



neighborhood news

The Latest News and Information from Your Bluemont Civic Association

April 2014

bluemontcivic.org

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Mark Your Calendars

Earth Day: Take Back the Trail Event 12–5 pm, Bon Air Park (details on p. 8)	4/22
BCA Meetings (Executive & General) 7/7:30 pm, ATS	4/23
Annual Walk for the Animals 9:30 am, Bluemont Park (details on p. 8)	5/10
Sidewalk Safety Task Force Meeting 8 am, Two Chefs Restaurant	5/17
BCA Meetings (Executive & General) 7/7:30 pm, ATS, Sally Baird, School Board	5/28
Saturday in the Park 10 am–2 pm, Bon Air Park (details on p. 8)	6/21
BCA Meetings (Executive & Annual) 7/7:30 pm, ATS, BCA Election of Officers & Reps.	6/25

Next Meeting: Wed., 4/23/14

Guest: Arlington Neighborhood Villages



Please join us on Wed., April 23, at Arlington Traditional School (ATS), 855 N. Edison Street. The Executive Board and general membership meetings will begin at their regular 7/7:30 pm times.

Marybeth Tschetter of Arlington Neighborhood Villages (ANV) will be our guest speaker. ANV, part of a nationwide network of nonprofits, helps older Arlington residents to remain in their own homes or communities so that they may age in place safely and with an enhanced quality of life. For more details, visit <http://arlnvil.org>. Arlington County also has a number of programs to assist seniors. See News for Seniors on p. 9 for more information.

Also at the April meeting, BCA members will discuss two draft motions introduced at the March meeting—one relates to the potential redevelopment of the Lubber Run Community Center site and the other recommends the naming of an unnamed patch of park woodland within Bluemont. See the March Meeting Highlights on p. 2 for details.

Become a BCA Member Today!

(Use the membership form on p. 10)

A Bluemont Civic Association volunteer delivered this newsletter to your door free of charge. If you are not a current member, please consider joining the BCA (or renewing your membership). Membership benefits include a mailed monthly newsletter (Sept.–June) and the ability to participate fully at BCA meetings and to vote for the leadership team and on matters of concern to you.



Use the membership form on p. 10 to pay \$15 dues by check or cash in person at the April 23 meeting or by check via our USPS post office box to keep your membership current through December 31, 2014. (Note: Dues are no longer prorated. The sooner you pay, the more benefits you enjoy!)

Next Meeting:

Wed., Apr. 23

ATS, 7/7:30 pm

BCA Meetings at a Glance

March Meeting Highlights



• Lubber Run Community Center

Esther Bowring from Arlington Forest Citizens Association (AFCA) presented the county's proposals to replace Lubber Run Community Center either with an 800- to 1,200-seat middle school (which would involve closing N. Park Drive at George Mason Drive and cutting at least 175 mature trees) or with a committed-affordable-unit apartment building and new community center similar to the Arlington Mill project (6 stories with 122 apts. and 322 parking spaces).

The Arlington Forest community objects to both plans, as they would destroy or degrade increasingly scarce natural parkland, eliminate facilities currently used by Barrett Elementary School and an existing preschool program, and increase the strain on local roads and other infrastructure that are already overburdened by the addition of 500 recently built apartments and 90 townhouses in the neighborhood.

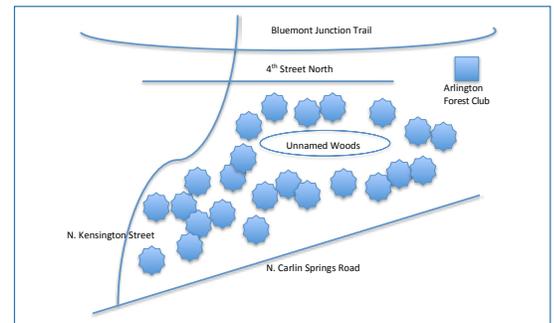
In response to Bowring's presentation, the membership voted to advertise the following draft motion:

"The Bluemont Civic Association supports the preservation of increasingly scarce open space and green space in Arlington County. In this same spirit, the BCA also supports the highly used and versatile Lubber Run Community Center. Therefore, the BCA supports the resolution of the Arlington Forest Citizens Association of March 19, 2014."

