



neighborhood news

of the Bluemont Civic Association

February 2015

www.bluemontcivic.org

Mark Your Calendars

- 2/21 Sidewalk Safety Task Force, 8 am, Two Chefs Restaurant
- 2/25 BCA Meetings (Executive & General) 7/7:30 pm, ATS**
- 3/5 Community Information Meeting for Wilson Blvd. Improvements, 7 pm, Arlington Traditional School library
- 3/25 BCA Meetings (Executive and General) 7/7:30 pm, ATS**
- 4/22 BCA Meetings (Executive and General) 7/7:30 pm, ATS**
- 5/16 Turtle Trot 5K, Bluemont Park, N. Manchester St & N. 4th St., 10:00 am

In This Issue

- Newsletter Editor Wanted2
- BCA Communicating with More Residents, More Ways2
- Buyout of Safeway Complete...2
- Recap of the February 4, 2015 BCA Membership Meeting.....2
- Ashlawn Elementary N. Montague St. Entrance Walkway.....3
- Community Information Meeting on Wilson Blvd. Improvements.....3
- Steer Your Government3
- 672 Flats (670 N. Glebe Rd) Site Plan Submitted.....4
- Capital Bikeshare Proposes Two New Bluemont Stations and Will Soon Accept Cash.....4
- Recap of Arlington County Civic Federation February 3, 2015 Meeting.....5
- Inclement Weather Notice.....5
- Join the BCA or Renew Your Membership Today!.....6

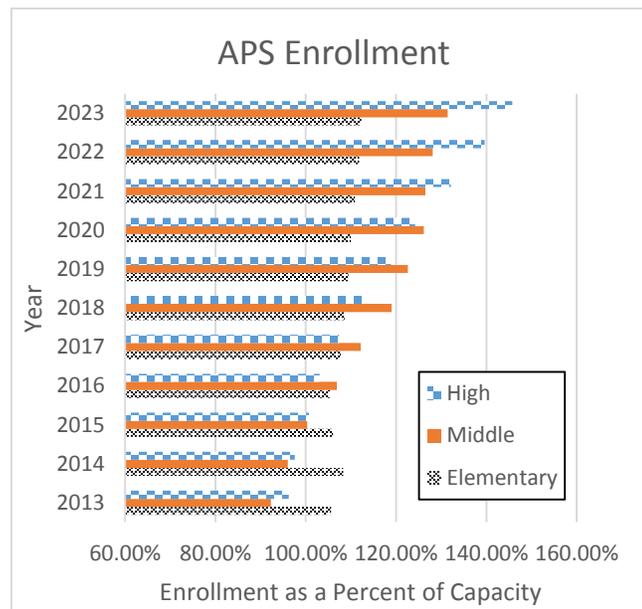
Next Meeting: February 25, 2015

7 pm Executive Board/7:30 pm General Membership

The next meeting of the Bluemont Civic Association will be on February 25, 2015, at Arlington Traditional School, 855 N. Edison St, Arlington, VA 22205. The Executive Board meeting starts at 7:00 pm and the general membership meeting at 7:30 pm. Everyone whose membership is up-to-date welcome to attend the Executive Board Meeting.

Mr. Lionel White, Arlington Public Schools Director, Facilities Planning, will be the guest speaker for the general membership meeting. He will take questions at the end of his presentation. Please attend to learn more about school facilities and other neighborhood issues.

Arlington Public Schools is projecting student enrollment in September 2023 to be



at 125 percent of planned capacity. The Arlington County Board rejected, for the time being, the school board's proposal to build a new 725 seat elementary school on one of Thomas Jefferson Middle School site's parking lots. The county and schools have agreed to work together. . They will "review the inventory of County-owned facilities and privately-owned spaces to identify a new set of potential short-term, medium-term, and

long-term solutions, update APS feasibility studies of APS properties, as appropriate, outline a process and timeline for considering solutions that enable us to meet our deadline of providing a minimum of 725 new elementary school seats in South Arlington by the start of school in September 2018; and provide a status report to the School Board by April 30 2015."

Earlier, county staff recommended three sites for possible new school buildings. The process for developing the recommendation was opaque and drew significant criticisms. Now, the county has initiated a new effort, the Community Facilities

(Continued on page 2)

Study, aimed at producing a community consensus on how to provide sufficient community facilities, including new school buildings. See the article on page 3 for more information about this study.

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.

