



**TreeStewards/
Arlington Regional Master Naturalists
APS School Capacity Discussion
Your Input & Concerns**

◀ **New Capital BikeShare
behind the Fire Station**

MAY 2012 A PUBLIC SERVICE OF YOUR BLUEMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION

www.bluemontcivic.org

BCA MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

Choking Hazard

To the passing eye, English ivy seems like a lovely little green plant. But, it is actually a serious threat to the beautiful trees that give yards and neighborhoods shade and character.

Ivy strangles trees. It can accelerate tree rot by holding moisture close to the tree bark, while also stealing the trees' nutrients and water. This aggressive little green plant can actually cause mature trees to fall down during storms by adding massive weight to overburdened branches.

Our trees add financial value to our properties and quality to our lives. That is why we've invested so much time and money into landscaping, nurturing, and maintaining our trees and gardens. The investment is worth it, and worth protecting.

Ivy is a threat to our trees, but it is a beatable one. Homeowners can protect their trees and landscaping investments by cutting ivy away from trees using these simple steps:



1. Use garden clippers to cut all ivy vines at the bottom around the entire trunk of all infested trees.

2. Create a cleared "life saver ring" around the tree by pulling all ivy vines from the ground for at least 2 feet in a circle around the tree.

3. Leave the cut ivy vines on the tree. Pulling it off could harm the tree. The cut ivy will die back and blow off the tree over the next year.

The TreeStewards and Arlington Regional Master Naturalists have joined forces to rid Arlington of this invasive species. For more information: www.TreeStewards.org or www.ARMN.org. ■

MAY GENERAL MEETING

Join us for our next general membership meeting—7:30 pm on Wednesday, May 23, 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 the general membership meeting is a presentation by Nora Palmatier and Caroline Haynes on efforts by the TreeStewards and Arlington Regional Master Naturalists to rescue trees from the choking hazard of invasive English ivy. As well, Alison Denton, Facilities Planner/GIS Specialist for Arlington Public Schools (APS), and John Chadwick, APS Director of Design and Construction, will be present to discuss APS school capacity issues and the effect they will have on Bluemont.

MARCH EXEC. COMMITTEE AND GENERAL MEETING

The March meeting, presided by Vice-President George Rovder, in President Judah dal Cais's absence, was full of motions for consideration. At the Executive Board meeting, because of concerns about liability to BCA's ▶▶2

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Four NC Plan Sections Now Online

The BCA Neighborhood Conservation Plan (NCP) Committee is continuing its efforts to update BCA's NCP. To date, the Committee has posted four different draft sections of the new NCP for Bluemont residents to read and offer comments: (1) Housing, (2) Public Facilities and Services, (3) Urban Forestry, and (4) Introduction/Executive Summary/History. The Committee will be posting three more sections by late June – a Commercial/Business Areas section, a Street Conditions, and a Traffic Management /Transportation section. The authors of those sections will provide a brief overview of their work and answer questions at BCA's June 27 Annual Meeting.

Please visit <http://www.bluemontcivic.org> or www.bluemontncp.wordpress.com to review the NCP draft sections and to post your comments.

The BCA NCP Update Committee will eventually present a final version of the NCP in the fall for a membership vote at an open general membership meeting. ■

Volunteering In Arlington

Author Elizabeth Andrew said, "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart." There are many ways to be active in your community and give of your free time to a worthy cause. One resource that you should check out is Volunteer Arlington. They promote civic engagement and active volunteer participation to meet local needs and enrich the lives of Arlingtonians. Visit their Website at www.arlingtonva.us/volunteer to see what's available and stay connected to upcoming opportunities. ■

board and membership, a motion was made and approved to suspend the Tool Loaner Program until such time that BCA is incorporated with insurance or otherwise identifies and adopts a means to mitigate the liability exposure. Also, the February 22, 2012 Executive Board meeting minutes were approved.

At the general membership meeting, members deferred consideration of February's general membership meeting minutes until the April meeting so that outstanding questions could be answered. Then, Neighborhood Conservation Plan (NCP) Update Committee members presented two chapters of the NCP, including Public Facilities and Housing. Committee Chair David Van Wagner reminded the community to send in comments by clicking on the NCP link at www.bluemontcivic.org or by visiting <http://bluemontncp.wordpress.com>.

