IGHBORHOOD

APRIL 2011 A PUBLIC SERVICE OF YOUR BLUEMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION

www.bluemontcivic.org **BCA MEETINGS AT A GLANCE**

(Blossoms bloom on the **Bluemont Junction Trail!**

JOIN US 4/27:

Your Input & Concerns

County Board Member Q&A

Bluemont Village Center Update

NEXT GENERAL MEETING, 4/27

We invite all of you to be part of our next meeting at 7:30 pm on Wed., 4/27 at Arlington Traditional School (ATS), located at 855 N. Edison Street. BCA has invited a member of the Arlington County Board to speak to members and answer their questions. Parking is available in the lot on the south end of the school or on the street. Please use the double doors in front of the circular drive on N. Edison Street to enter.

In addition, members will vote on a motion to contribute \$100 to the Friends of Arlington's Planetarium foundation that has been working diligently to save the David M. Brown Planetarium located at 1426 N. Quincy Street (next to the Washington-Lee High School Campus). We also will discuss a request from Ashlawn Elementary School to help fund its Fun Fair on May 14, and members will vote to pass a \$150 budget for BCA's annual barbecue, which will be held on Saturday, May 21, Neighborhood Day (see p.5 for details).

After attending the "groundbreaking" ceremony for 800 N. **>>2** Glebe Road (the 12-story

We're Here For YOU!

That's right folks, your Bluemont Civic Association is here, striving to make your neighborhood a

What's Bluemont!?

It's the neighborhood in which you live! Stretching from Ballston to Bluemont Park, Carlin Springs Road to Washington Blvd., it's the best of Arlington. With vibrant restarants, shops and Metro on the east to two of the area's finest parks on the west, plus bike

BCA great place to live. It isn't always easy, and those volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes don't get much recognition or thanks. They, we hope like you, are proud of our chunk of Arlington but think it can be even better! From simple improvements like sidewalks where there aren't any to promoting your interests

with potential businesses and developers, our goals are your goals. Safe, walkable streets; neighborhood-friendly stores and services; improvments in our terrific parks — all not only improve life and property values, but also a build strong sense of community.

However...

Our neighborhood faces many challenges, not least of which is keeping energetic and diligent folks in — and running — your civic association. We hope you will consider not only joining if you haven't already, but also volunteering to be part of the Bluemont team. Read on to find out what we are up to and how you can be part of it!



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Bluemont?

from p. 1

trails, businesses, and diverse, quiet neighborhoods that are the envy of many, well, we don't have to sell you — you already live here! But did you know that

- In Arlington, it is the civic associations who work with the county government?
- That with approximately 2,000 households, Bluemont is one of the largest neighborhoods in the civic association network?
- And that this area was called Stonewall Jackson before Bluemont and that Civil War skirmishes took place here?
- That the Bluemont Junction bike/walking Trail was a railroad line until the 1960s?
- Or, fast forwarding to 2011, that BCA has Facebook and Flickr pages you can join in on? We'd love to see your historical photos and anecdotes of the enighborhood! Access them from our web site www.bluemontcivic.org.

facebook



You May Ask Yourself, How Did This Get Here?

Twice a year (spring and fall)

BCA reaches out to all 2,000 households (members and non-members alike) in Bluemont. BCA volunteers have delivered this newsletter to you free of charge. Our hard-working newsletter distributor, David Van Wagner, always needs substitute and replacement carriers. The time commitment is very limited. Please contact him at dpvanwagner@mindspring.com to volunteer.



office building on the old Peck Chevrolet site), BCA President Judah dal Cais met with representatives of developer JBG to discuss the possible redevelopment of the Safeway site on Wilson Boulevard. He will update the membership on any progress at the April meeting.

LAST GENERAL MEETING, 1/19

At the January meeting, Ryan Arnold, a recent University of Michigan architecture school graduate, presented his architectural drawings of the Bluemont Village Center concept to guide the redevelopment of the Wilson Boulevard commercial corridor. Working with Judah dal Cais, Arnold expanded upon urban design student Jane Kim's initial concepts that were prepared based on resident feedback gathered at last year's Village Center forum and Neighborhood Conservation (NC) survey.

