

◀ The Jordan, the “affordable housing” apartment building on the former Peck/Staples site, is scheduled to open this month.

www.bluemontcivic.org

BCA MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

NEXT GENERAL MEETING, 9/27

Join us for our next general membership meeting — 7:30 pm on Tuesday, September 27, at Arlington Traditional School (ATS). Due to scheduling conflicts at ATS, this meeting has to be held on a Tuesday rather than the traditional Wednesday. As of press time, speakers have not been confirmed. Please visit bluemontcivic.org for speakers and agenda.

The Executive Board meeting will be held directly beforehand at 7:00 pm and is open to all paid BCA members.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 7/12 AND 8/9

Various aspects of meeting procedures and schedules — including reverting to monthly general meetings — were discussed. Meeting minutes will be posted online once approved.

LAST GENERAL MEETING MEETING, 6/22

At the most well-attended meeting in the Association’s history, the BCA membership met and voted to elect these officers and representatives for 2011–2012: Judah dal Cais, President; George ▶▶2

It’s Easier Than Ever to Join the BCA!

There has never been a better time to become a member of the Bluemont Civic Association! The BCA is a not-for-profit civic organization that has represented the interests of the Bluemont neighborhood since the association was established in 1945. Below are several of our recent activities and accomplishments:



- Updating the Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Plan (see page 3 for more information on the NC Plan);
- An active campaign to make the Wilson Boulevard commercial area more attractive and community-oriented;
- County funding obtained for sidewalk projects on Jefferson, Kensington, Harrison and 10th Streets, Washington Boulevard and other neighborhood streets;
- Traffic-calming projects being implemented on Kensington and Vermont Streets;
- Annual events such as Neighborhood Day and Arlington Candidate’s Night.

Why is your participation important?

The objective of the association is to provide a forum for its members to respond to issues of common concern, promote involvement in neighborhood activities and further the interests of the neighborhood within the Arlington County community. The BCA strives to make Bluemont streets safe for our children and other pedestrians, enhance our parks and preserve our environment and maintain and improve property values. Your membership and participation ensures your voice is heard. The BCA is only as strong as its active members. By becoming a ▶▶6



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ACROSS FROM THE BALLSTON METRO ON THE ORANGE LINE

Overflow crowd at the June Annual Meeting



Rovder, First Vice President; Matt Fehling, Second Vice President; Chitra Kumar, Secretary; Judy Collins, Treasurer; Larry Smith, Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) Representative; and Mark Haynes, NCAC Alternate. Bob Atkins, Terry Serie, Suzanne Sundburg and Sandra Munnell will serve as BCA's Civic Federation Delegates. Sam Ferro, Ed Fendley and Dean Foster will serve as BCA's Civic Federation Alternates. We welcome the new officers and representatives and thank the long-serving members who agreed to continue for another year.

The full minutes of the June Annual Meeting will also be available online at bluemontcivic.org after they have been approved at the September meeting. ■

We'll Meet You at the Next Meeting!

BCA routinely meets at 7:30 pm on the 4th Wednesday of the month with adjustments for holidays. General membership meetings will once again be held each month except for July and August, and are open to all Bluemont residents. Executive Board meetings are held monthly (immediately prior to general meetings when they are held) and are open to all paid BCA members. Check www.bluemontcivic.org for updates and changes. ■

Redistricting Brings Changes For Bluemont Voters on November 8

Many of you know that the Bluemont Civic Association is among the largest civic associations in Arlington County, with over 2,000 households. Did you know that the BCA is also the civic association with the largest number of voting precincts, with portions of six different precincts within its borders?

So Where Do I Vote?

For the 2010 general elections, BCA residents were split between six different precincts — Ballston (voting at Arlington Traditional School), Arlington Forest (voting at Culpepper Gardens), Westover (voting at Swanson MS), Ashlawn (voting at Ashlawn ES), Dominion Hills (voting at McKinley ES) and Buckingham (voting at Barrett ES). With the 2011 election, though, the number of precincts will be reduced to five, as BCA residents who last year voted in the

Buckingham precinct (i.e., people living in the area bounded by George Mason Drive, Carlin Springs Road, Glebe Road and I-66) will now vote in the Ballston Precinct. In addition, BCA residents who live north of I-66 and previously voted in the Ballston precinct will be voting in the Westover precinct starting with the November 8, 2011, election.

The re-drawing of voting precinct boundaries resulted from the 2011 redistricting plans for the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates, as there were district boundary splits in three different Arlington County precincts, including the Ballston precinct.

