



JOIN US 9/29:

Lisa Grandle on Parks
Your Input & Concerns

◀ **Good Morning Bluemont!**
Residents have lots of opinions, but most all agree that our "Main Street" could be a better place, day or night.

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www.bluemontcivic.org

BCA MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

And the Survey Says...

Over 350 Bluemont residents responded to the Neighborhood Conservation survey that was hand-delivered to all Bluemont households along with the April newsletter. NC Plan Update Committee Chair David Van Wagner was ably assisted by fellow committee members in tabulating the responses. We thank everyone who helped in this effort. Van Wagner prepared a summary of the survey results, now available online at www.bluemontcivic.org.

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BCA and
Keep This
Newsletter
Coming!**

You received this hand-delivered newsletter compliments of BCA and its dedicated volunteers. To keep up with what's happening, join BCA.

▶▶

According to the survey, the top three advantages of living in Bluemont are convenience to DC, the close proximity to parks and recreational areas, and access to public transportation.

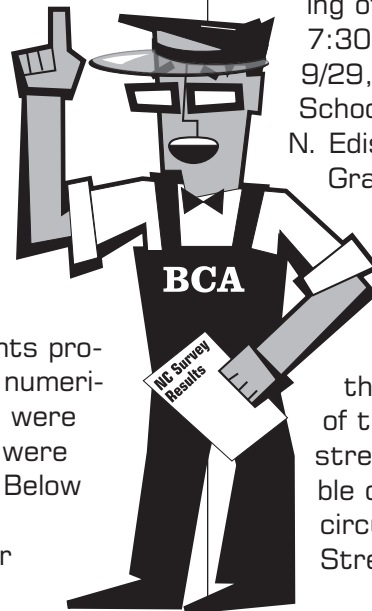
Respondents' written comments provided an added dimension to the numerical responses, but, as expected, were sometimes contradictory. There were some common themes, however. Below are just a few:

▶ Taxes are too high, particularly for those who live on fixed incomes.

Unfortunately BCA cannot control taxes, which is why there were no tax-related survey questions. However, this November's ballot contains a Virginia constitutional amendment that, if passed, would give Virginia localities (including Arlington) more flexibility in granting real estate tax relief to low-income seniors and those who are disabled.

▶ Renovate the Safeway and place utility poles along Wilson Boulevard underground. Many residents would like our grocery store and commercial area to look nicer and be a more lively and welcoming

▶▶5



Come on down to the next general meeting on September 29!

Please join us for the first meeting of the fall season at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, 9/29, at Arlington Traditional School (ATS), located at 855 N. Edison Street. Lisa Grandle, the Arlington County Park

Development Division Chief will be our guest speaker.

Parking is available in the lot on the south end of the building or on the street. Please use the double doors in front of the circular drive on N. Edison Street to enter.

June Annual Meeting and Election Results

On 6/23, the membership met and voted to elect these officers and representatives for 2010-2011: Judah dal Cais, President; Matt Fehling, First Vice President; Talmadge Williams, Second Vice President; Mary Thorne,

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Join BCA!

from p. 1

Membership thru December 2011 is just \$20. Please bring cash or check to the 9/29/10 general membership meeting, or mail a check made payable to Bluemont Civic Association at:
BCA Treasurer
P.O. Box 5134
Arlington VA 22205.

Please provide (or update) your information on the form below.

Name(s)

Mailing Address

Phone Number

E-mail (optional—for BCA notification only)*

*Members who want to be added to BCA's listserve e-mail notices must visit www.bluemontcivic.org to sign up.

▶ BCA MEETINGS FROM PAGE 1

Secretary; Judy Collins, Treasurer; and Larry Smith, Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Advisory Committee Representative. Terry Serie, Suzanne Sundburg, and Judah dal Cais will serve as BCA's Civic Federation Delegates. Robert Atkins and Sam Ferro will serve as BCA's Civic Federation Alternates. We welcome newcomer Matt Fehling and thank all the other long-serving members who agreed to continue for another year.

To review the full minutes of the 6/23/10 Annual Meeting, please visit www.bluemontcivic.org. ■

When Do We Meet?

Starting this month, BCA will eliminate the separate monthly Executive Board meetings (formerly on the 2nd Tuesday of the month). Instead, a single meeting will be scheduled on the 4th Wednesday of the month, with some adjustments being made for the holidays and the school's schedule.

