

NEXT GENERAL MEETING 5/23/07

- Verizon Rep to discuss FIOS
- JBG Peck/Staples plan update
- Your input & concerns

May 2007 A Public Service of Your Bluemont Civic Association

www.bluemontcivic.org

NIPping Away at Missing Infrastructure



Road to Nowhere: This segment of bike trail off N Harrison ends in the woods, collecting trash and debris.

The County is in the process of producing a Neighborhood Infrastructure Plan (NIP) "to guide the County's budgetary and program efforts." Each neighborhood, including Bluemont, has been provided with an inventory report. This report can be viewed at <http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/CPHD/ons/pdf/BluemontFinalReport.pdf>.

The report includes maps that purport to show missing improve- ➡4

Sidewalk Links

As you may have noticed, the new sidewalk, curb, gutter, and paving has been completed on the south side of Washington Boulevard west of N. Frederick Street. BCA member Ed Fendley worked tirelessly for many years to overcome obstacles and see this project through to completion. Please congratulate Ed the next time you see him. ➡2

Walking Town Meeting

June 18, 6:30-8:30 pm

At the June Walking Town Meeting, Bluemont residents will have the opportunity to walk through the neighborhood along with County Board members and County department heads. This meeting will allow residents to point out and discuss areas of concern. Some previously identified issues include pedestrian safety and the sidewalks along Wilson Boulevard, the dilapidated fences in and around the parks, and lighting along the trails. We will again discuss areas of concern at the May meeting (bring your suggestions to share), and we urge all residents to participate in this important town meeting. We plan to gather at Fire Station #2, near the intersection of Wilson and George Mason to begin our walk, and hope to literally cover considerable ground. Bring your walking shoes and suggestions.

All Bluemont residents are invited! ■



5201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22205
(703) 525-0440

D&V AUTO SERVICE CENTER

**Complete Auto Repairs
Domestic & Foreign Cars
Major Credit Cards Honored
Snow Plowing**

Budget Truck Rental
(703) 525-0724

Norm Odeneal
Your Family-Friendly Realtor
"Superior Service with Integrity"

1106 Harrison St
Arlington, VA 22205

www.CALLNORM.com
direct 703-587-0945



KELLER WILLIAMS
REALTY



► **Sidewalks** FROM P.1

According to Second Vice President Carl Drummond, the missing section of N. Frederick Street's sidewalk on the east side (the Safeway side between N. 8th Road and Wilson Boulevard) may be completed through the Missing Links program. Recently, the County has considered making the Missing Links program more flexible in order to address more projects. ■



BCA E-list Is Moving!

Our new Webmaster, Dave Leichtman, has been working diligently to update the BCA Web site. Please take a moment to visit www.bluemontcivic.org. We are also moving the BCA e-list to Google. You can sign up for the new list through the BCA Web site (www.bluemontcivic.org). Current e-list members must sign up for the new list by June 30, at which time the old list will stop operating. Don't miss any important e-list messages; sign up for the new Google list now! ■

BCA MEETINGS AT A GLANCE...

NEXT GENERAL MEETING, 7PM WEDNESDAY MAY 23, ATS

● Please help us welcome Verizon's FiOS representative on Wednesday night. Among the many questions will be when will FiOS be available throughout Bluemont (many areas do not yet have access). The membership also will discuss the NIP list, the June 18 Walking Town Meeting, and the Peck-Staples redevelopment plan. ■

LAST GENERAL MEETING, APRIL 25

● School Board Member Sally Baird spoke with meeting attendees about Arlington Public Schools topics, in particular the upcoming re-drawing of school boundaries and how it might affect Bluemont residents hoping to alter admission policies at ATS. See story, opposite. ■

We Need YOU! BCA Elections Take Place June 27

As a group, we've been extremely lucky to have several hard-working volunteers (serving as officers, representatives, and committee chairs/members), some of whom have served for years. For the upcoming election, Secretary Lisa Byington has indicated that she needs a break.

