



neighborhood news

The Latest News and Information from Your Bluemont Civic Association

June 2013

bluemontcivic.org

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Mark Your Calendars

BCA Executive Board/ Annual Meetings & Election	6/26
7/7:30 pm, ATS	
July 4 Constitution Garden Bell Ringing	7/4
12 noon	
Bylaws Review Committee Meeting	7/14
9 am, Two Chefs	
Sidewalk Safety Task Force Meeting	7/20
8 am, Two Chefs	
Lacey Woods Volunteers' Celebration	7/23
5:30–7:30 pm, Edison St. picnic shelter	
BCA Executive Board Meeting	7/24
7 pm, Location TBD	
BCA Executive Board Meeting	8/28
7 pm, Location TBD	
BCA Meetings (Executive & General)	9/26
7/7:30 pm, ATS	

BCA June 26 Annual Meeting, Election for 2013–2014



Please join us at the Annual Meeting, 7:30 pm (directly after the 7 pm Executive Board meeting), on Wed., 6/26, at Arlington Traditional School (ATS). At this meeting, BCA members will elect new officers and representatives for terms that run until the June 2014 Annual Meeting.

Members in good standing (those whose dues payments are current) who attend the meeting will elect officers and representatives for the 2013–2014 term. If you have not paid your dues for 2013, please bring proof of residency in Bluemont (such as a driver's license or utility bill) and check or cash for \$8.75 to the 6/26 meeting to join/renew your membership through December 2013. Once you have paid, you will be eligible to vote.

Individual members have one (1) vote; household memberships have two (2) votes; and businesses have one (1) vote per business. Members must attend the 6/26 meeting and vote in person to participate in the election.

Below are the candidates the Nominating Committee has identified and will forward for inclusion on the preprinted election ballot. The race for 2nd VP is contested this year, and there is still an opening for another Civic Federation alternate. Nominations (with the nominee's consent to serve if elected) of members in good standing for all offices are accepted until the election begins. Qualified candidates may self-nominate from the floor at the Annual Meeting prior to the election. The ballots will include space for write-ins.

Candidates for the Executive Board

President: George Rovder
 Treasurer: Nancy O'Doherty
 Secretary: Laura Kirkconnell
 First Vice President: Mark Haynes
 Second Vice President: Dan Laredo or Larry Smith
 Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee Representative: Chris Healey

Candidates for Civic Federation (4 delegates, 4 alternates)

Delegates: Bob Atkins, David Hughes, Terry Serie, and Suzanne Sundburg
 Alternates: Patrick Bryan, Dean Foster, James McMullin, and (open)

If you are interested in running for an office, please contact Nominating Committee Chair Barbara Wien at barbarawien@verizon.net or 703-522-3069. Please remember to thank Wien and fellow committee members Kate Mattos and Carolyn Carlson for their service.

**Next Meeting:
Thursday,
September 26**

BCA Meetings at a Glance

May Meeting Recap

At its 5/22 meeting, the BCA Executive Board elected James McMullin as Association Secretary. McMullin has taken meeting minutes since March, and the membership commends him for his service.

Joan Horwitt, founder of Lawns 2 Lettuce 4 Lunch and chair of the Reevesland Learning Center Steering Committee, thanked the BCA at the general meeting for members' support, and she outlined the next steps for establishing a learning center in the old Reeves farmhouse.

Also at the general meeting, members and Bluemont residents voted to approve the new 2013 Bluemont Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Plan and considered five amendments to the plan that were presented during the meeting.

BCA members then voted to approve two changes to the BCA bylaws and two new standing rules. To review the wording of the proposed changes and an explanation of each, please see the April 2013 newsletter (pp. 8 & 10) at http://www.bluemontcivic.org/newsletters/BCA_News_201304.pdf. Members in good standing are invited to attend the Bylaws Review Committee's next meeting, which will be held on Sun., 7/14, 9 am, at Two Chefs restaurant.

Parks & Recreation Liaison Nora Palmatier summarized plans to replace the Lacey Woods Park picnic shelter and pave a maintenance road. Palmatier noted that the BCA sent a thank-you letter to the county for staff's presentation at the 4/24 meeting. This letter also listed some members' concerns, including the questionable expense to renovate a shelter that is little used, the seeming conundrum of providing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access from the road (on a path rarely used) but keeping the stairs, and the need to involve/inform other adjacent associations.

Bluemont Residents Approve NC Plan

Bluemont residents voted to adopt a new Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Plan at the BCA's 5/22 general membership meeting. A draft of the plan was circulated at the 4/24 general membership meeting along with a request for corrections and comments.

