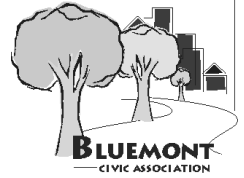


BCA News

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Need Sidewalk, Curb and Gutter, or Lighting Improvements?

If your neighborhood needs sidewalk improvements, better lighting, new curbs and gutters, crosswalks, speed humps, etc., Wednesday, April 28, at 8:00 pm is your chance to move your project ahead! Our hardworking Neighborhood Conservation (NC) representative, Kate Mesches, is holding her first meeting (after the general membership meeting) for new neighborhood improvement projects.

These projects must be added to BCA's NC Plan (if they are not already in it) in order to qualify for Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) funds. (NCAC provides most of the funds for neighborhood projects.) We need citizen input and involvement now to push these projects forward and make them a reality. Come Wednesday night and bring a neighbor! ■

To Mulch or Not To Mulch? (Answer provided at 4/28 membership meeting)

Please help us welcome certified arborist Jeff Aten of The Care of Trees at BCA's next general member-

ship meeting on Wednesday, April 28, at 7 pm. In addition to being a certified arborist, Jeff is also a member of the International Society of Agriculturalists and the American Society of Consulting Arborists. He has over 20 years of experience in his field (17 years of which have been spent in the local area).

Jeff will give us the inside story on mulch, including a general understanding of the purpose of mulch and whether it does any good (it does!). He will also cover the different types of mulch and tell us where and how to put it down correctly. After his presentation, he'll be available to answer questions from the audience. ■

Bluemont Celebrates Neighborhood Day

Come meet friends and neighbors as Bluemont joins the county-wide celebration of Neighborhood Day on May 8, 2004. Following tradition, Bluemont Civic Association will host a barbeque for residents at "The Rocks" on the Bluemont Trail (at N. Bluemont Drive and N. Illinois Street) from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Feast on burgers, hotdogs and other delectables while getting to know your neighbors! We'll have civic association members on hand with information and membership registration as well as a number of "Keep Kids Alive, Drive 25 MPH" signs while they last.

Further down the Bluemont Trail, there will be an open house at the Bluemont Junction Historic Railroad Display. Those on hand can tour the caboose from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm.

Our celebration will also include a ceremonial ringing of the bell at Constitution Gardens (George Mason and Wilson Boulevard) at 12:00 noon. Revelers of any age can come ring the historic bell that is Bluemont's centerpiece.

Join the Animal Welfare League of Arlington for the 9th Annual Walk for the Animals in Bluemont Park. Registration begins at 8:30 am and the Walk kicks off at 9:30 am (rain or shine). The 3-mile loop walk will begin and conclude at Bluemont Park. Dogs are invited to accompany their owners but, for their safety, cats and other pets should be left at home.

There will also be plenty of pre- and post- Walk events.

In addition, revelers young and old (both the two-legged and four-legged varieties) as well as families with children and babies in strollers are all invited to march with fellow "Bluemonters" in the Arlington Neighborhood Day Parade. The Parade kicks off at 2:00 pm. Bluemont residents who wish to participate in the parade should meet at 1:30 pm at the corner of North Herndon Street and Wilson Boulevard, one block west of the Clarendon Metro station.

Doing its part to support Neighborhood Day, Arlington County is providing County residents with free trees. "Tree whips" (2- to 3-foot trees planted in 1- to 2-gallon pots) will be available to residents free of charge through the civic associations. The two species include White Oak (a large shade tree) and Redbud (a small, flowering, under-story tree).

Bluemont's Neighborhood Conservation Representative Kate Mesches will be coordinating the tree distribution for us. Trees will be available on Neighborhood Day, beginning at 10:00 am, while the supply lasts. We will have both species available. You can pick up your tree(s) at Kate's home located at 873 N. Harrison Street. ■

BCA Officers Needed!

