

NEXT GENERAL MEETING 6/27/07

- Annual Meeting
 - Officer Elections
 - Neighborhood Infrastructure Vote
- ◀ Big turnout at the Walking Town Meeting, p.4.

June 2007 A Public Service of Your Bluemont Civic Association

www.bluemontcivic.org

Elementary Schools Boundary Process Has Begun

On June 3, the first meeting of the Arlington Public Schools (APS) system-wide Task Group looked at elementary schools' enrollment and capacity. APS's own data show that while some schools are at or above capacity and are projected to remain so, others are "under-enrolled" by as much as 50% to 60% percent of their capacity. The Task Group's charge is to review information, data and trends — including statistics gathered in a recent mail survey of northwest Arlington homes — and come up with some possible ways to ease crowding and utilize unused classroom space.

Unfortunately, these solutions could mean boundary changes, among other possibilities. Bluemont students currently living in McKinley or Ashlawn districts could be moved to other schools as early as the fall of 2008. The Task Group consists of two parents and the principal from each elementary school, APS staff and programs personnel. Neighborhoods are not represented. The Group will meet informally over the summer and begin official deliberations this fall, sending final recommendations to the Superintendent at the end of December. Recommendations approved by the Superintendent and, subsequently, the School Board would go into effect in the fall of 2008.

As of now, the Task Group is prohibited from discussing solutions that might change Arlington Traditional School's (and any "choice" school's) admissions policy. This would include talk of allowing a preference for BCA kids living within a safe walking distance. The Task Group does have the ability to reverse this rule in October if there is support on the committee and Superintendent Smith approves.

We will be posting more information on the BCA website ➡ 4

BCA Annual Meeting is next week!

BCA ELECTIONS

BCA's Annual Meeting will be held at Arlington Traditional School (ATS) on June 27 at 7 pm, at which time members will elect officers and representatives for 2007–2008 and vote to approve Bluemont's proposed neighborhood infrastructure list (p.3).

The Nominations Committee has forwarded the following slate of nominees for the 2007–2008 election: Judah dal Cais, President; Carl Drummond, First V.P.; Talmadge Williams, Second V.P.; UNFILLED, Secretary; Judy Collins, Treasurer; Wendy Dean, Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) Representative. These members have been nominated as Civic Federation Delegates: Kate Mesches, Ed Fendley, Terry Serie, and Talmadge Williams. The nominees for Civic Federation Alternates are Adrienne Pilot, Ellen Armbruster, Judah dal Cais, and Dan Laredo.

Please note that in addition to the slate above, nomina- ➡ 3



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



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

Dave Leichtman-dave@leichtman.org

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

BCA MEETINGS AT A GLANCE...

LAST GENERAL MEETING, MAY 23

FIOS — In May, Verizon Representative Celes Foster told BCA members that Verizon's new fiber optic network should be installed in Bluemont by this fall. The FIOS service will include voice (telephone), data (broadband Internet access), and television service. Once installed, Bluemont residents may sign up for FiOS and obtain a bundle of services for one price. This summer and fall residents should receive door-hanger notices informing them of Verizon's work in their neighborhood, and details on FiOS services and costs should come in mail solicitations. For questions about the installation process or the FiOS services, please contact Foster at 888-250-9710 or at celes.foster@verizon.com.

Peck-Staple Site Plan Update — Also at the May meeting, Information Coordinator Terry Serie reported that JBG's application to redevelop the Peck-Staples site has been delayed as the County has asked the applicant to submit an estimate of the "community benefits" (contribution to affordable housing, funds for improvement of area streets and sidewalks, etc.) in its request to change the land use plan to allow for the project. County staff members do not expect to return to consideration of the Peck-Staples site until early July or September.

Serie said that another complicating factor in the Peck-Staples site plan is the request by Arlington Housing Corp. (AHC) to redevelop the Jordan Manor apartment building located at the corner of Wilson Blvd. and N. Woodrow St. Serie distributed a copy of AHC's letter to the County Board requesting a General Land Use Plan (GLUP) and zoning change from the current RA8-18 apartment dwelling districts to C-O-2.5 commercial office building, hotel and apartment districts for that location. The new classification would allow for apartment buildings up to 16 stories in height. ■

NEXT GENERAL MEETING, JUNE 27

Vote for BCA officers and representatives and the neighborhood infrastructure list at our Annual Meeting to be held at Arlington Traditional School at 7 pm. Please note that only current members are eligible to vote. Dues (\$25 for membership through December 2008) may be paid by cash or check at the meeting. ■

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

When Do We MEET?

Glad you asked! BCA general membership meetings are held at 7 pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month, September through June. (Please note that our next general meeting won't be held until September 26.) The BCA executive board will continue to meet the second Tuesday of each month (July 10, August 14 and September 11). Dates, times and locations of meetings will be posted at www.bluemontcivic.org.

Changes Proposed for I-66

By Henry McFarland

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is proposing three substantial changes to westbound I-66. First, it wants to extend the entrance ramp at Spout Run to the Glebe Road exit ramp. Second, it wants to extend the entrance ramp at Fairfax Drive to Sycamore Street. Third, it wants to add an additional lane to the Washington Boulevard entrance ramp and extend the Washington Boulevard entrance lane to the Dulles Access Highway. VDOT hopes to complete these projects by 2013 at an estimated cost of \$76 million.

