

JOIN US!

NEXT GENERAL MEETING 10/22/08

- JBG on Safeway Redevelopment
- Neighborhood Projects Update
- Your Input & Concerns

www.bluemontcivic.org

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

There are plenty of opportunities to participate in — or just enjoy — events that affect and take place in our neighborhood in the coming weeks.

VDOT I-66 Meeting

Mon., 10/27/08, 7:30 pm
Washington Lee High School

Virginia Department of Transportation is holding another public hearing on the proposed I-66 spot improvements [three spot improvements (widening) of westbound lanes] inside the beltway. For more details, visit the Website at www.I-66spotimprovements.com. ■

West Arlington Candidates' Night

Wed., 10/29/08, 7:30 pm
Resurrection Lutheran Church

Sponsored by several West Arlington civic associations (including the BCA), the West Arlington Candidates' Night offers voters the opportunity to meet and evaluate candidates running for Arlington County Board and for the 8th District for the U.S. House of Representatives. ➔3

They're Back – JBG Rosenfeld to Discuss Safeway Plans

At this Wednesday's BCA General Meeting at Arlington Traditional School, Representatives from JBG Rosenfeld Retail (a partner of The JBG Companies, developer of the Peck-Staples site) will be on hand to discuss the redevelopment potential for the Safeway site (5100 block of Wilson Boulevard). As was discussed at BCA's September meeting, a representative of JBG contacted BCA President Judah dal Cais over the summer to chat informally about Safeway's request for proposals to redevelop the site. When dal Cais contacted the Arlington Office for Economic Development, however, a county staff member stated Safeway was not interested in selling or redeveloping the Wilson Boulevard site.

At present, there is no way to explain the discrepancy or to know which version of events is correct. Also noted at the September meeting, the County Board has not taken a public position on whether it would support the increased height and density that would likely accompany any mixed-use redevelopment of the Safeway site. (The current by-right height limit is three stories, which would likely allow for a townhouse development.) Interest parties are urged to attend the meeting on Wednesday. ■

Arlington Forest Club Seeks Support for Expansion at September General meeting

Karen Serfis, representing Arlington Forest Club's board, presented the club's renovation plans for its bathhouse, built in 1959. The current bathhouse contains inadequate bathrooms and changing areas, and the club would like to add a second floor (keeping the building within its existing footprint) to give it meeting space and to provide shelter to pool goers during thunderstorms. ➔3



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BCA Neighborhood News

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open — [volunteer needed](#)

When — and Where — 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 Committee meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at ATS unless announced otherwise. Executive Committee meetings are open to all BCA members.

Visit the bluemontcivic.org for updates on meeting times and locations.

BCA MEETINGS AT A GLANCE...

LAST GENERAL MEETING 9/24

Arlington Forest Club Renovation Plan

The club is planning renovations to its nearly 50 year-old building. (See full story on page 1).

Bluemont Park Split-Rail Fence Removal

Kevin Stalica, a county parks manager who is in charge of trails, addressed the membership at the September meeting. He apologized for the unannounced removal of the split-rail fence adjacent to the bike trail in Bluemont Park on 8/2/08. When he made the decision to remove the fence (which was at the end of its "useful" life), he was unaware of neighbors' requests for the fence to be repaired, not replaced. (Several Bluemonters had made these requests during the June 2007 Walking Town Meeting.)

Stalica reported that the county had received letters both for and against removal of the fence (although he declined to say how many of each were received). The membership discussed several options for replacing the fence, including a suggestion to plant native bushes and trees in place of the fence. The county asked BCA to determine what option it would support: replacing the fence with another fence (style to be determined), replacing the fence with vegetation, or simply leaving the space open. BCA member Kate Mattos is spearheading the collection of comments from BCA members. Please forward any comments/suggestions to her at kmattos@comcast.net. This feedback will be discussed at the October 22 meeting, and the membership will vote at that time on which option it will recommend to the county.

Replacement of Quincy Street Recycling Center

At the September Executive Board meeting, a member noted that the N. Quincy Street recycling collection center would be closing to make way for a number of new office buildings. It was suggested that BCA offer a site within Bluemont to replace it. The board discussed the area near N. Kensington Street and N. Carlin Springs Drive (where the power transmission lines are located) as a possibility.

The membership discussed this site at the September general meeting, but one member objected to locating a recycling station there due to poor road visibility along Kensington and poor lighting in the area. A county staff member who attended the 9/24 meeting informed the membership that neither of the two replacement recycling sites being considered are in Bluemont. The county is considering either 19th and N. Kirkwood or Quincy Park as a possible replacement site for the recycling collection center. ■

NEXT GENERAL MEETING 10/22 – 7:30pm ATS JBG Rosenfeld on possible Safeway redevelopment

(See full story on page 1). ■

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING Joint Meeting on Nov. 12

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, BCA will hold a joint meeting of the Executive Board and the general membership on Wed., 11/12/08, 7:30 pm, at ATS. Tim McIntosh who from the county's Neighborhood conservation will be the speaker. There will be no meeting on 11/26/08. ■

BE THERE! ALL ARE WELCOME AT BCA GENERAL MEETINGS.

► Arlington Forest Club

FROM P.1

The club plans to renovate the bathrooms to make them compliant with American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, and the locker room/changing areas also would be upgraded. Under the plans, a new second-story deck would allow spectators to view the pool area.