General membership meetings will be held 5 times each year, and the newsletter will be sent 5 times a year (2 of those issues will be hand-delivered to all Bluemont doorsteps, once each in the spring and fall; the other 3 will be mailed to paid members).

To view the dates, times and locations of upcoming meetings, please visit www.bluemontcivic.org. ■



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EXCERPTS FROM BCA NEWS...

All This for Just \$10?

The Bluemont Civic Association is an independent, all-volunteer civic group that has served Bluemont since 1945. We receive no County funds. Prorated dues paid in April are just \$10, and membership is open to all Bluemont residents and businesses.

What's YOUR Opinion?
Government-Change Referendum Proposal

Last year, BCA voted to formally update the Bluemont Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Plan. We began the process with a preliminary survey to determine community support for the village center redevelopment concept. Based upon those survey results, BCA held a design forum in February so that local residents could review and discuss various design elements that could be used to guide any future redevelopment of the Wilson Boulevard commercial corridor.

OTHER NEWS...

- Recent BCA Accomplishments
- Tree Giveaway Ends April 28
- Missing (Sidewalk) Links
- BCA Seeks New Leadership
- Help for Spring Yard Work

DOWNLOAD A PDF OF THE LATEST ISSUE OF BCA NEWS

Join our group and post pics of your favorite places in Bluemont!

Connect with BCA on Facebook

Bluemont is a vibrant, friendly community of more than 5,000 people in west central Arlington County, Virginia, near Washington, DC.

BCA is the voice of our community in dealing with Arlington County on everything from street repairs to major zoning changes.

AND HERE...

Our Facebook and Flickr pages are great ways to be part of the buzz. Share photos and ideas, or just stay abreast of neighborhood events.

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West Entrance to Ballston Metro

In July, the Arlington County Board voted to reallocate money originally dedicated to a west entrance for the Ballston Metro station to fund improvements at the Rosslyn station. BCA member and Civic Federation Alternate Bob Atkins pulled the item from the board's consent agenda so that BCA would have an opportunity to comment on the move at the board's recess meeting. BCA's new NC Representative Larry Smith (and others) spoke on behalf of BCA.

Smith reports that board member Chris Zimmerman spoke in favor of the Ballston west entrance and commented that when the board had approved all the building and development for the western end of Ballston, it was assumed that construction would coincide with construction of the new west Metro station entrance.

Zimmerman moved to have a new financing plan for the Ballston west entrance by 12/31/10. Board member Barbara Favola seconded the motion, and it was approved 5-0. Jay Fisette instructed County Manager Michael Brown to develop a new financial and engineering plan for the Ballston west entrance by 12/31/10 that doesn't depend on developer contributions. Brown replied that it might be difficult to have the plan completed by year-end, but the board insisted on that timetable. Although Zimmerman voted in favor of reallocating the money to Rosslyn, he requested that the funds not be officially transferred until Ballston's west entrance plan is finalized.

We appreciate the efforts of members Atkins, Smith, and Ellen Armbruster as well as the many members who submitted written comments to the County Board for the benefit of the association. ■

NC Approves Projects in June

Carl Drummond reported that the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee approved 8 of the 12 NC projects presented in the June funding round. BCA is still waiting for the approved sidewalk, curb and gutter project for N. Frederick Street between Wilson Blvd. and I-66 to be constructed (perhaps as early as spring 2011). A sidewalk, curb and gutter project for the 1000 block of N. Edison Street is now BCA's first-priority project in the NC funding queue.

Beaver Pond Retrofit

In 2013, the county plans to rehabilitate (retrofit) the Ballston Beaver Pond so that it functions as the storm-water management vehicle it was originally designed to be. (Note: Beavers no longer actually live in the pond.) The retrofit should prevent the "short-circuiting" of water flowing through the pond and improve overall downstream water quality. This ►►6



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Seeking Volunteers for Edge Development Project

The Planning and Zoning Committee of the Arlington County Civic Federation has launched a Neighborhood Edge Development Project. The purpose of this project is to develop guidelines that will apply to all county properties as they are considered for redevelopment.

The committee is asking civic associations, residential and business property owners, and county staff and developers to participate. The committee has already worked with county staff to gather information on all such properties in Arlington and to segment those by civic association. The next phase calls for individual civic associations to identify "edge" properties in their neighborhood—that is, houses that are next to something other than a house, and therefore may be subject to redevelopment. Once complete, the next phases will be to compile categories and finally to come up with a set of guidelines to be used as redevelopment is considered.

