



JOIN US 1/18:
 Ryan Arnold on
 Bluemont Village Center
 Your Input & Concerns

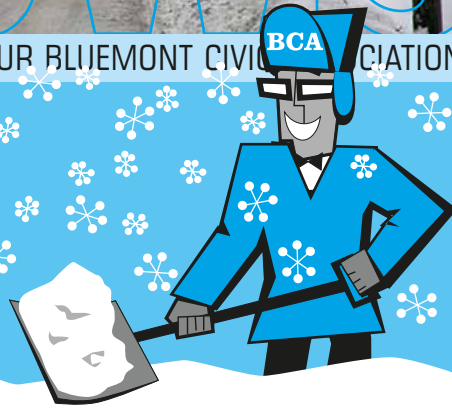
◀ Last year's
 snowfall
 was beautiful
 ...at first.

JAN. 2011 A PUBLIC SERVICE OF YOUR BLUEMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION

www.bluemontcivic.org

BCA MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

**Last Year's
 4-Letter
 "S" Word**



**Time
 to Renew
 for 2011!**

If you haven't renewed already, don't put it off. Bring cash or check for \$15 to the 1/19/11 meeting or return the form below along with your check, made payable to Bluemont Civic Association, to BCA

After 2010's snowmageddon nightmare, we're all wondering what this winter will bring. The county has created a new electronic form (found at <http://egov.arlingtonva.us/snowrequest> on the county's Website) to assist residents and employees in reporting snow-related concerns and issues, such as streets that need additional plowing or treatment, or sidewalks that remain untreated.

The "Report a Snow Issue" form replaces last year's e-mail address "snow@arlingtonva.us" as the primary contact method to reach the county's snow removal teams. Residents can also call 703-228-6485 to get assistance, the latest snow removal update, and to learn whether or not the snow removal team is taking requests.

In response to last year's historic snow event (and the county's new Snow Removal Ordinance—see below) the Barcroft neighborhood started its own shoveling brigade to help clear walkways and driveways of the elderly and those in ill health who cannot clear it on their own. Usually, the county makes a snowblower available but typically the brigade uses shovels.

If you are interested in forming a Bluemont snow brigade, contact president@bluemontcivic.org or attend the Jan. 19 BCA meeting. ▶▶4

Next General Meeting, 1/19
 BCA's next full general membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 1/19/11, 7:30 pm, at Arlington Traditional School (ATS). Following up on the work performed by Jane Kim on the Wilson Boulevard Village Center design forum in 2010, Ryan Arnold, a graduate of the University of Michigan architectural program, will provide visual before and after overlays for the proposed Village Center.

Last General Meeting, 11/10
Master Transportation Plan
 Project Manager Richard Viola was on hand to discuss, among other things, the revision of the Streets Element section of the revised Master Transportation Plan (MTP). [Note: Public comment on the Streets Element section of the MTP ended in 2010.] The Streets Element is the final section of the MTP to be revised.

The discussion prompted a number of questions. The new requirement for 5-foot rather than 4-foot sidewalks had prompted some pushback from citi- ▶▶2



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RENEW NOW!

from p. 1

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 or earlier,"
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 Neighbor-
hood News electronically rather
than by mail by simply checking
this box (and be sure to provide
your e-mail address above).

* Should
**INCLEMENT
WEATHER**
*
force Arlington Public
Schools to close on a
day that a BCA meeting
also has been sched-
uled, the BCA meeting
will be cancelled.
*

▶ **BCA MEETINGS FROM P. 1**

zens with respect to Neighborhood Conservation (NC) projects, according to Bluemont's NC Representative Larry Smith. Viola replied that there would be some flexibility on sidewalk width, but the county's preferred width for neighborhood sidewalks will be 5 feet whenever possible. Viola also responded affirmatively to a question about whether the increased width of sidewalk would figure into the calculation of setbacks and lot coverage percentages.

Viola explained that reopening N. Wakefield Street to N. Fairfax Drive (the I-66 exit ramp) would require a site plan hearing when the Holiday Inn and its neighboring office building were to be redeveloped, but he agreed that reopening closed streets to improve traffic circulation was a stated goal of the revised MTP.

Viola reported that the midblock pedestrian crossing at the 900 block of Glebe (from the new Virginia Tech building to the Westin Hotel) is moving forward. [Judah, if you have an update to provide, it can be included here.]

Despite the impassibility of the sidewalks along Wilson Boulevard between N. George Mason Drive and Glebe Road, Viola noted that the cost of undergrounding utility poles is prohibitive, unless a developer is willing to pay for it. In response to a question about installing left-turn lights in both directions of Wilson Boulevard at the intersection of George Mason, Viola recommended that President dal Cais speak to Wayne Wentz, who heads up traffic engineering.

New Arlington County Police Liaison

The membership welcomed Corporal Beth Lennon, who grew up in Bluemont. After 20 years on the force (mostly spent in South Arlington), she was assigned to be the liaison officer for the district that includes Bluemont at the end of June 2010. All liaison officers work at night so they can more easily interact with the public. Lennon reported no serious crimes in Bluemont in the past six months. If citizens see something suspicious, she urged them to call the non-emergency police number at 703-558-2222.

Lubber Run Amphitheater

A member requested that BCA send a letter to the County Board in support of refurbishing and reopening the amphitheater at Lubber Run, which was closed due to cuts in the 2010 budget. President dal Cais offered to talk to the Arlington Forest Citizens Association, where the amphitheater is located, to discuss their position on the matter and to investigate the potential cost. If enough details can be determined, then the BCA membership will further discuss and vote will on the matter at its January 19 meeting. ■

When Do We Meet?

