

BCA

NEIGHBORHOOD News

JOIN US!

NEXT GENERAL MEETING 4/26/06

- AM Radio Tower Status
- Washington Motors Site Plans
- Your Input and concerns
- And more! Details, page 2

Apr. 2006 A Public Service of Your Bluemont Civic Association

www.bluemontcivic.org

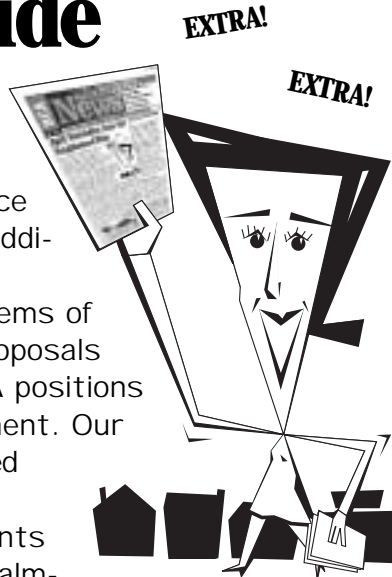
April Newsletter Goes Out Neighborhood-Wide

As part of its neighborhood outreach, Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) hand-distributes its newsletter to all Bluemont residents and businesses twice a year. (Dues-paying members receive additional monthly newsletters by mail.)

As your civic association, we track items of local interest (including development proposals within our boundaries) and present BCA positions on important issues to County government. Our strength-in-numbers approach has enabled the neighborhood to obtain funding for pedestrian-safety and other improvements along Wilson Boulevard and for traffic-calming, sidewalk, curb and gutter, and lighting projects throughout the neighborhood. Membership is the best way to ensure that your voice is heard at the grass-roots level, and it gives you the right to vote on important action items and the positions that BCA takes.

We welcome members, old and new, and we urge you to join us. BCA is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization, which has served our community since 1945. We are an independent organization and receive no County funds. Prorated dues paid in April are just \$11, and membership is open to all Bluemont residents.

Becoming a BCA member is quick and easy. Simply use the mail-in membership form on page 4 or pay in person (by cash or check) at the general meeting on April 26. Want to know more about BCA? Please visit our Web site at www.bluemontcivic.org. ■



Your New BCA Newsletter

Spring is here, and your friendly neighborhood newsletter has sprouted a fresh new identity. In addition to the refined title, our new look is intended to better reflect the best neighborhood in Arlington. It's a little bit retro and a little bit modern — just like us. We have a proud heritage and want to be sure it's not forgotten as the 21st Century marches on down Wilson Boulevard and up our streets. We're not anti-progress of course, but we all have a vested interest in keeping our neighborhood the balanced, lively and safe place we moved into, whether it was 50 years ago or last month.

What's Your Story?

It is also our goal to have this new newsletter serve as more than a notice of the BCA's critical work. We want to hear from you long-time residents about life here back when, and from anyone who has a special story that your neighbors might like to hear. Who's been here ► 4

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BCA Neighborhood News



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AT THE FEBRUARY BCA MEETING...

- County staff members Richard Best and Jill Yutan presented a draft landscaping plan that will accompany the improvements being made along Wilson Boulevard between George Mason Drive and North Frederick Street. Funded through the County's Arterial Transportation Management (ATM) program, these improvements include the new traffic lights and pedestrian crossings at the Wilson-George Mason intersection.
- The draft landscaping plan showed a variety of maples and other shade trees that are to be planted in new raised medians as well as along the sidewalk on either side of Wilson Boulevard. The membership voted to approve the draft landscaping plan, and County staff will present a final landscaping plan to the membership later this spring. According to recent estimates, the landscaping work should be completed sometime this summer.

AT THE NEXT MEETING (APRIL 26)...

- Speaker to be announced.
- Update on the AM radio tower intended to advise the public during emergencies and natural disasters. Originally intended for location behind the fire station, Virginia Power (owner of the easement) will not allow the antenna in that specific spot. Alternate location and plans to be discussed.
- Report on Silverwood Associates plans for the Washington Motors site on Glebe Road.
- And as always, the floor will then be open to concerns, input and requests from you — the residents of our neighborhood. The Board of BCA is here to listen and serve you.

Looking ahead to May...

- County Board Chairman Chris Zimmerman will be on hand to hear and discuss BCA's zoning and other concerns.

When Do We MEET?

Glad you asked! BCA general membership meetings are routinely held at 7 pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month from September through June (in case of holiday conflicts, other days may be selected). Whenever possible, we meet at Arlington Traditional School (ATS). The date, time and place of meetings are usually printed in the monthly newsletter prior to each meeting. The BCA executive board also meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, usually at ATS. All BCA members are welcome to attend executive board meetings.



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Celebrate Neighborhood Day on May 13



As part of the County-wide Neighborhood Day celebration, BCA will host its annual barbecue for all Bluemont residents from 11:30 am until 1 pm on Saturday, May 13 (the rain date is Sunday, May 14). We'll gather in Bluemont Park behind the neighborhood sign at the corner of Wilson Boulevard and North George Mason Drive. Please come and enjoy free burgers, hot-

dogs, and other goodies, while you mingle with your neighbors. Following the barbecue, we urge all members to attend the County-sponsored Neighborhood Day parade.

