



# neighborhood news

The Latest News and Information from Your Bluemont Civic Association

August 2020

[bluemontcivic.org](http://bluemontcivic.org)

## In This Issue

|  |   |
|--|---|
| When and Where Do We Meet?                                     | 2 |
| Upcoming Meetings  | 2 |
| BCA Annual Elections on October 28, Nominees Being Sought NOW! | 2 |
| Help Spread the Word on Voting By Mail!                        | 2 |
| Why Bikes Are Prohibited on Natural Trails                     | 2 |
| Remaining Motions and Votes Since Our October 2019 Newsletter  | 3 |
| Message from the Nonpartisan League of Women Voters            | 3 |
| Volunteer to Help Restore Mary Carlin Woods and Lacey Woods    | 3 |
| BCA Executive Board  | 3 |
| Connect with Bluemont  | 4 |
| Forum on Missing Middle Housing                                | 4 |
| Come Ring Our Bell!  | 4 |
| Join or Renew Now!   | 4 |

## YOUR Bluemont Civic Association

Bluemont is one of the largest neighborhoods in Arlington County. It comprises nearly 6,000 people and includes Arlington Traditional School, Lacey Woods Park, Mary Carlin Woods, Fields Park, Balls Crossing, West Ballston, and the Custis Bluemont Junction and Washington and Old Dominion Trails. It lies along Bon Air Park (including the Rose Garden) and Bluemont and Bluemont Junction Parks.

Civic Associations serve an important and official communications link between neighborhoods and the Arlington County government. Bluemont is represented by the Bluemont Civic Association. Please join us! We welcome your membership, participation and ideas! Visit our website for more information: [bluemontcivic.org](http://bluemontcivic.org), and follow "Bluemont Civic Association" on Facebook for regular updates.

## NEXT MEETING: Wed., September 30, 7:30 PM via Zoom, Voter Information Presentation

The September General Membership meeting will feature a presentation and Q&A by the non-partisan League of Women on voting in the November 3, 2020 election, including how to vote by mail.

## Motions to be Voted On at the September 30 General Membership Meeting

### MOTION: Support for Restoration of Mary Carlin Woods, Lacey Woods and Bon Air Park

"BCA supports the County's restoration efforts in Mary Carlin Woods, Lacey Woods and Bon Air Park, including from damage by unauthorized bike trail construction, bike riding, the July 2019 flooding and other issues, and calls for BCA to be fully included from the start in the County's restoration planning and implementation, and throughout the process of this restoration."

### MOTION: Including Bon Air Park in the CIP

"BCA should work to get Bon Air Park included in the next regular Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)."

For some background, including a report on the community walk-through of Bon Air Park with County officials, please see our April 2020 newsletter at [http://www.bluemontcivic.org/newsletters/BCA\\_News\\_202004.pdf](http://www.bluemontcivic.org/newsletters/BCA_News_202004.pdf).

## April Newsletter On-Line

The Stay-At-Home order prevented us from delivering our spring newsletter. Get it here: [http://www.bluemontcivic.org/newsletters/BCA\\_News\\_202004.pdf](http://www.bluemontcivic.org/newsletters/BCA_News_202004.pdf).

## When and Where Do We Meet?

Until public health conditions permit, we are meeting only via zoom, which can be accessed via computer or phone. If you are not already on our e-mail distribution, please contact [exec@bluemontcivic.org](mailto:exec@bluemontcivic.org) for invitations to our monthly meetings, and monthly updates on neighborhood news. If you lack access to e-mail, please write the **Bluemont Civic Association at P.O. Box 5134, Arlington VA 22205** for information to phone into meetings, including any votes taken for BCA members.

Generally, BCA meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month (Executive Board at 7:00 pm and General Membership at 7:30 pm) in Arlington Traditional School's library. All members are welcome to attend the Executive Board meeting. We may move meetings to other dates and locations to avoid holidays and other conflicts. Meeting date changes/cancellations are posted to [www.bluemontcivic.org](http://www.bluemontcivic.org), <https://bluemont.nextdoor.com> and the "Bluemont Civic Association" [Facebook page](#).