Arnold's suggested proposal includes mixed-use buildings (retail establishments on the ground level with apartments above) for the existing Safeway, Two Chefs-Super Pollo, and McDonald's sites. A parking garage might be situated on the Federal Lock & Safe site. These designs are meant to be included in BCA's revised NC Plan, and the ultimate goal of this vision is to attract a developer that will transform the Bluemont commercial sector into a walkable focal point for the neighborhood and a source of pride for the community.

Arnold and dal Cais subsequently met with representatives of developer JBG. Their discussions focused primarily on redevelopment of the Safeway site, To review Arnold's presentation and the results of the NC survey, please visit www.bluemontcivic.org.

LAST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 2/23

Board members discussed the Arlington Long-Range Planning Commission's Special General Land Use Planning (GLUP) Study and the Harris Teeter-Goodyear Site Plan. In keeping with the countywide plan to increase density, there are proposed changes to the Goodyear, American Service Center and Harris Teeter site plans. The board also reviewed the Reevesland Learning Garden and Center proposal, and it discussed options for trying to widen the sidewalks along Wilson Boulevard (between George Mason and Glebe) to make them accessible for residents who use wheelchairs and strollers.

Complete minutes will be available at www.bluemontcivic.org once the membership approves them at the April meeting. ■

When Do We Meet?

BCA routinely meets at 7:30 pm on the 4th Wednesday of the month, with some adjustments being made for school holidays. General membership meetings are currently held 5 times each year (Sept.—June), and the newsletter is sent 5 times a year (2 of those issues will be hand-delivered to all Bluemont doorsteps, the other 3 are mailed to paid members). The Executive Board meetings are held monthly (jointly with general membership meetings when they are held) throughout the year.

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

We're looking forward to seeing you there!

Plant Trees Now for Tomorrow's Kids

We have lost a lot of our majestic canopy trees. What shade will our children and grandchildren have? Arlington County has two programs to encourage more tree planting and restore Arlington's tree canopy.

- The Tree Canopy Fund targets areas with less shade and provides larger trees (2-inch caliper, 6-feet tall) that are planted by the nursery provider. Those requesting these trees must show that their vard provides sufficient space for a tree—at least 10 feet from overhead wires or buildings, and away from utility pipes. Priority is given to residents whose trees will shade a public area when fully grown. Residents must agree to water and maintain their trees: This program is like adopting a pet from the shelter—good homes are essential. Choose from a wide variety of oaks, elm, linden, beech, ginko, serviceberry, and others available. Requests must be submitted as a group by June 24. Please contact Nora Palmatier at norapalm@verizon.net now. Not all requests can be met, but those not approved will be placed on the list for the free tree whip distribution this fall.
- The Free Tree Whip Distribution will occur this fall, giving the young trees time to get established before coping with our summer heat. An announcement listing the available species, pick-up dates, and other important information will be included in the September issue of Neighborhood News, and the deadline for submitting your request will be in late October. Recipients will be asked to plant these small trees (potted in 2-gallon containers) on their own property. **>>6**

Cool Stuff You Can Do

Café Scientifique Lecture

Tues., May 3, 5:30 pm The Ballston Science and Technology Alliance is sponsoring a lecture, "Robert Heggestad's Amazing Journey," at The Front Page restaurant at 4201 Wilson Blvd. Admission is free, but advance registration is requested.

In 1979, Heggestad noticed a rosewood cabinet in an Arlington antique shop which turned out to contain 1,679 well-preserved natural specimens. Investigating the chest's origins, he found that it held the collection of Alfred Russel Wallace, co-discoverer of the theory of evolution by natural selection.

For info or to register go to http://arlingtonvirginiausa.com/ index.cfm/10198?month=5.

MORE COOL STUFF TO DO ▶ 5

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Arlington Native and Bluemont Resident

Connect With Your Neighborhood

BCA's Website is designed to provide you with topical information more quickly and easily, and it now features 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.



Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Update

- N. Frederick Street curb, gutter and sidewalk project—Work to install new water lines was completed over the winter, despite a couple of glitches (including a brief, unexpected interruption in water service to neighbors). Dominion Virginia Power has been working on the power lines and will move a utility pole or two. Installation of curb, gutter and sidewalk is supposed to be completed sometime this summer with paving to follow.
- N. Edison Street curb, gutter and sidewalk project—This project, for the 1000 block of Edison, is now BCA's first-priority and only active project in the NC funding pipeline. Because the project could be funded as early as this spring, we are searching for other NC projects to add to our project list. If you are interested in applying for funds for curb, gutter and sidewalk improvements on your block, please contact NC Representative Larry Smith at LrsML@aol.com.
- NC Micro Projects Program—
 This new small-budget program
 (\$10,000 limit) will fund beautification projects such as bus shelters, bike racks and trash/recycling receptacles. Neighborhoods can submit an application once every two years. Deadlines are March 1 and September 1.
 For details, contact Larry at LrsML@aol.com

Here for YOU from p. 1

Main Street BCA

If you haven't heard, our Bluemont Village Center Working Group has formulated a "vision document" to help attract and guide development on Wilson Boulevard between George Mason and North Greenbrier Streets. Basing our concept on the results of the Neighborhood Conservation survey and last year's design forum, two urban planners have helped us articulate that vision. Make no mistake, development will come to that area. With our plan in hand, we stand a far greater chance of insuring such development is the right scale, mix, and density for our neighborhood. Come to the April meeting and find out how BCA's president has already piqued the curiosity of one developer!

Conserving Our Neighborhood with the NC Plan

What's there to conserve you ask? Those characteristics back in paragraph one which define our neighborhood, and when officially sanctioned, serve as the framework for BCA's dealings with Arlington County. It makes us look serious and gives us some clout when we want something — or the county wants something from us. It's a lot of work, so here's a great place where your skills can help! See box on page 5 for details on our urgent needs in the NC Committee.

Your Friendly Neighborhood Rep's

BCA represents your interests and serves as an important link to county government. For example, the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) representative attends NC meetings on your behalf and helps guide Bluemonters through the process to obtain sidewalk, curb, gutter and lighting improvements. As a member in good standing, you can vote on motions that shape BCA's positions on neighborhood issues and for BCA officers and representatives. (See sidebar at left.)

HELP YOURSELF—BECOME A BCA MEMBER OR LEADER

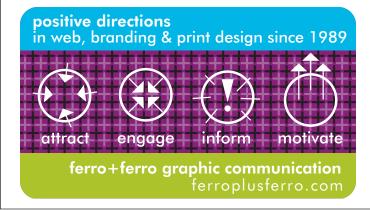
Our civic association is an independent, all-volunteer civic group that has served Bluemont since 1945. We receive no County funds. Prorated dues paid in April are a mere \$11, and membership is open to all Bluemont residents and businesses. In other words, if you got this at your door, you should join.

For your \$11, you'll receive all issues of the BCA News free (mailed or e-mailed to your address, your choice). Signing up for optional electronic alerts is easy too.

Better yet, once you're a member you are eligible to serve on the Executive Committee or in other leadership roles. And boy could we use your terrific talents. (See "Will BCA Go to the Dogs" on page 5.) ■



5140 wilson blvd. arlington, va 22205 t: 703-247-9797 email: 2covet@gmail.com www.2covet.blogspot.com and find us on facebook Stop in and say hello. We are in your neighborhood!



Will BCA Go to the Dogs?

Perhaps you read the news report about an Annandale civic association that elected a dog as its president. (Okay, most folks didn't

realize that the candidate was, in fact, canine.) Like most civic and volunteer groups, the Annandale civic association has had great difficulty in recruiting new officers and active volunteers. Term limits prevented the current president from running again, so in desperation he put his dog on the ballot (he ran as his dog's VP).

Much as we'd hate to see BCA going to the dogs, we're now in much the same position. The same people have served for years because no one else is willing to take a turn. Serving as an officer or representative does involve some time and effort, but the Executive Board has minimized

NC Plan Update Committee Needs Co-Chair

Committee Chair David Van Wagner worked very hard to get the NC Plan Update Committee off the ground. Unfortunately, he has subsequently become swamped at work and needs a co-chair to help keep the committee on track. If you would like to help shape Bluemont's neighborhood plan that will guide us for the next 20 years or so, please contact David at dpvanwagner@mindspring.com.

the commitment by eliminating the separate board meetings and reducing the number of general membership meetings to just five per season (Sept.-June).

Lend a Paw (oops, Hand)

Maybe you are concerned about parking or schools or pedestrian safety. We all want good things for Bluemont, but we need your help to make them happen. Serving in a leadership position is a great way to get to know your neighbors and make new friends. Contact Judah dal Cais at president@bluemontcivic.org to discuss the ways in which you may be able to serve your community and help yourself. A new leadership team will be elected at the Annual Meeting on June 22. ■

Something YOU'd Like to Share with the Group?