The BCA Nominations Committee is asking members to step forward and run/serve as President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Neighborhood Conservation Action Committee (NCAC) Representative, and Civic Federation Representative (as well as delegates and alternates). No experience or special skills are needed—just a few hours each month to help your neighborhood.

Please consider volunteering. It's a great way to meet people and learn more about what's happening in your own neighborhood. If you think you might be willing to serve in one of these positions, please contact Nominations Committee member Bob Atkins at luddite2003@yahoo.com or call 703-527-8859. ■

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.

100% Satisfaction & 24/7
Service to All Northern
VA Since 1970

ALL PLUMBING, INC.
SERVICE, PARTS
INSTALLATION

- Same day service guaranteed.
- Free phone estimates and advice —your call will always be answered by a person
- Better Business Bureau member, licensed, bonded and insured. Highly rated by Service Magic
- The lowest minimum service charge in Northern VA.
- We do it all — all indoor and outdoor plumbing, water heaters, sump pumps, and gas pipes & connections.

www.allplumbing.com



703-525-7973



THE JBG COMPANIES

Creating and Preserving Real Estate Values Since 1960

JBG.com

School Boundary and Admissions Policy Discussed

School Board member Sally Baird addressed the membership on April 25. She reviewed various School Board activities, but the one of most interest to the members present was the school boundary issue, particularly as it relates to the admission policy at ATS. (ATS is the only public elementary school in the County that offers no preference for nearby children to attend. Admission to ATS is granted only through the Countywide lottery system.)

Earlier this year at a meeting to review proposals to address elementary overcrowding (school boundary changes), Baird (along with two other Board members) voted against allowing any change to the ATS admission policy to be considered within the scope of the boundary change task group. Baird's justification for her vote included the fact that there is no universal admission's policy for County schools. She hopes that the task group will recommend a new, universal policy, although how that would be accomplished was unclear.

Baird also noted the large number of letters and other lobbying efforts of ATS parents, who do not want nearby Bluemont children to be given the preference of attending ATS. In Baird's view, if the admission's policy for ATS were to be considered, then that issue alone would overtake the entire discussion/focus of the task group that will address the boundary changes. She does not want the focus to be solely on ATS but on the Countywide boundary changes.

Baird suggested that the best way for Bluemont to have the ATS admissions policy changed would be for concerned residents to "lobby" members of the task group (made up of a principal and a parent from each elementary school) and School Board members. Unfortunately, because Bluemont does not have its own neighborhood elementary school, it has no vote in task group decisions. In the last round of school boundary changes (a couple of years ago), BCA member Kate Mesches attended meetings and lobbied hard for a reconsideration of the ATS admissions policy, without success. In large part, this lack of success was due to Bluemont's lack of a vote and, therefore, its lack of anything tangible to "trade" in these negotiations. The goal of most task group members, particularly the parents, is to minimize any change in their schools' boundaries.

Baird did ask that enrollment counts and new projections be reported to the Superintendent and, if so indicated, that the scope of the task group's charge be widened (perhaps to include consideration of a Countywide admissions policy).

In the short run, however, the only avenue open to Bluemont parents is to lobby School Board and task group members. The School Board members are Libby Garvey, Chair; Frank K. Wilson, Vice-Chair; Sally M. Baird; Bluemont's own Ed Fendley; and David Foster. The Arlington School Board Web page can be found at <http://www.arlington.k12.va.us/schoolboard>.

You can reach the School Board a number of ways: send e-mails to schoolbd@arlington.k12.va.us; faxes to 703-228-7640; postal mail to Arlington Education Center, 1426 N. Quincy Street, Arlington, VA 22207; and phone calls to 703-228-6015. Open office hours for citizens to visit with School Board members are on Mondays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. (walk-in/no appointment needed) when school is in session. ■

WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD?

BCA BBQ a Success

Neighbors came together this past weekend to celebrate Arlington's Neighborhood Day — the BCA way — at our annual barbecue and picnic.

