



neighborhood news

The Latest News and Information from Your Bluemont Civic Association

April 2013

bluemontcivic.org

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Mark Your Calendars

BCA Meetings (Executive and General)	4/24
7/7:30 pm, Arlington Traditional School (ATS)	
Bylaws Review Committee Meeting	4/28
9 am, Two Chefs	
Bluemont/Bon Air Walkabout	4/28
3-5 pm, Starts at Constitution Bell (at Wilson Blvd. & Geo. Mason Dr.)	
AFAC Neighborhood Day Food Drive	5/11
(U.S. Mail carriers will pick up food left in bags on your doorstep by 8 am)	
Sidewalk Safety Task Force Meeting	5/18
8 am, Two Chefs	
BCA Meetings (Executive and General)	5/22
7/7:30 pm, ATS	
Memorial Day/Constitution Bell Ringing	5/27
12 noon	
ACE Bluemont Park Solstice Workday	6/20
6:30 pm (N. Manchester & Wilson Blvd.)	
BCA Annual Meeting/Election	6/26
7 pm, ATS	



Preliminary architect's rendering of proposed Safeway

Safeway & Silverwood Plans Revealed

On March 28, the BCA Executive Board, Safeway Task Force, and several BCA members met with Safeway representatives and developer Mark Silverwood to preview preliminary architectural drawings for the proposed redevelopment of Bluemont's Safeway. Silverwood requested two meetings—one with the Executive Board and another with the full membership—prior to the association's regularly scheduled meetings on April 24. In response, the BCA arranged and advertised the off-schedule March 28 board meeting and a special meeting of the association on April 3.

In brief, the Safeway – Silverwood proposal calls for a building 65' in height with a footprint that encompasses the entire site. This new "Lifestyle" Safeway, with a height of 20', would occupy virtually the entire ground floor; four residential stories above the store would contain approximately 160 1-bedroom plus den and 2-bedroom apartments.

Below the store would be two levels of underground parking: the upper level with 190 parking spaces serving Safeway, the lower level with 212 spaces dedicated to apartment residents. Silverwood explained that approximately 10 of the apartments would qualify as affordable housing, and the building itself would qualify for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold-level certification.

(cont'd on p. 2)

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 24

Members-Only Vote on Safeway (Want to join? See back page.)

Safeway & Silverwood Plans Revealed (cont'd)

The new store would contain an upscale deli, service meat counter, and a bakery. Extra space would be dedicated to fresh fruits, vegetables, flowers, and other perishable items. A Starbucks would be co-located in the store—with indoor and possible outdoor seating—along with a drycleaners.

Vehicles entering/exiting the Safeway and apartment underground parking lots would use driveways on N. Edison Street opposite the McDonald's access-driveway behind Two Chefs. The new store's proposed loading dock and trash bins would face N. Frederick Street, as would some additional covered parking spaces serving the apartments' rental office.

Safeway representative Avis Black and Silverwood maintained that the construction of the multistory apartments above the store were necessary to "pay for" the new, larger Safeway and the two stories of below-ground parking, which Silverwood estimated would cost \$10 million. Black was asked why Safeway needed additional development above Bluemont's store when other modern Safeway stores in the area and around the country have been built without such development. Black replied that this particular store served primarily the Bluemont neighborhood, but then later also described it as an "urban" store. A board member in attendance questioned this seeming contradiction.

Silverwood reported that he has had initial meetings with county staff and County Board member Chris Zimmerman. In response to a question about increased traffic from the development, Silverwood reported that traffic studies had not yet been performed and the focus was on environmental factors and soil conditions in this preliminary stage.

Silverwood also reported that he would seek a rezoning of the site from its current C-1 status, to C-O-1.0, which he said would allow for a height of up to 65 feet and the 160 apartments he has planned.

Prior to the announcement of Silverwood's proposal, the BCA's Safeway Task Force held well-attended public meetings on Safeway's potential redevelopment in June and December 2012. The special BCA April 3 meeting to be held at Arlington Traditional School will occur too late to be covered in this issue of *Neighborhood News*. That meeting will be open to all Bluemont residents, and a major portion of meeting has been reserved for Safeway-Silverwood to answer participants' questions.

