

HEY NEIGHBOR, HELP US

# Build a BETTER Bluemont



## WHAT HAVE WE DONE FOR YOU LATELY?

- Working with the County's Arterial Transportation Management (ATM) Department, we suggested and gave input to make Bluemont's busy "Main Street" area around the Safeway and McDonalds a more pedestrian-friendly and attractive part of the neighborhood. There is more to do and we are beginning to develop plans to attract development to further enhance the area without losing its character and scale.
- As part of Site Plan Review Committee process, we are affecting zoning limits. In general, we are pushing to insure that development in Ballston west of Glebe Road stays within the county's General Land Use Plan and doesn't adversely impact those of us within its shadow and those of us who walk, ride or drive along Wilson and Glebe every day.
- Proposed and guided traffic calming, park enhancements, infrastructure repairs and improvements and more.
- Solicited and led a once-in ten-year Walking Town Meeting with County Board members and staff to give them an up-close and personal view of Bluemont issues from drainage/flooding to obstructed sidewalks.
- Halloween parades, barbecues, and more!
- **See more online at [bluemontcivic.org](http://bluemontcivic.org).**

The **BLUEMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION** is the voice of your great neighborhood. We work with county planners, represent our community in development matters, and keep you informed of important issues affecting us via the **BCA Neighborhood News**, our listserv and the BCA web site — **[bluemontcivic.org](http://bluemontcivic.org)**.

BCA is an independent, all-volunteer organization that has served the community since 1945. We receive no county funds and rely on folks like you to keep us running through your membership dues and volunteer help.

### GET ON THE BCA BAND WAGON!

- Start by filling out the form below and writing a check for \$19 to cover dues for the remainder of 2007 through the end of 2008.
- We want to hear from you! Come to the next General Meeting. Meeting schedule is posted at [bluemontcivic.org](http://bluemontcivic.org).
- Join BCA's online Google Group.
- Volunteer for a committee or help out however you can. From newsletter distributors to elected officers, there is always room for neighborly assistance.

### JOIN US TODAY!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Arlington, VA Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email\* \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\$19 check enclosed for 2007-2008 dues.

Mail to: Treasurer, Bluemont Civic Association, PO Box 5134, Arlington, VA, 22205 — or bring it in person to the next general meeting!

\*for BCA announcements only!

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING 9/26/07**

- Richard Best on ATM Plan
- Peck/Staples Jordan Manor Update
- Your Input and Concerns

**Sept 2007 A Public Service of Your Bluemont Civic Association**

**[www.bluemontcivic.org](http://www.bluemontcivic.org)**

Arlington County Board and staff got to hear from Bluemont residents up close and in person during their tour in June. Here, BCA's Terry Serie and Kate Mattos (front left) address the crowd along the Bluemont spur trail as board members and the county manager wait to respond. More photos, page 5.



## June Walking Town Meeting

On June 18, the Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) hosted the Arlington County Board for a Walking Town Meeting (WTM). All Board members—Paul Ferguson, Walter Tejada, Barbara Favola, Jay Fisette, and Chris Zimmerman—participated, as did the County Manager and over a dozen staff members from County departments. The WTM format gave Bluemont residents the opportunity to visit informally with the Board and to discuss neighborhood issues in person. Only three civic associations are selected each year for a WTM. Some 150 BCA residents participated in the walk, which started at 6:30 pm and concluded at 8:45 pm.

Throughout the walk, Board or County staff members tried to answer questions on the spot or made commitments to provide additional information and take action in the months ahead. The County promised to prepare a written report on all the issues raised during the WTM, and BCA has now received a draft. The final report will be posted on the BCA Web site, and an e-mail will be sent to all BCA members who are signed up for the new BCA announcement list hosted by Google.

If you have issues for your street or neighborhood that you want brought to the County's attention, please contact the BCA at [bluemontcivic@verizon.net](mailto:bluemontcivic@verizon.net).

Look for details and photos of the WTM at [www.bluemontcivic.org](http://www.bluemontcivic.org). ■

## Lend a Hand!

Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) is your neighborhood civic association (for those of you who are new). And although the civic associations are not part of County government, they are recognized by the County as the neighborhoods' representative organizations.

As an all-volunteer not-for-profit organization, BCA's ability to serve is limited only by the willingness of members to volunteer. We need new people with fresh ideas and enthusiasm. No experience or special skills are required—only a little time and civic spirit.

■ Please Help Us Incorporate—BCA would like to incorporate. We are looking for an attorney (with experience in incorporating non-profit organizations) to volunteer his or her time to help us at cost. If you are interested, please contact Wendy Dean at [wjlarlington@yahoo.com](mailto:wjlarlington@yahoo.com).

■ Chairperson/Committee Members for Neighborhood Day—Each year, Neighborhood Day events will take place in early May. Next year, we will need volunteers to help plan and prepare for ➔ 4



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# BCA Neighborhood News



is a service of  
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**bluemontcivic@verizon.net**

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## BCA MEETINGS AT A GLANCE...

