

◀ Warning — bridge work ahead!
Find out more at the next general meeting.

www.bluemontcivic.org

BCA MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

NEXT GENERAL MEETING, 10/26

Join us for our next general membership meeting — 7:30 pm on Wednesday, October 26 at Arlington Traditional School. Included on the agenda for the general membership meeting: Richard Viola, Planning Section Supervisor for the Transportation Division of Arlington County's Department of Environmental Services, will speak on the Carlin Springs bridge construction project. The Executive Board meeting will be held directly beforehand at 7:00pm and is open to all paid BCA members.

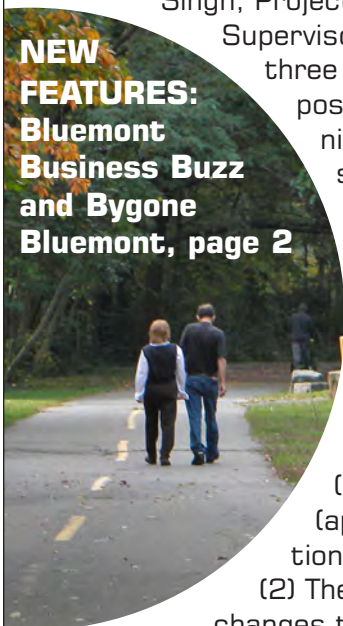
LAST GENERAL MEETING, 9/27

The September meeting included a presentation by Marc McCauley, Director of the Real Estate Development Group at Arlington Economic Development, on real estate development news and opportunities in Bluemont and the surrounding neighborhoods. Mr. McCauley answered questions from residents, including several about the Safeway site. David Van Wagner shared details on the progress of the Neighborhood ▶▶

Carlin Springs Bridge Changes on the Horizon

On September 26, 2011, Arlington County staff held a public meeting at Barrett Elementary School to discuss the status of staff's activities with reference to the County's planned rehabilitation of the Carlin Springs Road Bridge over N. George Mason Drive. County staff members Ravinder Singh, Project Manager, and Richard Viola, Planning Section Supervisor, led the conversation, and were joined by three or four supervisory staff employees. The purpose of the discussion was to alert the community of the planning so far and to provide specifics on three options for bridge improvements. The staff described the alternatives pictured on this website (Visit: <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental-Services/cpe/images/file83202.pdf>), and received commentary from the dozen or so citizens in attendance.

NEW FEATURES:
Bluemont Business Buzz and Bygone Bluemont, page 2



- The primary takeaways from this public meeting are:
- (1) The bridge needs replacement due to its age (approximately 50 years) and deteriorating condition;
 - (2) The bridge rehabilitation project may also involve changes to the cloverleaf ramps on the northeast side of the intersection, as well as the ramp from southbound N. George Mason Drive up to westbound Carlin Springs Road;
 - (3) Some enhancements to the bridge are warranted to be consistent with county policies on width of traffic lanes, installation of bike lanes, and enhanced sidewalks; and
 - (4) Three alternatives are currently under study, including one ▶▶



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BCA MEETINGS FROM P. 1

Conservation Plan update. If you're interested in volunteering your services to help the Update Committee, please contact David at 703.524.5068 or dpvanwagner@mindspring.com or Caroline Haynes at cmhaynes@comcast.net. ■

When do we meet? Glad You Asked!

BCA routinely meets at 7:30 pm on the 4th Wednesday of the month with adjustments for holidays. General membership meetings are once again being 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. ■

Bridge Update from p. 1

that would retain the current bridge's width but reduce the traffic lanes to three from the current four (one westbound lane toward Route 50, two eastbound lanes toward N. Glebe Road), and another that would retain four lanes and widen the bridge by an additional nine feet.

Staff estimates that planning will continue into early to mid 2012, followed with bid solicitation, and construction is unlikely to start prior to late 2012. Additional public meetings are likely. For more details and to follow developments visit: <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/cpe/page80347.aspx>.

Richard Viola will be on hand at the next General Meeting to discuss this project. ■

BLUEMONT BUSINESS BUZZ



You might not think that a kid from a small town in New York would know much about Wall Street, or that a Wall Street commodities trader would know much about being a locksmith. You would be right about the second one. When Michael Groves started Federal Lock & Safe, Inc. in 1989 with his brother, Peter, Michael knew nothing about the locksmith business. But long hours and dedication have led the company to become one of the leaders in the DC metro area. Federal Lock & Safe, located in Bluemont since 1999, is truly an Arlington establishment. The company started in the spare bedroom and the attic of Pete Grove's rental house in Lyon Village. They later opened a tiny three-room office next to Delhi Dhaba, and eventually moved to the building that houses the Clarendon Grill, then to a location on Washington Boulevard and finally to Bluemont.

Michael has a particularly keen interest in Bluemont; he is also a 17-year resident. And he is in good company, with the owners of Liberty Gas and Papatella living just blocks away. As CEO of Federal Lock & Safe, Michael's business philosophy is very employee focused, not solely with the interest of having a well-trained staff so that the company succeeds, but he works to ensure his staff enjoys coming to work every day. The company performs a wide range of security services from master keying to electronic access control and surveillance, for commercial, government, and residential clients. They also have a Top Secret clearance from the Department of Defense, which allows them to work on some unique and interesting projects. Luckily, due to their niche market and business reputation, Federal Lock & Safe has not suffered during the economic down turn. But Michael is concerned about other local small businesses and how they are faring, not just from financial hardships due to the economy, but also from the consequences of re-development. ■

Sign Reg's Revision? Sign Me Up!