Neighborhood Conservation Representative Larry Smith reminded the group that May 1 (or June 1) is the deadline for the County's final round of micro-project funding selections. Smith suggested we put the idea of a kiosk to a vote, recommending two to three locations. Smith then introduced a discussion of the missing sidewalk on the south side of 8th Road North at N. Frederick Street. The Executive Board had discussed the matter online and President dal Cais had indicated he planned to submit a Missing Links application on behalf of the homeowner. At the meeting, however, there were questions as to whether the homeowner had been contacted and granted permission and whether private land would be needed to complete the sidewalk. After considering the potential legal exposure, the membership voted against having dal Cais submit the Missing Links application and suggested that County staff handle the matter instead.

Bob Atkins raised the need for a third June election Nominating Committee member and a membership vote to elect the committee members, according to the association's bylaws. Chitra Kumar, who is not running for office, volunteered to be the third member. The membership voted in favor of the three-member committee, consisting of Bob Atkins, John Herickhoff, and Chitra Kumar.

Marsha Lederman and Trisha Freeman from the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation also gave a presentation. They described how efforts by a committed group saved Lubber Run

BCA Annual Elections

A new BCA leadership team will be elected at the Annual Meeting in June. These team members are your neighbors who devote extra time to attend meetings, sit on committees, and stay connected to what's going on in our neighborhood and the greater Arlington area to ensure Bluemont is a better and safer place to live. The Nominating Committee has found viable candidates to run for several offices. They are in particular need of candidates for the following positions: President, Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, and Ballston BID Representative. Members are encouraged to run for any position in which they are interested. Please contact BCA President Judah dal Cais for more information, president@bluemontcivic.org or 703-528-1551.

Join us on June 27 to elect new officers. Only Bluemont residents who are paid BCA members are eligible to vote. You may become a member by signing up and paying dues at the June meeting or before hand. ■

Amphitheater from being shut down. The Foundation was able to support nine performances last year that drew 2,400 attendees. This year, the performance season will begin on June 15 and will last through the first weekend in August. County funding does not cover all desired programming, such as performances by community members. The Foundation is asking each civic association for a \$150 pledge of support.

Based on the group's discussion, the following funding motions were raised:

- Motion to contribute \$100 to Ashlawn Elementary School for its Fun Fair celebration (this was raised after some discussion that contributions to Ashlawn were originally made with the understanding that it was a one-time deal, yet the requests have been coming annually),
- Motion to advertise a \$100 budget for the Neighborhood Day barbecue, and
- Motion to advertise a \$150 donation to Lubber Run Amphitheater and a link from BCA's Website to Lubber Run Foundation's (as a 501(c)(3) that benefits our community).

The following nonmonetary motions were also made:

- To advertise a link for the Friends of Arlington's Planetarium (a 501(c)(3) organization) as another community resource on BCA's Website and
- To advertise a motion authorizing our officers to testify at hearings and write letters of support for issues during the County's (10-year) Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) process, such as a west entrance to the Ballston Metro stop.

APRIL EXEC. COMMITTEE AND GENERAL MEETING

Highlights from the April Executive Board and general membership meetings included presentations by a representative of the BikeArlington program, Zanna Worzella, and by Ballston Business Improvement District (BID) Executive Director Tina Leone. The Executive Board approved its March meeting minutes, and the membership approved the February general membership meeting minutes but deferred approval of the March minutes until May, pending the clarification of some items. In addition, a number of motions were made, passed, defeated, or tabled during the meeting.

Worzella gave an overview of Capital BikeShare, which is installing two bike stations in Bluemont, one in front of the Fire House at Glebe Road and Wilson Boulevard, and another in front of the CACI building. More information about membership in BikeShare and the ▶▶4

Zanna Worzella explains the ins and outs of the Capital BikeShare program.



Bocce Working Group

At the April general membership meeting, the membership voted to set up a working group to work with the County's Parks and Recreation Department to select an appropriate location in Bluemont for installing a bocce court. In selecting a location(s), the group will take into consideration both the impact of the bocce court on nearby residences and the goal to have a location that maximizes usage of the court. The working group will be made up of a mixture of residents immediately adjacent and not immediately adjacent to public spaces within Bluemont. Although anyone is welcome to attend working group meetings, for the sake of efficiency only working group members will be able to participate. The group will be limited to two BCA members who live immediately adjacent to public spaces, two BCA members who do not live immediately adjacent to public spaces, and one County staff person to serve in an advisory capacity and provide information. Please contact BCA President Judah dal Cais for more information, president@bluemontcivic.org or 703-528-1551. ■