BCA News is always on the lookout for stories and pictures which might be of interest to our readers. Perhaps you'd like to assist our editor? Write a column on organic gardening, or what you — or your parents or even grandparents — have experience in Bluemont? If so, please contact editor@bluemontcivic.org!

Cool Stuff To Do 2

Capital Hospice Plant Sale Sat., May 7, 10 am
Drop by the Halquist Memorial Inpatient Center at 4715 North 15th Street (between George Mason and Glebe Road) from 10 am – 2 pm to choose from a variety of plants and gardening items. Admission is free, and refreshments will be available. For details, call Diane at 703-820-1311.

Lacey Woods Park Nature Walk Sat., May 14, 11:30 am Meet at the Lacey Woods playground for a 30-minute nature walk and talk led by Whitney Bailey of the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust. Come learn about the spring flowers and diversity of trees in our own backyard. Children of all ages welcome when accompanied by an adult. Volunteers who meet the second Saturday of each month to clean up the park and remove invasive and harmful English ivy from the trees are sponsoring this walk.

Ballston Arts & Crafts and Farmers Markets Start Soon

Peruse arts and crafts from juried area artisans on the second Saturday of each month, and perhaps procure fresh produce from regional growers on Thursday afternoons at Ballston's Wellburn Square. See our calendar on p.8 or go to: http://ballstonarts-craftsmarket.blogspot.com/ or http://ballstonfarmersmarket.blogspot.com/. ■



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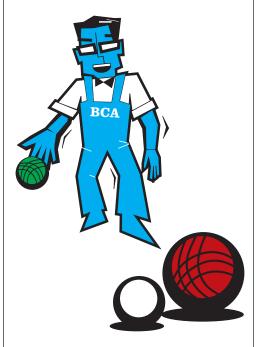
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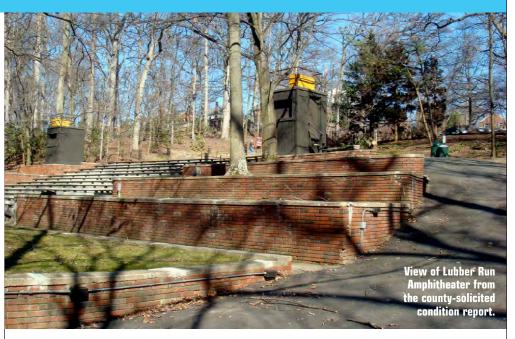
703-525-6889

Can BCA do Bocce or Pétanque?

BCA president Judah dal Cais is collecting signatures for a petition from BCA residents soliciting their support to request the Parks Department build a Bocce/Pétanque 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.

At the BCA meeting in April, members will vote on whether to submit the petition to the County Parks Department. If you wish to sign the petition, contact Judah at president@bluemontcivic.org or 703-528-1551 ■





New Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation Forms

Dedicated on 7/19/69, Lubber Run Amphitheatre and its free programs have been a staple of Arlington's cultural life for more 40 years. Unfortunately, the amphitheater has not been well maintained. A County-solicited facilities condition report (http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/parksrecreation/documents/file80723.pdf) pointed to a number of deficiencies, noting that the site was not in compliance with current American with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards and is in a floodplain and a Chesapeake Bay Resource Protection Area (RPA).

In January, the Lubber Run Amphitheatre Foundation, Inc., was incorporated. The Foundation formed based on concerns voiced by the Arlington Forest Citizens Association (AFCA) and others in response to the amphitheatre's closing (amid claims that the stage is structurally unsafe). In March, supporters of the amphitheater challenged many of the assertions contained in the condition report—including the need for expensive repairs in order to reopen the facility—in its own review of the report (http://www.arlnow.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/LRA-Site-Photos.pdf).

Foundation trustees have urged County officials to include funds for the amphitheater in the 2012 budget. They are also asking residents to sign the Save the Lubber Run Amphitheater petition at http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/savelramphitheater/.