Details of the March 28 and April 3 Safeway meetings will be discussed at the upcoming April 24 BCA general membership meeting. After the discussion, BCA members **ONLY** will vote to determine the BCA's position on Safeway's redevelopment. Receipt of this newsletter is **NOT** confirmation of BCA membership. It has been hand-delivered free of charge by BCA volunteers to all Bluemont households and businesses as a courtesy. **For a membership form and instructions on how to join the BCA, see the back page of this newsletter.**



Northern magnolia blooms signal springtime

Alternative Safeway Motions for April 24 Vote

Both motions share the same introductory language emphasizing the BCA's strong support of Safeway's continued presence in Bluemont. The BCA wants to work closely with Safeway as the redevelopment plans proceed. The shared introductory language also documents the community's widely held and deep concern that an excessively tall building is not appropriate for the site—noting the traffic, parking issues, noise, and other problems that may accompany the increased density.

Below are two alternative options for members to consider, with a third option possible:

Option 1: *The BCA will object to redevelopment beyond the existing C-1 zoning classification. (C-1 zoning does not allow for housing or mixed-use development and would also limit the building height to 35 feet).*

Option 2: *The BCA will object to redevelopment beyond the existing C-1 zoning classification unless we have strong assurances that negative impacts to the neighborhood will not occur or will be mitigated. Further, the BCA will oppose a structure higher than 45 feet under any circumstance.*

BCA Reconsiders Use of Peck–Staples Site

Back in 2006–2008, BCA members played a very active role in shaping the significant changes to our community brought about by the redevelopment of the former Bob Peck Chevrolet dealership and the Staples along Glebe Road. That site also included two single-family homes on N. Wakefield Street and ultimately incorporated the Jordan Manor apartment site as well. Many BCA volunteers spent countless hours at official site plan-related meetings—reviewing draft proposals and other documents; researching the planning history of the site; briefing BCA members; and developing and recommending an official BCA position.

The final outcome of this lengthy process is Arlington County Site Plan (SP) # 401, which details the permitted uses of the redeveloped site. Per SP # 401, 36,000 sq ft of retail space is required to be maintained on the site. A site plan amendment must be approved by the County Board, if the use is to be changed. Now the county has received an application from the owners of 800 N. Glebe Road (the Peck building) to permit a change from retail to institutional use. This change would allow a conference facility for the Virginia Tech Research Center next door to utilize 11,000 sq ft of the ground-floor, retail-designated space along Wilson Boulevard.

This space was originally designed to accommodate the Staples store, a community-serving commercial establishment. Staples has decided to not return to the site. The Virginia Tech Research Center rents conference space to outside organizations to accommodate executive seminars, training programs, workshops, and many other events.

BCA's President has suggested to an attorney for the applicant that the requested amendment would be more palatable to BCA members if the community were to receive some benefit from the change.

BCA Meetings at a Glance

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 24

Members To Discuss & Vote on a Safeway Position

Join us at Arlington Traditional School (ATS) on April 24 at 7 pm for the BCA Executive Board meeting (all members welcome) and the general membership meeting, which starts at 7:30 pm. Members will discuss the Safeway-Silverwood proposal and will vote to adopt one of at least two alternative positions to guide the BCA Executive Board and Safeway Task Force in their work with Safeway and the developer. See the related articles on pp. 1 and 2.

Also on the 24th, members will vote to select a new first-priority Neighborhood Conservation project. See the related articles on pp. 4 and 6 regarding the safety improvements proposed for Wilson Boulevard.

March 21 Meeting Recap

At the general membership meeting, Drs. Ralph Kidder and Chris Domes of Marymount University presented redevelopment plans for the “Blue Goose” building at 1000 N. Glebe Road. Their plans call for demolishing the existing building and replacing it with a 9-story, 165,000 sq ft office/education building and a 15-story, 270-unit residential building. An underground garage with three parking levels will serve both buildings. Marymount promised to keep in touch with the BCA as its plans proceed.

