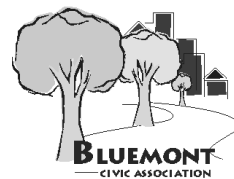


BCA News

June 2004 • Vol. 8, No. 5 • Post Office Box 5134 • Arlington, Virginia 22205

VISIT OUR WEBSITE! www.bluemontcivic.org



inside

BCA Annual Meeting and Election 6/16
Amendments to BCA NC Plan
County Code Reminders
NC Projects Update
Drive Safely, Watch for Children
NC Funding To Be Decided in June
Want Improvements on Wilson Blvd.?
Where Is the Beaver Pond?
Executive Board Supports Variance Request
Join the E-List for Reminders and News

BCA Annual Meeting and Election 6/16

The BCA Annual Meeting will be held at 7 pm on June 16 at Arlington Traditional School. At that time, we will elect our new officers for the 2005 term.

The BCA Nominations Committee has recommended the following slate of nominees: President: Judah Dal Cais; First VP: Carl Drummond; Second VP: Talmadge Williams; Treasurer: Judy Collins; NCAC Representative: Kate Mesches; Civic Federation Delegates: Bob Atkins, Ed Fendley, and Talmadge Williams, Bob Waffle; Civic Federation Alternates: Adrienne Pilot, Ellen Armbruster, Judah Dal Cais, and Dan Laredo.

We still need a nominee for the office of Secretary. The position requires attending two evening meetings per month (just one per month in the summer) at which you would record actions that occur at the meetings. If you are willing to serve, or know someone who might be interested, please contact Nominations Committee Chair Bob Atkins at ludite2003@yahoo.com.

Please attend Wednesday night's meeting to cast your vote, welcome the new officer(s), and thank those officers and representatives who have agreed to serve another term. ■

Amendments to BCA NC Plan

The BCA Neighborhood Conservation Plan (NC) Update Committee has made its recommendations for updating the 1999 Bluemont Neighborhood Conservation Plan, and BCA members will be asked at the June annual meeting on June 16, 2004, to vote on a motion to request the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) to amend Appendix A of the plan as follows (amendments are shown in bold-face type).

Under "Recommended Projects," amend item A12 as follows:

"Frederick Street between its dead end at Interstate 66 and Wilson Boulevard; 9th Street between Frederick and Edison; 8th Road between Greenbrier and Edison streets; *(insert)* **Edison Street between its dead end at Fairfax Drive and Wilson Boulevard.**

"Design recommendations. The County should construct sidewalks as follows: Frederick Street, both sides where missing between its dead end at Interstate 66 and Wilson Boulevard; 9th Street, south side between Frederick and Edison streets (curbs only to be built on north side); 8th Road, both sides where missing between Greenbrier and Edison streets; *(insert)* **Edison Street west side where missing between its dead end at Fairfax Drive and Wilson Boulevard.**"

Under the heading "At the following locations, nighttime lighting should be installed or improved," amend item A22 as follows:

"Frederick Street between its dead end at Interstate 66 and Wilson Boulevard; 9th Street between Frederick and Edison Streets; *(insert)* **8th Road between Frederick and Edison Streets.**"

(insert) **"A28. Pedestrian lighting for all NC sidewalk project areas described in A1 through A13."**

If you have any questions regarding these amendments, please contact BCA's NC representative and NC Plan Update Committee Chair Kate Mesches at 703-525-8262 or mesches@aol.com. ■

County Code Reminders

Has it been a few weeks since you've mowed your grass? Has your neighbor erected a new shed overnight? If so, it is time for a reminder about the County Code for Arlington residents. Whether you own or rent the home you are living in, you are required to maintain your property to certain standards as specified by Arlington County. Keeping your property up to code prevents a visit from a code enforcement official and possible fine. More importantly, it also is part of being a good neighbor and resident of Bluemont. Here are a few of the rules:

Lawns – Grass and/or weeds can be no more than twelve inches high. Failure to maintain yards at or below this level is a violation. Summer is here and the grass grows fast, so make sure you plan accordingly.

Parking – residents are not allowed to park in their yards without a driveway, either in the front or back of the property. This is actually a zoning violation. Cars and other vehicles may only be parked on paved driveways and parking areas on the street.

