



JOIN US!

NEXT GENERAL MEETING 3/25/09

- Patrick Wegang on Rose Garden
- Bluemont Park Landscaping
- Your Input & Concerns

Left: Suggested option for Bluemont Park fencing. See www.bluemontcivic.org for details.

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www.bluemontcivic.org

New Fence for Bluemont Park

At the February general membership meeting, Parks Division staff member Kevin Stalica presented the membership with three options for replacing the split-rail fence in Bluemont Park. The three choices were a split-rail fence, a post-and-rail fence and combination of either type of fence with bushes or trees. There was much discussion of the pros and cons of the three options. Although several members felt strongly that the split-rail fence was more esthetically pleasing, other members noted that the split-rail fence needed almost constant attention (rails must be repositioned/replaced, etc.).

Is this your last issue? Check the address panel on page 4 to find out.



In general, split-rail fences begin to "wobble" at 5 years and must be repaired or replaced approximately every 10 years. The post-and-rail fence lasts approximately one and a half times longer, which is why the county prefers to install post-and-rail fencing when possible.

Despite the county's budget crunch, Stalica has identified and assembled funding from several existing sources to pay for the new fence; however, he warned that time was of the essence, as the future availability of these funds cannot be assured.

At the conclusion of the discussion, a motion was made, a vote was taken, and the motion passed to combine one of the fence options with sections of landscape plantings. It was stated that the type of fence would be decided later. At the end of the meeting after more discussion, a second motion was made, a vote was taken, and a motion to select →4

BCA MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

NEXT GENERAL MEETING 3/25 7:30 pm at ATS

At our March meeting, Environmental Landscape Supervisor Patrick Wegeng will join us for a discussion of the Bicentennial Flower Garden and the reconfiguration of the Bon Air Rose Garden. Proposed cuts to the 2010 Parks budget are significant, and Wegeng's landscaping team will be further restricted in the types of flowers (particularly annuals) that it will be able to plant in the Bicentennial Flower Garden.

At the February meeting, the membership selected the option to include landscaping as part of the design for the replacement fence along the trail in Bluemont Park. (See related New Fence article at left.) Although the selection of specific plants will take place at a separate meeting with county staff, Wegeng may be able to provide the membership with some insight and advice on what kinds of plants might be best suited for the site. →2



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BCA Neighborhood News

is a service of YOUR community civic association.

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**INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS!
ALL ARE WELCOME AT
GENERAL MEETINGS.**

BCA MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

FROM P.1

LAST GENERAL MEETING 2/25

In addition to discussions on the fence for Bluemont Park, Officer James O'Daniel updated members on crime in the area. There has been an uptick in bank robberies (four robberies along Lee Highway within a 2-week period) and a spate of GPS equipment larcenies from parked cars. O'Daniel advises residents to lock cars and houses and recommends removing GPS equipment from unattended cars.

Ryan Whittier, Joe Snyder and other representatives of Crimson Urban LLC/Crimson Partners presented a preliminary site plan amendment for 650 N. Glebe Road (the Goodyear site). The county has not yet accepted the amended plan. The proposed five-story, 115-unit residential building (maximum height of 78 feet including the penthouse) would also include 9,000 square feet of ground-floor retail space and two levels of parking below. The proposed amended use falls within existing General Land Use Plan and zoning parameters, and there is no request for bonus density (and thus no affordable housing component). The Crimson folks reported that this amendment would not alter existing redevelopment plans for the Harris Teeter and American Service Center parcels. For additional details, review the 2/25/09 minutes and architectural drawings posted at www.bluemontcivic.org.

Also in February, the membership voted to move ahead with a formal update of Bluemont's Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Plan. (See related Bluemont Village Center article on p. 3.) The membership voted to change the date of the April meeting from the 22nd to the 29th. The location of our April meeting will be announced once it has been determined. ■

When — and Where — Do We MEET?

Glad you asked! Although the April meeting will deviate from its usual date, BCA holds general membership meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month (September through June) at 7:30 pm. Those meetings are usually held at Arlington Traditional School (behind McDonalds), unless announced otherwise. Executive Board meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at ATS unless announced otherwise. Executive Board meetings are open to all BCA members. Visit bluemontcivic.org for updates on meeting times and locations. ■



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Still Need Nominating Committee Volunteer

Bob Atkins and Richard Young have stepped forward to serve on the Nominating Committee. The bylaws call for a third member of this short-term committee. Contact Judah at jdalcais@verizon.net or 703-528-1551 if you would like to help. ■

Bluemont Village Center and NC Plan Update

At the February general meeting, 1st VP Wendy Dean reported on the activities of the Bluemont Village Center (BVC) Working Group, which has been meeting regularly to create a development vision for the neighborhood's commercial center along Wilson Boulevard (between N. George Mason Drive and N. Greenbrier Street). Rather than reacting to a developer's future proposal, the neighborhood would like to provide the county with a proactive and defined statement in Bluemont's updated NC Plan.