In addition to the draft document, the membership considered five proposed amendments to the plan that were presented to members in writing at the meeting. The first amendment sought to add various traffic-calming measures to control cut-through traffic on N. Harrison Street between Wilson and Washington Boulevards. This amendment failed. The second amendment recommended completing the Bluemont rail junction exhibit. This amendment passed. The third amendment requested that an explanatory note be added to clarify BCA members' recent adoption of a position on Safeway's redevelopment, which supported existing C-1 zoning. This amendment passed. The fourth amendment requested that Bluemont children be given preference in the ATS attendance lottery. This amendment passed. The fifth amendment recommended a General Land Use Plan (GLUP) change for properties along Wilson Blvd. to facilitate sidewalk construction and bike lanes where lane reconfiguration was not possible. This amendment failed.

As approved, the Bluemont NC Plan makes 43 specific recommendations regarding future neighborhood improvements, such as the installation of sidewalks, curbs, gutters, traffic management, park improvements, and other similar capital improvement projects. Bluemont's previous NC Plan was published in 1999.

Recommendations in the 2013 Bluemont NC Plan were derived from a 2010 Bluemont-wide survey and on-the-ground research of community needs by the document's drafters. The Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) and the Planning Commission will review the Bluemont NC Plan next. Eventually, the plan will be presented to the Arlington County Board for its "acceptance."

Bluemont's NC Plan could not have reached this important milestone without the hard work and dedication of Jeff Bartos, Laura Brothers, Carla dal Cais, Lisa Everhart, Caroline Haynes, David Hughes, Sandy Munnell, Nancy O'Doherty, Maura Quinn, David Van Wagner, and Lisa Van Wagner.

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HELP NEEDED:

BCA Webmaster & Developer

We need web-savvy volunteers to help us develop a new website that will be easy for our volunteer board and webmaster to maintain and update. We're also looking for a replacement webmaster to manage the site. Can you help? Email Webmaster@bluemontcivic.org for more information.

BCA's Summertime Mode

Please remember that the BCA does not schedule general membership meetings in July or August. The Executive Board will continue to meet monthly, and all members in good standing are welcome to attend. Please visit the BCA website for location information (ATS will be closed for the summer). Our next general membership meeting will be held on **THURSDAY, 9/26**.

Wilson Sidewalk Improvements Gain Support

Several Arlington County advisory groups and a neighboring civic association have joined the BCA in advocating for improvements to Wilson Boulevard's sidewalks in the Bluemont neighborhood.

The Bicycle Advisory Committee, the Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and the Transportation Commission have recommended that the county pursue improvements to Wilson Boulevard. In its communication with the Arlington County Board, the Transportation Commission noted that a transportation consultant hired by Arlington Public Schools in conjunction with the expansion of Ashlawn Elementary School came to the same conclusion as the BCA: Wilson's sidewalks are unacceptably substandard, and road space should be reallocated so as to improve safety and access for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other users. The Dominion Hills Civic Association also has indicated its support for the BCA proposal.

Moreover in May, BCA representatives met with each of the members of the Arlington County Board to highlight the BCA's request for making Wilson Boulevard safer and more accessible.

In October 2012, BCA members voted to request that Arlington County reconfigure Wilson Boulevard between George Mason Drive and Four Mile Run with the objective of improving sidewalks to meet county and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. The proposed reconfiguration would involve converting the current four travel lanes

into one general travel lane in each direction; a new, two-way center turn lane; new bicycle lanes; and periodic medians. There would be additional turn lanes at intersections. According to county traffic engineers and other experts, such a configuration could improve safety for all types of roadway users without increasing motor vehicle travel times along Wilson.

In April, the BCA decided to name Wilson Boulevard sidewalk improvements as the neighborhood's first-priority NC project in the county's NC Program, which could provide a potential source of partial funding for the project.

Bluemont residents interested in the proposed Wilson Boulevard sidewalk improvements are invited to attend the next Sidewalk Safety Task Force meeting on Sat., 7/20, 8 am, at Two Chefs restaurant, or contact co-chairs Chris Healey (cphealey@me.com) and Ed Fendley (edfendley@gmail.com).



Award-winning neighborhood Preschool has openings for 2013-14 school year. We welcome children of all religions and backgrounds ages 18 months to 5 years.

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2920 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22204
www.etzhayim.net/Preschool.html
Telephone: (703) 979-4466
E-mail: preschool@etzhayim.net



Ballston FRESHFARM Market

Held **every Thursday**, 3-7 pm, thru Oct. 31 in Welburn Square (901 N. Taylor Street) near Ballston Metro. Pick up fresh dairy products and eggs, fruits and vegetables, honey, meat, preserves, flowers, breads and baked goods, and enjoy the weekly chef demos and live music.



New bocce courts at Glebe & Randolph Park

Bocce Court Update

Arlington County Parks Commission Chair Paul Holland recently announced the commission's decision on a private individual's Parks Enhancement Grant (PEG) proposal to build a bocce court along the Bluemont Junction Trail. Based on a site assessment conducted by the county's Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) staff, it was determined that the court, if built, should be constructed in Fields Park rather than along the trail. Fields Park, located at the northeast corner of Wilson Blvd. and N. George Mason Dr., was chosen due to its size, preexisting accessibility for those with disabilities, flat surface, and proximity to portable toilets placed seasonally.

