

- NEXT GENERAL MEETING 3/24**
- County Government Change
 - Jane Kim on Bluemont Village
 - Your Input & Concerns

< Bluemont Village Center Design Forum. See p.2

Mar 2010 A Public Service of Your Bluemont Civic Association

www.bluemontcivic.org

Change is Good. Or Is It?

Government-Change Referendum Proposal

The 3/24/10 general membership meeting will be held at 7:30 pm at Arlington Traditional School (ATS). Last fall, the unions for Arlington's police, fire, paramedic and other emergency workers began collecting signatures for a referendum to switch from Arlington's current form of government (called the County Manager Plan) to a County Board form of government. The County Manager Plan vests all administrative powers in an appointed county manager, and all county staff members report directly to him or her. All county board members are elected at large. The County Board form of government shifts some of the administrative power (and responsibility) from the appointed manager to five county board members, four of whom are elected by district and one who is elected at large.

PAY YOUR DUES!

Renew for 2010!

Many of you still need to renew for 2010. Bring cash or check for \$15 to the 3/24/10 meeting. Or mail a your check, made payable to Bluemont Civic Association, to the address below. Check your newsletter's label to determine your membership status; if the label says "Paid thru 12/31/2009" you need to renew for 2010. ■

Please provide and/or update your information as necessary below.

Name(s) _____

Street Address _____

ARLINGTON VA 2220

Phone Number _____

E-mail Address (optional for BCA use only) _____

If not delivering in person, mail to
 BCA Treasurer
 P.O. Box 5134
 Arlington VA 22205

INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTICE

Should inclement weather force Arlington Public Schools to close on a day that a BCA meeting also has been scheduled, the BCA meeting will be cancelled.

BCA has invited Ken Dennis, president of the Arlington Coalition of Police (ACOPS), to speak on behalf of the referendum. Arlington's emergency first responders would like the freedom to speak directly to county board members about budget and resource matters, something that is currently prohibited under the current system. BCA also has invited Roye L. Lowry, a former county board and civic federation member and long-time county resident. Mr. Lowry will speak in favor of Arlington's current form of government based upon his long years of experience as a county board member and as a civic volunteer.

Also at the March meeting, Jane Kim will give a brief overview of the February 17 design forum (see the February Meeting Recap on page 2) and will be on hand to answer any questions. ■

Spring neighborhood-wide distribution is almost here...

YOUR BUSINESS can be popping out all over Bluemont!

The April edition of BCA News goes to every address in Bluemont — that's 2,000 households and businesses! Don't miss this opportunity to reach this audience affordably and conveniently. Ads start at just \$50. See our rate sheet at bluemontcivic.org/rates.pdf

Contact president@bluemontcivic.org to reserve a space today!



BCA MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

FEB. 17 GENERAL MEETING

BCA held its Bluemont Village Center Design Forum on Wed., 2/17/10, at ATS. (The forum originally scheduled for Sat., 2/6/10, was cancelled due to snow.) Over 35 Bluemont residents braved the icy temperatures to attend.

Led by design engineer and Virginia Tech graduate student Jane S. Kim, participants broke into teams to review and discuss various design options and considerations for particular segments of the Wilson Boulevard commercial corridor. The teams then presented their ideas to the group.

Kim, who is working with Bluemont residents as part of her graduate project to produce a design framework for a unified village center, will analyze the feedback she gathered from the forum and will present her findings and recommendations at the April meeting ■



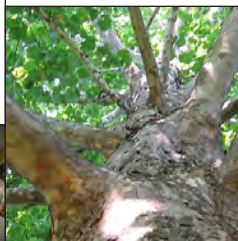
Attendees discuss possibilities at the Design Forum

Reserve Your FREE Tree Now!

Bluemont has lost many of its beautiful large-canopy trees due to infill and the recent snowstorms and high winds. We need to plant more trees to provide cooling shade, help clean the air, reduce noise levels, provide homes for birds, absorb storm water runoff, and just make Bluemont a more pleasant place to live. To encourage this renewal, the Arlington County Parks and Natural Resources Division is offering a variety of free tree whips for residents to plant on their own property.

The tree whips range from approximately three to five feet in height, and they are potted in two-gallon containers (see varieties listed below). Due to limited quantities, please order only one tree per household. The deadline to request a tree is April 28. Bluemont neighbor Nora Palmatier, a Tree Steward volunteer, is again our tree coordinator this year. She will be happy to provide additional information and assist you in selecting the right tree for the right place in your yard. Contact her at norapalm@verizon.net. Trees will be available for pick up in early May.

The following large shade trees should be planted at least 10 feet away from any overhead wire or building, with consideration for other trees, underground utilities, and sidewalks:



■ **American sycamore** (*Platanus occidentalis*) — This large and spreading shade tree, with showy white, cream, olive and gray bark, can reach 80 feet high and 60 feet wide. It is very adaptable to wet or dry soils and likes full and partial sun. See photos at www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/p/plaocc/plaocc1.html.