VDOT recently persuaded the National Capital Transportation Planning Board (TPB) to approve considering these projects for inclusion in its long-range plan. That action, however, does not mean that these projects have either final approval or funding. To get the TPB to take that action, VDOT promised that it would conduct a comprehensive study of transportation alternatives for the I-66 corridor and that the state would convene a stakeholder working group to consider the best ways of moving people through that corridor.

The effects of these projects on the surrounding neighborhoods, such as ours, could be substantial. At a public meeting last January, VDOT refused to answer most questions about the effects on surrounding areas on the grounds that the design phase of the project was incomplete. VDOT representatives promised that the changes would not eliminate the Custis bike trail, but admitted that the trail might have to be moved. They could not say whether the trail would then be moved to local streets or narrowed. Nor has VDOT described how the changes would affect Westover Park. A VDOT-sponsored traffic study suggests that it might not be possible to extend the Fairfax Drive entrance lane to Sycamore without harming the park.

VDOT plans another public meeting to discuss the projects this fall, possibly in September. Public hearings may follow in February or March of 2008. VDOT has been posting information about the proposed projects to the Internet at www.idea66.com. A community group (Arlington Coalition for Sensible Transportation) that opposes the projects also has a Web site at www.acstnet.org. ■

Thanks to Our Volunteers

You may or may not know who is working on your behalf, but BCA volunteers are the Association's lifeblood. Please help us recognize some of the people who are working for you: Terry Serie for his continuing work as our Peck-Staples Information Coordinator and for serving as the 2007 Walking Town Meeting Coordinator; outgoing Secretary Lisa Byington who took detailed minutes all year; Judah dal Cais, Carl Drummond, and Judy Collins for their multiyear service as BCA officers; Talmadge Williams for his long years of service as an officer and a BCA representative; Newsletter Editor Suzanne Sundburg; Newsletter Designer Sam Ferro for producing the newsletter each month and redesigning the Web site; and new Webmaster Dave Leichtman for getting the site in order and keeping it that way. We thank these folks and all of the other hardworking BCA volunteers. ■

►BCA Annual Meeting FROM P.1

tions also may be made from the floor on June 27. We still need a volunteer to serve as Secretary.

NEIGHBORHOOD INFRA-STRUCTURE PLAN VOTE

As detailed in the May issue of *Neighborhood News*, the County has asked Bluemont to help it produce a Neighborhood Infrastructure Plan (NIP). The County hopes that "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 as a planning tool to assist neighborhoods in setting capital improvement priorities."

Please send potential NIP items via e-mail to Bluemont's NCAC Representative, Wendy Dean at wjlarlington@yahoo.com. Bluemont's draft NIP list is posted on BCA's Web site at www.bluemontcivic.org. Be sure to submit your items before the June 27 meeting, when we will present the revised NIP list to the membership and call for a vote of approval.

Remember, the June meeting is our last full membership meeting until September 26, so be sure to attend and cast your votes (only current members may vote). The BCA Executive Board will continue to meet on the second Tuesday of the month (July 10, August 14 and September 11). Members are welcome to attend board meetings. Times and locations posted at www.bluemontcivic.org. ■

► **School Boundaries** FROM P.1

(www.bluemontcivic.org) in the future. In the meantime, for more information on the entire process, go to <http://www.arlington.k12.va.us/currentnews/boundary/index.shtml>

To have your voice heard on this important issue, email Superintendent Robert Smith at rgsmith@arlington.k12.va.us and your elected School Board members at schoolbd@arlington.k12.va.us ■

■ **Walking Town Meeting Highlights**

On June 18, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Bluemont residents walked and talked with County Board members about neighborhood improvement concerns. This event occurred after this newsletter went to press. Look for a synopsis of the topics discussed and the County's response during the Walking Town Meeting at www.bluemontcivic.org.

■ **Old E-List Ends June 30 — Sign Up for the New List Now!**

We are moving the BCA e-list to Google. Sign up for the new list through BCA's 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!

■ **Helpful Local Links**

- Arlington Police online crime reports: www.arlingtonva.us/police
- Arlington PRCR FitArlington portal: www.arlingtonva.us/FitArlington



Bluemont Civic Association
PO Box 5134
Arlington VA 22205

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

JUNE 2007

Next General Meeting	6/27
Live Music: Wellburn Square	6/29
Every Friday, 11:45 am	

JULY 2007

Piedmont Blues Celebration	7/8
Lubber Run Amphitheater, 8pm	
Executive Board Meeting	7/10
Ballston Arts & Crafts Mrkt	7/14
2nd Saturdays, Wellburn Sq. 10am	

SENIOR ACTIVITIES

The Arlington Office of Senior Adult Programs offers a variety of programs and travel opportunities. Call 703-228-4744.

Arlington–Aachen Student Exchange 2007

Travel to Germany 7/24 to 8/14

Participate in the Arlington Sister City-sponsored high school student exchange program. This annual program brings Arlington and Aachen high school students together for three-week home stays here and in Germany. Students visit the host student's school, visit neighboring cities and places of interest, and become acquainted with the culture and everyday life in a foreign country.

You do NOT need to speak German take part in this experience. Young people and most adults in Germany speak English well enough to communicate with us. Two chaperones accompany the groups. The cost of the trip to Germany will be \$1,750. A side trip to Berlin is included. There is financial assistance available for some students.

For more information or to apply, contact Greg Lynch at jayhawk150@gmail.com or 703-578-1092 OR Bernie Chapnick at bchapnick@aol.com or 703-243-0776. ■