BCA has 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 are now 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.

2012 Budget Presentations and Documents

If you missed the County Manager's presentation and forum in December, there are transcripts and notes available for review at <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/ManagementAndFinance/budget/page78609.aspx>. Members have expressed concern about increases in taxes and cuts in library hours, park funds, and the shuttered amphitheater. If you are concerned about the budget or any items therein, now is the time to begin reading the County Manager's proposal and supporting those tax and budget items that are important to you. ■

Sign Up for TreeSteward Classes

Training classes for the Arlington/Alexandria TreeStewards program will be held on Tuesday evenings, February 8–April 19, 2011 (along with some Saturday classes). TreeSteward volunteers assist arborist staff in caring for public trees, reporting tree problems to staff, and educating the public at events. Get an application and additional information at <http://www.TreeStewards.org>, or call Nora Palmatier at 703-527-2349, box 3. ■

Outstanding Park Volunteer Award

Do you or does someone you know volunteer personal time, expertise, or financial assistance to support the county's parks, natural resources, or public open spaces? If so, consider nominating yourself or someone else for the Bill Thomas Outstanding Park Service Volunteer Award. Nominations are due on February 25; visit <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/ParksRecreation/scripts/parks/ParksRecreationScriptsParksBillThomasAward.aspx> for details. ■

Brown Planetarium Receives \$100K Gift

The Washington Post reported on December 30 that Preston Caruthers, a former chairman of the Arlington County School Board and former president of the state Board of Education, donated \$100,000 to the Friends of Arlington's David M. Brown Planetarium.

School Superintendent Patrick Murphy and the Arlington School Board planned to shutter the county's only planetarium rather than devoting part of the school budget to repair and renovate the facility. They set a fundraising requirement of \$240,000 to be raised by December 31, 2010, and over \$400,000 by June 30, 2011, in order to keep the planetarium open. ■

Co-Chair needed for the NC Plan Update

David Van Wagner needs a volunteer to help with the BCA Neighborhood Conservation plan update. You will be working to update land use, zoning, curb, gutter, sidewalk, drainage problems, streetlights, traffic, housing, park and recreational facilities, schools, libraries, and other public facilities within the BCA boundary. If you are a researcher or writer looking to make a lasting impact on a living document, please send an email to president@bluemontcivic.org to volunteer.



Can BCA do Bocce or Pétanque?

The French have Pétanque, the British lawn bowling and the Italian, bocce. BCA president Judah dal Cais is collecting a petition from BCA residents requesting their support to request the Parks Department build a court approximately 4 meters wide and 15 meters long (<http://petanque.org/building/>) surfaced with rock dust or decomposed granite. The proposed location is between N. Illinois and N. Emerson along the Bluemont Trail. If you wish to sign the petition, contact Judah at president@bluemontcivic.org or 703-528-8129. ■

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.

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-ATS	1/19
Executive Board Mtng-ATS	2/23
Executive Board Mtng-ATS	3/23
BCA General Mtng-ATS	4/27
Executive Board Mtng-ATS	5/25
BCA Annual Meeting & Elections	6/22

Happy
2011 FROM
YOUR
BCA

BCA Neighborhood News

is a service of YOUR community civic association.

bc@bluemontcivic.org

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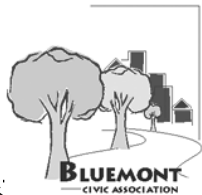
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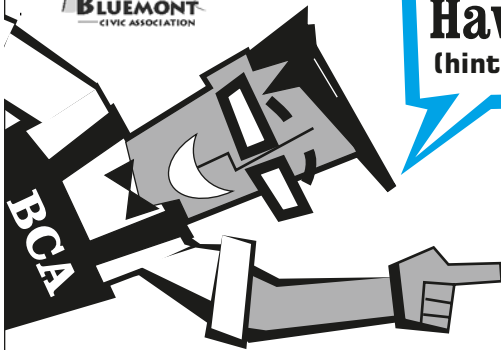
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Bluemont Civic Association
PO Box 5134
Arlington VA 22205

Have You Renewed?

(hint: check that label date)



The "S" Word

from p. 1

Snow Removal Ordinance

Below is a synopsis of the county's new snow removal ordinance. For more details, please visit <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/uepd/snow/page78323.aspx>.

- ▶ Snow and ice removal — All property owners are required to remove snow and ice from public sidewalks adjacent to their property:
 - > Must be removed from the entire width of the sidewalk up to 3 feet wide (to accommodate wheelchairs, strollers, and adults with children in hand).
 - > Must be removed within 24 hours after the snow

stops falling when accumulations are less than 6 inches, and within 36 hours when 6 or more inches of snow accumulate. (As measured at National Airport, per National Weather Service),

> Noncompliance could result in a civil penalty of \$50 for sidewalks less than 200 linear feet in length, or \$100 for sidewalks longer than 200 feet.

The County may remove the snow or ice on sidewalks around private property when the owner fails to comply within the designated time period, and charge the cost to the owner.

Depositing snow and ice on streets or sidewalks— Private owners may not deposit snow or ice from private property onto public property, including streets and sidewalks. Such action may result in a class 4 (criminal) misdemeanor and fine of \$250. ■