



**Richard Best on traffic calming  
Safeway Task Force charter  
Your Input & Concerns**

◀ Did you vote?

**NOV 2012** A PUBLIC SERVICE OF YOUR BLUEMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

### **NEXT MEETING ON NOV. 14**

On Wed., 11/14/12, at Arlington Traditional School (ATS), the Executive Board meeting begins at 7 pm (all members welcome); the General Membership meeting starts at 7:30 pm.

## **BCA Endorses New Safety and Community-Friendly Measures for Wilson**

At the 10/24/12 meeting, members voted to support the Arterial Roads Sidewalks and Pedestrian Safety Task Force's recommendations for a phased reconfiguration of Wilson Blvd. west of N. George Mason Dr. The four current traffic lanes will be reduced to one thru-lane each way, a center turn lane, and two bike lanes. The reconfiguration should provide enough room to widen sidewalks while ensuring the continued flow of motor vehicles.

In addition, the BCA endorsed recommendations to investigate options for improving sidewalks on Wilson east of George Mason, to establish relevant baseline service data, and to maximize public participation as reconfiguration plans are developed and implemented.

The Task Force's next steps include a meeting with county officials to identify program and funding options to implement BCA's requested improvements.

Bluemont residents are encouraged to join the Task Force or weigh in with comments and views. Contact Chris Healey (cphealey@me.com) or Ed Fendley (EdFendley@gmail.com) for further info or to help. Visit <http://bluemontroads.wordpress.com/> to view the Task Force's 9/27/12 presentation and other materials.

### **Traffic-Calming Funds Available**

Richard Best, Project Manager for the county's Department of Environmental Services Division of Transportation, will attend the general meeting to discuss traffic-calming funds now available for use in Bluemont.

As part of the Peck-Staples-Jordan (the redevelopment project at N. Glebe Rd. and **▶▶3**

## **Notes from the BCA President**

On behalf of the newly revitalized Executive Board, I would like to update and extend greetings to our Bluemont neighbors.

To begin, we thank Judah dal Cais, Sandy Munnell, Dave Leichtman, and Kate Mesches for their many years of work on our behalf.

We welcome Nancy O'Doherty to the Executive Board as Treasurer, and Nora Palmatier as Parks and Recreation Liaison and Laura Brothers as webmaster.

We are still looking for a volunteer to edit the newsletter. Suzanne Sundburg, who served as editor for eight years prior to Carla dal Cais's year-long tenure, has graciously agreed to resume the role temporarily until we can identify a replacement. Now that John Herickhoff has assumed the vacant position of First Vice-President (the succession outlined in the 11th edition of *Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised*, incorporated by reference in the BCA bylaws), we will need a new Second Vice-President as well. **▶▶2**

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We are also seeking members to serve on a Special Committee recently created by the Association to review our bylaws, last amended in 2005. The Special Committee will decide what modifications, if any, might be considered, and it will present them to the membership for debate and a final decision.

If you are interested in serving in any of these positions, please send me a note at [georgerovder@hotmail.com](mailto:georgerovder@hotmail.com).

As President, I look forward to meeting and working with you as we, together, address the issues facing our Association and our neighborhood. The hard work of the Association is done in its Special Committees. Below are links to the websites for each of these committees:

■ **BCA's Bluemont NC Plan**

**Update Committee:** <http://bluemontncp.wordpress.com/>

■ **BCA's Bluemont Safeway Task**

**Force:** <http://safewaytaskforce.wordpress.com/>

■ **BCA's Bocce-Pétanque Work-**

**ing Group:** <http://boccepétanque.wordpress.com/about/>

■ **BCA's Task Force on Arterial Roads Sidewalks and Pedestrian**

**Safety:** <http://bluemontroads.wordpress.com/>

Please use these project-specific sites to send your comments directly to the committees.

The role of BCA President, first and foremost, is to preside at meetings of the General Membership and Executive Board. In presiding, my goal is to be as neutral, objective, and transparent as possible so that our meetings provide a forum for all views to be heard and considered. Once the membership decides on a course of action, I will advocate for it, no matter what my personal view may be.

Best wishes as we clean up after post-tropical storm Sandy. Enjoy what remains of the autumn colors.

George

## ▶ **BCA MEETINGS AT A GLANCE**

### **LAST MEETING 10/24**

#### **Executive Board Meeting**

At the 7 pm Executive Board meeting, the board approved its 9/27/12 minutes without changes. Outgoing Treasurer Munnell reported 246 paid members (households), but she hadn't brought a list of paid members to the meeting. The Executive Board called for a special meeting immediately following the General Membership meeting (to which all members were invited) to select a new BCA Treasurer.