We are grateful to BCA Secretary Laura Kirkconnell who has agreed to be our parade chairperson once again. Last year, parade participants representing Bluemont handed out candy, and our parade entry featured "Frisbee" golf, a portable disc golf target into which parade goers and participants could pitch soft Frisbee-like discs. It was very popular, and Laura is looking for another creative idea for this year's parade entry.

The parade follows a short, easy route down Wilson from Clarendon to Courthouse. We invite all Bluemont kids, adults, and leashed pets to be marchers and represent our neighborhood. If you'd like to sign up to march or to volunteer to help, please contact Laura Kirkconnell at lkirkconnell@hotmail.com. ■

Step Up to the Plate!

We Need You on Our Team. As an all-volunteer nonprofit organization, BCA's ability to serve our community is limited only by the willingness of members to volunteer. The BCA Nominations Committee is looking for members who would be willing to run/serve as President, First Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Neighborhood Conservation Action Committee (NCAC) Representative, and Civic Federation delegates and alternates. No experience or special skills are needed — only a few hours each month and an interest in helping your local community.

Please consider volunteering a little bit of your time to help your neighborhood. It's a great way to meet people and learn more about what's happening on the local level. If you think you might be willing to serve in one of these positions, or if you know of someone who might be interested, please contact Nominations Committee Member Bob Atkins at luddite2003@yahoo.com or call 703-527-8859. ■



WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD?

Peck/Staples Redevelopment

JBG is currently in negotiations to purchase the Staples site on Glebe Road. BCA is closely following how this will impact our neighborhood and the landmark Bob Peck dealership.

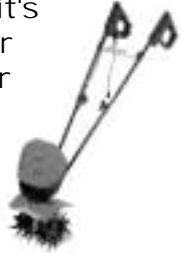


Washington Motors Site

Also on Glebe Road, developer Silverwood Associates will be seeking a zone change to allow an increase in building height, and plans to submit for the rezoning and approval process within the next month. BCA is concerned that Arlington's long-standing Metro-corridor plan will be further eroded as taller buildings encroach into our neighborhood.

Help for Spring Yard Work

Spring is here, and it's time to work on your lawns, and prep your vegetable/herb gardens! The association has a tiller available for loan, but in order to use this item your BCA membership must be current. The Mantis Tiller is an electric, lightweight, quiet, and easy to use tiller, dethatcher, lawn aerator, planter/furrower, and border/edger. To reserve the Mantis tiller for your lawn and garden, please contact Judah dal Cais at jdalcais@verizon.net. ■



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Next General Meeting | 4/26 |
| Art Market at Ballston (10-4, 2nd Saturday each month) | 5/13 |
| Neighborhood Day | 5/13 |
| May General Meeting | 5/24 |
| Annual Arlington Community Bike Ride | 5/27 |

Later this year...

Planet Arlington — a big new performing arts series, starting with a World Music festival on September 2 at the Netherlands Carillon. Stay tuned!

More online: bluemontcivic.org

► **New BCA Newsletter**, FROM P.1 the longest? Do you have an old photo of your street? What has your block been up to? Did you accomplish something extraordinary? We can't guarantee to print it all, but we'll endeavor to share the best as space permits.

Along with hearing from residents, let's hear from businesses too. We want know about your exciting new products, services and menu offerings. We hope that you will consider supporting the association with advertising as well. The general distribution reaches over 2,100 households within walking distance of your business. For \$50! What a deal!

We want YOU to join US — as a member, as a contributor, as a supporter, as a neighbor. Help us get the Bluemont story out there! ■

Wait – you're not a BCA member yet?

BCA is the only organization working on behalf of you and all Bluemont residents. We are your friends and neighbors. Our goals include making our streets safer for our children and other pedestrians, enhancing our parks and preserving our environment, maintaining property values, and building a stronger sense of community. Some of our activities/accomplishments are listed below:



- Obtaining Arterial Transportation Management (ATM) funds to address vehicular speed, traffic flow, and pedestrian safety problems on Wilson Boulevard;
- Asking the Arlington School Board to consider giving Bluemont children the option of walking to Arlington Traditional School;
- Actively representing Bluemont's interests at County Civic Federation and Neighborhood Conservation meetings;
- Pressing the County Board to begin/complete construction on previously funded and planned sidewalk, curb nub and pedestrian safety projects across Bluemont; and
- Sponsoring and/or organizing special events like the Neighborhood Day barbecue and the Halloween Parade.

By becoming a member, you will receive monthly newsletters that will keep you informed about issues directly affecting you and your family. Membership also gives you the right to vote on motions presented at BCA meetings and for the BCA officers and representatives elected at our annual meeting in June. Membership for a full year is \$15. However, you can become a member for the rest of 2006 for the prorated amount of just \$11. Please take a moment now to become a member by completing the form below, and returning it with a check for \$11 payable to the Bluemont Civic Association. Mail your check and form to **BCA Treasurer, PO Box 5134, Arlington VA 22205**, or bring it to any BCA meeting.

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail Address (optional — for BCA notification only) _____

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