"Junk" – accumulations of junk and debris such as paper, lumber, rubble, furnishings, appliances, machinery, tires, etc., on any residential or commercial property is a violation of the "condition of private property" code.

Permits – no building or structure can be erected, altered, or enlarged without first obtaining a permit from the Zoning Office. This rule pertains to most structures, fences, sheds and accessory buildings. The county loses badly needed revenue each time a resident fails to obtain a permit.

Signs – the real estate market is hot and a lot of homes are for sale in our neighborhood. Make sure your realtor is in compliance with the rules regarding signs. Temporary directional signs ("open house," for example) can only be displayed from sundown on Friday until sundown on Sunday and on legal holidays. Real estate signs may never be placed on another's private property without permission. Other signs on public property are not allowed without approval from the Zoning Office – so if you put up garage sale/lost pet signs, be sure to remove and dispose of them in a timely fashion.

For a complete list of rules, go to www.co.arlington.va.us/cphd and click on "Code Enforcement." Following these basic rules makes us better neighbors and helps keep Bluemont looking beautiful. ■

NC Projects Update

The following is an update on Bluemont's active Neighborhood Conservation (NC) projects:

- N. Kensington Street – Construction this summer.
- N. Harrison Street – The 90% design plans are being prepared by County staff.
- N. 5th/Greenbrier to Frederick – County is issuing purchase order for construction work.
- N. 10th Street – Construction this summer.
- N. 7th Street – ongoing.

We will be submitting our next Bluemont NC project for funding on June 10. The project will be conducted in two phases and includes street repaving, installation of a sidewalk (north side of 9th and east side of Frederick), curbs and gutters, and street lighting for North 9th Street between Frederick and Edison Streets and for Frederick Street between I-66 West and Wilson Boulevard. Mike Minnaie is the block captain in charge of this project. ■

Drive Safely, Watch for Children

Please remember that students are going to be out of school soon. There will be an increase in outdoor activities and children playing outside, so please drive with extra care this summer—especially through neighborhoods. ■

NC Funding To Be Decided in June

In less than three weeks, the County Board will vote on the County Manager's recommendation for funding the Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Program. The recommendation is for a \$10 million bond, an increase of \$1 million. This bond will be the source of our NC funds for the next two years.

Please consider sending a letter supporting the NC Bond and please do it soon. This year, there are many demands for bond dollars, and Board members are being deluged with appeals from competing programs.

While we have made a strong case for a larger bond and we have the Manager's support, the final decision rests in the hands of the Board. If you need a new sidewalk, curbs and gutters, lights, repaving or other improvements on your block, let the County Board know. In your letter, give specific details about your project (scope, location, and benefits) to add a little life to your letter and help Board members relate to our program. Letters with a stamp carry a little more weight than e-mail messages, though e-mail is perfectly acceptable. (See box for County addresses.)

And please consider asking neighbors who will most directly benefit from recent or planned projects to send messages of appreciation. ■

Want Improvements on Wilson Blvd.?

If you're interested in the seeing improvements to Wilson Boulevard become a reality, **now** is the time to send your e-mail or letter or to make a telephone call to the County Board and Staff to let them know how you feel.

The first phase of the work of the Arterial Traffic Management (ATM) Task Force is coming to an end. Whether the ATM project continues and whether and where any actual work will get done is being determined by County officials in the next few weeks!

Task Force members and County staff will evaluate the consultants' recommendations for several corridors and will make recommendations for funding further design, engineering, and construction. If Wilson Boulevard were to be chosen, it is possible that we could actually see crews at work **as early as next spring!**

Wilson Boulevard's speeding problems and inadequate pedestrian infrastructure are well known. Another strong factor in our favor is the perceived level of support for these improvements from residents along this corridor. We must now demonstrate our support by getting messages to the County Board, Transportation Staff, and ATM Task Force members! (See box for County addresses.)

Please refer to the following points when writing/ phoning: 1) Wilson boulevard is a known problem area for speeding and pedestrian hazards. 2) The sidewalks are so narrow (often with utility poles and other obstacles in the middle of them) that they cannot be navigated by residents pushing strollers or by those residents who use wheelchairs. 3) The Bluemont Civic Association has been asking for improvements for many years, and the County has repeatedly acknowledged the problems and promised to address them! (We are still waiting.)

