



neighborhood news

The Latest News and Information from Your Bluemont Civic Association

October 2016

bluemontcivic.org

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Mark Your Calendars

BCA Meetings (Exec. & General) 7/7:30 pm, ATS	10/26
Bluemont Halloween Parade 4 pm, Trail at N. Emerson St.	10/31
General & Special Elections 6 am–7 pm, https://Vote.arlingtonva.us	11/8
Veterans Day Bell Ringing Noon, Constitution Garden Park	11/11
BCA Meetings (Exec. & General) 7/7:30 pm, ATS	11/16
BCA Annual Meeting/Election 7/7:30 pm, ATS	12/14

NEXT MEETING: Wed., Oct. 26, 2016

7 p.m. Executive Board / 7:30 pm General Membership

Topics for October:

- Meet Our New ACPD Liaison to Bluemont
- Learn About the Bond Referenda
- Join/Renew Membership for 2017 (see p. 6)

Please join us on Wed., Oct. 26 for the Executive Board meeting at 7 pm and the General Membership meeting at 7:30 pm in the library of the Arlington Traditional School located at 855 N. Edison St. All members are welcome to attend the Executive Board meeting.

We have two guest speakers planned for October. First, we will welcome Arlington County Police Department Officer Michael Keen as our new Bluemont Police Liaison. Officer Keen will update the association on the local crime report, trends, and answer questions our community may have.

Second, we will have a representative from Arlington County Government to discuss the 2016 Bond Referenda. Please note that on Nov. 8, 2016, Arlington residents will be asked to approve four local bond referenda, on Metro & Transportation, Local Parks & Recreation, Community Infrastructure and Arlington Public Schools, together totaling \$316 million. Learn more about the bond referenda questions at <https://budget.arlingtonva.us/bond-referenda/>. This will be a good opportunity to hear from County staff on the bonds and ask questions you may have.

26th Annual Bluemont Junction Halloween Parade Monday, Oct. 31 at 4 pm



The Halloween Parade along the Bluemont Junction Trail has become an annual tradition, and is celebrated in style by neighborhood children, dogs and adults. The Parade has grown so much from its humble beginnings in 1991, when two neighbors strolled to the Rocks with their costumed toddlers on Halloween afternoon, that we now need a special events permit! Many thanks to neighbor Bob Mathew, who is sponsoring it this year. So don your costumes and join your neighbors at 4 pm, where the trail meets N. Emerson Street for a parade to the Rocks. Let's hope for good weather—there is no rain date.

Next Meeting:

Wed., Oct. 26

ATS, 7/7:30 pm

BCA Meetings at a Glance

Check our website www.bluemontcivic.org for BCA meetings, volunteer and committee opportunities, and how you can get involved with BCA. Join today!

Volunteers Needed!

Our team has done outstanding work over the years and BCA is fortunate to have such great talent! However, we are all volunteers and eventually hand the baton to the next group ready to run the next lap. Current openings:

- **Strategic Communications Specialist**

Direct, edit & produce BCA newsletters, postcards, and social media announcements.

- **Web Designer and Developer**

We want to modernize our website's user interface, make the site web-responsive for mobile devices, and migrate our content. We need a volunteer who can propose and implement user experience enhancements to www.bluemontcivic.org.

If you can help, please contact exec@bluemontcivic.org.

Safeway Site Committee Launched

Bluemont residents interested in the future of our neighborhood grocery store are encouraged to join the Safeway Site Committee as a volunteer. During the Sept. 28, 2016 BCA General Membership meeting, the BCA President was authorized by vote of the General Membership to establish the Safeway Site Committee (the final name of this committee is pending) to continue our consideration of the potential renovation or redevelopment of the property. This committee will follow a resolution adopted last spring which authorized the President to sign and send a letter to Safeway intended to re-establish a dialogue between the Bluemont community and Safeway.