BCA Communicating with More Residents, More Ways

With people living such busy lives, we know that sometimes the only way to reach neighbors is online. That is why BCA has stepped up its efforts to share information through multiple communications channels, including social media. Here are the major ways BCA is connecting with Bluemont residents:

- This newsletter, which is produced multiple times a year and hand-delivered to area homes by our "walking volunteers" twice annually;
- General membership meetings, which occur monthly except for summer months (and when we are snowed out!);
- Notices on the kiosk that is located along the Bluemont Junction Trail on the south side of Wilson Blvd. at the intersection of Wilson Blvd. and N. George Mason Dr. ;
- The BCA Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/bluemontcivic>;
- The BCA webpage, bluemontcivic.org, which is "grand central station" for information;
- The BCA listserv, which you can join by going to <http://groups.google.com/group/bluemontcivic>.

We invite you to take advantage of any or all of these ways of staying in touch with your neighborhood and the Bluemont Civic Association. Let us know if you have other suggestions for how we can stay connected with you by sending email to exec@bluemontcivic.org.

Buyout of Safeway Complete

At its meeting earlier this month, BCA members learned that the merger of AB Acquisition (Albertsons) and

Safeway has received final approval by the FTC and the Safeway Board of Directors. AB Acquisition is controlled by Cerberus Capital Management, an investor group. The Albertsons website states that "The merger will create a diversified network that includes 2,230 stores, 27 distribution facilities and 19 manufacturing plants with over 250,000 employees across 34 states and the District of Columbia."

Last year, BCA established a task force charged to research factors that would influence development at the local Safeway site. In its final report, which was issued in December 2014, the task force recommended continued outreach to major stakeholders in order to stay abreast of developments. The BCA president designated two BCA members to reach out to Safeway's new leadership in an effort to keep open lines of communication and learn of any plans for our local Safeway.

Recap of the February 4, 2015 BCA Membership Meeting

Many residents came to the February 4 general membership meeting at which there were discussions on a range of topics, including the preservation of a 150 or more year old willow oak in Bluemont. There were also announcements and the launching of an initiative to improve street lighting along N. 9th Rd near N. Kensington St. As has happened in past years, the memberships of many of those present had lapsed at the end of the previous year, but most of those people were able to renew them at the meeting.

The guest speakers were Arlington County Police (ACP) Cpl. Beth Lennon and Ofc. Cesar Ruiz, the ACP liaison to BCA. They reviewed information about crime in the area and reminded attendees that safety depends on everyone working to prevent crime and that improved outcomes can depend on reporting any crimes quickly.

Small measures like installing motion-triggered and timer-triggered lights, lighting front porches, and, most easily, locking car and house doors can make a great deal of difference in the safety of the neighborhood. Keep in mind, however, to avoid harsh lighting that might discourage foot traffic or shine into neighbors' windows. The vast majority of recently burglarized cars involved unlocked vehicles. Quickly report all crimes, no matter how small, and suspicious activities by

(Continued on page 3)

calling ACP's non-emergency number, 703-558-2222, or by sending email to police@arlingtonva.us.

Also, the general membership unanimously passed a resolution that supports the general vision expressed in the proposed Arlington County Retail Plan but calls for a change of designation that allows for more types of businesses on the west side of N. Glebe Road from N. Carlin Springs Road to Wilson Blvd. and on the south side of Wilson Blvd. from N. Glebe Road to N. Wakefield St. The version of the plan that Arlington Economic Development presented in December designates those areas for shopping and dining only. The BCA resolution calls for changes that allow for shopping and dining as well as for such services as dry cleaners, doctors' offices, and sports and recreation. The Arlington County Civic Federation passed its own resolution on the retail plan. See the article on page 5 for information about that resolution.



Ashlawn Elementary N. Montague St. Entrance Walkway

Arlington Public Schools presented an update on the Safe Routes project around Ashlawn Elementary School on February 2. The last not finalized design element is the N. Montague St. walkway entrance. The walkway's design is complicated by the number of land owners involved, steep terrain, compliance with applicable laws and principles, and environmental concerns. The revised layout includes a sidewalk ramp more naturally aligned with existing ground contours. It also addresses concerns with conformance to Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles, potentially resolves potential issues with drainage and snow removal, and employs a plank system in the Resource Protected Area.

However, the revision is not without controversy. Concerns about tree removal, compliance with the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act and Arlington County Natural Resources Management Plan, and aesthetics are not resolved.

For the presentation and more information about this project, visit <http://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/ashlawn-elementary-school-safe-routes/> and <http://www.apsva.us/ashlawn-addition>.



PIANO ON THE RUN

Yes! We teach piano in your home. Accepting children and adults living near Four Mile Run.