Please ask the Board, Staff, and Task Force to support the continued work of the ATM and to make Wilson Boulevard the first project! ■

Where Is the Beaver Pond?

After Bluemont concerns were again raised at a recent County Board meeting, the County Manager arranged a meeting with County staff to review outstanding General Land Use Plan (GLUP)/zoning issues in our neighborhood.

One of the issues involves our beaver pond (located near Fairfax Drive and I-66), which is still being zoned on the GLUP as part residential and part commercial rather than all public use. The beaver pond is also misplaced on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) map — it shows the beaver pond as being located in the Waycroft/Waverly area. Staff has promised us a review and response for "late this year." ■

Executive Board Supports Variance Request

The BCA Executive Board voted at their June 8 meeting to urge the Arlington County Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) to approve Arlington Property Management's (APM) variance application for 4604 & 4610 Wilson Boulevard (Abingdon Courts).

The site includes an adjacent County-owned parcel that is overgrown, poorly maintained and infested with rodents and poison ivy. The project proposed by APM could resolve these problems and provide much needed sidewalk improvements.

In exchange for BCA support, APM has agreed to improve the sidewalk on the entire frontage, both on Wilson Boulevard and on Abingdon Street, provided that the County provides the necessary easements. The improvements would require re-grading, removal of the existing sidewalk, and replacement with sidewalks that conform to current County standards. This amounts to approximately 200 linear feet of new sidewalk.

Arlington Property Management has also agreed to landscape and maintain the County parcel (again, with appropriate easements). Furthermore, APM has agreed to assure that this maintenance is performed by way of a restrictive covenant on the developed property requiring the property owners to maintain the County property in perpetuity. These are improvements that the neighborhood will not get with the by-right development alternative. ■

Mailing address for all County staff:
2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington VA 22201

Arlington County Board Members:
Barbara Favola (Chair)
Paul Ferguson
Walter Tejeda
Jay Fisette
Chris Zimmerman
703-228-3130
countyboard@co.arlington.va.us

Arlington County Manager Mr. Ron Carlee
Deputy County Manager Ms. Joyce Wilson
703-228-3120
countymanager@co.arlington.va.us

Arlington County Public Works Department Director Mr. R.S. Kem
703-228-3711
Arlington County Public Works Department, Traffic Engineering Division Chief Mr. Terry Bellamy
703-228-3576
publicworks@co.arlington.va.us

Join the E-List for Reminders and News

We urge all members to join BCA's electronic list (e-list). This list is a one-way delivery device (meaning it is not a discussion list), and it does not replace the newsletter. It simply allows BCA to deliver important, time-sensitive information to you electronically. The BCA e-list is a private list that it is not advertised publicly by Topica, the list's service provider.

Invitations were sent to members late last year. If you want to be added to the list, let us know. Joining is easy. Simply contact Suzanne Sundburg at pro.wordsmith@verizon.net. (Remember, when you receive your BCA e-list invitation, you MUST hit the "reply" button in your e-mail program in order to be added to the list.) ■

BCA Calendar
Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. at Arlington Traditional School, 855 N. Edison Street
•Annual Membership meeting, 6/16
•Executive Board meeting, 7/13



Bluemont Civic Association

Post Office Box 5134
Arlington, VA 22205

BCA Officers

President jdalcais@comcast.net	Judah Dal Cais 528-1551
First Vice President martin@nerdvana.fu.com	Lou Martin 243-1991
Second Vice President ttwrec@aol.com	Talmadge Williams 522-5575
Neighborhood Conservation mesches@aol.com	Kate Mesches 525-8262
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer Jc.swings@verizon.net	Judy Collins 276-0124

BCA Committee Chairs and Representatives

Webmaster	Carla Cathey
Newsletter Editor	Suzanne Sundburg
Newsletter Layout	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

Civic Federation Representatives

Delegates	Alternates
Bob Atkins	Adrienne Pilot
Ed Fendley	Ellen Armbruster
Talmadge Williams	Judah Dal Cais
Bob Waffle	Dan Laredo