Notice was given of the Executive Board meeting on 3/28 and the special association meeting on 4/3 to review the Safeway-Silverwood redevelopment proposal. Draft minutes for the March 21 meetings will be posted to the BCA website just prior to the April 24 meeting.

Sunday Mornings — N. McKinley Rd. at Washington Blvd.



From field to table in 125 miles or less!

www.westoverfarmersmarket.org

Walking, Biking & Driving In Bluemont

Let's Make Wilson Boulevard Walkable!

Getting around by foot is good for people's health, good for the environment, and good for community-building. The Bluemont Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Plan calls for making our streets safer to walk.

Regrettably, Wilson Boulevard—Bluemont's "Main Street"—is not safely accessible to pedestrians. Bluemont residents have observed that Wilson's sidewalks are narrow, obstructed, and immediately adjacent to fast-moving traffic.



One of many obstructions along Wilson Boulevard's sidewalks

In response, the BCA voted on October 24, 2012, in favor of asking Arlington County to reconfigure Wilson Boulevard west of George Mason Drive. The BCA vote followed more than a year of research and discussion led by the BCA Sidewalk Safety Task Force. The redesigned roadway envisioned by the BCA would include a new two-way center turn lane, dedicated turn lanes at intersections, periodic safety islands, one through-lane in each direction, and new bicycle lanes. This would create space for new landscaped utility strips so that sidewalks could become unobstructed, buffered from traffic, and in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

According to county traffic engineers and other experts, the new configuration could improve safety for all roadway users without increasing vehicle travel times. Benefits to motorists include better lines of sight, and the use of the center lane as a staging area for vehicles turning left from a side street onto the roadway. In addition, studies have documented that local business sales increase on streets where bicycle lanes have been added or sidewalks improved.

The Sidewalk Safety Task Force also researched the possibility of undergrounding utilities and of acquiring additional right-of-way as a means of improving sidewalks. Utility undergrounding was assessed to be an undesirable option because of the extraordinarily high cost, and because sidewalks would remain unlevel and immediately adjacent to traffic. Right-of-way (public land) acquisition was assessed to be an

undesirable option because many property owners are reluctant to grant land for road-widening, and because Virginia law and county policies disfavor taking private property.

In examining ways to improve Wilson Boulevard, the BCA noted that Washington Boulevard in the Westover area carries with one through-lane in each direction more rush-hour traffic than Wilson Boulevard west of George Mason Drive. In contrast to Wilson, Washington Boulevard has street trees, unobstructed sidewalks, and bicycle lanes. It was also learned that motor vehicle traffic volumes on Wilson Boulevard west of George Mason Drive are unchanged since 1980. County staff did not recommend reconfiguring Wilson Boulevard east of George Mason Drive in light of comparatively higher traffic volumes.

The improvements envisioned by the BCA would not require acquiring any additional right-of-way. The BCA has asked Arlington County to work with interested residents and businesses in designing, refining, and implementing the proposed reconfiguration.

As the BCA works to make our Main Street more walkable, we'd love to hear from you! Contact Chris Healey cphealey@me.com and Ed Fendley edfendley@gmail.com or visit <http://bluemontroads.wordpress.com/>. Additional information on roadway configurations is available at CompleteStreets.org. The next meeting of the Sidewalk Safety Task Force is Saturday, May 18, 8:00 am, at Two Chefs restaurant—all are welcome!

Walking, Biking & Driving In Bluemont

Bluemont/Bon Air Walk Friendly Community Walkabout

Sunday, April 28, 2013

3–5 P.M. (Rain Or Shine!)

WalkArlington has developed a series of Walk Friendly Community Walkabouts. Identified through submitted nominations, the Walkabouts are self-guided walking tours of Arlington neighborhoods. Bluemont/Bon Air was one of only four neighborhoods selected out of 15 nominations.

Our walk will highlight some of our neighborhood's great features, including our local shopping, active trails, expansive parks, schools, historical background, and established residential areas. County Board Chair Walter Tejada will welcome walkers and join us for the walk. The event is free and open to the public.



