



◀ Frost-flecked leaves:
Winter is coming.

Dec. 12 Meeting: Tree-Planting Plan on Agenda

Also at the December meeting, the membership will review and vote on the revised tree-planting plan for the Bluemont Greenway project. In early 2012, the membership approved the Greenway Corridor initiative for the Bluemont Junction Trail, which utilizes tree planting to improve the environmental quality of the park, to enhance the urban canopy and support wildlife, and to enrich the trail experience for human users.

The county has removed invasive species and planted new native trees and shrubs along sections of the trail east of N. Emerson Street. For the next segment (between N. Emerson and Illinois Streets), the county has received a \$5,000 grant to plant approximately 30 new trees. Staff presented its draft plan at the October meeting and provided a revised plan at the November meeting based on community feedback.

On Nov. 17, county staff held a community walk to solicit feedback from residents, identify species selection, and show proposed sites for the new trees. Constraints in the area include a planting-free zone within 10 feet of the paved trail, planting canopy trees 15 to 20 feet apart, avoiding various underground sewer or utility lines, and keeping open community-identified areas for sledding and informal recreational activities. ■

Call for Volunteers

- Newsletter Editor
- Newsletter Designer
- Alternate delegate to the Civic Federation
- 2nd Vice President
- Bylaws Review Committee

Many thanks to Sam Ferro for his time and talent over the years for serving as our newsletter designer. Sam submitted a letter of resignation at the November Executive Board meeting, and we ▶▶2

Dec. 10 Safeway Redevelopment Forum

At the November meeting, the membership approved the amended charter for the Safeway Task Force, which expands the committee's scope and authorizes its operations through Nov. 2013.

The task force will hold its second public forum on 12/10/12, 7pm, at St. Ann Catholic Church, 5300 North 10th Street.

During the first portion of the meeting, Safeway Representatives will talk about the latest developments and to answer questions. During the second portion of the meeting, attendees will be asked to provide their input and ideas about the potential Safeway site redevelopment. This will be an important step toward developing the BCA's position on this issue.

Please attend to share ideas and make your voice heard! For details, visit the Safeway Task Force site (<http://safewaytaskforce.wordpress.com/>) or the BCA home page at www.bluemontcivic.org. To submit questions or comments to the committee, contact David Van Wagner (dpvanwagner@mindspring.com). ■

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED from p1

are now looking for someone with graphic design experience to help. We're also looking for an aspiring writer/editor to prepare articles for publication in the newsletter.

Thus far, we've received resumes from two people who are interested in serving as 2nd VP; the Executive Board will make a selection at the December meeting. There is also an opening for a CivFed alternate delegate. The Civic Federation is the umbrella organization for civic groups in Arlington. It meets monthly from September to June.

In October, the membership approved the formation of a committee to review the association's bylaws, and committee members are now being recruited.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions, contact President George Rovder (president@bluemontcivic.org). ■

Sidewalk Safety Meeting

At the November meeting, the BCA voted to endorse the recommendations of the Arterial Roads Sidewalks and Pedestrian Safety Task Force to make Wilson Blvd. safer and more accessible for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motor vehicles. The first step will be to reconfigure Wilson Blvd. by re-striping the pavement to create one thru-lane in each direction with a center turn lane and two bike lanes. This will allow for the subsequent improvement of sidewalks (working within the existing right-of-way) so as to meet safety standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Arlington County.

The task force's scope of work was expanded to include helping the membership identify a project to utilize \$125,000+ in traffic-calming funds provided as the Peck-Staples site plan condition. The money can be used anywhere in Bluemont, with priority given to projects near the Peck-Staples site. The deadline to submit ▶▶4

BCA MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

NOVEMBER MEETING

County staff member Richard Best answered questions about potential uses for \$125,000+ Peck-Staples traffic-calming funds now available for use in Bluemont. Best recommended that the BCA identify a project within the next two to three months.

Treasurer Nancy O'Doherty issued her first report. She is making progress in updating records and applying dues payments now that she has access to the association's account and books.

Secretary Mark Haynes apologized for a technical glitch that prevented him from posting draft meeting minutes to the BCA website. He promised that outstanding draft minutes would be posted to the website before the December meeting. ■

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.