While there are no active proposals for the site, there is continuing interest in developing a new grocery store with new housing. The committee is expected to review existing BCA positions, gather facts, and, if warranted, make recommendations to the BCA membership.

To volunteer or for more info, contact Carla Aly and Rich Gibson at SafewayCommittee@BluemontCivic.org

When Do We Meet?

Generally, the BCA meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month (Executive Board at 7 p.m., the membership at 7:30 p.m.) in Arlington Traditional School's library, but we may move meetings to other dates to avoid holidays and other conflicts. For instance, the next two meetings are on alternative dates:

- In November, the BCA will meet on Wed., Nov. 16.
- In December, we'll meet on Wed., Dec. 14.

Please check the calendar of events for upcoming meeting dates. Meeting date changes/cancellations are posted to the website: www.bluemontcivic.org.

Thank You, Volunteer Carriers!

Special thanks to all the neighbors who volunteered their time to deliver this newsletter to households across Bluemont, free of charge. Twice a year, BCA volunteers hand-distribute the association newsletter neighborhood-wide as part of our outreach efforts.

We have an ongoing need for Newsletter carriers! It's easy & great exercise! If you are interested in helping to distribute the newsletter, please contact David Van Wagner, dpvanwagner@gmail.com.

Redevelopment Projects

Update on 672 Flats (formerly the “Exxon Block” on 670 N. Glebe Rd.)



672 Flats at 670 Glebe Road, formerly the “Exxon Block”

As stated on the Arlington County Website, “The Penrose Group... is developing a six-story residential building containing 178 apartment units, approx. 4,500 square feet of retail, and 178 parking spaces in a two-level below-grade garage.”

Most recently, the site has been secured with a fence, and piles have been driven into the ground. Excavation has begun and you will see the “hole” from the street. The developer plans to complete excavation by the end of 2016 and to commence concrete operations in January 2017. Concrete should finish, and the framing should start by summer 2017. The developer’s planned completion date is June 2018.



750 N. Glebe Rd., formerly the “Mazda Block”

Update on 750 N. Glebe Rd. (formerly the “Mazda Block”)

According to the Arlington County Website, Saul Centers, Inc. has applied to “...rezone the property to RA4.8 and to redevelop the Rosenthal Mazda dealership and adjacent parcels with a 12-story building consisting of 483 dwelling units and 68,185 square feet of retail including a new grocery store and a car rental business.”

All tenants have departed and the property has been fenced. The contractor is in the process of disconnecting utilities to the buildings in preparation for demolition. Prior to obtaining a demolition permit, the contractor is required to have a meeting with the community to provide more details about the construction schedule, staging, truck hauling routes, and the like. The contractor will communicate with the community once it is prepared to set up that meeting.

The contractor is still in the Design Development stage of the building and hopes to move into the Construction Documentation phase by November/December of this year. Once the plans and specifications are complete, Saul Centers, Inc. will be bidding and awarding the job while awaiting the required permits to start construction. Excavation will not likely start until the middle of 2017 if all goes according to schedule.

Learn more about these and other developments on the Arlington County website, <https://projects.arlingtonva.us> search Glebe.

Wilson Boulevard Crosswalk Improvements

In response to neighborhood requests, Arlington's Transportation Department is considering additional near-term safety improvements as well as planning for longer-term improvements on Wilson Boulevard in the Bluemont neighborhood. County staff is exploring options for raised medians and crosswalk improvements at selected locations between N. Frederick St. and N. Lexington St. In addition, the County may commission a study of options for future capital improvements to Wilson Blvd.'s sidewalks and the roadway between Glebe Road and the Fairfax County line. According to County staff, Arlington's Neighborhood Conservation Program could potentially fund both the crosswalk improvements and the study of longer-term investments in Bluemont's "Main Street." For further information or to volunteer to help, contact BCA Sidewalk Safety Task Force co-chairs Chris Healey, cphealey@mac.com, and Ed Fendley, EdFendley@gmail.com.