There will be some crossover between BVC activities and efforts to update Bluemont's NC Plan. Working Group member David Van Wagner—dpvanwagner@mindspring.com—is compiling commercial area-related survey questions to be included as part of the required NC Plan update survey. Among other NC Plan issues being examined will be the importance of reestablishing a neighborhood school in Bluemont.

Planning Commission and BCA member Steve Cole has invited Virginia Tech Professor Shelley Mastran to meet with the BVC group primarily to discuss the village center concept. It is hoped that one of Mastran's urban planning classes may assist BCA in defining a vision for the Wilson Boulevard commercial area. ■

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD



The Whitman Walker Clinic's meditative "labyrinth" path may find its way to our Bon Air Park.

Meditative Garden May Move to a County Park

BCA and Parks Commission member Kate Mesches has reported that the Whitman-Walker Clinic's meditative garden and walkway may be donated and moved to county park property. (The Whitman-Walker Clinic on Lee Highway is being torn down to make way for new development.) Bon Air Park is being considered as a new home for this contemplative garden.

Barbecue Volunteers Needed

Although there will be no Neighborhood Day parade, BCA will once again host a ➔4

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Cuts Proposed To Solve County Budget Woes

Cuts in the County Manager's proposed 2010 budget will reduce services across the county. The Gulf Branch Nature Center is slated for closure, and the "intent" is to demolish the building. All programming for the Lubber Run Amphitheater also has been targeted, and several library branches will be open only three days per week. The invasive plant removal program will lose more than half its operating funds. There also will be cuts made to county police, fire and court system budgets.

To review the proposed budget cuts, visit www.co.arlington.va.us/Departments/ManagementAndFinance/budget/page67119.aspx. The County Board will hold public budget hearings on 3/24 and 3/25 at 7 pm. You must sign up in advance to speak during the public comment period for these meetings. Contact the clerk's office for more information at CountyBoard@arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-3130. ■

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Next BCA Meeting **ATS** **3/25**

Artfest 2009 3/27-4/3
Week-long arts celebration sponsored by the Arlington Artists Alliance at Fort Smith Park, featuring art show and sale (Arlington artists) plus demos, workshops and free entertainment. www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org for a details and schedules.

APRIL

Lacey Woods Invasive 4/11
Plants Removal, 10-noon

Exec. Board Meeting **4/14**

Deadline to Reserve 4/22

Free Trees from Arlington County

General Meeting **4/29!**

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

FROM P.3

neighborhood barbeque on May 16 at Fire Station #2 near the intersection of Wilson and N. George Mason. Members David Van Wagner and Bob Atkins volunteered to assist with the barbecue, but additional volunteers are still needed. Please contact Judah dal Gais at jdalcais@verizon.net or 703-528-1551 to sign up.

Noise Code Enforcement Limited to Weekdays

According to the Arlington County Manager's office, county code includes noise limits, but Code Enforcement Office staff members will take sound measurements only during weekday business hours. Thus, Code Enforcement has not been available to curtail the loud parties that recur in the neighborhood on weeknights or weekends. Member Jim Thorne is compiling information on county noise policies and procedures for posting to the BCA Website. ■



Bluemont Civic Association

PO Box 5134

Arlington VA 22205

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If the renewal date on the label says "Paid through 12/31/2008" (or earlier), please fill out the form below and send your check for \$15 to BCA, or bring it to the next BCA meeting!

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Make checks payable to Bluemont Civic Association, send to the address above or bring it to the next meeting.

► New Fence

FROM P.1

the post-and-rail fence option combined with landscaping was passed. The county landscape architect and Environmental Landscape Supervisor Patrick Wegeng will work with the neighborhood to select the bushes, trees or other plantings. A combination of matching fence style and rocks will be used where streets dead-end at the park in order to discourage vehicles from driving into the park. ■

Reserve Your FREE TREE

A reminder that residents need to place their order for free Bur Oak or American Hazlenut trees no later than Earth Day (Wed., 4/22) by contacting Nora Palmatier at norapalm@verizon.net or 703-527-2349. When making your reservation, please give your name, address, contact information, species and quantity you prefer. Trees are limited to one of each type per household. Requests for more trees will be granted if extra trees are available. ■