### LAST GENERAL MEETING, JUNE

At the June 27 annual meeting, the membership voted to change the regular meeting time for general membership meetings from 7:00 pm to 7:30 pm. However, meeting times may be adjusted to 7:00 pm should the Executive Board determine that an earlier start time is needed.

BCA held its annual elections for the following officers and representatives for 2007-2008: President Judah dal Cais; First Vice President Carl Drummond; Second Vice President Talmadge Williams; Secretary Mary Thorne; Treasurer Judy Collins; Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) Representative Wendy Dean; Civic Federation Delegates Kate Mesches, Ed Fendley, Talmadge Williams, and Terry Serie; and Civic Federation Alternates Adrienne Pilot, Ellen Armbruster, Judah dal Cais, and Sam Ferro.

Thanks to all the executive board members who have agreed to serve for yet another term, and we extend a special welcome to Mary Thorne, Terry Serie and Sam Ferro, all of whom are serving their first terms. ■

### NEXT GENERAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 26

The first BCA general membership meeting of the 2007-2008 season will be held at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, September 26, at Arlington Traditional School (ATS) on N. Edison St. (behind the McDonald's and Two Chef's Pizza on Wilson Blvd.). Please note that we have moved the meeting time back to 7:30 pm to accommodate those who work later hours.

Guest speaker Richard Best from the county's Transportation Planning Program will update BCA on the next phase of the Wilson Boulevard ATM plan from Frederick Street to Four Mile Run. ■

## When Do We MEET?

Glad you asked! BCA holds general membership meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month (September through June) at 7:30 pm, and the meetings are usually held at ATS, unless announced otherwise. Executive board meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at ATS unless announced otherwise. Executive board meetings are open to all BCA members.

### Upcoming Meeting Dates:

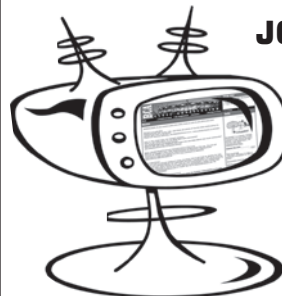
Tues., 10/9/07, 7:30 pm, Executive Board Meeting

Wed., 10/24/07, 7:30 pm, General Membership Meeting

Tues., 11/13/07, 7:30 pm, Executive Board Meeting

Wed., 11/28/07, 7:30 pm, General Membership Meeting

Visit the [bluemontcivic.org](http://bluemontcivic.org) for updates on meeting times and locations.



## JOIN THE BCA...

### and get on our E-list!

We have moved the BCA e-list to Google. There are now two list options: an announcement-only list that delivers time-sensitive messages approximately once or twice a month

and an ongoing discussion list. **You can sign up for one or both lists at [bluemontcivic.org](http://bluemontcivic.org).**

## Transfer Application Process for Rising Kindergartners

All Arlington county schools require an application process if you wish to transfer a child from his or her neighborhood/current school, and admission may be based on lottery. The application period is from February 1 to April 15 (when transfer applications must be submitted for the following school year). Students who have already been selected do not need to reapply in subsequent years.

Parents must first attend a transfer orientation at both the neighborhood school and the school to which the child wishes to transfer. Both school principals must sign the application. The application is then submitted to the desired school.

Siblings of older students who will be concurrently attending an elementary school are given preference.

A random lottery is held whenever there are more applications than available slots. Admission to Arlington Traditional School (the only school within Bluemont's geographic borders) is exclusively countywide lottery admission, with no preference given to Bluemont children. After the lottery takes place, usually the week after the closing of the application deadline, those randomly selected will be notified by mail.

Applicants not selected are placed in numerical order on a waiting list. Applications received after the application deadline will be placed at the bottom of that list. When there is an opening, the next person on the list will be contacted and given an opportunity to register.

Exact descriptions of who may attend Arlington's choice schools and which of them is eligible for APS-provided transportation is available at <http://www.arlington.k12.va.us/options/elem/alternative.shtm>.

The elementary school district boundary map can be found at [http://www.arlington.k12.va.us/facilities/maps/elementaryschools\\_Dec06.pdf](http://www.arlington.k12.va.us/facilities/maps/elementaryschools_Dec06.pdf).

In short, the application process requires you to attend two orientations (for your neighborhood school and the transfer school), get a form signed by the principals of both schools, and then hope that your child's application is chosen in the lottery. Some schools give priority to the applications of certain children who reside in nearby elementary schools' districts. ■

**More information on this issue can be found at [www.bluemontcivic.org](http://www.bluemontcivic.org). If you are interested in affecting the application process, neighborhood preference, or school boundary issues, contact BCA's Kate Mesches at [MESCHES@aol.com](mailto:MESCHES@aol.com).**



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## WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD?