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Park Enhancement Grant Program

The Park Enhancement Grant (PEG) Program was created to enable Arlington citizens to initiate small capital improvement and beautification projects for Arlington's parks and recreation facilities in their neighborhoods. The competitive program provides grants of up to \$15,000, and a range of projects may be proposed such as sports or building amenities, select type of fencing, small erosion control projects, park fixtures, new pathways, signage, and more. An informational session will be held at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, June 5, at the Central Library. The application process starts with a letter of intent, which applicants must submit by 5:00 pm, Friday, June 15. For more information, go to <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/parksrecreation/documents/file66644.pdf> to download a PDF. Anyone is eligible, for example the application could come from a citizen, a civic association, a school, a church, etc. ■

BCA MEETINGS FROM P. 3

BikeArlington program was presented at the meeting and may be found by visiting <http://www.capitalbikeshare.com/> and <http://www.bikearlington.com/pages/bikesharing/new-arlington-stations/>.

Leone explained the goals and the next steps of the Ballston BID and answered members' questions. The main goal of the BID, as described in the BID work plan, is to promote Ballston as the hub of science and technology in the DC metropolitan area, maintain and enhance Ballston's competitive advantages in an increasingly competitive regional marketplace, protect and enhance investment (public and private sector), improve on the existing quality of life offered in Ballston, strengthen Ballston's performance as the western anchor of the Rosslyn-Ballston Corridor, and serve as the research and data center for all things Ballston.

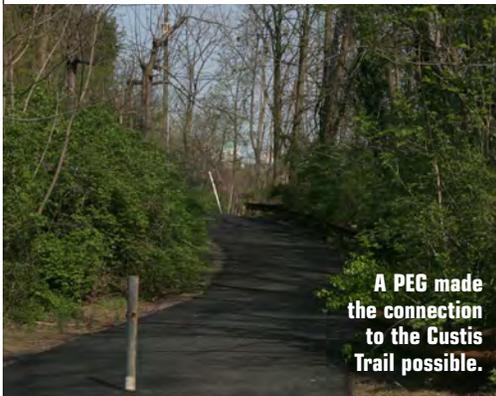
The BID is funded by a tax levied on commercial property owners in the amount of \$0.045 per \$100 of assessed property value. This funding pays for BID projects. The impact will be confined largely to commercial property owners and businesses because, as currently structured, the BID assesses its tax on commercial property only (generally not including residential commercial property). More information is available at <http://ballstonbid.com/media.htm>.

The membership discussed a slate of motions proposed at the March meeting and advertised on BCA's listserve, which were amended as necessary during the meeting and approved by voice vote, as follows:

1. Motion to approve a budget of up to \$150 for food and supplies for the May 12 Neighborhood Day barbecue,
2. Motion to approve a contribution of up to \$100 to Ashlawn Elementary School for its Fun Fair event,
3. Motion to approve a contribution of up to \$150 to Lubber ▶▶5

BCA President Honored

BCA President Judah dal Cais was honored with a certificate of appreciation at the 96th Anniversary of the Arlington County Civic Federation Banquet on May 1. He began his civic involvement over a decade ago when he sought to get curbs and gutters for his block through the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Commission and has since devoted much effort to improving his neighborhood and this community. Judah is finishing up eight years as President of the Bluemont Civic Association. During his tenure, he is noted for the way in which he reinvigorated Bluemont's role in the Federation and in a wide range of County government activities involving the Association. A big thank you to Judah for his years of hard work and service! ■



A PEG made the connection to the Custis Trail possible.

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Bluemont Civic Association Timeline Now Highlights

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Bluemont Civic Association

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Message

Run Amphitheater Foundation 501(c)(3) for supplemental programming, 4. Motion to approve adding a link for the Friends of Arlington's Planetarium 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to the BCA Website, and 5. Motion to request a notice kiosk as an Arlington County-funded micro-project, with the stipulation that if the micro-project is approved, the kiosk will be placed in a high-traffic area within one of the parks near the intersection of N. George Mason Drive and Wilson Boulevard.

At the request of President dal Cais, an additional motion proposed at the March meeting was tabled for further discussion until the May meeting. The original motion read as follows:

Motion to authorize BCA officers to advocate on behalf of Bluemont Civic Association members regarding projects like the west entrance to the Ballston Metro station and other projects of importance to Bluemont be included in the Fiscal Year 2013–2022 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) bond issue.