Walkabout Stop 8: Bluemont Junction's caboose

Visit <http://www.walkarlington.com/pages/walkabouts/bluemont-bon-air/> for more details on the Walkabout.

WalkArlington already has speakers for many stops, but it needs recommendations for speakers at the remaining ones and would like to invite Bluemont/Bon Air residents to speak at those stops along the Walkabout route. Below is the current lineup:

- STOP 1:** Constitution Garden—Mr. Tejada
- STOP 2:** Arlington Traditional School—Principal Holly Hawthorne
- STOP 3:** Southern-Shreve Family Cemetery/St. Ann Church and School—??? (Need a speaker with a connection to this stop)
- STOP 4:** Bon Air Park/Custis Trail—Richard "Ritch" Viola
- STOP 5:** Bon Air Memorial Rose Garden—??? (Need a Master Naturalist or Rose Garden authority)
- STOP 6:** Bluemont Junction Caboose—??? (Need a Northern Virginia Regional Parks volunteer to talk about the caboose)
- STOP 7:** Bluemont Park/Reevesland—??? (Tentatively scheduled: Edgar Gil Rico, Bluemont/Bon Air Walkabout development team member)
- STOP 8:** Bluemont Junction Trail/The Rocks—??? (Need a long-time resident)
- STOP 9:** Wilson Boulevard Shops/Restaurants—Mr. Tejada (Also need a small business owner: Two Chefs? or No Place Like Home?)



Walkabout Stop 1: Constitution Garden

Please contact Ritch Viola at Rviola@arlingtonva.us if you or any other members of the BCA are willing and able to speak at one of these stops. WalkArlington will provide talking points and logistical support—even a portable microphone!

Please also remember to thank Bluemont neighbor and WalkArlington and Walkabout team member Ritch Viola for taking a lead role in developing and submitting the Bluemont/Bon Air Walkabout plan. Our walk would not have been possible without his and Edgar Gil Rico's hard work and support.

Walking, Biking & Driving In Bluemont

April Vote on NC Funds for Wilson Sidewalks

At the March 21 meeting, special guest Tim McIntosh of Arlington's Neighborhood Conservation Program (NCP) discussed with BCA members the potential for the NCP to partially fund BCA-proposed pedestrian safety improvements to Wilson Boulevard. McIntosh indicated that the Wilson reconfiguration project was indeed potentially eligible and that the BCA could seek funding in an upcoming NCP round by identifying Wilson as the neighborhood's priority project no later than May 15. There are currently no other BCA-requested projects in the NCP funding queue.

In light of this, BCA members at the March meeting voted in favor of proposing the following motion for a membership vote at the April 24 BCA meeting:

The BCA decides that for purposes of the Neighborhood Conservation Program, the Bluemont neighborhood's priority project is to improve the sidewalks of Wilson Boulevard, as described in the resolution approved by the BCA at its October 24, 2012, meeting and conveyed to the Arlington County Board on November 9, 2012.

BCA Recommends Use of Traffic-Calming Funds

In February, the BCA voted in favor of Arlington County's allocating circa \$127,000 in developer-provided funding for traffic calming and pedestrian safety to several neighborhood streets adjacent to the former Peck site at the corner of Wilson Boulevard and Glebe Road. These funds were made available as a condition of the Peck site's redevelopment.

The BCA request came after considering more than 20 proposals submitted by Bluemont residents for use of the funds. Acting on the BCA Sidewalk Safety Task Force's recommendation, the BCA has requested that the county develop a traffic-calming and pedestrian safety plan in consultation with interested residents in the area of N. Wakefield, Tazewell, Vermont, and 7th Streets south of Wilson, and the adjacent Wakefield and Wilson intersection, where the funds are recommended for use.

In addition to the disposition of Peck site traffic-calming funds, the BCA recommended that the county address Wilson Boulevard sidewalk safety concerns via the "Complete Streets" program, and other appropriate programs, and address safety concerns for the Bluemont Junction Trail's crossing of N. Emerson Street by constructing a raised crosswalk.