Keyboard or piano needed for practice. Register quarterly and receive one free lesson.

PianoOnTheRun.com (703) 400-1814
PianoOnTheRun@gmail.com

Community Information Meeting on Wilson Blvd. Improvements

Arlington County will hold a community information meeting at 7:00 pm on March 5 at Arlington Traditional School to present plans to improve Wilson Blvd. for walking, bicycle riding, and driving. The improvements are consistent with the Bluemont Neighborhood Conservation Plan. Ed Fendley, Chris Healy and the rest of the BCA Sidewalk Safety Task Force have been working with the county to insure that this demonstration project provides the most benefit to everyone who uses "Bluemont's main street" or is otherwise impacted by the project.

The installation will begin in the spring and include restriping Wilson Blvd. between N. Frederick St. to N. Manchester St., consolidating bus stops, and evaluating the project's effects after it is installed.

For more information about this project, visit <http://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/wilson-boulevard-improvements/>.

Steer Your Government

The Arlington County and Arlington Public Schools Community Facilities Study is a new year-long effort to plan the future of community facilities. A 24-person

(Continued on page 4)

group has been appointed by the county and school boards to lead the effort. The group is looking for residents and community organizations to join it in building a "consensus framework regarding the community's future funding and facility needs." Get information on the study and join the Resident Forum at <http://commissions.arlingtonva.us/community-facilities-study/>.

Also, the Neighborhood Complete Streets (NCS) Commission is working to create a new NCS program. The commission has circulated an 11-page program guide draft and is seeking feedback on it. You can get the draft and provide your feedback by February 28 at <http://commissions.arlingtonva.us/neighborhood-complete-streets-commission/>. The guide will be used to steer the initiatives and decision making needed to design complete streets.

The commission's definition of a complete street is one that is "designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities. Complete Streets make it easy to cross the street, walk to shops, and bicycle to work. They allow buses to run on time and make it safe for people to walk to and from train stations."



CONCEPT RENDERING
NOT TO SCALE

672 Flats (670 N. Glebe Rd) Site Plan Submitted

The developer submitted to the county its site plan for 672 Flats (at 670 N Glebe Rd) on December 31, 2014. Terry Serie has been leading the BCA task force on the development, which reviewed early plans and met with the developer to improve the compatibility of the building with its neighboring buildings. The county's

Site Plan Review Committee is expected to begin public meetings in late February or early March. The 672 Flats development will occupy the entire block on N. Glebe Rd. from N. 7th St. to N. Carlin Springs Rd, where the Macy's employee parking lot, a used car dealership, and an Exxon service station are now. The new building will be similar to the recently completed building that occupies the former Goodyear site on the south side of N. Carlin Springs Rd.

The submitted site plan includes rezoning the lot from commercial C-2 to mixed commercial and residential C-R. It calls for 178 residential apartments in six stories, 4,488 square feet of retail space, and 178 parking spaces. The proposed building will be 85.5 feet tall. A summary of the plan can be seen at <http://www.bluemontcivic.org/docs/672%20Preliminary%20fact%20sheet%201-30.pdf>

Capital Bikeshare Proposes Two New Bluemont Stations and Will Soon Accept Cash

Capital Bikeshare is a Washington-area service that allows customers to rent bikes from any of more than 300 stations and return them at any station within the service's coverage area. Customers must become members to use the service and they have a variety of membership plans, including daily, monthly, and annual plans. Bicycles can be rented an unlimited number of times during a membership period. The first 30 minutes of each rental are free.

There are two Capital Bikeshare stations within Bluemont, one at the northeast corner of N George Mason Dr. and Wilson Blvd, on the Bluemont Junction Trail, and one on the western side of N. Glebe Rd. at N. 11th St. Arlington County is proposing 2 new stations in Bluemont. One is near the intersection of N. Bluemont Dr. and N. Harrison St, and the other on N. Harrison St. near the entrance to the Custis Trail. County staff will present updated plans at the BCA General Membership Meeting on March 25, 2015.

Today, customers have to have credit cards to pay for membership. But beginning in May, they can pay with cash by visiting any of Arlington's Commuter Stores. When paying with cash, customers will be required to pre-pay for trips that might extend beyond the 30-minute free period provided with each rental.

Recap of Arlington County Civic Federation February 3, 2015 Meeting

Arlington County Board members and Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) were guest speakers at the February 3 Civic Federation meeting.

