



October 2014

neighborhood news

of the Bluemont Civic Association

www.bluemontcivic.org

Mark Your Calendars

10/22 BCA Meetings (Executive & General) 7/7:30 pm, ATS

10/31 Halloween Parade 4:30 pm
Bluemont Junction Trail at N
Emerson Street

11/8 Invasive Plant Removal 9 am-
11 am, Bluemont Park Tennis
Court Parking Lot

11/15 Sidewalk Safety Task Force
8 am Two Chefs Restaurant

**11/19 BCA Meetings (Executive
and General) 7/7:30 pm, ATS**

11/20 Wilson Blvd Reconfiguration
Open House, 7 pm, ATS

**12/17 BCA Meetings (Executive
and General) 7/7:30 pm, ATS**

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Next Meeting: October 22, 2014

7 pm Executive Board/7:30 pm General Membership

Come to Bluemont Civic Association's October 22 general membership meeting to hear about the transformation of Ballston Common Mall. Art Walsh of Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley & Walsh, P.C., will share Forest City's vision for redeveloping the mall.

The changes include “daylighting” the mall, which involves opening up the central part of the mall and revitalizing the current exterior, building a 29-story, 393-unit apartment building at Wilson and N. Randolph St., improving the office space that is above the Macy’s store, and constructing an “iconic” residential building at N. Fairfax Dr. and N. Randolph St. We meet at Arlington Traditional School, 855 N. Edison St., starting at 7:30 pm.

The Executive Board meets in the same place at 7:00 pm. All members in good standing are invited to attend.

Join the BCA Today!

(Use the membership form on p. 6)

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. 6 to pay \$15 dues by check or cash in person at the Oct. 22 meeting or by check via our USPS post office box to keep your membership current through Dec.31, 2014. (Note: Dues are no longer prorated. The sooner you pay, the more benefits you enjoy!)

Get Outside ... Meet Your Neighbors

Volunteer!

This newsletter was personally brought to your door by BCA volunteers (aka your neighbors) who are willing to spend an hour or two walking our neighborhood twice a year. With 2,000+ homes in Bluemont, we always need volunteers to serve as primary deliverers and as back-ups when others are out of town at delivery time.

Please contact David Van Wagner (703.524.5068 or dpvanwagner@gmail.com) if you can help out. Thanks!

Newsletter Editor Wanted

Neighborhood News is in transition while we search for another newsletter editor or editors to help us write, edit, and produce this newsletter.

If you are or you know someone who is interested in volunteering to write and edit our newsletter, please contact exec@bluemontcivic.org.

Civic Federation Candidates Forum Recap

On 9/2, the Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) held its candidate forum. Volunteers from Arlington Independent Media (AIM) filmed the candidate forum. The video of County Board and School Board candidates may be viewed at <http://youtu.be/ldGkMcTmMwY>. Video for County Treasurer and the U.S. House and Senate candidates may be viewed at <http://youtu.be/AxKhxRARMKc>.

At the Oct. meeting, ACCF delegates debate several resolutions. In particular, delegates will consider a resolution to address the FAA's Navigation Hazard Evaluation rulemaking change that covers the emergency landing flight paths for airliners using National Airport. In Nov., delegates will discuss the county's Public Land for Public Good initiative and will consider a resolution supporting the preservation of parkland, green/open space and recreation facilities. For more details, please visit <http://www.civfed.org/>.

Public Land for Public Good

Arlington County staff has analyzed and selected several publicly owned sites that may be appropriate for affordable housing or school construction. For more details about the Public Land for Public Good initiative, visit <http://projects.arlingtonva.us/plans-studies/land-use/public-land/>.

The County is currently asking for public comment on its Site Evaluation Guidelines that it will use to determine how to balance public priorities on public lands. Comments will be accepted up through October 31, 2014. Visit <http://projects.arlingtonva.us/plans-studies/public-land-site-evaluation/> to review the sites identified, retrieve the draft Public Land Site Evaluation Guidelines, and leave your comments.