In addition, DPR found that the cost to build a regulation-size court, exclusive of site work and additional amenities, exceeded the PEG limit of \$15,000. The commission determined that it would not fund the proposed court at this time, but if the community decides to apply for a grant in the future and can supplement that grant with additional funds, then locating the court in Fields Park would be suitable.

Ballston Bocce Courts Nearing Completion

The county is nearing completion of two new, public bocce courts in Glebe and Randolph Park next to Ballston Common Mall (across from Harris Teeter). Though intended to be temporary, the park will include site furnishings, accessible paths, and flowering shrubs. Because the park is located next to the mall, it also will offer access to on-site parking, restroom facilities, and restaurants with outdoor seating areas.

2013 Season at Lubber Run Amphitheater

The amphitheater's 2013 season is under way through 8/3. Located at N. Columbus Street and 2nd Street N. (south of N. Carlin Springs Road), the amphitheater offers shows at 8 pm on Fridays and Saturdays, and 6 pm on Sundays. All are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! So, bring a picnic and enjoy a show.

Here's a sample of what's to come:

Fri., 6/28, Margo MacDonald—A "classically trained soprano and pianist captivated by Led Zeppelin," MacDonald sang with Washington National Opera at age 10 and released her second album at 15. She's appeared at the 9:30 Club, Kennedy Center, Wolftrap, Birchmere, and the Bitter End in NYC.

Fri., 7/12, Juniper Lane—An alternative, five-piece band, Juniper Lane has been described as "cryptic, polished dark pop firmly rooted in but not too derivative of '80s modern-rock." Touring extensively on the East Coast, they have performed at venues such as the 9:30 Club, Recher Theatre, and DC's 99.1 HFStival.

Sat., 7/27, The Tone Rangers—For 25 years, this award-winning, DC-based vocal group has brought inventive arrangements and keen wit to everything from Gregorian chant to TV theme songs. Nominated for seven Wammies, they were Best A Cappella Group four consecutive years (2007–2010) and Best A Cappella Recording in 2007!

Visit <http://www.arlingtonarts.org/venues/lubber-run-amphitheater.aspx> to view the full schedule.

Lacey Woods Volunteers' Celebration

Meet at the Lacey Woods Park picnic shelter near the N. Edison Street entrance on Tues., 7/23, 5:30–7:30 pm. The community is invited to attend. Please bring a dish to share, and come honor those who keep the park healthy. Enjoy a free, guided tour to learn more about the park's notable trees.



Walkers pose for a group photo

4/28 Walkabout: A Trip Down Memory Lane

Despite a soggy start, dozens of determined walkers stayed the course from start to finish. Participants in the Bluemont / Bon Air Walkabout rang the Constitution Garden Bell, learned about local history, and enjoyed sightseeing around the neighborhood. County Board Chair Walter Tejada and Board member Mary Hynes were on hand to welcome the walkers and join in the fun.

We thank county staff members Lauren Hassel and Teresa Westfall of WALKArlington as well as Edgar Gil Rico and Bluemont's own Ritch Viola for their hard work in planning and organizing this walk.

If you missed the walk and want to follow the Walkabout's path, visit <http://www.walkarlington.com/pages/walkabouts/bluemont-bon-air/> to download the map.



Walkabout begins under a sea of umbrellas

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

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Safeway Redevelopment Up in the Air

BCA members and *Neighborhood News* readers will recall that earlier this year Safeway announced that it had selected Mark Silverwood, of Silverwood Associates, Inc., to redevelop its Safeway store at 5101 Wilson Blvd. At a well-attended, 4/3, BCA-sponsored public forum, Safeway and Silverwood presented and explained their redevelopment plans to the community. During the BCA's 4/24 regularly scheduled meeting, the membership voted (173 ballots were cast) overwhelmingly to adopt an official position on this redevelopment proposal and chose to support the existing C-1 zoning as well as Safeway's desire to redevelop the site.

Rumors have been flying for a couple of weeks about the possible withdrawal of Silverwood Associates from the Safeway redevelopment effort. Although Safeway has been guarded in its current remarks about the redevelopment, the Manager of Public Affairs and Government Relations in Safeway's Eastern Division, Craig Muckle, told one member of the BCA's Safeway Task Force (STF) that "Silverwood has withdrawn" and that "Safeway is weighing its options." In the same conversation, the STF repeated its message emphasizing the BCA's strong support for Safeway and the redevelopment of Bluemont's Safeway store and the BCA's ongoing desire to work closely with Safeway to reach a result that will be beneficial to all.

The STF and BCA officers will continue to monitor this situation closely and will keep members informed.