In August, Arlington County's Office of Voter Registration should have sent a new voter registration card to each registered voter within Arlington reflecting his/her voting location and Virginia Senate and House of Delegates district.

If you have any question about your voting location, use the Virginia State Board of Election's lookup feature (<http://vote.virginia.gov>) to find your polling place or call the Office of Voter Registration at 703.228.3456.

What do I vote for?

Bluemont residents will have the opportunity to vote for four of Arlington County's five constitutional officers. Additionally, there are two County Board seats in play and one School Board seat. Redistricting, however, has split our neighborhood between two state Senate districts. Residents living west of Jefferson Street (excluding the 5600 block of 4th Street N. off Kensington) are now in the 32nd Senate District. It stretches all the way from Bluemont to Dulles airport (no joke!). The rest of us, as before, are still in the 31st (which now goes all the way to Reston). Fortunately, we have it easier with the House of Delegates. All of the Bluemont neighborhood still lies entirely within the 47th House of Delegates District.

For more information on redistricting and state-level candidates, visit <http://vpap.org>. ■

CANDIDATE'S NIGHT OCTOBER 4TH

The Arlington County Civic Federation will hold a Candidate's Night forum on October 4, 2011, 7:30 pm, in the Washington-Lee High School Auditorium. Candidates for County Board, County Treasurer, Commissioner of Revenue, Sheriff, Commonwealth's Attorney and Virginia School Board will answer questions submitted by Civic Federation delegates and alternates.

Neighborhood Conservation Plan Status

The BCA Neighborhood Conservation Plan (NCP) Update Committee met a number of times over the summer months, both as the full NCP Update Committee and as separate subcommittees. The subcommittees are organized around eight different subject-matter categories: (1) Land Use and Zoning, (2) Commercial/Business Areas, (3) Street Conditions, (4) Transportation/Traffic Management, (5) Housing, (6) Public Facilities and Services, (7) Historic Preservation and (8) Urban Forestry. Currently, the different subcommittees are diligently fact-gathering in their respective areas and should begin drafting the NCP in the fall.

As participants in Arlington County's Neighborhood Conservation program, the BCA must ensure that it has an NCP that reflects the current goals and aspirations of BCA residents for Bluemont. The BCA's last NCP was drafted in 1999. The program is designed to ensure that neighborhood capital improvements are tailored to the needs of participating civic associations through extensive public outreach. Improvements include the installation of sidewalks, curbs, gutters, traffic management, park improvements and other similar capital improvement projects.

While BCA's NCP Update Committee is making good progress, it could always use more help. If you're interested in volunteering your services, please contact David Van Wagner at 703.524.5068 or dpvanwagner@mindspring.com or Caroline Haynes at cmhaynes@comcast.net. ■

CIV-FED HIGHLIGHTS

The Arlington County Civic Federation (Civ-Fed) works to empower citizens to improve their communities by mobilizing and coordinating the resources of government, business, nonprofits, the faith community, neighborhood leaders and the citizens themselves. Here are some updates from the June 7, 2011, meeting:

■ Sponsors of a motion supporting more transparency and accountability in tracking developers' community benefit contributions (contributions made in exchange for additional density/height in site plan projects) have withdrawn their motion. Sponsors hope that a newly created process will bring more clarity to this often-opaque system, but they will monitor it carefully and reserve the right to reintroduce their motion if these efforts fail.

■ Street parking may now be eliminated on one side of any Arlington street measuring less than ►►3

Update on NC Activities

The next priority project for Neighborhood Conservation (NC) is street improvements for the 1000 block of N. Edison Street.

Also on the horizon, Arlington County's Neighborhood Conservation Program has a new Micro Projects Program that offers civic associations the chance to request small improvements in their neighborhoods. These projects have a cost limit of \$10,000 and are available to neighborhoods once every two years. The program will approve projects that are similar to, but not necessarily limited to, the following:

- Kiosks
- Murals
- Street markings
- Public art
- Trail improvements
- Trash or recycling receptacles
- Bus shelters
- Park benches
- Bicycle racks
- Beautification/plantings (requires volunteers for maintenance)

Requests for Micro Projects are due in the spring of 2012. Please contact Larry Smith at LrsML@aol.com if you have an idea for a project. ■

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FYI: BCA COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

October 2007 First Site Plan Review Committee meeting regarding Peck/Staples site development

February 2008 County Board votes to approve site plan for Peck-Staples (JBG)

July 2008 JBG Rosenfeld performs a study to see if Safeway site is feasible for redevelopment

