

JOIN US!

NEXT GENERAL MEETING 6/24/09

- Annual Meeting and Officer Elections
- Your Input & Concerns

Left: Let the planting begin! New trees along the Bluemont Junction Park trail.

June 2009 A Public Service of Your Bluemont Civic Association

www.bluemontcivic.org

BCA MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

NEXT GENERAL MEETING WED. 6/24, 7:30 pm at ATS

Make your voice heard at the last general membership meeting until September.

LAST GENERAL MEETING 5/27

Deputy County Manager

Barbara M. Donnellan

Donnellan, our speaker in May, has worked with Arlington County for 25 years in a number of capacities. Her current responsibilities cover finance and management, human resources, libraries, technology, police, fire and legislation.

Donnellan reported that the county has been somewhat insulated from the financial downturn. Unemployment is lower than in some of the neighboring counties, and Arlington is one of 22 counties nationwide whose bonds remain AAA rated. With the economic downturn, \$20 million was cut from the base 2010 budget, including \$8 million in programs and services. However, Ballston police coverage remains unchanged, ➡2

Join Us for Our Annual Meeting and Election

Bluemont Civic Association's (BCA's) will hold its Annual Meeting and election at Arlington Traditional School (ATS) on June 24. Members in good standing (i.e., those whose dues payments are current) will elect officers and representatives for 2009–2010.

Election Slate

The Nominating Committee has forwarded the following slate of nominees for the 2009–2010 election: Judah dal Cais, President; Wendy Dean, First Vice President; Talmadge Williams, Second Vice President; Mary Thorne, Secretary; Judy Collins, Treasurer; Carl Drummond, Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) Representative. The following members have been nominated as Civic Federation Delegates: Kate Mesches, Talmadge Williams, Ed Fendley and Terry Serie. The nominees for Civic Federation Alternates are Bob Atkins, Judah dal Cais, Larry Smith and Sam Ferro.

Nominations also may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting. If you have not paid dues for 2009, please bring \$23 (check or cash) to the meeting, which will update your membership through December 2010.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of this year's Nominating Committee: Richard Young, David Van Wagner and Bob Atkins. ■



What's That Ringing?

To celebrate Independence Day, BCA will ring the Constitution Bell at noon on July 4. The Bell is located at the corner of N. George Mason Dr. ➡4



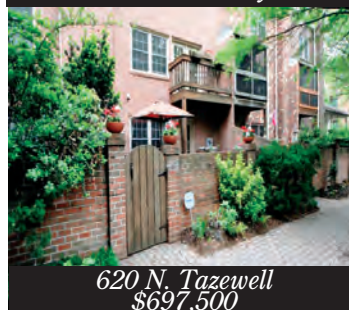
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Village Center Working Group Explores ATS Options

In May, members of the Bluemont Village Center Working Group met with outgoing School Board member Ed Fendley. The group is exploring available options for Arlington Traditional School that BCA may want to consider as it updates the NC Plan (county staff has asked BCA to update its plan) and develops its vision for a village center. ■

Fall Fundraiser Is Being Planned

BCA's Executive Board is planning to hold a block-party-style fundraiser this fall. Several worthy causes have been discussed. Of particular concern is the growing problem of hunger in Arlington. In 2006, the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) served approximately 600 clients per week; now AFAC serves over 1,000 clients each week.

We need volunteers to help plan and hold the fall fundraiser. If you are interested, please contact Judah dal Cais at jdalcais@verizon.net or 703-528-1551. ■

BCA MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

FROM P.1

and the caboose in Bluemont Park will be open this summer. The county recently lifted its hiring freeze, although some vacancies are not being filled to help balance the budget. Increased unemployment has led to an increase in the homeless population and a greater demand on area food bank services.

One member asked what had happened with the huge surpluses from previous years. Donnellan replied that much of previous surpluses were used to service debt payments and fund capital construction (like school renovations). Also as the county's population and commercial base grows, the need for county personnel and services grows.

Whereas the 2010 budget process was challenging, the challenges for 2011 (with a best-case scenario of flat revenues) will be greater. The County Manager's office appreciates receiving input from the community when considering possible budget reductions. It acted on some community suggestions in 2010 budget cycle.