Outgoing President Judah dal Cais reported that he had made a presentation on his personal Parks Enhancement Grant (PEG) application at the 10/23/12 Park and Recreation Commission meeting. He noted that the Commission would take public comments on submitted grant applications at its 11/27/12 meeting. [Those who wish to speak—only five people from each side will be chosen—must sign up by contacting Staff Coordinator Diane Probus at [dprobus@arlingtonva.us](mailto:dprobus@arlingtonva.us) no later than 5 pm on 11/19/12. Your e-mail must include your name, address, whether you support or oppose the application, and a summary of comments.]

NC Representative Larry Smith noted that the first NC project in the funding queue—a sidewalk, curb and gutter project for the 1000 block of N. Edison St.—had run into a snag and may not proceed. He urged the board to help him identify a second-priority NC project as soon as possible so that the BCA would continue accruing funding points that are needed to push projects to the top of the queue. [Residents who are interested in funding improvements in their area should contact Smith at [LrsML@aol.com](mailto:LrsML@aol.com).]

#### **General Membership Meeting**

County staff members Lois Barb and Patrick Wegeng presented a proposed tree-planting plan along the Bluemont Junction Trail between N. Emerson and N. Illinois Streets. They left maps showing the locations so that members could review them. [See the related "Green Corridor" article.]

The Arterial Roads Sidewalks and Pedestrian Safety Task Force presented its motion recommending Wilson Blvd.'s reconfiguration, and the membership voted to approve it. [See the related "Safety and Community-Friendly Measures" article.]

The Safeway Task Force reported on the anticipated redevelopment of Bluemont's Safeway. It also presented an amended charter extending the group's life span to 11/1/13, which the membership will vote on at its 11/14/12 meeting. [See the related "Safeway Redevelopment" article.]

David Van Wagner reported on the NC Plan Update Committee's activities. He is now editing the plan's text and hopes to provide the county with a complete draft in December. The county will review and confirm its completeness. If all goes well, the county will return it to the BCA in January, making it possible for the membership to review and vote on it in early 2013. Van Wagner noted that very few residents have submitted any comments, and he urged all Bluemont residents to review and comment on the draft documents using the committee's website: <http://bluemontncp.wordpress.com/>. Because the NC Plan covers the entire community, both BCA members and nonmember Bluemont residents may vote to approve Bluemont's new NC Plan.

Outgoing President Judah dal Cais formally activated the letter ▶▶**3**

of resignation he had already sent to the BCA listserv and the Executive Board. Second Vice-President John Herickhoff recalled many BCA accomplishments during dal Cais's tenure. The membership voted to approve a motion thanking dal Cais for his service and accepting his resignation. Incoming President George Rovder thanked dal Cais, outgoing Treasurer Munnell, Parks and Recreation Liaison Kate Mesches, and Webmaster Dave Leichtman for their service.

The membership voted to approve the 6/25/12 General Membership meeting minutes with no changes. The membership also voted to approve the 9/27/12 minutes with one change requested by David Van Wagner: to include a statement made by Suzanne Sundburg who noted although it was customary to advertise important votes in advance, there was nothing in the BCA bylaws or *Robert's Rules* to prevent members from voting on a time-sensitive issue even though it was unadvertised.

Several members expressed unhappiness with the membership's ability to take previously unadvertised votes on time-sensitive matters of importance (a right also granted to the Executive Board in between General Membership meetings). Therefore, the membership passed a motion creating a special committee to review the BCA bylaws and recommend whatever modifications, if any, might be needed.

#### **Special Executive Board Meeting**

Immediately following the General Membership meeting, the Executive Board reconvened to approve nominations to fill recent vacancies for BCA Treasurer, Parks and Recreation Liaison, and webmaster.

#### **INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTICE**

When inclement weather forces Arlington Public Schools to close on the same day a BCA meeting is scheduled, the BCA meeting will be canceled.

Wilson Blvd.) site plan conditions, Bluemont now has access to more than \$125,000 for new traffic-calming measures in the neighborhood. Because the funds are currently unallocated, the county is asking the BCA to identify a site or sites where these funds could be used. Examples of projects in the \$125,000 range include sidewalk improvements, curb extensions/nubs, and crosswalk improvements.