Volunteer Opportunities

Please consider volunteering for one of these open positions:

- Association Secretary/Recording Minutes
- Newsletter Editor/Writers
- Constitution Bell ringer(s)

If you don't have time to serve in a permanent capacity, please consider volunteering for temporary assignments. We need volunteers who can take meeting minutes and who can write assigned newsletter articles.

For our March 21 meetings, BCA member James McMullin was kind enough to volunteer to take minutes. We thank him and hope that he will consider volunteering again.

Please contact Pres. George Rovder at president@bluemontcivic.org or 1st VP Mark Haynes at firstvp@bluemontcivic.org if you want to learn more or volunteer to serve.



BCA Website Redesign & Upkeep

HELP NEEDED!

We are getting ready to redo the BCA website. We need people with web design experience to help us develop a website that will be easy for our volunteer board and webmaster to service. We are also looking for a replacement webmaster who can manage the site. Can you help? Email Webmaster@bluemontcivic.org for more information.

New Look for Neighborhood News

Last month, professional designer Cindy Matlack stepped in at the last minute to help us with the March issue. She did a great job (and was patient, too!), so we've asked her to lay out the April issue as well. We're still tweaking the new design, and you may continue to see some additional changes and improvements along the way.

Bluemont NC Plan Ready for Review & Vote

At the BCA's April 24 general membership meeting, the Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Plan Drafting Group plans to propose that BCA members and Bluemont residents vote on Bluemont's new NC Plan at the BCA's general membership meeting on May 22. A draft version of the proposed NC Plan is currently available for review on the NC Plan Drafting Group's website (www.bluemontncp.wordpress.com).

The Neighborhood Conservation program is a unique grassroots initiative that utilizes county bond funds for capital improvement projects in neighborhoods. But the process is competitive, and our neighborhood must earn points to obtain funding for a first-priority project that civic association members have voted to endorse. With an updated NC Plan, Bluemont will earn additional funding points and can ensure that future neighborhood improvements are tailored to the needs of the community. Possible improvements include the installation of sidewalks, curbs, gutters, traffic management, park improvements, and other similar capital improvement projects. Bluemont's last NC Plan was issued in 1999, and the NC Plan Drafting Group has been working to update and thoroughly revise it for over two years.

Recommendations in the new NC Plan were derived from a 2010 Bluemont-wide survey and the Drafting Group's on-the-ground research to identify community needs. In order to encourage community involvement and to make the production of its updated NC Plan as transparent as possible, the drafters have periodically posted sections of the proposed NC Plan on the group's website.

As currently proposed, the new NC Plan makes 40 discrete recommendations regarding neighborhood improvements and future planning and depicts over 150 street condition, traffic management, and transportation issues within Bluemont that need to be addressed.

PLEASE NOTE: The planned May 22 vote on the final draft of Bluemont's NC Plan will be open to all adult Bluemont residents, not just BCA members, as Bluemont's NC Plan belongs to the entire community.

Nominating Committee Needs Volunteers

At the March 21 meeting, Pres. George Rovder announced that member Barbara Wien had volunteered to serve on the BCA Nominating Committee. Two more volunteers are needed to meet the bylaws requirement. This committee has a very limited scope of work—identifying candidates for the June election—and completes its duties within a couple of months. Please consider volunteering for the Nominating Committee. It is an easy way to get to know fellow members and to serve the association. If you have questions or want to volunteer, please contact Rovder at president@bluemontcivic.org.

Contact Information

Use the email addresses listed below to reach specific individuals electronically.

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First Vice President

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Treasurer

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Vacant secretary@bluemontcivic.org

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory

Committee Representative

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Civic Federation Delegates and Alternates

Bob Atkins, Sandy Munnell, Terry Serie, Suzanne Sundburg (Alternates: Ed Fendley, Dean Foster, Larry Smith, David Hughes)

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Bylaws Review Committee

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NC Plan Update Committee

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David Hughes davhughes@comcast.net

Safeway Task Force

Mark Haynes firstvp@bluemontcivic.org
David Van Wagner dpvanwagner@mindspring.com

Sidewalk Safety Committee

Chris Healey cphealey@mac.com
Ed Fendley edfendley@gmail.com

Other Committee/Liaison Updates

Bylaws Revisions Vote in May

Chartered in January, the Bylaws Review Committee (BRC) has been reviewing the BCA Bylaws. Any revision of the bylaws requires both advance notice and a 2/3 vote of the members present at a general meeting for approval of the revision. After careful review, the BRC is recommending several revisions on which the committee has reached consensus—items that can be applied immediately to address certain concerns raised by the membership.