■ **Swamp white oak** (*Quercus bicolor*) — This large shade tree (60 feet tall with a 60-foot spread at maturity) adapts well to dry, wet and flooding area as well as tolerating full sun to partial shade. It is an excellent provider of food and shelter for wildlife of all kinds. See photos at www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/q/quebic/quebic1.html. ➡3



Twenty years ago is the best time to plant a tree; Today is the second best.

Roger Swain, from The Victory Garden on PBS

Tax Preparation Assistance

In coordination with the IRS' Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program, there will be free tax preparation clinics held for low- and moderate-income Arlington residents through early April. For details, visit www.arlingtonva.us/departments/HumanServices/EconomicIndependence/page67723.aspx. ■

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■ **River birch** (*Betula nigra*) — This is a large, rapidly growing shade tree (60 feet tall and 40 feet wide at maturity) with outstanding ornamental bark that can handle dry or wet sites and full sun to partial sun. See photos at www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/b/betnig/betnig1.html.

A smaller tree that can be planted closer to overhead wires, but provides less cooling shade and air cleaning assistance, is also available in limited quantities:

■ **Sweetbay magnolia** (*Magnolia virginiana*) — This upright large shrub or small multitrunked tree has excellent semi-evergreen waxy foliage and can reach 20 feet tall by 15 feet wide at maturity. It prefers partial sun in moist, rich, acidic soils for best performance but can adapt to sunny or shady conditions in a variety of soils. See a photo at www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/m/magvir/magvir1.html. ■



BCA NEEDS YOU



May 8 BBQ Volunteers Needed

BCA will once again host its neighborhood barbeque at 11:30 am to 1 pm on Sat., 5/8/10, at Fire Station #2 near the intersection of Wilson Boulevard and N. George Mason Drive. If you'd like to help, please contact Judah at president@bluemontcivic.org or 703-528-1551 to sign up. ■

New Officers/ Representatives Needed

Most BCA officers and volunteers have been serving you faithfully for many years, and they need a break. We urge those of you who are interested in serving to contact Judah at president@bluemontcivic.org on or before the April meeting. Elections will be held at the June Annual Meeting on 6/23/10. If new volunteers do not step forward, the civic association may become inactive. ■

County Estimates Some March Water/Sewer Bills

Due to the difficulty of accessing and reading utility meters during and after the historic February snowstorms, Arlington County must estimate approximately 9,000 water/sewer bills that should be delivered to residential customers in March.

For established accounts, estimated water consumption will be based on usage for the same period of the previous year. Estimates for newer accounts are based on overall average usage. If your bill has been estimated, you see the notation "ESTIMATED CONSUMPTION" in the section where meter readings are printed.

Every attempt will be made to obtain the actual meter readings in May prior to the next quarterly bill. Customer statements will be adjusted in the next billing cycle to account for any over- or under-estimated bills in March. If you have questions, contact 703-228-6570 to review the bill with a customer service representative. ■

Arlington Home Show and Expo

On Saturday, 4/10/10, the Arlington Home Show and Expo will take place at the Walter Reed Community Center. Expo workshop and seminar topics will include how to finance your home remodel- ➔3



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4701 Old Dominion Drive
Arlington, VA 22207



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

BCA General Meeting 3/24
7:30 PM at ATS

APRIL

Arlington Home Show 4/10
 (see story p.3)

Executive Board Meeting 4/13

General Meeting 4/21
 (date to be confirmed)

ACE Potomac Watershed 4/10

Cleanup - 9 am @ Chain Bridge

MAY

AWLA Walk for the Animals 5/8

BCA Spring BBQ 5/8

HAPPY SPRING!
 from BCA

BCA Neighborhood News

is a service of YOUR community civic association.

bca@bluemontcivic.org

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Delegates: Kate Mesches, Talmadge Williams, Ed Fendley, Terry Serie. Alternates: Bob Atkins, Judah dal Cais, Sam Ferro, Larry Smith

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Bluemont Civic Association

PO Box 5134

Arlington VA 22205

NO NEWS FOR YOU!?

If the renewal date on the label says "Paid through 12/31/2009" (or earlier), fill out the form on page 1 and send your check for \$15 to BCA, or bring it to the next BCA meeting!

Arlington County Home Show FROM P.3

ing/improvement project, no-cost or low-cost ways to reduce your utility bills, and green home remodeling. More than 50 exhibitors will be on hand.

Arlington County Government and the Columbia

Pike Revitalization Organization (CPRO) are sponsoring this year's Expo. For more information about the event, visit www.arlingtonhomeshow.org or call Arlington's Housing Division at 703-228-3765, or CPRO at 703-892-2776. ■



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