The project is currently in its second phase and interested residents are needed to help identify properties within our neighborhood. The timeline for this portion of project is from now until early spring 2011. *Residents closer to Ballston or adjacent to our Wilson Blvd. commercial corridor may be especially interested in this project.* If you would like to help, contact Judy Collins at 703-276-0124 or jc.swings@verizon.net. ■

What Is the Civic Federation?

In 1916, BCA's parent organization, the Arlington County Civic Federation, was born. The Civic Federation and its member organizations exist to promote "the general welfare of Arlington County."

At the monthly meetings (to which BCA sends its own delegates), Civic Federation members raise and discuss important county issues, work to help achieve better problem-solving outcomes, and strive to insure that citizens stay well informed. In September, the Civic Federation holds a public candidate's night forum; it will host the County Manager and the School Superintendent in December, the state legislative delegation in January, County Board members in February, and School Board members in March. At the April meeting, the Civic Federation will review and discuss Arlington's proposed budget and tax rate for fiscal year 2012.

The Federation's 21 committees include transportation, revenues and expenditures (the county's budget and taxes), housing, emergency preparedness, public services, parks and recreation, schools, planning and zoning, environmental affairs, etc. Visit www.civfed.org to learn more about Arlington's civic life and activities. ■

Candidate's Night Set

BCA's joint Candidate's Night has been scheduled for Thurs., 10/28/10, 7 to 9:30 p.m., at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 6201 N. Washington Blvd. The races will be heard in the following order: Arlington School Board, U.S. House of Representatives, and Arlington County Board. The candidates in each race will respond to written questions provided by the members of the community attending. This Candidate's Night is sponsored annually by approximately 10 civic organizations in the northwest area of Arlington. Refreshments will be provided by the cosponsoring civic groups. All interested residents are encouraged to attend and meet your current and prospective elected officials. Information on the county bonds to be voted on in the November election will also be available. ■

Voter Registration/Absentee Voting

Tues., 10/12/10, is the last day to register to vote. If you are already registered and will be away from Arlington on November 2 (Election Day), you can request an absentee ballot from the Office of Voter Registration. To have the ballot mailed to you, the office must receive your absentee voter application no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Tues., 10/26/10. In-person absentee voting will also be available. For details visit www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationElectionInformation.aspx or call 703-228-3456. ■



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Survey Says CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

center for the neighborhood. And most people want a safer and easier walk to and from Ballston and the Metro station. BCA's Village Center Committee continues working on these issues.

► Add lights along the bike trails and in the parks. Bluemonters made this request at the 2007 Walking Town Meeting. At that time, however, County Board members told residents that Arlington parks close at dusk and no additional lighting would be added along the trails or in local parks.

If you have specific questions or concerns, we invite you to attend the 9/29/10 general membership meeting. Quite often, members have helpful information and advice to share based on their own experiences. ■

Kudos to BCA "Retirees"



BCA President Judah dal Cais recognizes Carl Drummond for his many years of service to BCA at the June Annual Meeting.

After serving the membership and this community faithfully for over 8 years (as 1st Vice President and as NC Representative), BCA member Carl Drummond has retired from the BCA Executive Board. At the June Annual Meeting, the membership thanked him and applauded his hard work on their behalf. Among his many achievements, Drummond shepherded several projects through the NC process, including, the 800–900 block of N. Frederick Street, which after 30 years will finally get a complete sidewalk, curb and gutter. We appreciate his generosity with his time, and we thank his wife for her patience.

First Vice President Wendy Dean, who helped spearhead BCA's efforts on the Peck-Staples redevelopment project, also bid the Executive Board adieu. Long-time Civic Federation delegates Kate Mesches and Ed Fendley have returned to "civilian" life after many years of service. Fendley served as association president and as a facilitator for the county's Arterial Transportation Management (ATM) forum. Ultimately, Wilson Boulevard was selected as one of the test ATM projects, which led to improved pedestrian crosswalks, wider sidewalks, medians, landscaping, and mid-street pedestrian refuges being added from N. George Mason Drive west to N. Frederick Street. Mesches worked tirelessly as NC Representative, shepherding several NC projects through the funding process and lobbying to have funded projects (sometimes delayed as long as 10 years) constructed; Mesches remains a member of the county's Parks and Recreation Commission. We appreciate the work of all BCA volunteers, both past and present, for their unselfish contributions of time, energy, expertise, and creativity to help our community. ■

Bluemont's Natural Wonders

by Nora Palmatier

(This article was condensed for the newsletter. Find the complete article at www.bluemontcivic.org.)