The guidelines are to inform the analysis of the sites' feasibility. They do not cover the site selection process. Upcoming sites that could be affected by these

guidelines in the spring of 2015 include the North Side Salt Facility, Lubber Run Community Center, and Jennie Dean Park and Adjacent Land. Other sites may be considered in the future.

Yard Waste Update

The fall leaf collection will take place as usual, but the new year-round yard waste collection has not started due to a legal dispute. Please continue disposing of yard waste by scheduling a brush pickup, grasscycling, composting on site or placing it in your trash cart.

Residents are not being charged for the additional yard-waste collection, and those charges won't be added until the program actually begins. The County will make an announcement when the new start date and schedule becomes available. For more details, visit <http://recycling.arlingtonva.us/residential/yard-waste/year-round/>.

2nd Saturday Invasive Removal

Every second Saturday of every month starting November 8, and continuing into the summer, work parties will meet in the parking lot at Wilson Blvd. and N. Manchester St. to clear invasive vines and plants behind the caboose and from trees in Bluemont Park. The County will provide some tools, poison ivy protection, and instruction in identification and removal of invasive species

Everyone ages 15 and up are encouraged to attend and may bring younger children. Wear long-sleeves, long pants, and gloves. Bring loppers and pruners if you have them. If you have any questions, contact Sarah Archer at sarcher@arlingtonva.us or neighbors Alison Sheahan at ab.sheahan@verizon.net and Ann Ulmschneider at aulmsch@msn.com.

672 Flats (#25 Glebe) Project Update

The Penrose Group has filed a preliminary site plan for 672 Flats, also known as #25 Glebe, with the County. It has purchased and plans to redevelop Prestige Certified Motors and Macy's parking lot parcels in the 600 block of N. Glebe Road (between Carlin Springs Road and 7th Street North. And it has a contract to purchase the Exxon station at 660 N. Glebe Road.

The proposed 6-story, 175-unit apartment building will have 4,400 sq ft of ground-floor retail facing Glebe Road. (Continued on page 3.)

672 Flats (#25 Glebe) (Cont'd)

The number of underground parking spaces is yet to be determined. County Site Plan Review Committee meetings are likely to be held this fall. We thank the BCA's Glebe 25 Task Force and Task Force Chair Terry Serie for their hard work on this project.

The Saul Group has purchase the Rosenthal Mazda dealership site and the adjacent parcel on Glebe Road next to 672 Flats. So, additional redevelopment is likely to occur on the BCA's eastern border in the near future.

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Meeting Recaps: July–Sept.

Though the BCA does not hold general membership meetings in July or August, but the Executive Board and some committees still continue working on behalf of the membership and community. Below are a few highlights:

7/16—Pres. Jonn Lau, 1st VP Kate Mattos, 2nd VP Larry Smith, and Suzanne Sundburg met with Ballston Business Improvement District (BID) CEO Tina Leone to discuss how the BCA could strengthen its relationship with the BID.

7/28—The Sidewalk Safety Task Force met with members of the county's transportation division to discuss the findings of the surveys performed for Wilson Boulevard with respect to the BCA's request to reconfigure (restriping the pavement only in phase 1) traffic lanes west of N. Frederick Street with the ultimate long-term goal of making the sidewalks ADA compliant (phase 2). (See a related article on p. 4.)

8/24—The Sidewalk Safety Task Force met with County Board member John Vihstadt to brief him (as it has other County Board members) on the BCA's request to reconfigure Wilson Boulevard west of N. Frederick Street. (See a related article on p. 4.)

9/9—The Bluemont Village Center Task Force met with The Penrose Group to gather more information on the possibilities for the Safeway site at 5101 Wilson Blvd. For more information about the task force's work, visit <http://bluemontvillage.wordpress.com/>.

Early September—The BCA prompted the county to remove overhanging branches and foliage so that the sidewalk along the park by N. Carlin Springs Road between the Arlington Forest Club Pool and N. Kensington St. was open and passable.