Connect with Bluemont

BCA Website: BCA posts official information at www.bluemontcivic.org

Email Group: Get messages in your inbox from our Google Group, or check it out online. You can join on the BCA website or at <https://groups.google.com>, search Bluemont Civic.

Facebook: Like our Bluemont Civic Association page on Facebook! www.facebook.com/bluemontcivic

Nextdoor.com is a free, private social network where you can connect with people who live nearby. BCA has begun posting official announcements on Nextdoor.com. Sign up at <https://nextdoor.com> by providing your name, address and email address.

FAQs about Voting November 8, 2016

Election Day this year is Tues., Nov. 8. The polls will be open that day from 6 am–7 pm.

Unsure about your polling place?

That's not surprising, considering that the Bluemont Civic Association covers four different voting precincts: Ballston, Arlington Forest, Ashlawn and Westover. Just visit the Virginia Department of Election's website for a search feature that allows you to enter your home address and find your polling place at <https://voterinfo.sbe.virginia.gov/PublicSite/Public/FT2/PublicPollingPlace.aspx>.

Think you'll be out of town on Election Day?

You can obtain a Virginia Absentee Ballot Application Form by going to the Arlington County voter registration website and applying online at <https://vote.arlingtonva.us/absentee/>. Your application must be received by the Office of Voter Registration by no later than 5 p.m., Nov. 1.

Interested in voting absentee in-person?

Voters can go to the following locations to vote their absentee ballots in person—there's no need to obtain an absentee ballot in advance. Just show up on the open days and times to vote at the following locations:

- Office of Voter Registration (2100 Clarendon Blvd.)
Mon.–Fri., Sept. 23–Oct. 21: 8 am–5 pm
Saturdays, Oct. 8–Nov. 5: 8:30 am–5 pm
Mon.–Thu., Oct. 23–Nov. 3: 8 am–7 pm
Fridays, Oct. 28–Nov. 4: 8 am–5 pm
- Madison Community Center (3829 N. Stafford St.)
Saturdays, Oct. 15–Nov. 5: 8:30 am–5 pm
Mon.–Thu., Oct 24–Nov. 3: 1 pm–7 pm
Fridays, Oct. 28–Nov. 4: 1 pm – 5 pm
- Walter Reed Community Center (2909 18th St. S.)
Saturdays, Oct. 15–Nov. 5: 8:30 am–5 pm
Mon.–Thu., Oct 24–Nov. 3: 1 pm–7 pm
Fridays, Oct. 28–Nov 4: 1 pm–5 pm

Have any other voting-related questions?

Contact Arlington County's Department of Voter Registration and Elections at (703) 228-3456.

Motions Passed!

It has been a busy summer! Here is a recap of the motions passed which summarize a few of the major movements within Bluemont.

- Motion passed by vote of Officers to authorize the President to sign and send a letter asking the County to postpone any fencing activity in the Bluemont Park field #3 until after a thorough public comment process has been implemented.
- Motion passed by vote of Officers to authorize the President to create a Bluemont Civic Association account on Nextdoor.com to use for official association announcements.
- Motion passed by vote of Officers to authorize the President to sign and send a letter requesting that the County postpone any decision on designating homes within Bluemont as 'historic' until after a thorough public comment process has been implemented.
- Motion passed by vote of Officers to sign and send a letter requesting that the County limit construction hours on the 1000 block of N. Glebe Rd. to 9 p.m. in response to the Site Plan #64 Amendment.
- Motion passed by vote of Officers and the General Membership to make sidewalk, curb, and gutter improvements to the 1000 block of N. Edison St. the second priority project for the Bluemont Civic Association's Neighborhood Conservation efforts.
- Motion passed by vote of Officers and the General Membership to ask the county to undertake a traffic study on 6th St. N (from N. Emerson St. to N. George Mason Dr.) and on N. Edison St. (from the Bluemont Junction Trail to N. Carlin Springs Dr.).