Join us for BCA's Neighborhood Day BBQ

Come celebrate Neighborhood Day with BCA from 11:30 am to 1 pm on Sat., 5/21/11, at Fire Station #2 (near the intersection of Wilson and George Mason). There will be free burgers, hotdogs, snacks, soft drinks, and plenty of fun. Fire station personnel have allowed Bluemont parents and kids to take impromptu tours of the station in the past. We need volunteers for set up and clean up; please contact Judah dal Cais at president@bluemontcivic. org or 703-528-1551 to volunteer. ■



Growing Food, Knowledge, and Community at Reevesland

The Reevesland Learning Center Steering Committee, a joint effort of Bluemont, Boulevard Manor and Dominion Hills residents, is working with Arlington County officials on plans for the reuse of the historic Reevesland farmhouse and property bordering Bluemont Park between 4th Street North and 4th Road North. The house and property have been vacant and idle since our longtime neighbor and former local dairy farmer Nelson Reeves died in 2000 at

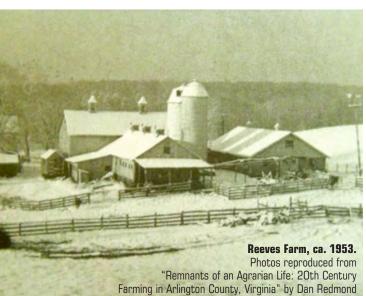


the age of 99. The County purchased the property from the Reeves family the following year.

On 1/19/11, Arlington County approved the Reevesland Learning Center steering committee's proposal for a Reevesland Learning Garden. In April, Ashlawn Elementary students, teachers and neighbors will plant the Learning Garden exactly where Nelson Reeves maintained his iconic vegetable garden for decades. Lettuce and other greens will be planted in eight raised growing beds that were built by neighborhood volunteers.

The Reevesland Learning Center's goals are to promote positive attitudes among our children, parents and neighbors about growing and eating healthy foods and, equally important, to build new, collaborative relationships among neighbors in our community. The motto of the Reevesland Learning Center is "Growing food, knowledge and community."

In March, more than 600 Arlington residents signed a letter to Arlington County Board Chairman Chris Zimmerman and School Board Chairman Libby Garvey asking them and their staffs to begin working with the Reevesland Learning Center Steering Committee to assess the condition of the Reevesland farmhouse and determine what repairs



are needed so that it can be used for the Reevesland Learning Center.

For more information about the Reevesland Learning Center or to volunteer. contact Steering Committee Chair Joan Horwitt at shorwitt@aol. com.

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.

Redmond recognized an opportunity to teach his children about growing things and helping others. They named the effort "Tomatoes on Tuesday"—which let the recipients know when to expect a delivery. Thus far, Redmond's family has completely funded the project. He welcomes other gardeners' participation and will gladly speak to anyone interested in garden sharing.

Redmond also volunteers for the Arlington Food Assistance Center's Plot Against Hunger (www. plotagainsthunger.org) program. If you would like to help grow food or lend part of your yard for garden space, please contact Dan at RedmondDK@mac.com. ■

Speaking of Gardening...

It's time to tend those lawns, and prep your veggie patch!

The association has a tiller available for loan. but in order to use this item your BCA membership must be current. The Mantis Tiller is an electric, lightweight, quiet, and easy to use tiller, de-thatcher, lawn aerator, planter/ furrower, and border/edger. To reserve the Mantis for your lawn and garden, please contact Judah dal Cais at president@bluemontcivic.org. ■

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

BCA General Meeting-ATS 4/27

Ballston Arts & Crafts 5/14 Market, 2nd Saturdays through Oct 8, 10am-4pm, Wellburn Sq.

BCA BBQ (see p.6) 5/21

Ballston's Taste of Arlington 5/22 Enjoy food from over 40 Arlington restaurants, noon-5pm. Benefits Arlington charities.

Info: www.tasteofarlington.com

Executive Board Mtng-ATS 5/25 Ballston Farmers Market 5/26 Thursdays through Oct 13, 3pm-7pm, Wellburn Square

6/22 BCA Annual Meeting &

Elections

BCA Neighborhood News

is a service of YOUR community civic association.

bca@bluemontcivic.org

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your e-mail address above).

EITHER...

Fill out the form and bring cash or check for \$11 to the April 27th meeting, or...

Fill out the form and send your check made payable to the Bluemont Civic Association to **BCA** Treasurer P.O. Box 5134 Arlington VA 22205

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