Look for a copy of AFAC's March 19 resolution at www.bluemontcivic.org. BCA members will discuss and vote on the BCA draft motion noted above at the April 23 meeting.

• Proposal To Name Woodland

Last year, a BCA member fell and broke a hip while walking in a wooded area in the Bluemont neighborhood bounded by N. Carlin Springs Road, N. Kensington Street, N. 4th Street, the Bluemont Junction Trail, and the Arlington Forest Club. Because this area is wooded and without any location signs, it took nearly half an hour and repeated calls to 911 for rescue personnel to reach the victim.



Naming this woodland is seen as an important step toward remedying a safety problem as well as giving the area a sense of place. After extensive research, BCA member Steve Cole discovered that these woods were owned for almost a century by historic figure Mary A. Carlin, who was born in the nearby log house that bears her name on N. Carlin Springs Road.

In response to the discussion of this matter, BCA members voted to advertise the following draft motion: "The Bluemont Civic Association recommends to the Arlington County Board that it name the woods bounded by N. Carlin Springs Rd., N. Kensington St., N. 4th St., the Bluemont Junction Trail, and the Arlington Forest Club, the Mary Carlin Woods." BCA members will discuss and vote on this motion at the April 23 meeting.

BCA Meetings at a Glance (cont'd)

Coming Up on May 28: Sally Baird To Visit



School Board Vice-Chair Sally Baird (who leaves the board on Dec. 31) is the BCA's new liaison to strengthen Arlington Public Schools' (APS's) relationship with the Bluemont community. Ms. Baird will be our guest speaker at the May 28 meeting. (If enough BCA members express interest, she also has offered to meet with us in person or online prior to the May 28 meeting.)

On the minds of many is whether parts of Bluemont may be moved from Washington-Lee High School into the Wakefield High School attendance zone. APS is scrambling to deal with overenrollment at many Arlington schools, including Washington-Lee.

To learn more about the capacity problem, visit <http://www.apsva.us/moreseats>. To review the various options being considered (including the ones for Washington-Lee, Arlington Traditional School, and Lubber Run Community Center), please visit http://www.apsva.us/cms/lib2/VA01000586/Centricity/Domain/110/031914_CIP_ESMS_Community_Mtg2.pdf.

In preparation for Baird's visit in May, BCA Webmaster Jonn Lau is coordinating the collection of members' questions for Baird in advance. **Please visit bluemontcivic.org to submit questions and provide information that will help us raise your issues so they can be addressed.** You may also send your questions and comments for Ms. Baird to webmaster@bluemontcivic.org.

Nominating Committee Seeks Candidates for June Election

There's no better way to get to know the community and your neighbors than serving as part of the BCA's leadership team. In March, the membership voted to approve Dean Foster, David Hughes, and David Van Wagner as the members of the 2014 Nominating Committee. At the May 28 meeting, this committee must finalize the slate for the June 25 Annual Meeting and election.

Candidates are being sought now for the following positions: President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, Treasurer, Secretary, NCAC Representative, NCAC Alternate Representative (new position), 4 Civic Federation Delegates, and 4 Civic Federation Alternate Delegates.

We urge all members in good standing to consider running for elected office. We especially need candidates to run for treasurer.

Please contact Dean (cdandmar@verizon.net or 703-243-9495), David Hughes (Dzzard@aol.com or 703-522-5257), or David Van Wagner (dpvanwagner@gmail.com or 703-524-5068) to nominate yourself or recommend someone else.

Please note: Candidates must identify themselves to the committee prior to or during the May 28 meeting in order to be included on the ballot. Nominations from the floor in June will be permitted only for open positions (ones for which there are no candidates on the ballot).