Although Bluemont's parks and open spaces lie in the heart of an urban village, a surprising number of significant natural resources abound. Arlington's new Natural Resources Management Plan includes geographic information system (GIS) maps of each park, marking champion trees, natural geologic features, and significant native plants and animals that must be protected when any trail or park construction is planned. Knowing what we have is the first step in preserving our treasures.

Our most valuable natural assets:

- **Lacey Woods Park** contains the largest Virginia pine on record and the largest recorded eastern hemlock. The majority of the park is a lush oak-hickory forest.
- **Bon Air Park** contains volunteer Master Gardeners' educational exhibits including the Quarry/Shade Garden and the Sunny Garden emphasizing wise water use with sustainable, low-maintenance plants. The formal Rose Garden relies heavily on volunteers to maintain its beauty. Recently acquired parkland on N. Lexington Street has many exciting possibilities!
- **Bluemont Park** hosts abundant recreational resources as well as significant natural resources including a piedmont mountain swamp forest, oak-hickory forests, and a tulip poplar-spicebush forest among others.

Help Protect These Resources

All Bluemont parks face grave threats like invasive plants and contaminated storm water. Please go to www.bluemontcivic.org or contact me at norapalm@verizon.net or 703-527-2349 to help out. ■

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

BCA General Meeting-ATS 9/29

Ballston Farmers Market Square,
3–7pm, Wellburn Square (every
Thursday through Oct. 14)

OCTOBER

Ballston Arts & Crafts 10/9
Market, 2–4pm, Wellburn Square
(every 2nd Saturday through Oct.)

Candidate's Night 10/28
(see article, page 4)

Annual Neighborhood 10/31
Kids Halloween Parade
(Bluemont Junction Trail)

NOVEMBER

BCA General Meeting 11/17

BCA Neighborhood News

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Newsletter Volunteers Deliver Again!

Without BCA's hard-working volunteers, there would be no newsletter. Twice a year, once in the fall and spring, about 30 of your neighbors fan out to deliver the BCA newsletter to your and nearly 2,000 other doorsteps. Although it's not time-consuming (a few hours twice a year), some volunteers have been serving for many years and need a break; others need a substitute on occasion. Please contact BCA's newsletter distributor David Van Wagner at dpvanwagner@mindspring.com to volunteer. ■

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

project will help the county meet its obligation under its storm water permit to reduce pollutants in runoff. Achieving regional water quality goals, however, will require a comprehensive, long-term effort. ■

September Fundraiser Postponed

Due to logistical problems, the BCA fundraiser originally scheduled for September was postponed. The Executive Board has rescheduled it for May 2011. ■

Tomatoes on Tuesdays

After becoming concerned about large-scale agriculture's impact, BCA member Dan Redmond started a backyard garden several years ago. He subsequently began borrowing additional garden space through www.sharingbackyards.com. And then through the Project Interaction Coordinator at Barrett Elementary School—where his sons Alec (8) and Aidan (6) attend school—he learned of classmates and their families who were having food security issues.

In 2009–2010, approximately 51% of Barrett students qualified for a free or reduced-price lunch or breakfast. At Ashlawn and McKinley Elementary Schools, nearly 19% and 9%, respectively, of students qualified for free or reduced-price meals. When school is not in session, however, those students

may have to go without, because some North Arlington families face transportation and other challenges that make traveling to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) in South Arlington difficult or impossible.

Redmond saw the situation as a perfect opportunity to teach his children about growing things and helping others. They named the effort "Tomatoes on Tuesday"—the phrase they repeated to the recipient families (whose English is often limited) telling them when to expect a produce delivery. Last year, Redmond shared with 13 families. This year, the group was smaller because, as Redmond explained, "I don't have as much garden space in cultivation." Thus far, Redmond's family has completely funded the project. He welcomes other gardeners' participation and will gladly speak to groups interested in garden sharing within their own school community.

Redmond also volunteers for AFAC's Plot Against Hunger (www.plotagainsthunger.org) program and sees urban farming as a potential career transition. As part of his coursework in Harvard's graduate program for environmental management and sustainability, he wrote, *Shared Harvest: A Vision for a Sustainable, Organic Urban Farm in Arlington County, VA*. To request a copy or to ask Dan questions, send an e-mail to RedmondDK@mac.com. ■