

# BCA



NOV. 2010 A PUBLIC SERVICE OF YOUR BLUEMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION

**JOIN US 11/17:**

Master Transportation Plan  
New Police Liaison  
Your Input & Concerns

◀ How will the County's Master Transportation Plan affect Bluemont's streets? Find out at the next BCA Meeting.

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

## BCA MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

### Last General Meeting, 9/29

Park Development Division Chief Lisa Grandle spoke primarily about the residential property at 882 N. Lexington Street that was recently converted into parkland. The property's owner offered it for sale to the county, and in accordance with the parkland acquisition guidelines, the county purchased it for \$570,000.

The house was subsequently deconstructed, and 98% of the materials were recycled/reused. The garage was left intact for park personnel to use as storage. The land was reseeded and has been left in a natural state until such time as a plan for its ultimate use is decided. Zoned parking along county property is prohibited, so the zoned parking signs adjacent to 882 N. Lexington are to be removed.

Brian Cullin (appointed by President dal Cais as a coordinator between Bon Air Park Manager Lyndell Core and the civic association) reported on his and other residents' meetings with Core and Grandle regarding the parkland at 882 N. Lexington Street. According to Cullin, ▶▶2

# MTP in the BCA?

## MASTER TRANSPORTATION PLAN TOPS NOVEMBER AGENDA

BCA's next full general membership meeting is scheduled for 11/17/10, 7:30 pm, at Arlington Traditional School. It will be the last general membership meeting for 2010.

### Streets Element Discussion

## Did We Deliver?

An army of volunteers delivered BCA's September newsletter by hand to all (approximately 2,000) Bluemont households and businesses. We appreciate the efforts of our volunteers

▶▶2

Please help us welcome the county's Master Transportation Plan (MTP) Project Manager Richard Viola. Viola reviewed the draft Streets Element — the last section of the MTP to be updated — at the October Civic Federation meeting, where delegates had more questions than were answered.

The Streets Element may be one of the most crucial elements of the MTP for Bluemont residents. Streets will be assigned to one of six categories based upon density and anticipated use. This element will dictate street, sidewalk, landscaping strip and minimum right-of-way width, in addition to parking.

Once a street is assigned to a particular category, *that designation can be changed only by appealing to the County Board.*

One of the revised MTP's major goals is to enhance traffic circulation, so the plan calls for streets previously closed (whether for traffic calming or other reasons) to be reopened. Bluemont has a number of dead end streets that may be considered for reopening. Some of them abut parkland. At the hearings for the Peck-Staples site plan, the County Board signaled its clear intent to reopen N. Wakefield Street on the north side of Wilson Boulevard. After the site is built out, N. Wakefield will continue to be residential (with single-family and multifamily residences) in nature. However, ▶▶4



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## Delivery

from p. 1

and our newsletter distribution coordinator, David Van Wagner.

Although our newsletter carriers are a committed bunch, they do sometimes need a break. So David is asking for back-up carriers to volunteer. If you did not receive a copy of the September newsletter or if you have an hour to once or twice a year to deliver newsletters, please contact David at [dpvanwagner@mindspring.com](mailto:dpvanwagner@mindspring.com). ■



## Time to Renew for 2011!

Bring cash or check for \$15 to the 11/17/10 meeting or return the form below along with your check, made payable to Bluemont Civic Association, to BCA Treasurer, P.O. Box 5134, Arlington VA 22205. (See your newsletter's label to determine your membership status; if it says "Paid thru 12/31/2010," you need to renew for 2011.)

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

NAME(S)

MAILING ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

E-MAIL ADDRESS (OPTIONAL—  
FOR BCA NOTIFICATION ONLY)

### **NEW! GO PAPERLESS AND SAVE TREES**

Members whose membership is current through Dec. 2011 can elect to receive BCA's Neighborhood News electronically rather than by mail by simply checking this box (and be sure to provide your e-mail address above).

## ▶ BCA MEETINGS FROM P. 1

Residents do not want this new space to be used as another access point into the park. They also hope to spur the county to come up with a plan for this area well before Public Spaces Master Plan is revised within the next 10 to 15 years.

Members passed three motions, unanimously approving the minutes from the 6/23 Annual Meeting, a \$300 budget to pay for three new add-on signs to display BCA's URL ([www.bluemontcivic.org](http://www.bluemontcivic.org)) on Bluemont's existing neighborhood signs, and a \$25 budget to pay for refreshments at the upcoming joint Candidate's Night event on 10/28/10. ■

## When Do We Meet?

Starting in September, BCA eliminated 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](http://www.bluemontcivic.org).

**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. ■**

## 2012 Budget Battle Begins

Whereas the County Manager's Office is "cautiously optimistic" about the 2012 budget, it and the County Board will need to close a shortfall of between \$25 and \$35 million for the 2012 fiscal year that begins in July 2011.

During the 2011 budget deliberations, many cherished programs and services were slated for cuts. Library hours were reduced, programs at the Lubber Run amphitheater were cut, and the Gulf Branch Nature Center was supposed to be closed and its building demolished. We nearly lost our community police officers — like our liaisons, Officers O'Daniel and Lennon, and the officers who patrol our parks and bike paths — as well as the fire department's heavy equipment rescue unit.