Before the Nov. meeting, we encourage Bluemont residents to share with the BCA Executive Board their views on the challenges related to traffic, pedestrian safety, and parking in Bluemont areas west and south of this site that may be addressed through the use of these funds. Please send your suggestions to BCA President George Rovder at [georgerovder@hotmail.com](mailto:georgerovder@hotmail.com). ■



### **FedLock Storefront Closes**

Federal Lock & Safe on Wilson Boulevard in Bluemont has announced that it will close its retail storefront starting in November. It will continue to dispatch locksmith and physical security technicians to serve area customers.

### **Technology Jumpstart Workshop for Your Business**

Arlington Economic Development is sponsoring a free technology workshop for small business owners on 12/13/12 from 6 to 8 pm at the Arlington Central Library. The focus will be how to market products and services online. Many small businesses mistakenly assume their company may not benefit from using a transactional (e-commerce) website. However, all businesses can achieve new vitality and increased sales using an effective online presence.

This workshop also will introduce a wonderful marketing model to increase sales and profits. Don't miss this opportunity to learn valuable online techniques. Even successful business owners can benefit from learning alternative marketing tactics. To register, visit [www.arlingtonvirginiausa.com/aed/events-calendar/applying-technology-to-jumpstart-your-business/](http://www.arlingtonvirginiausa.com/aed/events-calendar/applying-technology-to-jumpstart-your-business/).

## Bluemont Junction Trail's Green Corridor Initiative

For the last six months, Arlington County Parks and Natural Resources Division crews have cleared away choking vines that have killed many small trees and shrubs on the outskirts of the trail. They are now installing a wide variety of replacement plants to create habitat for songbirds, butterflies, and other wildlife over the next year. As you walk the trail, you'll see newly planted witch hazel, dogwood, serviceberry, redbud, fringe tree, black gum, viburnums, and many more. Throughout the summer, water bags were filled weekly so the young trees would develop strong roots and survive the heat and drought conditions.

Environmental Landscape Supervisor Patrick Wegeng (pwegeng@arlingtonva.us) and Landscape Team Leader and project manager Lois Barb (lbarb@arlingtonva.us) attended our 10/24/12 meeting to update the community on the county's progress to date. Staff will continue monitoring what has been planted and any resurgence of invasive species. The county received a \$5,000 grant from American Forests to support the tree planting being proposed for the area between N. Emerson and N. Jefferson Streets. Staff left us several large planting maps that will be available for review at our 11/14/12 meeting. If you have any questions or requests for the corridor—for instance, staff learned that the bank near N. Harrison St. is used for children's sledding so shrubs won't be planted there—please contact Wegeng or Barb. ■

## Safeway Redevelopment Developments

The Safeway Task Force (SWTF) reports that Safeway representatives have indicated that Safeway has not yet selected a developer for the Wilson Boulevard site. In July, Safeway said that it expected to select a winning bid within "three to four months," so the projected deadline is fast approaching.

The SWTF continues to monitor the situation and is making plans for another town hall-style meeting in the near future in order for Safeway representatives (and hopefully a developer's representatives) to let the community know of their plans.

The SWTF's charter will expire on November 1. In order to continue its work, the SWTF presented an amended charter proposal to the membership at its 10/24/12 meeting. The amended charter would extend the SWTF's life through 11/1/13, and it would add some new responsibilities. Specifically, the amended charter would authorize the Task Force, in consultation with the BCA Executive Board, to "develop and follow a highly participatory process for learning the Bluemont Neighborhood's views on redevelopment and related issues" so that the BCA and the Task Force would be informed by those "views in working with Safeway and County officials during any redevelopment of the Safeway site and in ensuring that any such redevelopment best serves the Bluemont Neighborhood."

This new responsibility follows up on recommendations made by Steve Cole and Terry Serie (Bluemont residents and members of Arlington County's Planning Commission). In order to best represent the views of Bluemont residents and businesses to Safeway and county officials, the BCA should work to develop broad, community-supported positions with respect to various issues associated with the redevelopment of the Safeway site.

A formal vote on the proposed amended charter will be taken at the 11/14/12 BCA General Membership meeting. If you want to review the wording of the proposed amended charter prior to the meeting, please visit the SWTF website at <http://safewaytaskforce.wordpress.com/>. ■

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# BYGONE BLUEMONT HISTORY

## Bluemont and Streetcars

(continued from the Sept. newsletter)

In early 20th century, three different streetcar lines served the Bluemont neighborhood: 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 & Falls Church Railroad's Fairfax Line. In the September newsletter, we covered the W&OD Alexandria-Bluemont Branch. This month, we look back at the Thrifton-Bluemont Spur. And in the December issue, we'll discuss the Fairfax Line.

