

Bluemont Remembers

Excerpts from the Arlington County Public Library Oral History Interview in 1989 of Ms. Sarah B. Brugh.

Interviewer:

...We have a map in front of us that shows Stonewall Jackson [school, now Arlington Traditional School]. It's a 1938 map of Arlington County and index of streets and what-not.

Ms. Brugh:

The farmhouse was down on Wilson Boulevard right there where McDonald's is now. There was a farm there. Pastures, they had a barn and the pasture was right behind the barn that came up by the school...

Then when George Mason [Drive] was built it was on the last addition that they put the principal's office, the nurse's office, the conference room and the gymnasium...When I first came to Arlington, I walked along the cornfield which is now the Stonewall Jackson ballfield playground.

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BCA Calendar - Meetings & Events

*unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held at the Arlington Traditional School Multi-purpose room, 855 North Edison Street, at 7:00 p.m.

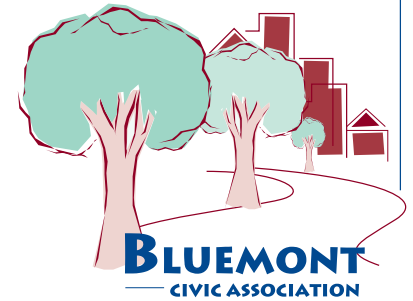
Wed., Nov. 28 General Meeting

Tues., Dec. 11 Executive Committee meeting
(All Welcome)

Wed., Jan. 23 General Meeting

Tues., Feb. 12 Executive Committee meeting
(All Welcome)

Wed., Jan. 23 General Meeting



November, 2001

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<http://members.nbci.com/bluemont/>

BCA To Vote on Wilson Boulevard Median

At the November 28 meeting of the Bluemont Civic Association (BCA), members will decide whether to approve the construction of a landscaped median and curb extensions on Wilson Boulevard near the Safeway. Arlington County staff has proposed these projects in response to the BCA's request for safety improvements on Bluemont's "Main Street."

Ritch Viola, a deputy planning director with the Arlington Department of Public Works, will present initial plans at the meeting. According to Mr. Viola, a median wide enough to plant trees and shrubs could be built in Wilson Boulevard west of Emerson Street.

Mr. Viola also proposes the construction of curb nubs to reduce the length of the crosswalks at Emerson Street and at Edison Street, and median islands in front of the 7-11. The median islands would feature turn pockets to allow for left turns in and out of the Safeway and the 7-11.

Wilson Boulevard Revitalization

At the November 28 meeting of the Bluemont Civic Association (BCA), Bob Rulli of the Arlington County Economic Development office will lead a discussion of the Wilson Boulevard commercial area. Mr. Rulli will describe County programs that have been used to help revitalize neighborhood commercial areas such as Cherrydale and Westover.

The 1999 Bluemont Neighborhood Conservation Plan recommends making Wilson Boulevard more of a traditional town center that pulls together the community. At the same time, the plan voices support for existing businesses and a desire not to see Bluemont become a continuation of the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor.

A BCA committee is examining how to make the Wilson Boulevard commercial area cohesive, attractive, and accessible. To help, contact Carl Hallinan, carl.hallinan@home.com 812-4797

BCA Votes for Photo Speed Radar

The Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) is urging Arlington County officials to seek authority from the Virginia legislature to use photo radar to enforce speed limits. The BCA voted to make this request at its October 24 meeting. The BCA vote followed a discussion led by officers from the Arlington County Police Department. The officers noted that 13,500 people are killed in the U.S. each year in speed-related crashes. They acknowledged that speeding traffic on Wilson Boulevard and other arterial roads is endemic. Limited resources, they said, constrain police enforcement efforts.

Speed cameras are now in use in several U.S. jurisdictions, including the District of Columbia. Photo enforcement uses radar-triggered cameras to photograph the license plates of vehicles that exceed a threshold speed.

Radar, continued next column

Radar, continued

Arlington County currently has the authority to use cameras to identify vehicles that run red lights. The use of cameras to photograph speeding vehicles would require additional authority from the State legislature.

The Arlington County Civic Federation on November 13, at the request of a BCA representative, voted to encourage Arlington County to seek legislative authority to use photo speed radar.

Historic Reeves Farm

At the November 28 meeting, BCA members will consider ideas for the use of the Reeves Farm property, adjacent to Bluemont Park. The property, which once contained the last working farm in Arlington, was recently purchased by Arlington County. A house, a garage, and a former farm structure are on the site. Much of the former Reeves farm is already a part of Bluemont Park.

Glebe Road Pedestrian Safety

At the November 28 Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) meeting, members will decide whether to encourage the use of escrowed funds to make recommended safety improvements on North Glebe Road.

The funds are currently being held for the construction of a pedestrian bridge over Glebe Road at Carlin Springs Road. However, the bridge project, originally planned in the 1960's, has been delayed indefinitely pending the redevelopment of the southwest corner of Glebe and Carlin Springs Road and other procedural issues.

The Arlington Pedestrian Advisory Committee recently voted to devote some of the escrowed bridge funds to pay for pedestrian safety improvements to various locations along Glebe Road.

Glebe Road, continued next column

Glebe Road, continued

The BCA has been working with County officials for several years in an effort to make Glebe Road safer for pedestrians. The County has secured funds for safety improvement designs. However, funding for construction has not yet been secured.

Other News

- The Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) in October voted to work with Arlington County to identify funds to complete the **Bluemont Junction Railroad Display** in Bluemont Park.
- The **Harrison Street sidewalk project** (between Wilson and Washington Boulevards) is expected to be approved for Neighborhood Conservation program funding in December 2001. Sidewalk construction would probably not begin before 2003. Harrison Street is also expected to become eligible for traffic calming project funding sometime next year.
- **St. Ann's Church** will present to the BCA in the coming months a revised plan for the reconstruction of one or more buildings on the church property. BCA representatives have been working with St. Ann's to ensure that the views of the neighborhood are reflected in the plan.

Neighborhood residents are always welcome to contact an officer of the BCA with concerns, questions, or comments on any neighborhood matter. Officers' contact information can be found in this newsletter.

Ring the Bell!

The next community bell ringings will be at midnight on New Year's Eve, and at noon on Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 21. The Constitutional Bicentennial Bell is located at Wilson Boulevard and George Mason Drive.

BCA Annual Membership Renewal Form

Dear Neighbor,

All Bluemont Civic Association memberships must be renewed in December. We hope that you will take a moment now to join us for an additional year.

The Bluemont Civic Association is the only organization working exclusively on behalf of you and all Bluemont residents. We are your friends and neighbors, striving to make our streets safe, enhance our parks and preserve our environment, protect property values and build a stronger sense of community. Among our activities and accomplishments are:

- An active campaign to make the Wilson Boulevard commercial area more attractive and community-oriented;
- Approved sidewalk projects and/or traffic calming projects for Washington Boulevard, 10th Street, Jefferson Street, Kensington Street, and Harrison Street;
- Historic preservation projects;
- Park enhancements;
- The annual Halloween Parade and Arlington Candidates Night;
- Coordination with police and County officials on issues including crime, code enforcement, infill development, pedestrian safety, and schools;
- The BCA newsletter.

Please take a moment now to renew your membership. Update the information below, make any corrections to the mailing label on the back of this form, and return this with a check for \$12.00, payable Bluemont Civic Association, P.O. Box 5134, Arlington, VA 22205.

E-mail address (for news on urgent issues) _____

Telephone number _____



Bluemont Civic Association

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Arlington, VA 22205