



**Fendley & Healey On Pedestrian Safety  
NC Plan and Safeway Updates  
Your Input & Concerns**

◀ Map of the old W&OD line.  
See story, page 4

SEPT 2012 A PUBLIC SERVICE OF YOUR BLUEMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION

[www.bluemontcivic.org](http://www.bluemontcivic.org)

**BCA MEETINGS AT A GLANCE**

**NEXT MEETING 9/27**

Arlington Traditional School  
Library —7PM Executive  
Committee (members welcome);  
7:30 General Meeting

**Walkable Wilson Boulevard**

Ed Fendley and Chris Healey of  
BCA's Task Force on Arterial Road  
Sidewalks and Pedestrian Safety  
will report on the group's work to  
help make Bluemont's arterial  
roads less risky to pedestrians.  
The initial focus of the Task Force  
is Wilson Boulevard.

In a series of meetings and con-  
sultations, the Task Force has  
investigated public land acquisition,  
roadway reconfiguration, and util-  
ity undergrounding as potential  
means to make Wilson more walks  
able. The Task Force also analyzed  
traffic volume trends and com-  
pared roadway design features of  
Wilson Boulevard with Washington  
Boulevard in the Westover area.

The Task Force was chartered at  
the December general meeting,  
when members reaffirmed the  
BCA's longstanding position that  
Bluemont's arterial roads, and  
sidewalks should be upgraded ▶▶2

# How Did I Get Here?

Well, we don't know about you in particular, but this newsletter got to your doorstep via the hands of a Bluemont Civic Association volunteer. The BCA got here because that's the way Arlington County rolls. Civic associations are the go-to local connection for the communities they represent, and also serve as the primary conduit to the county in matters affecting what goes on and in and around our neighborhoods. That includes development issues, traffic and pedestrian safety, infrastructure improvements, environmental, educational, recreational, well, you name it. These associations are volunteer-driven, and neighbor-supported. Neighbors like yours — and yes, you in particular.

These Bluemont neighbors are deeply committed to making our swath of Arlington more livable and lively. So, we hope you thanked your delivery-person if you ran into them, and hope also that you will consider joining, renewing (see page 6) and maybe even volunteering to help keep the wheels of your BCA moving forward.

We invite you to get your particular self over to our next meeting on September 26 where you can say howdy, meet BCA's "drivers," or just see what makes your neighborhood go. ■

## EXTRA! EXTRA! NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED!



Looking for a way to help BCA spread the word? We need an experienced (volunteer of course) editor who will plan content, write and/or assign articles, and plan schedules working with our designer and Executive Committee. It's a very important job and will require a 8-12 hour per-issue time commitment for each of the approximately 9 issues each year. It's a great way to serve the neighborhood while helping us build on the success of the BCA News. So if you have writing or editing experience, this job is for you! Contact [president@bluemontcivic.org](mailto:president@bluemontcivic.org) for more information. ■

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## Civic Federation Highlights

The following highlights are from the June CivFed Meeting. Full text may be found at [bluemontcivic.org](http://bluemontcivic.org).

### Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

At the June meeting, County Budget Director Michelle Cowan, School Superintendent Dr. Patrick Murphy, and others presented the 2013-2022 CIP. Whereas previous CIPs covered 6-year periods, this CIP spans 10 years.

■ \$538 million was proposed for Arlington Public Schools (APS), as was \$2.45 billion for county projects. [APS and the county have since adopted a combined CIP total of \$2.9 billion over the next 10 years. The County Board has also since approved 2012 Bond Referenda Questions and Answers requesting approval for a total of \$153 million in spending in four separate questions/categories. These referenda will be available for review at BCA's Sept. 26 general membership meeting.]

■ Bonds for the Columbia Pike and the Crystal City streetcar lines won't appear on the ballot because the county will be using revenue bonds, which don't require voter approval. Voter-approved funds can in fact be diverted for this purpose if anticipated state/federal funds are not forthcoming.

■ Although the Civic Federation approved a resolution asking the county to place the \$42.5 million bond funding for a Long Bridge Park aquatics center as a separate referenda question, it will be included as part of the larger park bond question on November's ballot.

■ 24.6 million was added to the 2013-2022 CIP for a Ballston Metro west entrance — to be added to approximately \$10.5 million in site plan contributions for a Fairfax Drive building. However developer JBG placed that site plan on indefinite hold in 2006. With inflation, the county estimates the cost for a west



## BCA MEETINGS FROM P. 1

so that they comply with modern design standards. Arlington County staff has indicated that Wilson Boulevard is under consideration for funding through the County's "Complete Streets" program, which aims to make roadways safe and accessible for all modes of transportation.

### Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Plan Update

All chapters of the NC Plan have now been drafted, and they are ready for residents and BCA member to review and provide feedback. This document is an important part of planning for what kind of community Bluemont will become within the next decade. The County will use the NC Plan as a guide in making decisions regarding development.

The NCP committee anticipates getting the draft NC Plan to the County for review by approximately September 15, 2012. The final draft should be ready for distribution to the BCA membership at one of its general membership meetings in the fall.

The County recommends publicizing the document for at least 30 days prior to holding a vote for its approval, which is tentatively scheduled for the general membership meeting on December 12th. To review the draft NC Plan chapters, please visit [www.bluemontncp.wordpress.com](http://www.bluemontncp.wordpress.com)

### Safeway Task Force Presentation

The Task Force will provide updates on their work as BCA prepares for the forthcoming Safeway redevelopment.

## SUMMER MEETINGS HIGHLIGHTS

### July 25

Larry Smith reported the BCA Neighborhood Conservation Micro Project (an information kiosk) was approved. The County will contact Larry to set up a meeting and determine the best location for the kiosk. Safeway Task Force members and President dal Cais met with three Safeway representatives on July 24th at Firehouse # 2 to discuss the proposed RFP. Task member David Van Wagner reported that the Safeway reps were "not very forthcoming" with the particulars of the developers' submitted proposals or on what criteria Safeway would use to select a bid. However, Safeway did say that a bid should be selected within the next 2 or 3 months.

### August 22

School Board Proposal to Build a New Elementary School on the Grounds of Kenmore Middle School: Sandy Munnell briefed the group on the APS Board's plan to construct a new elementary school at Kenmore. She described a draft resolution crafted by the Civic Federation's Schools Committee and asked for the BCA Executive Board's endorsement. The resolution, while endorsing the concept of building new elementary schools in Arlington, encourages the County Board to recognize that new school construction can have impacts on the surrounding community and that the County Board should try to ensure early in the process that there are plans to mitigate those impacts. The Executive Board agreed with the spirit of the resolution, but because it was in draft form and there was the possibility that the wording might change, the Executive Board did not endorse it. However, a motion was made and passed to give Munnell the authority to represent in good faith the BCA Executive Board on the matter at the Civic Federation meeting on September 4, 2012. ■

# BLUEMONT BUSINESS BUZZ

Not much to look at just yet, but a snappy new McD's is coming soon!



## Bluemont-Supporting-Business Program

In September, the Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) is rolling out a new program for Bluemont Civic Association members — BCA-Supporting-Businesses. The BCA believes that without neighborhood support, local businesses in Bluemont cannot succeed and continue to grow. So in an effort to foster a business partnership with local businesses



within the association, the BCA is rolling out a free program available to all BCA members in good standing.\* BCA members who renew their membership for 2013 will receive a free BCA key tag — show the key tag at a participating business and receive a discount.

Currently, Fettoosh and The Greene Turtle offers a 10% off your check everyday off the week! Please stop by the general membership meeting on September 27 to pick up your key tag or email [president@bluemontcivic.org](mailto:president@bluemontcivic.org) to make arrangements. ■

\*Not a member?! See page 6 to join us and get your own keytag!

This article appears courtesy Arlnow.com...

### Plans Revealed for New McDonald's on Wilson Blvd

...the interior will include the traditional booths and chairs, but a new lounge type of area will be added, as will new community tables. The different styles of seating are designed to give customers a variety of dining options to fit their lifestyles — from meeting new people at the communal seating to enjoying a quiet cup of coffee in the lounge. Plasma screen TVs and free Wi-Fi will also be available.

"This construction is a part of McDonald's focus to modernize and elevate the restaurant experience through upgrading to a more modern exterior design and providing upscale and contemporary interior décor," said local McDonald's franchisee Kyu Rhee.

Plans for the exterior are said to be consistent with the McDonald's brand, while still allowing for flexibility with color and design materials to adapt to the neighborhood. There will be new landscaping and an easily identifiable drive through.