VDOT is considering requiring at least three passengers per vehicle and/or requiring payment for vehicles with fewer passengers to use I-66 inside the beltway during rush hour. Currently, automobiles must have at least two passengers to use eastbound lanes during the morning rush hour and the westbound lanes during the evening rush hour. The roadway changes inside the beltway would be made entirely with state funds, unlike the possible changes outside the beltway, and revenue could be used to fund multimodal transportation improvement projects, such as projects to improve trails along the roadway. VDOT also presented plans for changes to I-66 outside the beltway. Read more about the proposed changes outside the beltway at <http://www.transform66.org/>.

Also at the meeting, delegates passed a resolution that rejects the policy framework of the proposed Arlington County Retail Plan and recommends that the county board not adopt the plan, but instead formulate a revised policy. Visit <http://www.civfed.org/> for details on the resolution, meeting minutes, and more information on the Civic Federation.

Other items discussed during the meeting were the replacement of the Public Land for Public Good initiative with the Community Facilities Study, direction given to the county manager to report to the county board in the spring on transportation alternatives for the canceled streetcar project, the prolonged time it is taking to fill the county's open internal auditor position, and concern over frequent end-of-the year budget surpluses, which can be used for unbudgeted spending.

The measure sponsored by Virginia State Del. Patrick Hope that allows the county board to hire an auditor was also discussed. It passed the full House of Delegates unanimously on February 10. The bill will now go to the senate for consideration.

Members also discussed Arlington County Board outreach efforts, such as the continuing Open Door Monday sessions in which residents can discuss any issue with a board member from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at various locations throughout the county, quarterly Chairman's Breakfast with Business Leaders (see <http://countyboard.arlingtonva.us/mary-hughes-hynes-january-1-2015-speech/>), and the Community Facilities Study and its Resident Forum, which all county residents are invited to join (see <http://commissions.arlingtonva.us/community-facilities-study/>).

Inclement Weather Notice

When inclement weather forces Arlington Public Schools to close on the same day that a BCA meeting is scheduled, the BCA meeting will be canceled.

Contact Information

Officers

President

Jonn Lau

President@BluemontCivic.org

First Vice President

Kate Mattos

firstvp@BluemontCivic.org

Second Vice President

Larry Smith

secondvp@BluemontCivic.org

Treasurer

David Van Wagner

Treasurer@BluemontCivic.org

Secretary

George Rovder

secretary@BluemontCivic.org

Neighborhood Conservation Committee

Representative

Ed Fendley

ncac-rep@BluemontCivic.org

Neighborhood Conservation Committee

Alternation

Dayna Davitz

ncac-alt@BluemontCivic.org

Arlington County Civic Federation

Delegates

Dean Foster, David Hughes, Suanne

Sundberg

civiced-del@BluemontCivic.org

Alternates

Carla Aly, Craig Deering, Mark Haynes,

Larry Smith

civiced-alt@BluemontCivic.org

BCA Representatives & Committee Chairs

Newsletter Editors

Aimee Blanchard [EDITOR NEEDED]

editors@BluemontCivic.org

Newsletter Distribution

David Van Wagner

dpvanwagner@mindspring.com

Webmaster

Jonn Lau

webmaster@BluemontCivic.org

Ballston BID Representative

Larry Smith

lrsml@aol.com

Emergency Preparedness Liaison

Jim Thorne

james.thorne7@verizon.net

Metro Liaison

Henry McFarland

hmcfarland@hotmail.com

Parks and Recreation Liaison

Nora Palmer

norapalm@verizon.net

Safeway Task Force

Kate Mattos, Carla Aly

sawaytaskforce@BluemontCivic.org

Sidewalk Safety Committee

Chris Healy & Ed Fendley

sidewalksafetytaskforce@BluemontCivic.org

Join the BCA or Renew Your Membership Today!

Most BCA memberships lapsed on December 31, 2014. To check on the status of your particular membership look at your newsletter's address label for the membership expiration date.

As a member, you don't need to be reminded of the benefits of membership such as a mailed monthly newsletter (Sept.–June), the ability to participate fully at BCA meetings and to vote for the leadership team and on matters of concern to you.

To renew your membership, fill out the membership form and pay \$15 dues by check or cash in person at the January 26th general membership meeting or by check via our USPS post office box to keep your membership current. Please do not send cash into the mail. Dues are no longer prorated. So the sooner you pay, the more benefits you enjoy!

RENEW TODAY!

Keep your membership
current through December
2015.

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 February 17 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



Bluemont Civic Association

PO Box 5134

Arlington, VA 22205

BluemontCivic.org