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Shop Small: Support Local Small Businesses

The Small Business Majority, a national small-business organization, recently surveyed small businesses. Of those surveyed in Virginia, 87% reported financial hardship resulting from the winter weather. The impacts included employee layoffs for one in five businesses.

Bluemont has a vibrant small-business community: over 12 restaurants (some Zagat rated) at different price points serving cuisines from around the world, a barber shop, a nail salon, an antiquarian bookseller, two drycleaners (one with a laundromat, the other offering shoe repair and tailoring services), two service stations providing repairs and gas, a lock and safe company, a physical therapy/rehab center, a watch and clock repair shop, two pharmacies, two unique boutiques selling collectible home furnishings and jewelry, and much more!

Shopping local pumps dollars back into our local economy and helps provide jobs. Moreover, at least three of Bluemont's small business owners also live in the neighborhood and have made a significant investment in our community. So the next time you shop, stay local and shop at your nearby small business.

Soil Testing

Get ready for growing season! Virginia Cooperative Extension offers routine soil testing to provide a fertility evaluation. Soil samples are analyzed, and computer recommendations are generated usually within three working days of receipt.

Pick up a soil sampling box at the Virginia Cooperative Extension's Arlington office (3308 S. Stafford Street). Send your filled soil-sample box with a completed form and the fee to the Virginia Tech Lab (the address is on the box) for analysis.

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Must mention coupon before ordering. Not valid with any other offers. One coupon per party. Good thru 5-31-14.

Wilson Boulevard Sidewalk Safety

County Board member Mary Hynes will accompany BCA officers and members of the Sidewalk Safety Task Force on a May 1 Metrobus tour of Washington Boulevard's two-lane configuration with pedestrian-friendly features and intermittent bike lanes west of George Mason Drive.



Wilson Blvd. sidewalk

Washington Boulevard carries approximately the same traffic volume as Wilson Boulevard.

County staff indicates it will start a Multimodal Transportation Study for Wilson Boulevard from Glebe Road to the Fairfax County line.

The BCA asked the county to improve Wilson Boulevard sidewalks and proposed restriping the roadway west of George Mason Drive to create 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.

The ultimate goal is to widen sidewalks and improve safety for all roadway users while maintaining the safe flow of traffic. The Dominion Hills Civic Association has expressed support for the BCA proposal.

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

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Nancy O'Doherty treasurer@bluemontcivic.org

Secretary

Laura Kirkconnell secretary@bluemontcivic.org

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory

Committee (NCAC) Representative

Chris Healey ncac-rep@bluemontcivic.org

Civic Federation Delegates and Alternates

Dean Foster, David Hughes, Terry Serie, Suzanne Sundburg (Alternates: Patrick Bryan, Craig Deering, Jonn Lau, James McMullin)

BCA Representatives & Committee Chairs

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Wendy Levenson Dean



*Former Bluemont Civic Association Board
Member and Bluemont Property Owner*

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Redevelopment Recaps



Marymount — 1000 N. Glebe Road

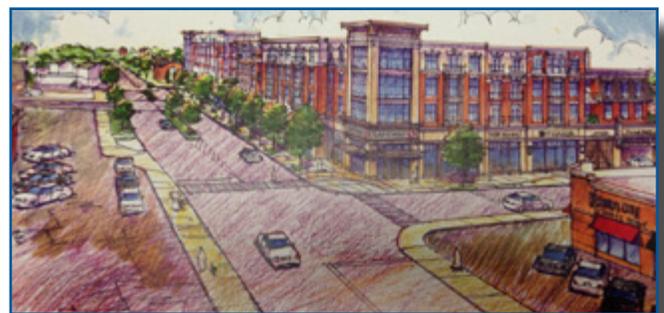
- **Marymount/Blue Goose Site**—In Jan., the County Board approved a 9-story office building and a 15-story, 267-unit apartment building with 582 underground parking spaces to replace the Blue Goose building at 1000 N. Glebe Road. In return for the substantial increase in density, the developer/Marymount will contribute \$5.718 million in community benefit funds that are earmarked for improvements to the Ballston Beaver Pond, the Custis Trail, and a west entrance for the Ballston-MU Metro Station.
- **The Springs Apartments/APAH**—In Jan., the County Board approved a 5-story, 104-unit apartment building with 110 parking spaces at 4318 N. Carlin Springs Road. Owned by Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH), the new building will contain 98 committed affordable units (CAFs) to replace the existing 27 CAFs.