In addition to the Bluemont Branch, W&OD maintained a Great Falls Line that traveled from Georgetown and Rosslyn via Cherrydale and McLean to Great Falls Park. In 1912, W&OD Railway constructed a double-tracked line that connected its Alexandria-Bluemont and Georgetown-Great Falls lines. The connecting line, known as the Thrifton-Bluemont Spur, linked two new junctions in Arlington:

Bluemont Junction on the Alexandria-Bluemont Branch and Thrifton Junction on the Georgetown-Great Falls Line. Thrifton Junction is now the site of the Lyon Village Shopping Center at the corner of Lee Highway and Spout Run Parkway.

The Thrifton-Bluemont Spur passed through what is now

Bluemont, a short distance west of Ballston, crossing on a plate girder bridge over a competing interurban electric trolley line—the Fairfax Line of the Washington-Virginia Railway that carried passengers between Rosslyn and Fairfax City.

Within Bluemont, the Thrifton-Bluemont Spur stopped at six stations: Lacey (near the current intersection of N. Glebe Rd. and N. Fairfax Dr.), Waycroft (near today's intersection of N. Buchanan St. and the Bluemont Junction Trail), Garrison (near today's intersection of N. George Mason Dr. and Wilson Blvd.), Arlington Avenue (near today's intersection of N. Jefferson St. and the Bluemont Junction Trail), Bon Air (near today's intersection of N. Kensington St. and the Bluemont Junction Trail), and Bluemont Junction (the current site of Bluemont Park's caboose).

In 1934, W&OD abandoned operations on the Great Falls Line between Thrifton Junction and Great Falls but continued passenger service on the Thrifton-Bluemont Spur until 1951 (with a two-year hiatus during World War II). By 1951, the Spur dropped passenger train service and carried only freight. In 1963, C&O, the Spur's new owner, shut down the Line and sold it to the Commonwealth of Virginia as it acquired right-of-way for the planned route of I-66. ■



**Arlington was long served by streetcars — if not as slick as those proposed for Columbia Pike.**

CONCEPTUAL RENDERING, COURTESY NEWLANDS & COMPANY INC. VIA THE WASHINGTON POST

## IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

### BCA's New Park Liaison Appointed on Oct. 24

Hi fellow Bluemonters. I've met many of you over the past decade through my activities as a county TreeSteward, Master Naturalist, and parks volunteer. I look forward to working with you as the association's Parks and Recreation Liaison. We are fortunate to have these ecological gems within or adjacent to our association's boundaries—Ballston Beaver Pond, Bluemont, Bluemont Junction, Bon Air, Fields, and Lacey Woods Parks—so we need to be good stewards by partnering with Arlington County's Parks and Natural Resources Division as volunteers to care for our parks and by serving as extra eyes to report problems. Should you see a problem in one of our parks, please report it directly at 703-228-6525, and please notify me at [NoraPalm@verizon.net](mailto:NoraPalm@verizon.net) so I can follow up as well. There will be future articles on issues currently confronting our parks in upcoming editions of this newsletter, and I welcome your suggestions and feedback.

### Ballston Beaver Pond Overhaul: Progress Report on Nov. 13

Work continues on the Ballston Pond's rehabilitation as both a stormwater management facility and natural habitat. To learn more about the proposed 2013 construction schedule and the latest project activities, please attend the public meeting on Tues., 11/13, 7:30 pm, in the National Rural Electric Cooperative's conference room located at 4301 Wilson Blvd.

For more information, visit the project's blog (<http://ballstonpond.us>) or the main website (<http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/Sustainability/page75451.aspx>). ■

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Nov. BCA Meetings 11/14**  
(no meeting on 11/21 due to Thanksgiving holiday)

Beaver Pond Public Forum 11/13  
7:30pm NRECA building, Ballston

Homeowner's Rain Garden 11/17  
Workshop 9am, Fairlington  
Community Center,  
3308 S. Stafford Street.

**Dec. BCA Meetings 12/12**  
(no meeting on 12/26 due to winter school break)

Jan. BCA Meetings 1/23

## BCA Neighborhood News

is a service of YOUR community civic association.

[bca@bluemontcivic.org](mailto:bca@bluemontcivic.org)

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### Secretary

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■ Bring it and cash or a check (\$15 for current members or \$20 for lapsed members) to the November 14 General Meeting, or

■ Mail the form with your check to the Bluemont Civic Association at BCA Treasurer, PO Box 5134, Arlington VA 22205.

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