New NC Project Needed ASAP

As Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) Representative Larry Smith reported in November, the NC project proposed for N. Edison Street is at a standstill due to problems with the design. Another first-priority project must be identified so that the BCA will continue accruing the points necessary to push BCA projects to the top of the funding queue (which takes a while). Smith noted that a 4-way stop sign or clearing vegetation from sidewalks could not qualify for NC funding. Instead, he suggested looking for a project to benefit the entire neighborhood if a street project (typically sidewalk, curb and gutter improvements) could not be identified.

Members discussed several possibilities in November, including curb and gutter improvements along N. Bluemont Drive, a crosswalk for N. Carlin Springs Road (which would involve coordinating with another civic association), and permanent restroom facilities for Fields Park.

Please contact Smith at LrsML@aol.com to learn more about the process and how to start a project on your block. ■

Green and Simple: Leave Your Fall Leaves in Place

by Carolyn Semedo-Strauss

Wait! Before you pack your newly fallen leaves into a bag or push them to the curb, take a minute to learn the benefits of dead leaves.

Fall leaves can actually be beneficial for your lawn, garden and wildlife. In an area where many feel compelled to maintain perfectly manicured lawns and picturesque gardens, leaves are often bagged and hauled away, using resources and energy and creating pollution.

Before you grab the rake, consider the many benefits of leaf waste:

- When leaves stay on your property, the county uses fewer resources by not having to haul them away.
- Leaves left in a garden or leaf pile break down into leaf mold, providing a nutrient rich soil topping that is beneficial for organisms above and below the surface. Your spring plants will love it!
- By allowing leaves to decompose in your lawn or garden, you'll create a mulch covering to help protect plants from frost and keep weeds down.
- Leaves can be mowed over a couple of times and left to nourish the grass and retain moisture. **(Full article at bluemontcivic.org)** ■

BYGONE BLUEMONT HISTORY

Bluemont and Streetcars

(continued from Nov. BCA News)

Thanks to David Van Wagner for this series of articles.

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 and November newsletters, we covered the W&OD Alexandria-Bluemont Branch and the Thrifton-Bluemont Spur. Below, in this final installment, we discuss the Fairfax Line.

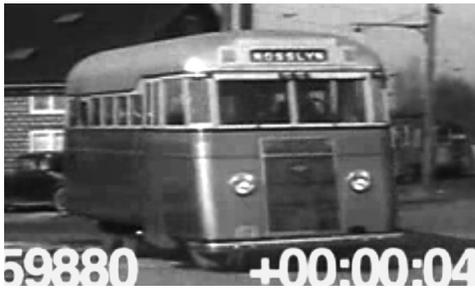
The Washington, Arlington & Falls Church Railroad (WA&FC) operated a number of interurban trolley lines throughout Northern Virginia between 1892 and 1939. The company went through numerous name changes as it repeatedly expanded, reorganized, or contracted over those years.

In 1896, the WA&FC commenced streetcar operations on a Fairfax Line, which ran from Rosslyn through Clarendon and Ballston to East Falls Church. The same line was extended further to West Falls Church in 1901 and to Fairfax City in 1904.

The Fairfax Line approached Bluemont from Clarendon along the present route of N. Fairfax Drive. Near today's intersection of N. Fairfax Dr. and N. Glebe Rd., the Line passed a complex containing a WA&FC car barn, rail yard, workshop, electrical substation, and general office. The Line then followed the route of present-day I-66, passing under a plate girder bridge that the W&OD had constructed near N. Buchanan St. for its Thrifton-Bluemont Spur.

The Fairfax Line had six stations within Bluemont: Lacey (near today's intersection of N. Glebe Road and Fairfax Drive), Waycroft (near today's intersection of N. Buchanan St. and the Bluemont Junction Trail), Burch (near today's intersection of N. George Mason Dr. and I-66), Sunnyside (near today's intersection of N. Edison St. and N. Fairfax Dr.), Mulhall (near today's intersection of N. Harrison St. and N. Fairfax Dr.), and Veitch Summit (near today's intersection of N. Jefferson St. and N. Fairfax Dr.).

