



Summary of Results
Walking Town Meeting (WTM) June 18, 2007
With the Arlington County Board
In the Bluemont Civic Association Neighborhoods

The Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) hosted Arlington County Board members for an informal visit with area residents **to review and discuss neighborhood concerns**. The County Manager and over a dozen staff members from departments responsible for streets, curb and gutter, sidewalks, storm water management, parks, bike paths, and other services also attended the WTM. **Approximately 150 BCA residents participated in the WTM** as it strolled through the neighborhoods.

	<p style="text-align: center;">Arlington County Board (left to right)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chris Zimmerman Jay Fisette Barbara Favola Paul Ferguson, Chair Walter Tejada, Vice Chair</p>
<p>Communicate your neighborhood concerns and voice your support and appreciation for the county actions mentioned in this report to the County Board members at: </p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Arlington County Board 2100 Clarendon Blvd. Suite 300 Arlington, VA 22201 E-mail: countyboard@arlingtonva.us TEL 703-228-3130</p>

This report summarizes some of the actions, commitments, and information provided by Arlington County in response to the neighborhood issues that were raised by residents and the BCA. **Additional details on other issues and actions discussed** during the WTM process are posted on the BCA Website at www.bluemontcivic.org. If you have comments about neighborhood issues, please contact the BCA by regular mail at PO Box 5134, Arlington, VA 22205 or via e-mail: bluemontcivic@verizon.net. **The BCA thanks the County Board members and the County staff for the actions and planning underway to address neighborhood concerns.**

1. Actions already completed, or to be completed before the end of 2007

- Added more time to the turn signal during the evening rush at N. George Mason Dr. and Wilson Blvd. for cars traveling eastbound on Wilson Blvd. to turn left and travel north on N. George Mason Dr.
- For all **Bluemont streets**, County staff members from the Office of Community Code Enforcement have conducted a survey to identify vegetation that is encroaching on public sidewalks. Notices to remove the vegetation will be sent to property owners.
- In the Safeway parking lot, County staff worked with the store manager and other parties to open a blocked storm drain that has caused flooding into adjacent yards.

- On the **800 block of N. Buchanan Street** up through the intersection with the 4800 block of 8th Road N., repair the street's surface and storm water drainage problems with resurfacing and the installation of curb and gutter.
- On **11th Road N.** between N. Frederick and N. Illinois Streets, **complete design work to repair** street foundation and storm water drainage problems with a new roadway and the installation of curb and gutter. The project will be placed in the construction queue for the **spring of 2008 construction cycle.**
- In the **Beaver Pond basin** (which flows into Lubber Run) located between Fairfax Drive and Interstate 66
 - Removed trash—additional clean-up days can be scheduled periodically with local volunteers,
 - Make improvements to the stream's channel, and
 - Schedule an invasive species plant removal day if there are community volunteers.
- Along **Lubber Run** between Wilson Blvd. and N. Carlin Springs Road
 - Resurfaced areas of the Run concrete bed to prevent the erosion of adjacent property,
 - Repaired the retaining walls along several properties where it is collapsing,
 - Removed tree branches that have fallen into the Run,
 - Removed debris and trash along the Run, particularly items that are blocking its flow, and
 - County staff members will help the neighborhood to organize volunteer efforts to periodically remove invasive species of vegetation from the Run.
- Along the **Bluemont Junction Trail** from Interstate 66 to Bluemont Park
 - Replaced over 80 broken, rotten, and missing rails on fences along the trail,
 - Filled sinkholes and cracks on the bike trail,
 - Removed dead trees and branches along trail in area of Fields Park and N. Edison Street,
 - Replacement trees to be planted along trail in area of N. Edison St., and
 - Applied herbicide treatment to invasive species in north and south sections.
- For **Fields Park**, the County:
 - Will add two park benches, two trash receptacles and two recycling containers, and
 - Assessed trees surrounding the soccer field and pruned dead limbs.
- Reduced the tipping speed of the speed signal on Wilson Boulevard near Bluemont and Bon Air Parks to slow down speeding vehicles traveling through the area.
- The exterior of **Fire Station #2** at Wilson Blvd. and N. George Mason Drive will be repainted.