In response to another question, Donnellan explained that bonds are not sold until the project is ready to go. Bond money can be switched only to another project in the same category. For example, funds raised to build a school cannot be used for sewer improvements. On the other hand, bond funds approved and earmarked for a particular school's renovation could then be transferred to renovate a different school instead. When asked whether the school budget could be trimmed, Donnellan noted that Arlington's per-student spending is comparable to the figures for Alexandria and Falls Church cities. The County Manager's office has been tasked to review the county's revenue-sharing agreement with the county school system this summer. ➡4

SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE

BCA typically does not hold general membership meetings in July or August. (The next BCA general membership meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 23, 2009.) The BCA Executive Board continues to meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm (July 14, August 11 and September 8). All members are welcome to attend Executive Board meetings; check BCA's Website (www.bluemontcivic.org) to obtain summer meeting location information. ■



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IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Neighborhood Day BBQ

On Saturday, May 16, Bluemonters joined to celebrate Neighborhood Day with a community cookout. While the adults chatted and ate, BCA's youngest members took a closer look at the fire trucks. We extend a special thanks to Fire Station #2's captain and crew for the use of their grill and their kind hospitality. And we thank all those members who generously volunteered their time to make this year's barbecue a success. ■



BCA's President Judah Dal Cais (right) fields questions from a neighborhood resident.

Dave Van Wagner deftly mans the grill as Bluemonters munch and mingle.



Yay! Fire trucks!

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NC Project Vote

On June 11, the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) voted to approve nine NC projects to receive bond funds. BCA's first-priority curb, gutter, sidewalk and lighting project for N. Frederick Street (the second half of the 9th Street N./N. Frederick Street project) was not approved for funding. ➔4



Almost there! New curbs and gutters in place, just awaiting resurfacing at 9th and N. Frederick.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

BCA Annual Meeting and Election at ATS 6/24

Ballston Farmers' Market 6/26
11am-3pm, Welburn Square

JULY

Ballston Farmers' Market 7/3

Constitution Bell Ringing 7/4
(Wilson Blvd. & Geo. Mason Dr.)

Lacey Woods Second 7/11

Saturday Invasive Plant Removal
Ballston Arts & Crafts Mrkt 7/11
(second Saturdays thru Oct.)

Executive Board Meeting 7/14

AUGUST

Executive Board Meeting 8/11

BCA Neighborhood News

is a service of YOUR community civic association.

bluemontcivic@verizon.net

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Judy Collins-703-276-0124/jc.swings@verizon.net

Secretary

Mary Thorne-mary.thorne3@verizon.net

Civic Federation Representatives

Delegates: Kate Mesches, Talmadge Williams, Ed Fendley, Terry Serie. Alternates: Ellen Armbruster, Judah dal Cais, Sam Ferro, Larry Smith

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MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

FROM P.2

Landscaping in Bluemont Park

At the May meeting, it also was noted that Environmental Landscape Supervisor Patrick Wegeng would proceed with the landscaping plan along the Bluemont Junction Park trail once he received final approval from the BCA Executive Board. Visitors to the park had moved some of Wegeng's planting locator flags causing some confusion.

View the full May 27 minutes at www.bluemontcivic.org. ■

► **NC** FROM P.3

NC Plan Update

Earlier this year, BCA and Planning Commission member Steve Cole invited Virginia Tech Professor Shelley Mastran to meet with BCA representatives who will be working on the village center concept and the update of BCA's NC plan.

Subsequent to that meeting, Mastran contacted BCA to say that there will be a land use planning class taught this fall at Virginia Tech that may be able

to take on Bluemont as a class project. Although Mastran will not be teaching the class, she promised to make the instructor aware of Bluemont's needs. We expect to learn more details this summer. ■

► **Ringling** FROM P.1

and Wilson Blvd. Our own Ed Fendley has diligently served as holiday bell-ringer for many years, and is seeking a new "Keeper of the Clapper." Contact judalcais@verizon.net if you are interested.