The BCA Nominations Committee is looking for volunteers who would be willing to serve as Vice President or Secretary. Both positions require attending two meetings per month (one a month in summer). In addition, the Secretary must record the actions of those meetings. No experience or special skills are required—only a little time and a civic spirit.

If you think you might be able to serve in one of these positions, or know someone who might be, please contact Nominations Committee chair Bob Atkins at luddite2003@yahoo.com or 703-527-8859. ■

Did BCA Deliver?

In March, BCA newsletter volunteer distributors hand-delivered newsletters to all residents within BCA boundaries as part of its community outreach. (Usually, the BCA newsletter is mailed to current members only, due to cost constraints.) If for some reason you did NOT receive a copy of the blue, 8-page newsletter between March 13 and March 21, please contact Judy Collins at jc.swings@verizon.net or 703-276-0124. ■

Four Mile Run Tree-Cutting Update

Concerned residents (including BCA member Carl Hallinan) and several organizations have been following the actions of Dominion Virginia Power (DVP) and Arlington County with respect to the tree-

clearing project along the Four Mile Run power line right-of-way.

In a letter addressed to the, chair of the Urban Forestry Commission (UFC), Carl and others note that, "...the number of replacement trees planted is far less than the number of trees cut down or destroyed. Rather than replacing trees in the original locations, the replacements appear to have been planted for expediency, in some cases grouped closely so that some will not survive, while leaving areas barren and subject to erosion and invasion. Massive non-native invasive plant infestations have been ignored, and we are not convinced that DVP has followed best practices for eradicating extremely invasive trees like Ailanthus."

The signers of the letter (including BCA President Judah dal Cais on behalf of the civic association) thanked County staff and the UFC for their initial work. However, they also have asked the County to "take primary responsibility for rehabilitating these areas" and in the future to conduct "a more expansive process initiated by the County Manager, with broader input from the community and experts in the fields of forestry, parks and conservation." For more information or to find out how you can help, contact Carl Hallinan at carlhallinan@comcast.net or 703-812-4797. ■

ATM Special General Membership Meeting

On March 30, 2004, the consulting firm of Kimley-Horne and County staff unveiled a number of design proposals for Wilson Boulevard at the Arterial Traffic Management (ATM) meeting. These proposals were developed from resident input gathered at the concept workshop held last fall.

Attendees evaluated different design options (including a lane reduction, the widening of sidewalks, the addition of bike lanes and on-street parking) for the various stretches of Wilson Boulevard from North George Mason Drive westward to the County line. The only idea that received near-unanimous rejection was the roundabout (traffic circle) design proposal. Based on information gathered at this meeting, the consulting firm will forward final proposals to the Arlington County Board for consideration.

After the ATM meeting, BCA held a special general membership meeting (previously announced at the March 2004 general membership meeting and via the e-list). BCA member Ed Fendley noted that the County had set aside money only for the designs themselves. There is no money in the budget for their implementation. Ed urged the group to approve a letter requesting that the County Board add construction funds (pending the civic association's approval of the final designs) to the current budget. The letter was distributed to all present. After its review and some discussion, the membership voted

and gave its approval to send the letter to the County Board. For more information on issues concerning Wilson Boulevard, please contact Wilson Boulevard Committee Chair Bob Waffle at rwaffle@comcast.net or 703-358-9448. ■

Water Stewardship Program

Although water is critical to our survival, many people do not know much about the water they use. We all live in a "watershed," which consists of the land surface that drains into a local water body, such as a stream, river, or lake. Our behavior impacts these local water bodies, and it is our responsibility to protect water quality and improve our local watershed.

In 2003, Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE), in partnership with Arlington County, Falls Church, Alexandria, and the Empowerment Institute, developed and implemented the Livable Neighborhood Water Stewardship Program for Four Mile Run in Northern Virginia.

In this program, volunteers recruit their neighbors to form a team, and then team members work together to become better water stewards. A workbook provides neighborhood groups with a menu of carefully crafted actions designed to foster water-friendly lifestyles, and it concentrates on three areas: water quality, water conservation, and community involvement. The program consists of an initial informational meeting, followed by three program meetings over a two- to three-month period.