25 Glebe — 600 N. Glebe Road

- **25 Glebe/Penrose**—In Feb., BCA members passed a resolution offering conditional support of The Penrose Group's proposal to build a 6-story, +/-180-unit apartment building with ground-floor retail in the 600 block of N. Glebe Road (the Exxon station and Macy's parking lot parcels). The developer indicated it would submit final plans to the county in March.

- **Bluemont's Safeway Site**—According to the BCA's Safeway/Bluemont Village Center Task Force, Safeway temporarily "paused" its process on Bluemont's Safeway due to a "management change." In mid-January, the Task Force received a call indicating that Safeway would have more redevelopment news by early April and that it plans to move forward on the redevelopment of the site with a new store. In March, the Safeway chain announced its sale to private equity firm Cerberus Capital. For details, visit <https://bluemontvillage.wordpress.com/>.



Safeway — 5100 Wilson Blvd.



Lacey Lane project to restart

- **Lacey Lane**—Construction of Lacey Lane (at Washington Blvd. and N. George Mason Drive) halted several months ago. Real estate records indicate the parcel changed hands in December 2013 for \$5,700,000. According to neighboring Waycroft-Woodlawn Civic Association, Evergreene Homes intends to resume construction soon. The plans include nine detached homes with four finished levels, detached garages, and landscaped courtyards. Visit www.waycroftwoodlawncivicassociation.org and select the "What-All" tab to see the Feb. 2014 newsletter for more details.

What's Up In Bluemont's Parks?

- **April 22: Earth Day along W&OD**

Arlington County's Parks and Natural Resources Take Back the Trail initiative has received major support for this significant habitat restoration project within Bon Air Park!

Best Buddies, based in Falls Church, has committed 100 volunteers to help install over 500 native plants along the W&OD Trail within Bon Air. This Earth Day event begins at noon on Tues., April 22, and lasts until 5 pm.

Please contact Environmental Landscape Operations Manager Patrick Wegeng (pwengeng@arlingtonva.us) for more information.

- **May 10: Walk for the Animals**



The Animal Welfare League of Arlington will hold its 19th Annual Walk for the Animals in Bluemont Park (329 N. Manchester Street) on Sat., May 10, 9:30 am. Participants may choose the 3-mile walk or a 1-mile stroll to help improve the lives of homeless animals in our community. For more information and to register, visit <http://awla.kintera.org/faf/help/helpEventInfo.asp?ievent=1097063>.

- **June 21: Saturday in the Park at Bon Air**

Nowhere are volunteers' efforts more visible than in Bon Air Park! On June 21, Arlington will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its Virginia Cooperative Extension program, which provides education and support to residents. Come and enjoy the garden



Bon Air's Rose Garden

tours, tree walks, and nature walks. Master Gardeners will be available to answer questions, and TreeStewards will lead tree identification walks at 11 am and 2 pm. You'll be amazed at how volunteers' hard work has rejuvenated our county's parkland and gardens. Please consider volunteering for future efforts.

New ArlingtonVA Mobile App



Use a new ArlingtonVA mobile app to report problems from smartphones (and send along a photo of

the issue: pothole, broken streetlight, fallen tree, damaged playground, missing sign, etc.). Users receive a tracking number and notification when the issue is updated or resolved (if they sign up with their email address).

The app is available for iPhones and Android devices. Users also can report issues online. Download the smartphone application or report a problem directly using the online form by visiting <http://topics.arlingtonva.us/reportproblem/>.