9/30—At the general membership meeting, Michelle



Cowan, Arlington County Director of Management and Finance, presented detailed information on the four bond referenda that will be on the ballot on Nov. 4, 2014, Alison Sheahan and Parks & Rec. staff

member Sarah Archer discussed invasive plants and invited neighbors to work parties to help remove them from Bluemont Park (see related article on p. 2), and Officer Ruiz and Sargent Lowrey presented crime statistics and discussed ways to stay safe. The general membership voted to form a membership and outreach committee. It was agreed that Larry Smith should attend the Oct. 22 Ballston BID meeting to represent the BCA. There was also further discussion on incorporating the Association.

Draft BCA Executive Board and general membership meeting minutes are posted to the BCA website at www.bluemontcivic.org. Final minutes are posted to the website upon approval.

McKinley Elementary School Addition

On 9/20, the County Board approved the use permit for a new addition to McKinley Elementary School. It will add approximately 241 seats and will increase the number of off-street parking spaces from 36 to 56. The estimated total project cost is \$20.5 million. Staff, parents, and visitors will use street parking when all on-site parking is full. The final plans and other documents are available at <http://www.apsva.us/Page/21234>.

Wilson Blvd. Restriping Planned for April

Wilson Blvd. between N. Frederick and Manchester Streets is targeted for repaving and reconfiguration in April, according to county Transportation Dept. staff. This is the first phase of a potential two-phase project to improve sidewalks and overall safety along Bluemont's "Main Street."

The county's plans respond to BCA requests. In 2012, BCA members voted to support Wilson Blvd.'s reconfiguration to make it safer and more accessible for all modes of transportation. The BCA called for a two-phase implementation: 1) Restripe the existing four lanes to two through-lanes, a two-way center turn lane (with dedicated turn lanes at intersections) and two bicycle lanes. 2) Widen sidewalks and planting strips to meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements and county design guidelines. The improvements would take place within the existing public right-of-way.

In 2013, Bluemont residents voted to make the Wilson improvements its priority project in Bluemont's Neighborhood Conservation Plan. The proposed improvements would make Wilson Blvd. more similar to Washington Blvd. between Westover and N. Harrison Street. This area includes a number of features absent from Wilson: unobstructed sidewalks, street trees, and bicycle lanes.

County data for the past 34 years show that traffic volume on Wilson Blvd. west of N. George Mason Drive has not increased. It has decreased slightly within the past 10 years.

In preparation for the April repaving and restriping, Transportation Dept. staff will host a community open house on Nov. 20, 7 pm, at Arlington Traditional School. County staff also will present information on the potential consolidation of bus stops along Wilson Blvd. and design options for improvements of sidewalks.

On Sept. 20, several County Board members publicly commented on the pending project in response to a Bluemont resident's testimony. Board members John Vihstadt and Walter Tejada spoke in support of the Wilson improvements, with Board Chair Jay Fisette noting the county's community outreach plans.

For more details, contact BCA Sidewalk Safety Task Force co-chairs Chris Healey and Ed Fendley at SidewalkSafetyTaskForce@bluemontcivic.org.

Ashlawn Transportation Improvements

On July 30, County transportation officials held a public forum to present proposed concepts for traffic modifications at Ashlawn Elementary School

The concepts presented did not reflect previous community input and did not align with the findings and recommendations of the Toole Design Group's report on transportation needs for Ashlawn. Community attendees expressed their concern that the proposed concepts ignored the Toole report and failed to take into account the regarding of the site. Review the Toole Group report at <http://bit.ly/1o1lpYz>

Dennis Leach, director of the county's Department of Environmental Services, also attended this meeting and provided some important feedback. County staff ultimately agreed to modify its concepts and bring them back for community review sometime this fall. For more information on Ashlawn, visit <http://www.apsva.us/Page/18904>.



Free Mulch

Residents may obtain free mulch—recycled leaves from the county's fall leaf collection or from wood made from tree trimmings and tree removals in Arlington. Pick up is available at 26th St N and Yorktown Blvd and at Arlington County Trades Center.