Arlington County is undertaking a project to comprehensively update the sign regulations in the Arlington County Zoning Ordinance. Staff is inviting targeted focus groups to share thoughts on sign regulations in the draft ordinance.

There will be a focus group for Arlington County citizens from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm on October 27, 2011 in Multipurpose Rooms B & C at the Walter Reed Community Center at 2909 16th Street South. View the draft of the proposed ordinance: <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/CPHD/planning/studies/pdf/file83490.pdf>.

Following each focus group discussion, a summary of the comments received will be posted on the project website: <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/CPHD/planning/studies/SignRegUpdate.aspx>.

Below is the anticipated schedule for public review and consid- ►►4

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Arlington Forest Club To Build New Bathhouse

The Arlington Forest Club (AFC) (400 N. Harrison Street) has exciting plans to replace its current bathhouse with a new facility during AFC's off-season. The facility will include a brand-new bathroom/shower/changing building, covered pavilion multiuse area, family bathroom, and snack bar. (View the bathhouse's final design: http://arlingtonforestclub.org/forms/New_Bathhouse_Final_Design.pdf). The current path to the bathhouse and pools will also be replaced with a walkway that is fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (in addition to the ADA walkway, there will also be stairs leading to the main entrance). AFC's tennis courts and pools will remain intact and will not be altered in any way. Construction is slated to start this fall and will be completed in time for the start of the swim season. ■

NC Project Ideas?

We want to hear your ideas for projects that BCA can submit to Arlington County's Micro Projects Program. This program offers civic associations the chance to request small improvements in their neighborhoods. 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)

BCA plans to vote soon on which project to submit. Please contact Larry Smith at LrsML@aol.com if you have an idea for a project. ■

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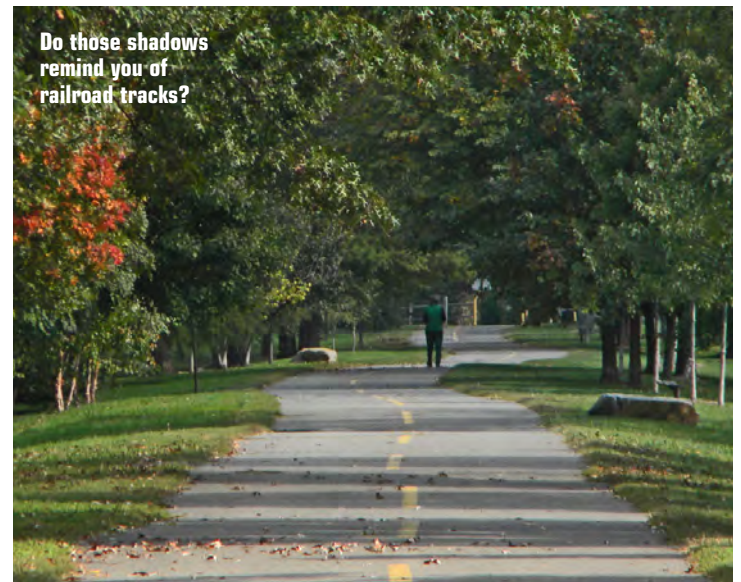
Rates and details at
bluemontcivic.org/rates.pdf

MORE AT BLUEMONTCIVIC.ORG



Did you know that in the 1950s, a local train ran along what is now the Bluemont Trail that many of us use for walking, running, and

cycling? As part of the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad, the train traveled from Rosslyn, making its way behind the now Arlington Fire Station No. 2 at the corner of Wilson Boulevard and George Mason Drive, and ran right through the Bluemont neighborhood, with a final destination of Bluemont,



Do those shadows remind you of railroad tracks?

Virginia. Neighborhood children nicknamed the train the "Hooterville Trolley" and ran out to wave at the conductor each day. The train arrived in Bluemont just before lunchtime; the children could hear it coming from as far away as Rosslyn, as the conductor blew his horn at each road crossing. You can imagine what excitement this created! As the train rounded the corner toward Bluemont Junction, it sometimes fell off the tracks and had to be righted by local fire trucks. ►►4

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

BCA General Meeting-ATS10/26

Arlington County Sign 10/27
Regulations Focus Group
(see p.2)

Annual Halloween Parade 10/31
(for kids) 4pm — Bluemont trail
starting at Emerson Street

Election Day 11/8

November General meeting TBA
Please check our website for
updates.

BCA Neighborhood News

is a service of YOUR community civic association.

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Bluemont Civic Association

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HISTORY from p.3

Thanks to Hedy and George Farah for contributing to this article.

Got a story to share?

If you have historical tales of life and goings on in Bluemont that you would like to share with your neighbors, please contact Carla dal Cais, Newsletter Editor, cecathey@gmail.com or 703-967-8458. They might make their way into this new “Bygone Bluemont” section of the newsletter. ■

SIGNS from p.2

eration of a revised ordinance by the Planning Commission and County Board, expected to be completed by early 2012.

■ November 19: County Board meeting – Request to Advertise (selected topics)

■ November 28: Planning commission meeting consideration of selected topics

■ December 10: County Board meeting consideration of selected topics

■ January 2012: County Board meeting – Request to Advertise (full sign ordinance)

■ February 2012: Planning Commission and County Board consideration of the full sign ordinance

If you plan to attend the focus group, please RSVP to Sophia Fisher, ssfisher@arlingtonva.us or 703-228-0771. ■