

BCA News

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February 22 Meeting on ATM

Please join us on Wednesday, February 22, 7 pm, at Arlington Traditional School (ATS) for the next general membership meeting. Our guest speakers, County staff members Richard Best and Jill Yutan, will present a draft of the landscaping plan associated with the Arterial Transportation Management (ATM) plan being implemented along Wilson Boulevard between N. George Mason and Frederick Street.

Bring your gardening/plant knowledge and/or resources to the meeting to help review and discuss the plan. We need your input to make Bluemont's "Main Street" a more pleasant, inviting, and safe environment. Following the presentation, committee chairs and officers will update the membership on their activities. Also, the membership will continue discussions on the redevelopment of the Peck/Staples site and what positions BCA will take on this matter.

Do You Like To Walk?

If so, we need you and others like you who may be able to spare a couple of hours twice a year to serve as back-ups/substitutes for the newsletter deliverers who distribute the neighborhood-wide BCA newsletter in March and September. If you are willing to be on this substitute list and can fill in should the regular delivery person be unable to deliver his/her route, please contact Judy Collins, who is in charge of newsletter distribution for BCA, at 703-276-0124 or via e-mail at jc.swings@verizon.net.

Recap on Affordable Housing

At the January 25 meeting, we welcomed John Welsh and Carlton Miller of Arlington Housing Corporation (AHC), Inc., who spoke on affordable housing. AHC is a private, nonprofit developer of low- and moderate-income housing in Arlington.

According to AHC, a family of four with an annual income of as much as \$75,000 can qualify for affordable housing, and over the last four years, Arlington has lost over 10,000 affordable units. The current affordable housing waiting list numbers at 5,000 families (the list is now closed). And with one-bedroom apartments running at about \$1,200 a month, it's clear that there is no truly "affordable" housing left in Arlington. AHC's presentation underscored the critical need for affordable housing alternatives in Arlington.

BCA members' questions focused on the cost of providing affordable housing. AHC gave some examples to illustrate its own cost structure: Renovating rental units at the Gates of Arlington will cost approximately \$60,000 per unit, and the recent construction of three affordable townhouses in south Arlington cost AHC \$380,000 per unit.

AHC has renovated approximately 1,300 homes for the elderly/disabled, and produces, on average, 120 affordable housing units per year. At the January meeting, Welsh and Miller distributed information packets for both rental and purchase/renovation programs; extras will be available at the February meeting for anyone who is interested.

CAPTrack Tracks Capital Projects

Wondering when that new sidewalk will be built? Want to plan your team's soccer schedule on that new field? Curious to know when the new park will be open? Updates on the status of more than 400 County capital projects are now just a click away. CAPTrack includes a brief description and location of each project, the current status, the project neighborhood and an e-mail link to the County project manager. Access is easy. Go to <http://www.arlingtonva.us> and look in the center "Topics" area. Then, go to the "Development" section and click on "CAPTrack."



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Bluemont Civic Association NEWS

It's Time To Renew for 2006!

All BCA memberships expire at the end of the year, so please return this form (including the mailing label below) and a \$15 check payable to BCA Treasurer, P.O. Box 5134, Arlington, VA 22205. (Please note: If your label says "paid thru Dec-04," this is a friendly reminder that you overlooked renewing your membership for 2005.) We hope everyone will rejoin us for 2006. BCA is a great way for friends and neighbors to work together to make streets safer for our children and other pedestrians, to protect our parks and preserve our environment, to present our views on development and other important issues to the County, and to build a greater sense of community.

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone number _____

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

Comments _____



Bluemont Civic Association

Post Office Box 5134
Arlington, VA 22205

BCA Officers

President jdalcais@verizon.net	Judah Dal Cais 528-1551
First Vice President CarlD10@aol.com	Carl Drummund 522-8259
Second Vice President ttwrec@aol.com	Talmadge Williams 522-5575
Neighborhood Conservation mesches@aol.com	Kate Mesches 525-8262
Secretary lkirkconnell@hotmail.com	Laura Kirkconnell 527-3404
Treasurer Jc.swings@verizon.net	Judy Collins 276-0124

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