



◀ Sidewalks along Wilson Boulevard are obstructed, narrow, and downright dangerous.

www.bluemontcivic.org

BCA MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

NEXT MEETING, 12/14

Join us for our next general membership meeting—7:30 pm on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at Arlington Traditional School. The Executive Board meeting will be held at 7:00 pm and is open to all paid BCA members. On the agenda for discussion are Bluemont residents Ed Fendley and Chris Healey's presentation on Wilson Boulevard sidewalks and pedestrian safety. Terron Sims, an Arlington County Board Democratic Party primary candidate, also will be present to discuss his ideas and answer questions. Sims served as a past chair of Arlington's Fiscal Affairs Advisory Commission and is an Iraq War veteran.

LAST EXEC. COMMITTEE AND GENERAL MEETING, 11/16

The Executive Board meeting included a discussion of updating the BCA Website. Some Board members had expressed a desire to see the Website updated more frequently and further in advance of meetings to allow residents more time to plan to attend. The Board agreed to update the Website at least five days prior to General Membership meetings.

The General Membership meeting featured Melissa Bondi, who is running in the upcoming Democratic primary to select a candidate for this spring's special election to fill Barbara Favola's soon-to-be-vacated County Board seat. Bondi spoke about the similarities between her neighborhood, ▶▶

Walking on Wilson

The overwhelming majority of respondents to the 2010 Bluemont neighborhood survey indicated that pedestrian access to the Wilson Boulevard commercial corridor is important.

Many residents have opined that walking along Wilson Boulevard can be uncomfortable or even hazardous, and analysis shows that sidewalks between N. Frederick Street and Four Mile Run and those east of George Mason Drive are particularly inadequate.

Pedestrians on Wilson often face a thicket of utility poles, guide wires, and signs, which prevent residents in wheelchairs or those pushing baby strollers from using the sidewalk. A lack of adequate sidewalk width also means that vehicular traffic often passes within inches of people walking.

At BCA's December meeting, we'll discuss how we might work with County officials to bring these sidewalks up to County and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. BCA members will consider whether to continue our call for County investments to improve Wilson Boulevard's sidewalks and which County programs might be useful.

If you care about pedestrian safety on our Main Street, we hope to see you there! ■

Upcoming Special Election For County Board

A special election will be held to fill Virginia Assembly Senator-elect Barbara Favola's County Board seat this spring, possibly in April. Once Favola formally resigns, the Circuit Court can set the date.

At press time, Melissa Bondi, Peter Fallon, Libby Garvey, and Terron Sims have filed the formal paperwork with Arlington's elections office to run in the Democratic primary in February.

At least two others—Democratic activist Kim Klingler and Arlington NAACP president Elmer Lowe Sr.—also have signaled their intent to run in the Democratic primary.

The Arlington Republican Party is actively canvassing for a candidate to run, and the Arlington Green Party is currently weighing its options in deciding whether to field a candidate.

Whoever wins the special election will have to run again in the November 2012 general election, when the term for Favola's seat is up. ■

TIME
TO RENEW
FOR 2012!

We encourage BCA members to renew online via the recently integrated electronic payment system. If you receive your newsletter via email and are uncertain whether you need to renew for 2012, contact BCA Treasurer Judy Collins at jc.swings@verizon.net.

SPONSORS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

BCA Meetings-ATS 12/14
(Exec Board: 7pm; General 7:30)
January Meetings TBD

* 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.** *
Check bluemontcivic.org for schedule changes. *

BCA Neighborhood News

is a service of YOUR community civic association.

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Should U Renew? That label tells you when.

If so, bring your cash or check for \$15 to the 12/14/11 meeting or mail check, payable to BCA, to the above address. Better yet, do it online!

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Lyon Park, and Bluemont and how it would enable her to represent Bluemont. She also answered audience questions regarding her views on a variety of issues, from increasing transit options and improving amenities and benefits for vulnerable populations to finding ways the County Board could improve its processes.

Other hot topics raised at the meeting included the Goodyear Auto Service Center (at N. Glebe and Carlin Springs roads) site plan

and its ongoing review by stakeholders and the County Board.

It was also noted that potential improvements to the sidewalks on Wilson Blvd would be discussed at the next General Meeting. The BCA Neighborhood Conservation Plan and other BCA decisions have called for a more pedestrian-friendly "Main Street." BCA has asked the County for an update on efforts to make Wilson's sidewalks compliant with design guidelines of Arlington County and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Also discussed was General Membership meeting frequency. BCA President Judah dal Cais proposed that the Board have the latitude to cancel General Membership meetings if no significant discussion items or speakers were planned, as is allowable under the BCA bylaws. The members in attendance voted 15 to 5 to continue with the current monthly meetings, even if the agenda is brief, in the interest of transparency and ongoing dialogue among residents and the Executive Board. ■