## BCA Annual Elections on October 28, Nominees Being Sought NOW!

The disruption in public meetings during the pandemic has delayed our annual elections until our October 28 General Membership meeting, which will take place via zoom. We are seeking nominees NOW for Voting Members of the Executive Board (President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Treasurer, and Neighborhood Conservation Advisory (NCAC) Committee Representative) and Non-Voting Members of the Executive Board (4 Civic Federation Delegations, 4 Alternative Civic Federation Delegates, and the NCAC Alternative Representative).

If you are interested in these positions, please contact Kate Mattos at [kmattos2000@gmail.com](mailto:kmattos2000@gmail.com) or Nora Palmier at [norapalm@verizon.net](mailto:norapalm@verizon.net) by NOON on September 28, 2020. Nominations will be announced at our September 30 General Membership meeting where additional nominations can be made from the floor. Please see <http://www.bluemontcivic.org/nominations.php> for key details.

## Help Spread the Word on Voting By Mail!

At our June virtual meeting, the General Membership agreed to support League of Women Voters efforts to share non-partisan information about the November 3, 2020 election. If you are interested in having a yard sign about registering to vote and voting by mail, or asking local businesses or community organizations to place a poster, please contact [exec@bluemontcivic.org](mailto:exec@bluemontcivic.org).

## Why Bikes Are Prohibited on Natural Trails



Heavy use of trails, erosion, and direct impacts to roots can severely impact the trees and other natural resources in our parks. Damage to roots often creates pathways to infection, which show themselves years after the damage is done. Foot pressure and walking traffic rarely cause the amount of damage to kill trees, but grinding wheels from mountain biking have caused major decline in trees. These trees then change from having a high value to our community to becoming a risk to all trail users. Removal and maintenance of trees in heavily wooded areas is very costly, and deferring this work can lead to increased risk to all users and the park itself. For information on: "Where can I ride in Arlington?" <http://www.bikearlington.com/maps-and-routes/>; Arlington's Trails <https://parks.arlingtonva.us/off-street-trails/>



### Upcoming Meetings

|          |                                |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| Aug. 26  | Executive Board only           |
| Sept. 30 | Exec Board, General Membership |
| Oct. 28  | Exec Board, General Membership |
| Nov. 18  | Exec Board, General Membership |
| Dec. 16  | Exec Board, General Membership |
| Jan. 27  | Exec Board, General Membership |
| Feb. 24  | Exec Board, General Membership |
| Mar. 31  | Exec Board, General Membership |
| Apr. 28  | Exec Board, General Membership |
| May 26   | Exec Board, General Membership |
| June 16  | Exec Board, General Membership |



## Message from the Nonpartisan League of Women Voters

November may seem far away, but it's time to register to vote or request an absentee ballot. If you are concerned about going to the polls this year, you can vote by mail—no excuse needed. Go to <https://bit.ly/VoteArlington> to register, update your registration, or request your ballot or call the registrar at (703) 228-3456. The deadline to register is October 13. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is October 23. Don't wait!

## Remaining Motions and Votes Since Our October 2019 Newsletter

**December General Membership meeting:** (1) Members voted to approve the Executive Board's decision to revive the BCA Pedestrian Safety Committee. Chris George and Nick Pastore volunteered to co-chair the Committee. (2) Members voted to advertise a vote at the January General Membership meeting to prioritize one Neighborhood Conservation project that the civic association will submit to the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee, and one that will be the civic association's back-up Neighborhood Conservation project. (3) Members voted to advertise a vote to amend the civic association bylaws to reduce the requirement for a quorum for General Membership meetings.

