

BCA News

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Workshops on Bluemont's Arterial Roads

Could Wilson Boulevard and South Carlin Springs Road be safer and more attractive? Could these roads better serve neighborhood residents and commuters alike? All interested in these questions are encouraged to attend the Wilson Boulevard Arterial Transportation Management Visioning Workshop on Tuesday, October 7, 2003 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at Ashlawn School, 5950 8th Road North.

Bluemont residents may also wish to attend the South Carlin Springs Road Visioning Workshop on Wednesday, October 8, 2003 at 7:00 to 9:00 PM at Campbell School, 737 South Carlin Springs Road.

The workshops are the first steps under the County's new Arterial Transportation Management (ATM) Study. The ATM is intended to develop strategies and measures to manage transportation and improve safety along arterial streets. Wilson Boulevard (west of George Mason Drive) and Carlin Springs Road (south of Kensington Street) have been selected as one of three initial ATM case studies.

The October 7 Wilson Boulevard workshop and the October 8 South Carlin Springs workshop will be followed in the coming months by a community walk-through and a concept design workshop. A consultant, the transportation firm Kimley-Horne, will develop and present preferred alternative design concepts for Wilson Boulevard and South Carlin Springs Road.

In March 2001, the Bluemont Civic Association voted to ask the County to consider reconfiguring Wilson Boulevard in an effort to improve pedestrian safety and reduce speeding, while maintaining traffic flow. The ATM study was initiated in part as a response to such requests from the BCA and other Arlington civic associations.

Questions? Contact BCA Wilson Boulevard
Committee Chair Bob Waffle
(rwaffle@comcast.net; 358-9448). ■

BCA Bylaws Vote

At the September 24 Bluemont Civic Association General Membership meeting (7:00 p.m. at Arlington Traditional School), members will be asked to vote on a series of proposed amendments to the Association's Bylaws. To facilitate this process, the BCA Executive Board has categorized the proposed changes and made recommendations. The amendments fall into three categories: 1) editorial changes (e.g., grammar, consistency); 2) changes that improve clarity but are not substantive; 3) substantive changes. The proposed changes were mailed to all BCA members in August. ■

BCA's New Tool for Rapid Communication

Currently, BCA is working on an electronic announcement list for Association members. If you haven't already received your invitation to join, you should get one soon. We urge all members to join the list. Joining is easy. Simply hit the "reply" button on your e-mail screen and you will be added to the list. (If you don't want to join, do nothing but delete the invitation.)

The new e-list will enable the president and executive board to deliver important time-sensitive information electronically. This list is a one-way delivery device (meaning it is not a discussion list). It does not replace the newsletter and is not designed to provide comprehensive information on all civic association activities. (The intent is to avoid overwhelming members with e-mail.)

The BCA e-list is a private, members-only list. It is not advertised publicly by Topica, the list's service provider. And, list members will not be able to view the addresses of other list members (to discourage the "harvesting" of e-mail addresses).

If you have not yet provided your e-mail address to the Association or if you have changed your e-mail address, please contact Suzanne Sundburg at pro.wordsmith@verizon.net to update your information. ■

News Briefs

9th Street Development Update: The Unified Residential Development project on 9th Street is progressing. The forms and footers had been poured for one house and the other three foundations are underway. The timeframe for construction will likely be about six months.

New Bus Service in Bluemont: A new Arlington Transit (ART) route began serving our neighborhood on September 7. The new route, #75, runs from the Ballston Metro to Wakefield, traveling along Wilson Boulevard to Carlin Springs Road via Jefferson Street, 7th Street, and Kensington Street. Service is every 30 minutes from 6AM to 7PM. The regular fare is \$1.20. For more details on this new route, go to <http://www.commuterpage.com/schedules/> and click on 'Arlington Transit' or call 703-228-RIDE.

Here's your chance to help out: A volunteer is needed to distribute newsletters twice a year to residents in the section of our neighborhood near Ballston. This is a great way to meet your neighbors and get some exercise. If you can spare a few hours a year, please contact Judy Collins at 703-276-0124, or email jc.swings@verizon.net.

Have you visited the caboose lately? If not, this weekend, September 26 and 27, is your last chance to visit the exhibit at the 1972 Southern Railway caboose in Bluemont Park. The exhibit documents the history of the railroad and Bluemont Junction. So stop by (Sat 10-6 and Sun 1-5), chat with the park ranger, and learn more about the history of our neighborhood!

Enhanced Neighborhood Watch

In response to the 9/11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon, the Arlington County Police Dept (ACPD) has begun an enhanced Neighborhood Watch Program. This program is being directed by Capt Tom Panther, ACPD, Office of Emergency Mgmt.

This program is more organized than the traditional neighborhood watch programs. Neighbors on a block are organized into teams led by block captains. The block captains communicate directly with the ACPD and are the primary organizers of the program at the neighborhood level. The primary goal of the program, however, is still the same- neighbors report suspicious activities in their neighborhoods.