Lacey Woods Park and North Bluemont area residents present photographs of storm water management and street repair concerns at June 18 WTM

Board Members address the crowd.

(from left to right)

Jay Fisette (dark blue polo shirt)

Chairman Paul Ferguson, Vice Chair Walter Tejada, Chris Zimmerman, and Barbara Favola

Residents can send their comments on neighborhood issues to the board members by

e-mail at countyboard@arlingtonva.us.



2. Information, commitments, and a schedule for future actions to address neighborhood concerns

- The County has retained a consultant to help determine the causes of **storm water and sewage** system backups, “approximately 300 reported flooding backups from last year’s storms.” **The Lubber Run area of N. Abingdon St.**(north of Carlin Springs Road) is included in the preliminary study which will be completed this November.
- To prevent sanitary (sewer) **system backups** into homes, the County encourages homeowners to take measure on their property such as the installation of backwater valves on their sanitary system and grading their properties to keep water away from foundations. Information on how to protect property from flooding can be found on the Federal Emergency Management Association Web site at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/howto/index.shtm#4>.
- The County is **seeking input from homeowners in central Bluemont** (Illinois Street) who have experienced **storm water and sewer backups** in their houses in recent years so they can evaluate the problem. Contact the County at ddonahue@arlingtonva.us or at 703-228-3653 (also contact the BCA if you have experienced backup problems and would like for us to concurrently track the problem).
- A plan to improve the **pedestrian crossings** at N. Glebe Road intersections with Fairfax Drive, Wilson Blvd. and Carlin Springs Road is being finalized for final Virginia Department of Transportation review. Construction could begin by the end of 2008.
- Improvements to **Wilson Blvd. sidewalks** between N. Glebe Road and N. George Mason Drive will be included in a list of projects for consideration in future transportation funding anticipated to be available from the state starting in fiscal year 2009.
- County staff recommends signaling the north leg of **N. Wakefield Street and Wilson Blvd.** when the Peck block is redeveloped.
- The County responded that attempts by the Arlington Housing Corporation to purchase single-family properties (between **N. Wakefield and N. Woodrow Streets**, north of Wilson Blvd.) and to seek a **General Land Use Plan amendment** to permit higher density development (9-12 story buildings) in this location is “generally inconsistent with the Neighborhood Consolidation Resolution”. That resolution was adopted by the County in 1985. That resolution stated that the County “declares as its general policy the discouragement of neighborhood consolidations that anticipate land uses

incompatible with the General Land Use Plan, the several area sector plans, and other County land use plans, goals and policies.”

- The County staff “supports maintaining the “Low-Medium” GLUP designation **west of N. Wakefield Street** to create a transition between more intense uses along N. Glebe Road and the single-family development further west. AHC’s proposed GLUP change would be counter to the pattern of development that has evolved in **west Ballston** over the past 10 years.”
- County staff is evaluating options to **widen the Bluemont Junction Trail entrance/exit** located adjacent to the Holiday Inn.
- County staff confirmed that construction is likely to begin in the spring of 2008 on curb and gutter, sidewalk, and the undergrounding of utilities **for 5th Street N. from N. Greenbrier Street** to N. Fredrick St. and from N. Frederick Street to Carlin Springs Road.

Conclusion

Updates on County actions to address other neighborhood concerns will be posted periodically on the BCA Website at www.bluemontcivic.org. A report summarizing issues raised and photographs taken during the WTM is posted on the BCA Website and entitled “**WTM Summary and Photos**” (examples below).



A large number of **eastern Bluemont residents** came to this stop to show their concern about **keeping new developments west of N. Glebe Road in harmony** (height, tapering architectural style, and materials) with the adjacent residential neighborhoods on N. Tazewell, N. Vermont, N. Wakefield, N. Woodrow, and N. Abingdon Streets.



Residents express their views on maintenance needed to the bike trail surface and broken split rail fences, neighborhood security, sewer and storm water management, traffic calming and other concerns for the **neighborhoods in central and western Bluemont.**