November 2008 Neighborhood Conservation speaker recommends a 2009 update to the BCA Neighborhood Conservation Plan

December 2008 A developer filed a site plan application to build a residential building on the site of the Goodyear Auto Service Center

December 2008 First meeting of subcommittee of BCA members regarding the update of the NC Plan with respect to redevelopment along Wilson Boulevard

February 2009 Preliminary site plan amendment to allow a 115-unit residential building on site of the Goodyear Auto Service Center

February 2009 Jordan Manor building torn down as prerequisite to construction at Peck-Staples site

April 2009 Preliminary surveys asking for feedback on whether Bluemont residents would favor a "village center" approach to redevelopment were hand-delivered to all households and posted on the BCA Website

June 2009 At the completion of the preliminary survey, 70% of those responding to the village center questions supported the concept of a village center

September 2009 Summary survey results were printed in the BCA newsletter distributed to all households and presented at September general membership meeting

February 2010 A forum was held and all Bluemont residents and business owners were invited to participate in articulating a vision for the commercial corridor along Wilson Boulevard between N. Greenbrier Street and N. George Mason Drive

April 2010 The Neighborhood Conservation Plan survey was included with the newsletter in the neighborhood-wide distribution and was also available online

July 2010 BCA received 118 completed surveys out of 2,200 households

September 2010 Summary survey results were included in the newsletter (distributed neighborhood-wide, presented at the September meeting and posted on BCA Website)

January 2011 Ryan Arnold produced conceptual drawings as part of the NC Plan Update process

March 2011

> March 15: BCA President and Bob Atkins talked with JBG representative Dean Cinkala at 800 N. Glebe (former Bob Peck Chevrolet) groundbreaking ceremony

> March 24: BCA President and BCA resident Ryan Arnold met with JBG representatives Dean Cinkala and Andrew Van Horn to discuss the BCA NC Plan Update, Ryan Arnold's conceptual drawings and Safeway redevelopment options

April 2011 At the general membership meeting, Ryan Arnold presented revised conceptual drawings ■



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Properly Dispose of Household Hazardous Materials on October 15

The Arlington Environmental Collection and Recycling Event (E-CARE) gives residents a chance to safely get rid of hazardous materials like paint, solvents, garden chemicals and items containing mercury and to recycle electronics, bikes, small metal items, shoes, eyeglasses, books and durable medical equipment.

The 2011 fall E-CARE will be held Saturday, October 15, 2011, at Thomas Jefferson Middle School (125 S. Old Glebe Road). The collection site will be open from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. E-CARE is open to Arlington residents only. Commercial or business waste is not accepted. For more information about E-CARE, including details about acceptable items, visit the E-CARE Web page <http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/EnvironmentalServices/EnvironmentalServicesEnvex.aspx> or call 703.228.6832.

Representatives from Covanta Energy will be on-site at E-CARE this fall to provide a \$5 gift card to all residents who drop off household devices containing mercury (thermostats, thermometers, sphygmomanometers, manometers, barometers, hygrometers and liquid mercury). ■