Larry Smith mentioned the availability of funding through Arlington County's Park Enhancement Grant (PEG) program. This competitive small grant program would provide up to \$15,000 for a neighborhood park improvement project that involves no engineering or design work, similar to the micro-projects. Smith raised the need to vote on a project idea at the May meeting in order to meet the June 15 application deadline. No specific project proposal was settled on at the April meeting, so ideas will be discussed and voted on at the next meeting.

Many meeting attendees were on hand to discuss the final topic of the evening: the bocce/petanque court petition. The original petition was amended from specifying a specific location, along the Bluemont Junction Trail between N. Emerson and N. Illinois Streets, to consider other Bluemont locations. The membership voted 18 to 20 in support of the idea of setting up a working group to work with the County's Parks and Recreation Department to select an appropriate location in Bluemont for installing a bocce court. A second motion to specifically exclude consideration of a location along the Bluemont Junction Trail between N. Emerson and N. Illinois Streets was defeated by a vote of 22 to 19. ■

Civ-Fed Highlights

The Arlington County Civic Federation works to empower citizens to improve their communities by mobilizing and coordinating the resources of government, businesses, nonprofits, the faith community, neighborhood leaders, and the citizens themselves.

In April, Civic Federation delegates reviewed and approved a budget proposal for fiscal year 2013 (FY13), which begins on July 1, 2012. The recommended budget was derived from the County Manager's proposed budget and is composed of two main sections: one drafted by the Schools Committee, the other by the Revenues & Expenditures Committee.

Delegates voted 42 in favor and zero against (with 5 abstentions) to approve these FY13 budget recommendations. A separate vote was held on the future of the Artisphere. This motion asked the County to determine whether the facility was reasonably close to meeting its revised budget as of December 31, 2012. If not, the Civic Federation recommended closing the facility. This motion passed with 30 in favor, 12 against, and 5 abstentions.

The approved recommended budget proposal may be found at <http://civfed.org/reandschools2012.pdf>. ■



Lubber Run Amphitheater Presents A Full Season And Fresh Face

The Lubber Run Amphitheater opens its first full season of free summer entertainment in three years on Friday, June 15, with the first of 22 performances scheduled to run through August 4.

In addition to traditional Friday and Saturday night performances, the schedule will include special weeknight and Sunday programs featuring community groups including The Arlingtones and The Potomac Harmony Chorus. The season's schedule includes musical programs ranging from blues and jazz to indie rock/pop, Shakespearean drama, and the biting satire of Washington's own Hexagon Theater Company.

The Amphitheater, itself, will present a fresh face. New retaining walls and renovated dressing rooms are ready for the June 15 season opener. The Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation plans to make opening night special with free snacks and handouts.

Esther Bowring, co-president of the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation, recently appeared before the Arlington County Board members on the Amphitheater and thanked them for their support at last month's public hearing on the county's proposed annual budget. "Today, we are planning for a wonderful second season of live ▶▶6

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

BCA Meetings-ATS (Exec Board: 7pm; General 7:30)	5/23
Turtle Trot 5K in Bluemont Park	5/19
Taste of Arlington	5/20
May Meeting	5/23
PEG program info session	6/5
Lubber Run Kicks Off	6/15
Concerts	
June Meeting & Annual Elections	6/27

BCA Neighborhood News

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Bluemont Civic Association

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Lubber Run Amphitheater from p.5

music and theater – and we are here to say thank you,” she told Board members. “Although we had a shortened season last year of only nine performances, there was an outpouring of support, with more than 2,400 people who attended performances contributing about \$2,400 to the amphitheater wishing well.”

“The support of the Arlington groups such as the Bluemont Civic Association was instrumental in saving this Arlington landmark,” Bowring said. “And the patronage of Amphitheater neighbors made last year’s short season a huge success. We hope to pay everyone back with interest this year with an outstanding season of free live entertainment in Arlington’s own backyard.”

The Amphitheater’s 2012 program schedule follows below, and you can keep up with Lubber Run Amphitheater news on Facebook (search Lubber Run) and email questions and comments to the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation at lubberrun-amphitheater@gmail.com.

You can make a tax-exempt donation to the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation by writing a check made payable to the Arlington Community Foundation (specify the Amphitheater Foundation on the check’s “for” line) and mailing it to 818 N. Quincy Street, Arlington, VA 22203. And the Lubber Run Amphitheater Wishing Well will receive cash donations at each performance.

Visit their Facebook page for a full schedule. ■