette  
Ms. Libby Garvey  
Mr. Mary Hughes Hynes  
Mr. Christopher Zimmerman  
Mr. Tom Miller, Arlington County Planning Supervisor  
Mr. Craig Muckle, Manager, Public Affairs and Government Relations, Safeway