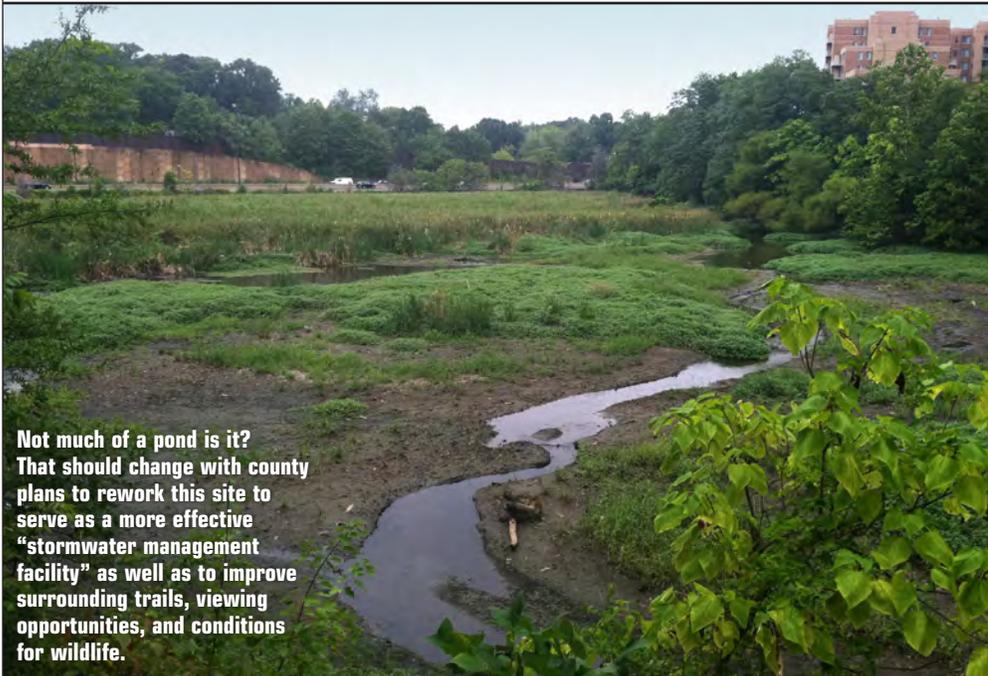
WAMU Highlights Bluemont

Our neighborhood was featured on WAMU's weekly Metro Connection program on August 5. Referred by BCA President Judah Dal Cais, Sam and Dorothy Ferro were interviewed for over an hour on a wide range of topics related to life in our community, from the anticipated village center, to the proposed bocce court, to the annual Halloween parade on the bike trail.

Dorothy and Sam gave the WAMU interviewer a grand aural tour of the neighborhood, from Ballston to Bluemont Park, treating her to the history as well as the flavor of the place. They pointed out many of the improvements we have made, as well as areas, such as traffic and sidewalks, where we need to improve more.

After editing, some great highlights made it into the weekly broadcast's "Door to Door" segment. Our thanks to Sam and Dorothy; you did good by Bluemont!

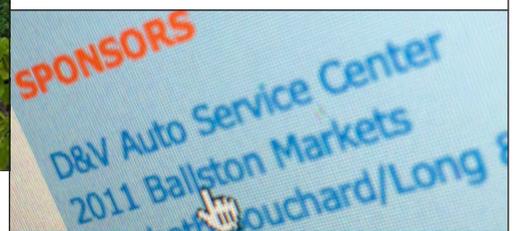
For those who would like to hear the two-minute segment and read the transcript, they are searchable on metroconnection.org, or you can find it directly at <http://bluemontcivic.org/doortodoor>. ■



Not much of a pond is it? That should change with county plans to rework this site to serve as a more effective "stormwater management facility" as well as to improve surrounding trails, viewing opportunities, and conditions for wildlife.

Ballston Beaver Pond Restoration Project

The Ballston Beaver Pond was originally designed and constructed as a stormwater detention facility when I-66 was built in the 1970s; beavers moved in at various times later. Retrofitting this pond is a high-priority project in the county's stormwater management program. The pond receives runoff from more than 300 acres and represents the most feasible opportunity within Arlington for an enhanced stormwater facility. BCA is a member of the project's Stakeholder Advisory Committee; meetings of that committee and public hearings have been held since January. More meetings are to be scheduled for this fall. To keep current on what is happening (including different concepts for the retrofit), visit the county's Website, www.arlingtonva.us, and then enter "Ballston Beaver" in the search box. ■



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

BCA General Meeting-ATS 9/27

Ballston Farmers Market Thursdays through Oct 13, 3pm-7pm, Wellburn Square	
Candidate's Night	10/4
sponsored by the Arlington County Civic Federation (see p.4)	
Ballston Arts & Crafts Market, 10am-4pm, Wellburn Square in Ballston.	10/8
E-Care Household	10/15
Hazardous Waste Collection Event (see p.5)	
General Meeting	10/26

BCA Neighborhood News

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CIV-FED from p.3

28 feet. This new protocol ensures the fire trucks, emergency vehicles and trash trucks can access all neighborhood streets. Parking restrictions changes have already been applied to three or four county streets, and conditions on other streets are being reviewed. The county now must notify the relevant civic association before the new no parking signs are installed on neighborhood streets.

For more information on the Civic Federation visit www.civfed.org. ■

Joining is Easy!

...and so is renewing



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Join BCA from p. 1

member, you will receive a regular newsletter that will keep you informed about issues that affect you and your family, and you provide the funding needed to continue our important work on your behalf.

How do I join?

Becoming a BCA member has become easier! You may now join online and pay via PayPal by visiting bluemontcivic.org. (No PayPal account or sign-up is necessary — you can use your credit or debit card of choice.) Of course we welcome traditional renewals or new members via the mail-in form at right. ►

Fill out (or update) the form below and:

Bring it and cash or check for \$20 to the 9/27 General Meeting, or Mail the form with your check to the Bluemont Civic Association at
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Arlington VA 22205

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