### Signs of Things to Come

At the August Executive Board meeting, a motion was made and unanimously approved to allocate up to \$300 for three signs (up to \$100 each) to advertise general membership meetings. These signs will be attached as needed to the three existing Bluemont signs. ■

### Neighborhood Infrastructure Plan (NIP) Vote

As detailed in the May issue of Neighborhood News, the County has asked Bluemont to help it produce a Neighborhood Infrastructure Plan (NIP) list. Its purpose is to help the civic association 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. The County intends to use the NIP list as a planning tool to assist neighborhoods in setting capital ➔ 4

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## WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD? from p. 3

improvement priorities. Projects identified on the NIP list will not necessarily be fulfilled. Currently, many neighborhood improvement projects (e.g., curb, gutter, and sidewalk) must go through the neighborhood petition and NC funding processes.

At the June 27, 2007, annual meeting, a motion was made and seconded to approve the list as revised on June 25. The motion also granted the Executive Board the authority to amend the NIP list, as appropriate, and finalize it for submission to the County in September. The motion was unanimously approved by the membership. The final approved list can be seen at [www.bluemontcivic.org](http://www.bluemontcivic.org), and NCAC Representative Wendy Dean will submit the list to the County soon. ■

### Link Still Missing

This year, the County liberalized its criteria for having missing sidewalk sections (through the Missing Links program) completed. Accordingly, BCA submitted an application for the missing sidewalk section at 859 and 863 N. Frederick St. However, due to the presence of a utility pole that must be moved, the N. Frederick St. segment still does not qualify for the program. If further changes are made to the qualifying criteria, BCA will resubmit its application for N. Frederick St. ■

### Neighborhood Day Survey

The County has invited residents to assess Neighborhood Day, a 10-year-old community-wide event that's intended to help build community.

Use this link to complete the survey online:  
[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=AE2dVYIn\\_2byPdsFO09mYFAw\\_3d\\_3d](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=AE2dVYIn_2byPdsFO09mYFAw_3d_3d) ■

### ►Lend a Hand FROM P.1

the neighborhood barbecue. Also, we will need someone with a pickup truck to volunteer to pick up and transport the free tree saplings to the barbecue location for distribution.

■ Chairperson/Committee Members for a Fall and/or Halloween event —past Halloween parades have met with great success and we would like to rekindle that tradition.

To volunteer for one of the opportunities listed above, please contact BCA President Judah dal Cais at [jdalcais@verizon.net](mailto:jdalcais@verizon.net) or 703-528-1551.

## Peck-Staples Redevelopment Update

Developer JBG has submitted a plan for 12-story and 8-story office buildings and 32 four-story townhouses to replace the Peck and Staples buildings as well as two single-family homes on N. Wakefield St. The plan greatly exceeds the current zoning and the General Land Use Plan (GLUP) limits that govern the Peck/Staples site. JBG has asked the County to adjust the zoning (enabling greater height and density) and the land-use plan as well. The Arlington County Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) will likely conduct hearings on the proposal later this fall. The BCA has expressed support for development of this site with requirements that the building heights, tapering, setback, and architectural style and materials be in harmony with the adjacent residential neighborhoods. At a February SPRC meeting, the BCA and several SPRC members spoke in favor of limiting building heights to approximately 115 feet on Glebe Road with a tapering down to a maximum height of 45 feet on N. Wakefield Street.

### Jordan Manor Proposed Plan

The County has not yet replied to Arlington Housing Corporation's (AHC's) request to add height and density to the potential redevelopment of its Jordan Manor property on Wilson Boulevard between N Woodrow and N. Wakefield Streets by rezoning the property and upping its height and density (for a maximum of 18 stories) designation on the General Land Use Plan (GLUP). (The request for upzoning/up-GLUPing of Jordan Manor was based upon JBG's request for additional height and density for the Peck-Staples property across the street.) ■

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### SEPTEMBER 2007

Next General Meeting	9/26
I-66 Widening Public Meeting	9/26
7pm, Washington Lee HS	

### OCTOBER 2007

Executive Board Meeting	10/9
October General Meeting	10/24

### SENIOR ACTIVITIES

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

## NEW-CLASSIFIED!

**BABYSITTER NEEDED:** In search of responsible high school/college student for occasional evening and weekend babysitting for one or two toddlers in my Bluemont home (near Ballston Metro). Call Wendy at 202-312-3492.

**TO ADVERTISE IN OUR NEXT CLASSIFIED SECTION, CONTACT EDITOR SUZANNE SUNDBURG at [pro.wordsmith@verizon.net](mailto:pro.wordsmith@verizon.net)**



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**SCENES FROM THE JUNE 18TH WALKING TOWN MEETING (clockwise from top left) BCA'S Terry Serie hands the microphone to a concerned resident in a packed backyard on Abingdon St.; Traffic Management staff hear from Board Member Jay Fiseette and residents Vick Fisher and James Brooks; BCA President Judah dal Cais addresses the board and crowd along the Bluemont spur; residents illustrate their issues with posters at Fields Park. More at [bluemontcivic.org](http://bluemontcivic.org).**