Further information on this program may be obtained by calling the ACPD at 703-228-4330.

Local information is available from Louis Martin at 703-243-1991. ■

Warner to Order Study on Widening I-66

Gov. Warner recently said he will direct VDOT to conduct a study to examine ways to improve traffic flow along the I-66 corridor inside the Capital Beltway. The \$1 million study will be limited to the westbound lanes and will include an assessment of the addition of a lane from Rosslyn to Falls Church, as well as other options, including transit, carpool lanes, toll lanes and doing nothing. It will also seek opinions from residents, business groups and officials from Arlington and Fairfax counties.

In June, the Virginia Department of Transportation eliminated \$2.5 million for a much larger study to widen I-66 in both directions. The construction of I-66 cut through several Arlington neighborhoods, and the federal government promised in 1977 not to expand the highway beyond its initial footprint. ■

Bon Air Rose Garden Wins Award

Bon Air Memorial Rose Garden, Arlington, Va., has been presented the All-America Rose Selections' 2002 President's Award. The honor is bestowed annually to one garden, which surpasses AARS's high standards for rose care and presentation. "Bon Air Memorial Rose Garden is a splendid tribute to the Queen of Flowers," said Phil Edmunds, president of AARS. "No where will you find a more stunning display of beauty and tranquility. It is a real asset to the community and a showcase for the world's most loved flower."

AARS public gardens have a minimum of 800 rose bushes and offer special displays of outstanding new varieties chosen by AARS for their beauty, novelty and vigor. Starting each June, the gardens offer an exclusive preview of the coming year's outstanding new varieties. There are 130 plus AARS public gardens located throughout the U.S. AARS is a non-profit association dedicated to the development and promotion of exceptional roses. ■

Basic Gardening Courses Offered

A three-part fall gardening course starts September 17 in Arlington. Titled Fall...for Gardening, the course focuses on important landscape activities for the fall season including Low Maintenance Lawn Care, Fall Garden Tips (Bulbs and Perennial Maintenance in Fall) and Composting. The course is free but registration is required (call 703-228-6414). *(continued, page 3)*

Basic Gardening Course Offered *(continued)*

Courses will emphasize garden and landscape techniques that are bay-friendly and otherwise good for the environment. Designed for beginners to advanced gardeners and newcomers to the area, classes are 1.5 hours each and will be offered at 3 locations.

Wednesday Evenings, 7:30 - 9:00 pm: September 17th (Low Maintenance Lawn Care), October 1 (Fall Garden Tips), October 15 (Let it Rot With Composting) at Fairlington Community Center 3308 S. Stafford Street Arlington, VA

Thursday Evenings, 7:00 - 8:30 pm: September 18th (Low Maintenance Lawn Care), October 2 (Fall Garden Tips), October 16 (Let it Rot With Composting) at William Ramsay Recreation Center 5700 Sanger Avenue Alexandria, VA

Saturday Mornings, 10:30 to Noon: September 20th (Low Maintenance Lawn Care), October 4 (Fall Garden Tips), October 18 (Let it Rot With Composting) at Nature Center- Potomac Overlook Reg. Park 2845 Marcey Road Arlington, VA

The course is offered by Virginia Cooperative Extension, Arlington County Office and the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, Inc. For more information and to download a registration brochure, visit <http://offices.ext.vt.edu/arlington>. Click on newsletters. You may also call the Arlington Extension Office at (703) 228-6414 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ■

Environmental Extravaganza

The Department of Environmental Services will hold its semi-annual collection of household hazardous waste, repairable bicycles, and computers and monitors on Saturday, November 1, from 9a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will be held at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, 123 South Glebe Road, one block east of Glebe Road and one block south of Rt. 50.

Hazardous waste disposal is free. The county does charge a small fee (cash only) for bicycles and computer monitor disposal. They do not pick these items curbside. If you have any questions about what they accept, contact: www.co.arlington.va.us. Click on Dept. of Environmental services. The site has a complete list of items they accept as well as telephone numbers if you need specific information. ■

Resource Group for Arlington Mothers

Mothers of North Arlington (MONA), has recently formed as an independent local resource group for at-home mothers. Membership is now at more than 100 mothers and continues to grow.

The organization's focus is on mothers who primarily stay at home with their children, including those who have home-based businesses or work part-time but are home with their children during the day.

Examples of activities include monthly meetings with parenting-related programs, holiday socials, and outings geared toward children such as park playdates, trips to the zoo, pools and museums, and playgroups from birth on up. In addition, MONA sponsors activity groups that allow members to share similar interests, such as Moms Night Out, a book club, rubber-stamping and a scrapbooking group.

For more information, contact MONA at (866) 248-7670, Ext.1021 or arlnmomsclub@onebox.com or visit www.geocities.com/arlnmomsclub. ■

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