By 1936, the WA&FC was sold one last time to the Evans Products Company, an innovative railway and automotive industry supplier that had developed auto-railers—small buses that could run on rails on flanged wheels or on roads with rubber tires. In 1937, Evans replaced all of the Fairfax Line trolleys with auto-railers. The new auto-railers rode the rail lines until Rosslyn where they were intended to switch to tires and cross the Key Bridge into Georgetown, eliminating the need to change trains in Rosslyn. The DC-based Capital Transit Company prevented that service by objecting that its franchise gave it exclusive service across the bridge. The auto-railers and the Fairfax Line last ran in September 1939. ■



Video still of a Rosslyn-bound Evans Auto-railer. See video at http://www.efootage.com/stock-footage/59880/Auto-railer_Bus_On_Tracks/

CivFed Nov. Meeting Highlights

Emergency Preparedness

Representatives from the county's Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Dominion Virginia Power, and Verizon made presentations and answered Civic Federation delegates' questions about emergency preparedness. Their message was simple: Residents must prepare themselves for future severe weather and other events that may cause the loss of power and other basic utilities for extended periods of time. For more information and tips on how to prepare for emergencies, visit <http://sites.arlingtonva.us/oem/>.

Revised Noise Ordinance

The County Board plans to consider the revised noise ordinance at its December 8 meeting and will vote to approve it in January. The county is revising the ordinance to meet the Virginia Supreme Court's new legal standard. The Civic Federation's Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Committee believes the revisions need more work and that the ordinance is not ready for approval as currently drafted.

For example, the ordinance does not contain limits for human noise (shouting, singing, etc.), nor will police carry the decibel meters that must be used to determine violations. Construction noise (including pile driving) is largely exempt from regulation between the hours of 7 am and 9 pm. And noise thresholds would be based on the zone of the noise emitter, not the receiver. Establishments in commercial zones (with higher noise thresholds) would be subject to less restriction than nearby homeowners who might be on the receiving end of the noise.

To read the revised ordinance as well as the P&Z Committee's questions to staff and suggested changes, visit <http://civfed.org/>. ■

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Safeway Forum 12/10
7pm St. Ann Catholic Church

Dec. BCA Meetings 12/12
(Exec Board: 7pm; General 7:30)

2013

Constitution Bell Ringing 1/1

Sidewalk Safety Committee 1/12
Meeting, Two Chefs Rest., 8am

Jan. BCA Meetings 1/23

Feb. BCA Meetings 2/27

Mar. BCA Meetings 3/21

BCA Neighborhood News

is a service of YOUR community civic association.

bca@bluemontcivic.org

President

George Rovder – president@bluemontcivic.org

First Vice President

John Herickhoff – herickhoff@hotmail.com

Second Vice President

VACANT

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee

Representative

Larry Smith – LrsML@aol.com

Alternate: Mark Haynes – haynes@concordiapower.us

Treasurer

Nancy O'Doherty

Secretary

Mark Haynes – haynes@concordiapower.us

Civic Federation Representatives

Robert Atkins, Terry Serie, Suzanne Sundburg, Sandra Munnell. Alternates: Sam Ferro, Ed Fendley, Dean Foster, Larry Smith

BCA COMMITTEE CHAIRS & REPRESENTATIVES

Webmaster

Laura Brothers

Newsletter Editor

VACANT

Newsletter Design/Layout/Photos

VACANT

Newsletter Distribution

David Van Wagner – dpvanwagner@mindspring.com

Wilson Boulevard Safety Committee

Bob Waffle – rwaffle@comcast.net

Bluemont Village Center Working Group

VACANT

Ballston BID Board Member

Talmdage Williams – ttwrec@aol.com

Metro Liaison

Henry McFarland – hmcFarland@hotmail.com

Emergency Preparedness Liaison

James Thorne – james.thorne7@verizon.net



Bluemont Civic Association
PO Box 5134
Arlington VA 22205

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY from p2 proposals to the group is 1/11/13.

Members are welcome to attend the next task force meeting on Sat., 1/12/13, 8 am, at Two Chefs restaurant. In addition to next steps for improving sidewalk safety along Wilson Blvd. west of George Mason Drive, we'll discuss developing a proposal for the sidewalks east of George Mason, as well as recommendations for the use of Peck site traffic-calming funds.

For information, contact Ed Fendley (edfendley@gmail.com) or Chris Healey (cphealey@me.com). ■

RENEW TODAY!

Keep your membership current through December 2013. If you can't renew online at bluemontcivic.org, fill out (or update) the form at right.

GO PAPERLESS AND SAVE TREES

Members may elect to receive *BCA Neighborhood News* electronically rather than by mail by simply checking this box. Be sure to provide your e-mail address! (All information is for BCA use only.)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

■ Bring this form and cash or a check for \$15 to the December 12 General Meeting, or

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