The committee is using an incremental approach for several reasons: to thoroughly vet each change within the committee to avoid recommending a change with unintended and unwanted consequences; to prevent overwhelming the membership with a multitude of complicated revisions in a single sitting; and to avoid the astronomical printing, postage, and other costs required for a full revision of the bylaws. These initial discrete, straightforward changes can be advertised through the newsletter at no additional cost to the association.

At the March 21 general membership meeting, the BRC presented two bylaws revisions in addition to two new standing rules to govern the conduct of association elections. A motion was passed to publish the revisions and standing rules in this newsletter and to notify members that a vote on them will take place at the May 22 meeting.

The first proposed revision is an amendment to Article VI, Section 7: adding “and other third parties” to the list of those to whom the president may present association views, with prior membership approval. The current bylaws allow the BCA president to present the views of the association at public fora and to certain public officials. They specify no constraints on contact between the president and private property owners, developers, retail establishments, or other private entities. This revision remedies this loophole and re-emphasizes the requirement for prior approval before the president may present the views of the Association. Below is the revised bylaws section (revision appears in underlined type):

Section 7. All officers shall perform such duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Association membership. The President may present views of the Association at public fora or in written communications to elected or appointed officials and other third parties, provided that prior authorization for such action has been given by a majority vote of members present at a General Membership or Special Meeting or by the Executive Board of the Association. Members of the Executive Board, with the exception of the President, shall perform such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Executive Board.

The second proposed bylaws revision establishes a term limit of 3 years for the offices of President and First Vice-President. Term limits encourage more diversity of views and approaches, promote new ideas and fresh thinking, and offer greater opportunities for participation by providing a

ladder of advancement to higher office and by promoting the election of new individuals to the top two offices of the association. This new section will be added as Section 3 to Article VI, with the current sections 3 through 12 being renumbered as sections 4 through 13. The language of this proposed new section (in bold italics) is as follows:

Section 3. The President and First Vice-President shall serve no more than three (3) consecutive terms in the office to which each is elected. Should the office of the First Vice-President be combined with the office of the Second Vice-President, the term shall commence with the election of the person holding the combined office.

Because the bylaws require advance notice of any changes made to them, the vote in May will be an up or down vote on each section as printed above. No modification of the language can be taken from the floor. The current BCA bylaws may be viewed at www.bluemontcivic.org.

Finally, the BRC has also proposed a set of standing rules to govern the conduct of association elections. Standing rules are designed to address administrative details of meetings, whereas bylaws govern the structure of the association and the distribution of powers and duties. Unlike a bylaws revision, a standing rule may be adopted by a simple majority of the members at a general membership or special meeting, and the membership may also set aside a standing rule for the duration of a meeting by a simple majority vote.

The proposed standing rules are meant to ensure a fair process for all candidates at an election meeting by eliminating electioneering within the meeting room. Additionally, these rules are designed to ensure that the election, as the priority business of the Annual Meeting, is organized to allow candidates sufficient time

(cont'd on p. 10)

Other Committee/Liaison Updates



Volunteers and county staff planting trees along the Bluemont Junction Trail

Everyone's Parks, Everyone's Responsibility

Our neighborhood is blessed with lovely parklands that are cared for by partnerships between county staff and volunteers.

For three years, volunteers have worked monthly in Lacey Woods Park to repair the habitat and encourage more growth of young trees. Soon, you will see flowering Solomon's seal, blooming dogwoods and hickories, and red shouldered hawks raising their chicks. The county plans to rebuild the picnic pavilion farthest from the playground and repair the gravel road. County staff will attend our April 24 meeting. The pavilion and other designs are posted at www.arlingtonva.us. Search for them using "In design Lacey Woods Park."