Meet our new Executive Board and volunteers across the Bluemont Civic Association! There are a few new faces as a result of the June election and we are pleased to welcome all new members.

BCA Officers & Representatives

President

Nick Pastore president@bluemontcivic.org

First Vice President

Larry Smith firstvp@bluemontcivic.org

Second Vice President

Charles Hall secondvp@bluemontcivic.org

Treasurer

David Van Wagner treasurer@bluemontcivic.org

Secretary

James McMullin secretary@bluemontcivic.org

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory

Committee (NCAC) Representative & Alternate

Richard Gibson (rep.) ncac-rep@bluemontcivic.org

Christy Vigfusson (alt.) ncac-alt@bluemontcivic.org

Civic Federation Delegates and Alternates

Dean Foster, David Hughes, Mike Coogen,

Nick Pastore (del.) CivicFed-Del@bluemontcivic.org

Mark Haynes, George Rovder, Angelo Collins,

Carla Aly (alt.) CivicFed-Alt@bluemontcivic.org

BCA Committee Chairs & Representatives

Newsletter Editor

[Volunteer Needed] editors@bluemontcivic.org

Newsletter Designer

Cindy Matlack

[Volunteer Needed] editors@bluemontcivic.org

Newsletter Distribution

David Van Wagner dpvanwagner@gmail.com

Webmaster

Jonn Lau webmaster@bluemontcivic.org

Parks and Recreation Liaison

Nora Palmatier norapalm@verizon.net

Bluemont Village Center Task Force

Carla Aly & Kate Mattos

bluemontvillagecentertaskforce@bluemontcivic.org

Ballston BID Board Member

Larry Smith lrsml@aol.com

Metro Liaison

Henry McFarland

hmcfarland@hotmail.com

Emergency Preparedness Liaison

Jim Thorne

james.thorne7@verizon.net

Sidewalk Safety Task Force

Chris Healey & Ed Fendley

SidewalkSafetyTaskForce@bluemontcivic.org

Not a Member? Join Today!



Bluemont Civic Association membership benefits include the Newsletter and the right to participate fully at BCA meetings and to vote on positions and Officers. As a BCA

member, you have representation in the Arlington County Civic Federation (to which the BCA and other county civic groups belong) and at Arlington County Advisory Commissions and other County meetings on matters pertaining to Bluemont.

Use this membership form to pay \$15 dues by check or cash in person at the Oct. 26 meeting for 2017, or send your dues check to BCA Treasurer, PO Box 5134, Arlington, VA 22205.

Leaf Collection

Arlington collects about 50,000 cubic yards of leaves every year, which are recycled into leaf mulch. The leaf mulch is then available for free pick up or can be ordered on line and delivered for a fee to County residents.

Biodegradable Bag Collection

- Oct. 31, 2016–Jan. 6, 2017 (Mon.-Fri. including holidays, except Christmas and New Year's Day)
- Leaf bags will be collected on your regular trash collection day.

Biodegradable paper leaf bags are available at most hardware stores. Free bags are available starting Oct. 24 and while supplies last at several locations listed on the County website. Do not use plastic bags.

Vacuum Collection

There will be two passes per civic association. Bluemont is in Zone 3. Our first Vacuum Pass is Nov. 11–16. The second is scheduled for December.

More info at <https://recycling.arlingtonva.us> >search leaf collection

Join or Renew Today!

Keep your membership current! Please use this form to join or renew.

Name _____

Address _____

E-Mail _____

- Bring this form and cash or a check for \$15 to renew your membership to any general membership meeting at Arlington Traditional School, or
- Mail this form with your check made out to "Bluemont Civic Association" to BCA Treasurer, PO Box 5134, Arlington VA 22205.

Go paperless & save trees!

- Check this box to receive *BCA Neighborhood News* by email.

All information is for BCA use only.