ACE and its partners are currently looking for team leaders. The next training for team leaders will take place on Sunday, June 6, 2004. For more information, please contact Aileen Winquist with Arlington County at 703-228-3610 or awinquist@arlingtonva.us, or Elenor Hodges with ACE at 703-228-6427 or elenor@arlingtonenvironment.org. You can also visit their web sites: <http://www.co.arlington.va.us/des/epo/volunteer.htm> and <http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org/getinvolved.htm> ■

May Is Older Americans Month

Tues., 5/25 and Wed., 5/26: A first ever Home Modification Seminar and Product Expo for seniors and persons with disabilities, their families, and caretakers will be held at the Department of Human Services (DHS) building, 3033 Wilson Boulevard. The two-day seminar will focus on how to stay at home longer and safer through the use of assistive technology and home modifications. Nationally recognized experts will lead workshops, and local vendors will give product demonstrations. Pre-registration (plus a \$10 fee which includes lunch on day one) is required. To register, call 703-528-5606, ext. 10, or email HomeModsExpo@verizon.net.

Sat., 6/19 & 6/26; Tues., 6/29 and Wed., 6/30, 10:00 am-3:00 pm: The AARP is offering its Driver Safety program for seniors at the Culpepper Garden Senior Center, 4435 N. Pershing Drive. The cost is \$10; preregistration is required by calling 703-228-4403.

Tues., 6/29, 6:30 pm: Hear from the experts about "Real Estate Tax Relief for Arlington Homeowners 65+" at the DHS building, 3033 Wilson Blvd., 7th floor. Sponsored by the Arlington Agency on Aging. Free. Registration preferred but not required by calling 703-228-1700. ■

Are You at Risk for Stroke or Aneurysm?

Sunrise at Bluemont Park (5910 Wilson Boulevard) will be sponsoring health screenings on Tuesday, June 15, which will be conducted by Life Line Screening. These preventive ultrasound screenings are designed to help identify potentially serious conditions like stroke, abdominal aneurysms, peripheral arterial disease, and osteoporosis.

You must preregister by calling 800-407-4557 in advance. Each noninvasive, painless screening takes about 10 minutes and is offered for \$45 each (\$35 for the osteoporosis screening). Discount packages are available.

The screenings focus on people 40 years of age or older who are currently without symptoms of these conditions. (A lack of symptoms can make it difficult for doctors to order these types of tests and have insurance pay for them. This is an opportunity to receive reasonably priced screenings without insurance.)

According to Life Line, experienced sonographers conduct the tests, and a board-certified physician reviews the results of each test. Individuals whose screening results suggest that further evaluation is necessary are encouraged to seek appropriate follow-up care from their own physicians. ■

Have an Idea for a Parks Improvement?

The Arlington County Park and Recreation Commission is soliciting proposals for its 2005 Park Enhancement Grant (PEG) Program. The PEG Program is the continuation of the Commission's Small Park Program but with a new name: Park Enhancement Grant.

Through the PEG program, the County awards grants to civic groups that implement small capital improvements and beautification projects within County parks, recreation facilities, and open space in their neighborhoods. Since the program began in 1978, more than 190 projects have been funded. These include projects such as park furniture, gardens and landscaping, pathways, fencing, public art,

signage, and sports and building amenities. The maximum award for a PEG is \$12,000.

The first step in the application process for a PEG is to submit a Letter of Intent, which briefly describes the project being pursued, its location, and who will be the main point of contact during the application process. The deadline for submitting the Letter of Intent for this year's program is 4:30 pm on Monday, May 17, 2004. If you have questions about submitting a letter or about the PEG program in general, please contact Bluemont's Neighborhood Conservation Representative Kate Mesches at mesches@aol.com or 703-525-8262. ■

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, 4/28
- Neighborhood Day, 5/8
- Executive Board meeting, 5/11
- General Membership meeting, 5/26



Bluemont Civic Association

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