The construction is intended to show McDonald's customers that the company can change with the times and with customer needs, while retaining the brand's basic principles. The new restaurant is expected to open late in October. ■



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## Urban Agriculture Task Force and Backyard Hens

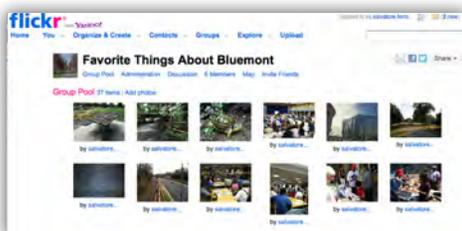
According to Civic Federation Delegate Larry Mayer, the County Board will not make a decision on urban agriculture until December of 2012 or early 2013. Due to the controversy surrounding backyard hens, the Civic Federation has asked its member associations to poll their members to determine support for retaining or loosening restrictions on the raising of fowl on private residential property. For more information on the urban agriculture and the task force, visit <http://www.arlingtonva.us/portals/topics/UrbanAg.aspx>. To review presentations for and against the backyard hen proposal, visit <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Commissions/page86874.aspx>. ■

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SPEAKING OF GETTING HERE...

## Bluemont and Streetcars

At the turn of the 20th century, interurban train lines criss-crossed Northern Virginia, serving the area's ever growing suburban population. While automobile usage also was growing during this period, the slow development of reliable roads made streetcars attractive alternatives for suburban residents seeking to reach Washington, D.C., for work and pleasure. Despite this early success, northern Virginia's streetcar lines ultimately were unable to compete with the automobile. Plagued by mismanagement and financial problems, streetcar operations in Northern Virginia ceased by the 1930s and 1940s.

Bluemont itself was served by three different streetcar lines – the Washington and Old Dominion (W&OD) Alexandria-Bluemont Branch, the Thrifton-Bluemont Spur of the W&OD Georgetown-Great Falls Line, and the Washington, Arlington and Falls Church Railway.

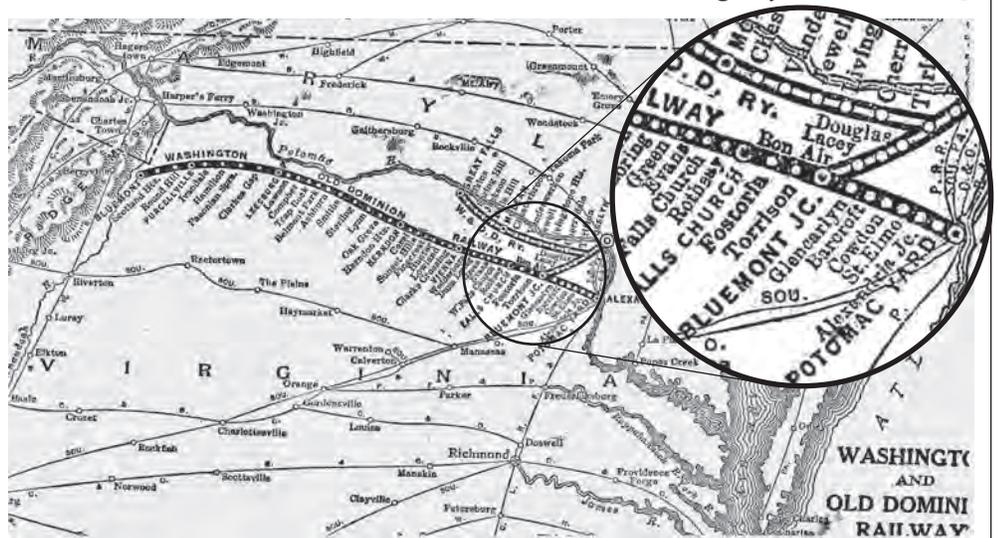
### Picture This

If you have photos of former businesses or locations within the Bluemont area, we would love an opportunity to scan them for our archives — and share them in BCA News! Email [sam@ferroplusferro.com](mailto:sam@ferroplusferro.com).

### W&OD Alexandria-Bluemont Branch

The earliest forerunner of the W&OD was the Alexandria and Harper's Ferry Railroad, which was incorporated in 1855. By 1859, it had built a rail line that followed Four Mile Run upstream from Alexandria through Arlington to Vienna. After a construction pause during the Civil War and a new set of owners, the line reached Round Hill, VA, by 1874 and Bluemont, VA, by 1900. Its newest owners – the Washington, Ohio and Western Railroad – as the Bluemont Branch, formally designated the line.