For more details, visit <http://recycling.arlingtonva.us/residential/mulch-dirt/>.

Absentee Voting in 2014

The Office of Voter Registration accepts several reasons that entitle citizens to vote absentee. Among them are working and commuting for 11 of the 13 hours that the polls are open; illness, disability or pregnancy preventing a voter from visiting the polls on Election Day; and traveling for personal business or vacation. To see the full list, visit <http://vote.arlingtonva.us/absentee/absentee-voting-eligibility/>.

How do I vote absentee in-person?

Starting on 9/19, voters can visit the Office of Voter Registration to cast their absentee ballots in person. You still must complete an application form and state your reason for voting by absentee ballot when you go in to vote.

Dates/Hours for In-person Absentee Voting:

(2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 320)

M–F, 8 am–5pm, except as follows:

Th, Oct. 23 & 30, 8 am–7 pm

Sat, Oct. 25 & Nov. 1, 8:30 am–5 pm

What Could Have Been ...The Snickersville Civic Association?

Bluemont Park and the surrounding neighborhood derive their name from the Washington and Old Dominion (W&OD) Alexandria-Bluemont Railroad Branch, which ran through our neighborhood in the early 1900s. The branch had two stations within Bluemont: Bluemont Junction (near the current site of the Bluemont Park caboose) and Torrison (slightly north of where Wilson Boulevard currently crosses the W&OD Trail).

In 1900, the branch ran from Alexandria, along Four Mile Run through Arlington and Vienna, eventually terminating in Bluemont, Virginia. Bluemont is an unincorporated village located in Loudoun County near the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Prior to being known as Bluemont, the village was named Snickers Gap (1807–1926) and later Snickersville. The gap derived its name from Edward Snickers, who owned the gap and surrounding land and operated a ferry across the Shenandoah River on the western side of the gap during the late 1700s.



With the arrival of the railroad line in 1900, the Southern Railway (a predecessor of the W&OD RR) sought to promote the resort nature of the town and petitioned the U.S. Postal Service to change the town's name to Bluemont. The Postal Service formally recognized the village's new name on Sept. 7, 1900.

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Dr. Talmadge Williams (Family Photo) 1

Remembering Dr. Williams 1934-2014

Long-time BCA member Dr. Talmadge Williams passed away recently at the age of 80. Dr. Williams worked tirelessly for our community as an officer of the BCA, as a representative of Bluemont on the Ballston Business Improvement District's board, and as a leader and visionary for many other county and national organizations.

Williams served as a former president of the Arlington branch of the NAACP and was active in the business and education communities. He also spent most of the last 15 years working to establish and find a permanent home for the Arlington Black Heritage Museum, according to an article in the Arlington Sun Gazette.

His unequivocal dedication to the community will be sorely missed.

Bluemont Junction Halloween Parade Friday, Oct. 31: Starts at 4:30 pm!

The Halloween parade along the Bluemont Junction Trail has become an annual rite of passage for many neighborhood children, dogs and adults. This fun and festive neighborhood gathering had its very humble beginning on a cold Halloween afternoon in 1991. That's when 5th Street neighbors Jennifer Strasel and Donna Frank decided to get their respective toddlers, Emily and Madeleine, dressed up in their costumes and take an early Halloween walk along the trail. They made it to the rocks and celebrated with popcorn and apple cider.

Every year a few more families joined in and neighbors brought treats to share. Some years, kids and families posted hand-drawn signs to remind neighbors; other years, everyone just remembered to meet on Halloween. Jennifer and Donna no longer live in the neighborhood but the tradition lives on. Neighbor Bob Mathews is taking the lead this year. So don your costumes and join the fun on Halloween afternoon where the trail meets N. Emerson Street!

RENEW TODAY!

Keep your membership current through December 2014.

Please use this form to renew until the online payment option is resumed.

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 check for \$15 to renew at the October 22 general membership meeting at Arlington Traditional School, or
- Mail this form with our check to the Bluemont Civic Association at BCA Treasurer, PO Box 5134, Arlington, VA 22205