Volunteer Master Gardeners care for Bon Air Park's two demonstration gardens. They are great places to explore and see which plants grow well in our area. The Arlington Rose Society has held pruning sessions with volunteers at the rose garden and plans some summer photography events—watch for notices at the kiosk.

Across the creek along the W&OD Trail, strangling vines have been removed from the trees and new saplings planted. Eagle Scouts will begin removing invasive vines from the hillside and will then replant that area. Volunteers and county staff are also labeling trees so residents can see which selections are appropriate to plant near utility lines.

The Bluemont Connector Trail through Fields Park was cleared of invasives and replanted last year with the assistance of neighboring landowners, TreeSteward volunteers, and county staff. An American Forest Association

grant allowed staff and volunteers to plant 30 native shade trees along the Trail between Wilson Blvd. and N. Illinois Street. Removal of dead trees and strangling vines continues with the goal of rehabbing the woodlands from N. Jefferson Street to Bluemont Park.

Near Bluemont Park's caboose AmeriCorps volunteers cleaned and replanted the woodlands last fall, but this park needs more volunteers! Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE) will hold a Solstice workday in the park on Thursday, June 20. Meet at the tennis court pavilion (601 N. Manchester Street & Wilson Blvd.) at 6:30 pm. Wear old clothes and closed-toe shoes, and bring gloves and pruning shears.

Volunteers are needed for all of our parks. If you or your church, work, or youth group wish to help out, please contact Patrick Wegeng at pwegeng@arlingtonva.us or 703-228-6521.

Membership Has Its Privileges

—One of them is voting

Twice a year, BCA volunteers hand-deliver a BCA newsletter free of charge to all households within the association's boundaries. Although you have received this newsletter, you may not be a paid BCA member.

Why does membership matter? Because it entitles you and your family to have a say in association matters and to vote on important BCA positions. Today, the Bluemont community is facing multiple redevelopment and other projects that will have a profound impact on life in our neighborhood and its future:

- Rezoning and redevelopment of the Safeway site to construct a 6-story (or possibly higher) structure with 160 apartments and nearly 400 parking spaces
- Redevelopment of Marymount's "Blue Goose" building to include a 15-story, 270-unit market-rate rental apartment building and a 9-story office/school building.
- Approval of Bluemont's NC Plan, a document that expresses, in writing, what kind of neighborhood we want to have now and in the future

The County Board takes the BCA's official positions on redevelopment projects, traffic, zoning and land use, and other issues into consideration in its decision-making process. Civic association members in good standing can participate in the discussion and vote. Dues paid in April are just \$11.25, which includes a subscription to the mailed newsletter.

Please consider joining, especially if you want to play a role in shaping changes affecting our future. And please consider lending your talent as an officer, committee member, newsletter editor, webmaster, or special events coordinator.

The Bluemont Civic Association: Who We Are

The Bluemont Civic Association is a not-for-profit civic organization that has represented the interests of the Bluemont Neighborhood since the association was established in 1945.

The Bluemont Civic Association is the only organization working exclusively on behalf of you and all Bluemont residents. We are your friends and neighbors, striving to make our streets safe for our children and other pedestrians, enhance our parks and preserve our environment, maintain property values, represent local interests and build a stronger sense of community.

JOIN 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 _____

E-Mail _____

- Bring this form and cash or a check for \$11.25 to the April 24 General Meeting, or
- Mail the form with your check to the Bluemont Civic Association at BCA Treasurer, PO Box 5134, Arlington VA 22205.

Bylaws Revisions (cont'd)

to present their positions and address membership concerns. Below are the proposed new standing rules (in bold italics):

Standing Rules Governing Conduct of Association Elections

Rule 1: Campaign Materials

No campaign materials including sample ballots, campaign literature, buttons or other promotional material may be distributed, posted, or displayed within the meeting room of the Annual Membership Meeting or where they are visible from the seating area while the Meeting is in session.

Rule 2: Annual Meeting Order of Business

Candidate presentations and elections shall precede all other business of the Annual Meeting, except for the approval of the minutes of the preceding meeting.