Teen Volunteers for Summer Camps



Arlington's summer camp volunteer program gives teens a great opportunity to further develop their leadership and communication skills and gain experience assisting with planning and leading activities for young children. Volunteers assist the camp staff with all the activities campers enjoy, including field trips, arts and crafts, swimming, sing-alongs, games and more. For details, visit <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/ParksRecreation/scripts/camps/ParksRecreationScriptsCampsMain.aspx>.

Get a 55+ Pass Today!



Individuals (55+) or households can register with the Arlington Office of Senior Adult Programs at <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/parksrecreation/seniors/SeniorOffice.aspx> or by calling 703-228-4744.

The 55+Pass gives you access to senior center programs, discounted trips and classes, and free access to select fitness centers on weekdays. You'll also receive bimonthly home delivery of the 55+ Guide.

Annual fees for the 55+ Pass:

- Arlington county resident, \$20
- Arlington County household, \$30
- Non-Arlington County resident, \$45
- Non-Arlington County household, \$65

For more details, read the March–April 55+ Guide at <http://www.arlingtonva.us/portals/topics/documents/file91354.pdf>.

Senior Lunch Program

Langston-Brown Community Center (2121 N. Culpeper Street) offers a weekday lunch program (9 am–1 pm) that includes activities plus a hot lunch for a suggested donation of \$2 to \$7.

For those who cannot drive, a special \$2 taxi service can provide transportation to and from the center. For more details and to register for the Senior Lunch Program, please call Program Coordinator Wanda Richardson at 703-228-6300.

Tax Relief for Veterans & Seniors

Exemptions and real estate tax relief are available for disabled veterans whose disability is 100% service-connected, permanent, and total and for the surviving spouses of veterans whose death occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2011. In addition, Arlington's Real Estate Tax Relief Program provides an exemption and/or deferral of real estate taxes for qualified Arlington homeowners age 65 and older and for certain totally and permanently disabled homeowners. To learn more about tax relief, visit <http://topics.arlingtonva.us/realstate/taxes-payments/exemptions/>.

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



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BCA Member Benefits



- Exercise your right to vote on BCA positions and the upcoming election in June
- Fully participate in monthly meetings (Sept.–June) to learn about and discuss issues
- Receive informative monthly newsletters (Sept.–June) in addition to listserv notices
- Have representation at Site Plan Review Committee and other county meetings related to development
- Participate on special committees that study issues and make recommendations to the membership
- Enjoy having a greater voice with more impact as part of a larger community group

Twice a year, hard-working BCA volunteers fan out to hand-deliver a BCA newsletter free of charge to your and your neighbors' doorsteps. You have received this newsletter compliments of the Bluemont Civic Association. To receive the monthly mailed newsletter and to participate and vote at BCA meetings, you must become a paid BCA member (if you're not one already).

Why does BCA membership matter? Because it entitles you and your family to have a say in matters facing our community. With our close proximity to Ballston, the Bluemont community is subject to redevelopment forces and other changes that will have a profound impact on life in our neighborhood and its future.

County officials and staff members consider Arlington's civic associations to be the official voice of local neighborhoods like Bluemont. And the County Board takes the BCA's official positions on redevelopment projects; traffic, zoning and land use; and other important issues into consideration when it makes decisions affecting our community.

Civic association members in good standing have the right to participate in association discussions and vote. Dues are just \$15 per year. Join or renew now and your membership will be current through December 2014, which includes your subscription to the mailed newsletter.

If you want to have a say in shaping our community, please join us. And please consider lending your talent as a volunteer. We are always looking for new officers, committee chairs/members, and representatives. See the Nominating Committee article on p. 3.

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 OR
RENEW
TODAY!**

Keep your
membership
current through
December 2014.

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 \$15 to renew at the April 23 general membership meeting at ATS, or
- Mail the form with your check to the Bluemont Civic Association at BCA Treasurer, PO Box 5134, Arlington VA 22205.