

BCA News

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE! www.bluemontcivic.org

Energy Efficient Lighting Presentation

Learn about energy efficient lighting, and what energy programs Arlington County has to offer! Attend a presentation by John Morrill, Energy Manager for the Arlington County Office of Support Services, at the next BCA general membership meeting, this Wednesday, November 19 in Arlington Traditional School at 7:00 p.m. ■

Speed Activated Light on Wilson Blvd

The new speed-activated light on Wilson Boulevard at Four Mile Run was officially turned on November 1. This light is the first of its type in the County. BCA Wilson Boulevard Committee Chair Bob Waffle and family switched on the light at noon, as Arlington County Board Chairman Paul Ferguson and other officials looked on. Ferguson was instrumental in the selection of the Bluemont site to pilot the use of the traffic-calming device. This installation has been long awaited by the community. The Department of Public Works and the County Arterial Traffic Management (ATM) Workgroup will monitor the light's impact on speed and traffic flow. ■

BCA Loaner Tool Program

Does it make any sense to purchase a tool at your local hardware store and know that it will only be needed once or twice a year? BCA is starting a lending program for hand tools and light machinery. If you wish to participate and have a hand tool or machinery to donate or lend, please contact Judah dal Cais @ jdalcas@comcast.net. ■

Lot Coverage Reduction Proposal

The increasing demand for Arlington real estate has created tremendous pressure for "infill" development, sometimes resulting in enormous houses that cover most of the lot and loom over their neighbors. Such disproportionate structures, sometimes referred to as "McMansions," are not common, but they do pose a problem for the neighborhood.

In response to this concern, the Zoning Ordinance Review Committee (ZORC), a subcommittee of the Arlington Planning Commission, has been examining measures to curb the amount of land that may be covered by impermeable surfaces. Any coverage that prevents water from draining through is considered to be an Impermeable surface. Structures such as houses, garages, paved driveways or concrete walkways are all impermeable surfaces.

Wooden decks and patios made of paver-stones are not.

Several years ago, ZORC and the Arlington County Civic Federation recommended that the Arlington County Board adopt a modest reduction in the percentage of permissible lot coverage from the current 56 percent to 50 percent. Under the proposal, existing structures would be grandfathered under the 56 percent cap. Bluemont Civic Association endorsed the proposal in our 1999 Neighborhood Conservation Plan.

This proposal would not prevent a resident from adding a second story onto an existing home, nor would it preclude modest additions to existing structures. According to the Civic Federation, most lots have well under 50 percent coverage; the suggested cap is intended to prevent the most egregious cases of building excess. Nevertheless, the recommendation is expected to reduce erosion, flooding and silting of waterways caused by storm water runoff, and help preserve the tree canopy within the County.

Several developers have begun lobbying against the proposal, so the Civic Federation asking its member associations to write the County Board in support of the proposal. Accordingly, the matter was introduced at the BCA general membership meeting on October 22. Former President Carl Hallinan made a motion to authorize BCA President Judah dal Cais to write a letter and to testify in support of the proposal. This motion will be voted on by the general membership at the November 19 meeting at Arlington Traditional School. ■

Last Call!! Safeway Opinion Poll

Please send your comments, concerns and requests regarding the Wilson Safeway store to bluemontcivic@comcast.net ASAP. ■

BCA Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. at Arlington Traditional School, 855 N. Edison Street

General Membership meeting, Nov. 19, 7:00 ATS

Executive Board meeting, Dec. 9, 7:00 ATS

General Membership meeting, Dec. 17, 7:00 ATS

Bluemont Civic Association NEWS

BCA Officers

President

jdalcais@comcast.net

First Vice President

martin@nerdvana.fu.com

Second Vice President

ttwrec@aol.com

Neighborhood Conservation

mesches@aol.com

Secretary

Treasurer

Jc.swings@verizon.net

Judah Dal Cais

528-1551

Lou Martin

243-1991

Talmadge Williams

522-5575

Kate Mesches

525-8262

Vacant

Judy Collins

276-0124

BCA Committee Chairs and Representatives

Webmaster

Carla Cathey

Newsletter Editor

Carl Hallinan

Newsletter Distribution

Judy Collins

Wilson Boulevard Safety

Bob Waffle

Wilson Boulevard Revitalization

Judah Dal Cais

Ballston Partnership

Talmadge Williams

Metro Liaison

Henry McFarland

Emergency Preparedness

Scott Tate

Civic Federation Representatives

Delegates

Bob Atkins

Ed Fendley

Talmadge Williams

Bob Waffle

Alternates

Adrienne Pilot

Ellen Armbruster

Judah Dal Cais

Dan Laredo



Bluemont Civic Association

Post Office Box 5134

Arlington, VA 22205

BCA Annual Membership Renewal Form

All BCA memberships expire at the end of the year. Please take a moment to renew your membership now. Send a check for \$12.00 (payable to Bluemont Civic Association) and the mailing label above to: BCA Treasurer, P.O. Box 5134, Arlington, VA 22205. Please make any corrections to the mailing label in the form below.

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone number _____

e-mail address (optional—for BCA notification only) _____

Comments _____