Between 1912 and 1916, the Bluemont Branch was electrified as part of the W&OD's interurban electric trolley system that carried passengers, mail, milk and freight. One- or two-car self-propelled coaches known as "combines" handled passenger service. The branch had two stations within Bluemont: Bluemont Junction (near the current site of the Bluemont Park caboose), and Torrison (slightly north of ►► 6



## IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

### Building Level Planning Committee for Ashlawn

The Proposed Capital Improvement Plan includes funding for a 12-room addition (additional 225 seats) to open in fall of 2014 at Ashlawn. Arlington Public Schools will begin planning for the design of the addition in September in order to make our construction targets. By policy, APS invites 2 representatives from the school's civic association (Boulevard Manor) to engage in the design committee, known as the Building Level Planning Committee or BLPC. Judah dal Cais is the appointed BLPC representative from the BCA.

- The BLPC will work with APS and County staff and architects to develop a design for the addition to Ashlawn.
- This group will NOT be discussing boundaries for this or any other school.
- Meetings will begin in September, once or twice a month for about 6-9 months, with more intensity at the early stages of the process.

More information can be found on the APSVA website at: <http://www.apsva.us/capacity> and <http://www.apsva.us/Page/2283>. ■

### Bocce Court Update

At the July BCA Executive Board meeting, President Judah dal Cais informed board members that as a private citizen, he submitted a Parks Enhancement Grant (PEG) application for a bocce-petanque court to be built in Bluemont, and that the County had received his letter of intent application. The final application is due on October 5th.

Dal Cais noted that the bocce court task force will coordinate with County staff to determine an appropriate site for the court. ■

### Neighborhood Conservation Update for 8th Rd

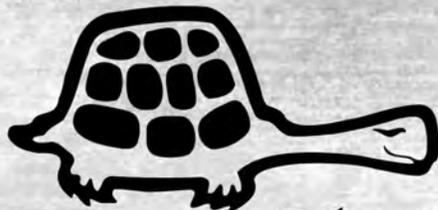
An NC missing links application for 8th Rd (between N. Frederick and Greenbrier) was submitted by Curt Rich in early spring 2012, and endorsed by the BCA president. The NC missing links application was approved by Tim McIntosh, Planner, NC Program. Working with Curt Rich and the residents along 8th Rd, Tim McIntosh and the Department of Environmental Services designed, field engineered, and constructed the curb, gutter, sidewalk and storm drain work in June and July.

What is next in Bluemont? Dave Hundelt, Chief Operating Engineer at DES to design and install missing concrete curb and ramp access for the Bluemont Junction Trail along N. Bluemont Drive (between N. Frederick and N. Florida). Project completion expected by Spring 2013. ■

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**BCA Meetings-ATS 9/27**  
**(Exec Board: 7pm; General 7:30)**

Ballston FreshFarm 9/13,20,27  
Market, 3-7pm every Thursday,  
Wellburn Square

Ballston Arts Market 10/13  
10am-4pm second Saturdays

October BCA Meetings 10/24

Children's Halloween Parade 10/31  
4pm, Bike trail@Emerson St

## BCA Neighborhood News

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### CIV-FED from p2

entrance in FY2022 will be approximately \$100 million.

### Revised Sign Ordinance

Proposed changes to the county's sign ordinance were presented. [On July 24, the County Board adopted revisions to the sign regulations, which can be found at [www.arlingtonva.us/departments/CPHD/planning/studies/pdf/file87028.pdf](http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/CPHD/planning/studies/pdf/file87028.pdf).] ■

### STREETCARS from p4

where Wilson Boulevard now crosses the W&OD Trail).

In 1932, W&OD was placed into receivership and by 1939 the company abandoned the western end of the Bluemont branch so that it terminated in Purcellville, VA, instead of Bluemont, VA. In 1941, before the entry of the U.S. into the Second World War, W&OD discontinued passenger service on the Bluemont branch. By 1943, however, W&OD temporarily

resumed passenger service with gas-electric motor cars and cars pulled by diesel-electric locomotives.

In 1951, W&OD permanently ended passenger and mail service and instead carried only freight. Nonetheless, the Bluemont branch remained active as diesel trains carried building supplies for new housing and highways in Arlington and Fairfax County.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Railway (C&O) purchased the W&OD in 1956. The late 1950s brought another boon to the railroad as the Bluemont Branch carried supplies out to Dulles Airport as it was being built. However, in 1968, operations finally ceased entirely on the Bluemont Branch. C&O sold the remainder of the railroad's route to the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Commonwealth then sold most of the route to the Virginia Electric Power Company (now Dominion Virginia Power), whose transmission lines run along the railroad's right-of-way.

**Look for part 2 of this article next issue or online at [bluemontcivic.org](http://bluemontcivic.org). ■**

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