Our new location behind fire station #2 along the Bluemont Spur of the bike trail proved convenient and attracted many passers-by as well as BCA members. BCA President and chef du jour Judah Dal Cais manned the grill, pumping out a steady stream of burgers, hot dogs and chicken, and the adjacent fire department didn't even have to be called upon! Several members helped with prep and cleanup. Kudos to all who worked to make this happen! ■

Peck-Staples Redevelopment Update

According to BCA Peck-Staples Information Coordinator Terry Serie, the County is still in negotiations with developer JBG regarding the "community benefits" that JBG may provide in exchange for the added height and density it is requesting at the Peck-Staples site. This discussion comes a little bit earlier in the process than would normally be expected. Serie is keeping a close eye on the situation for any important developments. The Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) has indicated that no additional SPRC meetings will take place until June. Serie also is waiting for the committee to forward informal "notes" taken at the February meeting. Serie will update the membership at the May meeting. Additional details and announcement of meeting dates are posted at www.bluemontcivic.org. ■

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Next General Meeting **5/23**
7pm at ATS

JUNE

BCA Exec. Board Meeting 6/12
7pm at ATS

Walking Town Meeting 6/18
6:30 pm at Fire Station #2

General Meeting & Election 6/27
at ATS

NOTE: Only Executive Board meetings are typically held in the months of July and August. Dates, times and places will be announced on BCA's Web site. All members are welcome to attend board meetings.

BCA Neighborhood News

is a service of YOUR community civic association.

bluemontcivic@verizon.net

President

Judah dal Cais-703.528.1551-jdalcais@verizon.net

First Vice President

Talmadge Williams-703.522.5575-ttwrec@aol.com

Second Vice President

Carl Drummond-703-522-8259-carld10@aol.com

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee Representative

Wendy Dean-wjlarlington@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Judy Collins-703.276.0124-jc.swings@verizon.net

Secretary

Lisa Byington-lisabyington@comcast.net

Civic Federation Representatives

Delegates: Kate Mesches, Talmadge Williams, Ed Fendley, Bob Waffle. Alternates: Adrienne Pilot, Ellen

Armbruster, Judah dal Cais, Dan Laredo

BCA COMMITTEE CHAIRS & REPRESENTATIVES

Webmaster

Carla Cathey

Newsletter Editor

Suzanne Sundburg-pro.wordsmith@verizon.net

Newsletter Design/Layout/Photos

Sam Ferro-sam@ferroplusferro.com

Newsletter Distribution

Judy Collins-jc.swings@verizon.net

Wilson Boulevard Safety Committee

Bob Waffle-rwaffle@comcast.net

Wilson Boulevard Revitalization Working Group

Judah dal Cais-jdalcais@verizon.net

Ballston Partnership Representative

Talmadge Williams-ttwrec@aol.com

Metro Liaison

Henry McFarland-hmcfarland@hotmail.com

Emergency Preparedness Liaison

open



Bluemont Civic Association

PO Box 5134

Arlington VA 22205

► NIPping Away FROM P.1

ments (curb, gutter, sidewalk, etc.) in our neighborhood. The report also shows the amenities in our neighborhood (such as basketball courts, etc.). The County hopes that when all neighborhoods complete their reports, "the NIP will provide an inventory of existing neighborhood infrastructure and will also identify potential future street improvements, park upgrades, traffic calming and street light installations as well as other infrastructure enhancements in the public right-of-way. It is intended to be used as a planning tool to assist neighborhoods in setting capital improvement priorities."

We have been advised that by listing possible improvements, we are in no way prioritizing such

improvements. Prioritization will occur through the regular Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) process.

If you believe improvements are needed in your neighborhood of the type described in the Bluemont report, please briefly identify such items in an e-mail to Bluemont's NCAC Representative, Wendy Dean at wjlarlington@yahoo.com. Bluemont's draft NIP list (a work in progress) can be viewed by visiting BCA's Web site at www.bluemontcivic.org. We need all comments to be submitted by June 27, 2007, so that the membership can review and approve the list in its entirety. Please also note that the status of existing NC projects is also listed on the BCA Web site. ■