**January General Membership meeting:** (1) Members voted to select the "Crosswalk and pedestrian safety improvements and beautification at the intersection of 6th St N, N Emerson, and N Edison the first priority Neighborhood Conservation project." The project will also address pedestrian safety concerns at this intersection. (**UPDATE:** Arlington County has completed road surveys at the these intersections, and are designing possible safety concepts to present to Bluemont for comment in the coming months.) (2) Members selected "Crosswalk and pedestrian safety improvements at the intersection of N Lexington and Wilson Blvd in cooperation with the County's planned 8th Rd N and N Lexington sidewalk work" as the backup Neighborhood Conservation priority project. (3) Members voted to amend the bylaws to reduce the quorum requirement.

**June General Membership meeting:** Given cancellation of General Membership meetings due to public health restrictions, members voted to ratify the Executive Board's actions to follow bylaw requirements for transparent nomination procedures for annual elections, including extending the current Board until successors are approved in October 2020.

Details on these and all votes and motions are in meeting minutes at [www.bluemontcivic.org](http://www.bluemontcivic.org). Questions may be addressed to [exec@bluemontcivic.org](mailto:exec@bluemontcivic.org).

## Volunteer to Help Restore Mary Carlin Woods and Lacey Woods — Apply Now!

This fall, the County will be working with neighborhood volunteers to restore Mary Carlin Woods and Lacey Woods, repairing damage from construction of unauthorized bike trails, bike-riding, invasives and other factors. For more information, including how to volunteer, please see [www.bluemontcivic.org](http://www.bluemontcivic.org).

### BCA Executive Board

#### Executive Board

[exec@bluemontcivic.org](mailto:exec@bluemontcivic.org)

President                      Laura Kirkconnell  
President@bluemontcivic.org

First Vice President      Henry McFarland

Second Vice President    Bruce Leighton

Treasurer                    David Van Wagner

Secretary                     Nick Pastore

#### Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee

Representative              Angelo Collins  
Alternate                      Rich Gibson

#### Civic Federation

##### Delegates

Allen Norton, David Hughes,  
Christopher George, Flint Lewis

##### Alternates

Mark Haynes, Bruce Leighton,  
Henry McFarland, Nick Pastore



## Connect with Bluemont

Check our BCA website [www.bluemontcivic.org](http://www.bluemontcivic.org) for BCA meetings, official information, and how you can get involved with BCA. Join today!

**BCA E-mails:** BCA members who provide their e-mail address to the Executive Board receive regular e-mail updates on issues affecting Bluemont residents.

**Contact the Executive Board:** BCA welcomes comments, suggestions and questions from members. Please contact us at [exec@bluemontcivic.org](mailto:exec@bluemontcivic.org)

**Facebook:** Like our Bluemont Civic Association page on Facebook! [www.facebook.com/bluemontcivic](http://www.facebook.com/bluemontcivic)

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

## Forum on Missing Middle Housing

Because of the strong interest in the County's ongoing-Missing Middle Study, we asked volunteers with differing perspectives on the issue to contribute articles to our April newsletter, but were unable to hand-deliver copies due to the Stay-at-Home order. The articles are at this link [http://www.bluemontcivic.org/newsletters/BCA\\_News\\_202004.pdf](http://www.bluemontcivic.org/newsletters/BCA_News_202004.pdf)

## Come Ring Our Bell!



Every federal holiday at noon, BCA hosts a socially distanced ringing of the bell at Constitution Gardens (corner of George Mason and Wilson by the Fire Station.) Everyone is welcome. You and your children can ring the bell!

So, mark your calendars for: **Labor Day, Sept. 7; Columbus Day, Oct. 12; Veteran's Day, Nov. 11; Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26; Christmas Day, Dec. 25; New Year's Day, Jan. 1; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Jan. 18; President's Day, Feb. 15; Memorial Day, May 31; Juneteenth, Jun. 19 (not a federal holiday); & Independence Day, Jul. 4.**

# Join or Renew Today!

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

## BCA Membership Form

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.