The School Board plans to close Arlington's David M. Brown Planetarium next year if over \$300,000 are not raised by Dec. 2010. The projected 2012 budget shortfall does not include provisions for added enrollment in Arlington Public Schools, which has been increasing steadily over the past two years.

The County Manager will present an initial, recommended budget early next year, based upon the County Board's October budget guidance. Budget hearings and discussions will take place in February and March, and the County Board will vote on the final budget in April. If you are concerned about potential cuts and/or tax increases, please begin monitoring the budget process now at [www.arlingtonva.us/departments/ManagementAndFinance/budget/page78609.aspx](http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/ManagementAndFinance/budget/page78609.aspx). The County Board and Manager do request and consider the recommendations citizens make. ■



## NC Update

Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Representative Larry Smith reports that the curb, gutter and sidewalk project for the 1000 block of N. Edison Street is BCA's only project now that the N. Frederick Street project has been funded. In mid-November, he will tell the county that Edison Street will be BCA's first priority project. Former NC Rep Carl Drummond reports that there is a slim chance that Edison Street could be funded next spring, so BCA members need to select its next priority project so that we have one in the pipeline.

## Sign Up for TreeSteward Classes Now

Training classes for the Arlington/Alexandria TreeStewards program will be held on Tuesday evenings, February 8–April 19, 2011 (along with some Saturday classes). With classroom training and hands-on practice, TreeStewards learn tree biology and physiology, tree identification, planting and maintenance techniques, construction impacts on trees, pruning, and selecting the right tree for the right spot. In return for the instruction, trainees are asked to commit to 30 hours of volunteer work over the following year. TreeSteward volunteers assist arborist staff in caring for public trees, reporting tree problems to staff, and educating the public at events. Applications and additional information are available at <http://www.TreeStewards.org> or call 703-527-2349, box 3.

## Beaver Pond Reps Volunteer

Civic Federation Alternate Bob Atkins has volunteered to represent Bluemont in monitoring the plans to rehabilitate the Beaver Pond (near I-66 and N. Fairfax Drive), which doubles as a storm-water management and retention facility. Suzanne Sundburg has volunteered to serve as alternate/back-up representative.

## Candidate's Night a Success

Attendance was heavy at the Oct. 28 Candidate's Night event sponsored by BCA and several of its fellow civic associations in central Arlington. Many thanks to those BCA members who helped set up beforehand and clean up afterward.

## W-L Hosts Dec. 4 Bazaar

The annual holiday bazaar takes place from 10 am to 4 pm at Washington-Lee High School, 1301 North Stafford Street. Free admission and parking — use the I-66 parking garage off N. Stafford St. The event will feature vendors with jewelry, holiday gifts, collectibles and hand-made items, along with ethnic foods. ■

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## Connect With Your Neighborhood

BCA's new Website is designed to provide you with topical information more quickly and easily, and it will feature business listings for our advertisers. Check it out at [www.bluemontcivic.org](http://www.bluemontcivic.org).

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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.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### BCA General Meeting-ATS11/17

Arlington Turkey Trot 5K 11/25  
benefiting 3 Arlington charities  
([www.ccapca.org/turkeytrot](http://www.ccapca.org/turkeytrot))

### DECEMBER

W-L Holiday Bazaar (p.3) 12/4  
BCA Exec. Board Meeting 12/15  
Holiday Sing-a-Long 12/19  
T-J Community Theater, 125 S.  
Old Glebe, benefiting Doorways of  
NOVA ([www.potomacharmony.org](http://www.potomacharmony.org))

### JANUARY 2011

BCA General Meeting 1/19  
Free NOVA Legal Services 11/30  
Consults for Seniors. Call 703-  
228-0955 for info and to register.

## BCA Neighborhood News

is a service of YOUR community civic association.

[bcabluemontcivic.org](mailto:bcabluemontcivic.org)

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### Civic Federation Representatives

Delegates: Terry Serie, Suzanne Sundburg, Judah dal Cais. Alternates: Bob Atkins, Sam Ferro.

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## MTP and more at next general meeting

from p. 1

the planned reopening of N. Wakefield Street will shift traffic from primarily modest residential use to heavy use by vehicles exiting I-66 via the off-ramp.

County staff also anticipates that the federal government may increase the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirement for sidewalk width from 4 feet to 5. Accordingly, the revised Streets Element increases residential sidewalk width to 5 feet. It is unclear whether staff undertook studies to determine how this increase in pavement would affect storm-water runoff or the number of mature trees that would be lost. Likewise, it is unclear how the increase in required sidewalk width will affect the

Zoning Administrator's calculation of required setbacks and lot coverage requirements for property owners.

## Come Meet Our New Police Liaison

We have invited our new police liaison — Corporal Beth Lennon — to meet residents at the 11/17 meeting. Officer James O'Daniel, our former police liaison, was very helpful, and we greatly appreciate his efforts on Bluemont's behalf.

## Next General Meeting

Our next general membership meeting will take place in the new year on Wed., 1/19/11 (the third rather than fourth Wed.). ■