The club's membership roll will continue to be capped at 675 members, and the same maximum pool occupancy limit of 224 would continue to apply. The primary point of concern is parking. The club currently has 80 parking spaces (some in the paved lot and some in the grassy lot next to N. Carlin Springs Road). The county is asking the club to increase the number of parking spaces to 118. However, this would require the club to pave the grassy lot (and cut down many mature trees).

According to club surveys, each car parked at the facility contains an average of 3.2 people. At that rate, if all 80 parking spaces were filled, there would be 256 people onsite (which would exceed the pool's occupancy limit). It therefore would make little sense to provide additional parking spaces for people who could not be admitted to the pool. Even if the grassy lot were to be paved, the club still would not meet the county's 118-space requirement.

Several BCA members who live nearby the club spoke out against paving the grassy lot, citing the loss of trees and the resulting increase in rain runoff during storms due to the increase in impervious surface.

The club asked the membership for a letter in support of its renovation plan—keeping off-street parking capped at 80 spaces and leaving the grassy lot as is—to be sent to the county on October 22. A preliminary vote by BCA members was unanimous in support of the plan. The BCA membership will take a final vote on the Arlington Forest Club renovation plan at its 10/22/08 general membership meeting. To review plan details, please visit www.bluemontcivic.org. ■

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

FROM P.1

John Reeder (Green) is running against incumbent Barbara Favola (D) for the County Board seat. Mark Ellmore (R) and Ron Fisher (I-Green) are competing against incumbent Jim Moran (D) for the 8th District U.S. House seat. Josh Ruebner of the Arlington Green Party will debate the merits of establishing a housing authority with Jack Cornman of the Alliance for Housing Solutions. The housing authority referendum will appear on the November 4 ballot.

The event will begin promptly at 7:30 pm at the Resurrection Lutheran Church located at 6201 N. Washington Boulevard.

Halloween on the Rocks

October 31, 4pm

An impromptu children's Halloween parade has taken place annually on the Bluemont Spur Bike Trail, starting at Emerson Street and ending with a gathering at "The Rocks" at the



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Three NC Projects Requested

Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Representative Carl Drummond reported via e-mail that the following NC requests have been made: Larry Smith asked for curb, gutters and sidewalks to be installed in the 1000 block of N. Edison Street; James Wapelhorst asked for repairs to be made to the sidewalks and gutters in the 5400 block of Bluemont Drive; and Heather Molloy asked about locating a small playground by the bike trail near the Rocks in Bluemont Park.

These requests are the first step in seeking funds for the projects. Each project must be sponsored by a BCA member who will shepherd the project through the process, which includes petitioning nearby neighbors, gaining approval from the membership at large, and adding the project to BCA's NC Plan.

Did We Deliver?

The September newsletter was distributed by hand to all households and businesses in the neighborhood. If you did not receive a copy, please contact Judy Collins, BCA's newsletter distributor, at jc.swings@verizon.net or 703-276-0124.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Next General Meeting-ATS 10/22

ACE Hallowgreen 10/23

VDOT I66 Mtg @ W&L HS 10/27

Candidates Night 10/29
Resurrection Lutheran Church

Halloween@the rocks 10/31

Election Day! 11/4

Ring the Constitution Bell 11/11

**Joint BCA Exec. Board 11/12
& General Meeting-ATS**



Help Us Help Others x 2

1. BCA President Judah dal Cais would like to sign up and race in his first Ironman event- Lake Placid 2009. Online registration for this race has ended. He has only one option to gain a race number- pay \$550, and raise \$775 for the NA Sports Community Fund (<http://www.nasports.com/commfund/>). If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to the Community Fund, and help send Judah to the Lake Placid Ironman race in 2009, please contact Judah at jdalcais@verizon.net.

2. BCA serves our neighborhood in civic matters, but what about beyond our boundaries? We are looking for help in planning a neighborhood event in the near future to benefit a local charity. If you have a great idea or space for this event, would like to help in some way — or would even like to take the lead on it — let us know!

Again, contact Judah at jdalcais@verizon.net or 703-528-1551.



Bluemont Civic Association

PO Box 5134

Arlington VA 22205

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

FROM P.4

end of N. Illinois Street. A loosely organized group of parents has made this a true grass-roots neighborhood tradition. Bring the kids or just come to enjoy the fun!

Signs in the Neighborhood

BCA has been alerted to Site Plan Amendment (SPA) #331 for 950 Glebe Road — Installing one (1) building/wall sign above the maximum height of 35 feet as defined in the Arlington County Zoning Ordinance (Section 34, Item D). between the 9th and 10th floors for Solers, Inc. If you have any comments you would like to provide regarding this SPA, please contact Matt Pfeiffer at 703-228-

3525. NOTE- This application is tentatively scheduled to be heard by the Arlington County Board on November 15, 2008.

W-L High School Hosts Holiday Bazaar

The community is invited to Washington-Lee High School's annual holiday bazaar on Saturday, 12/6, from 10 am to 4 pm, at the new school. This free event will feature vendors selling jewelry, holiday gifts, collectibles and hand-made items as well as ethnic foods. Holiday entertainment will be provided. The address is 1301 N. Stafford Street. For general information or if you would like to be a vendor, please e-mail w_l_holiday_bazaar@live.com or call Renee Gorsky at 703- 516-7007. ■