

Topics for June 18, 2007 Arlington County Board **Walking Town Meeting**
With the Bluemont Civic Association (*June 3 version updated*)

SCHEDULE AND NEIGHBORHOOD TOPICS

<p>PARKING is available in the Arlington Traditional school parking lot. Enter from N. Edison St.</p> <p>MEET in the parking lot of Arlington Fire Station #2 at 4805 Wilson Blvd. (Restroom facilities available) Station phone number: 703-228-0102</p> <p>FOUR STOPS: The WTM will stop at four locations, residents are invited to participate in the entire WTM or participate at the stop most convenient to their neighborhood.</p>
<p>Stop # 1: 6:30 – 7:00 PM at N. Abingdon St. to discuss East Bluemont neighborhoods: <u>Leave Fire Station</u> and travel east along the north side of Wilson Blvd. for two and ½ blocks to traffic light at N. Abingdon St. Cross Wilson Blvd. and proceed to 720 N. Abingdon St.(on west side of street) . Assemble in yard of property to view Lubber Run channel.</p>
<p>NOTE: Before leaving fire station, observe that the exterior paint on front and back of Fire Station #2 is blistering and peeling. When will this be repaired?</p>
<p>1. Lubber Run, storm water and sewer system problems — backups into yards and basements:</p> <p>A. For Lubber Run, what are the plans for flood control, erosion prevention for the streambed and banks, and tree and invasive plant maintenance between Wilson Blvd. and N. Carlin Springs Rd.? [Note: A tree has across the Run near Carlin Springs Rd. and that is backing up trash and debris in the water.]</p> <p>B. What are the County’s plans to clean up the litter accumulating in the beaver pond basin and to keep it from flowing into Lubber Run?</p> <p>C. For eastern Bluemont, is there sufficient storm water and sewer system capacity in the existing eastern Bluemont systems to handle medium to high density redevelopment of the following projects and blocks; the 950 N. Glebe building, future expansion on Peck-Staples, Mazda, Murphy Funeral Home and Exxon?</p> <p>D. How will sanitary sewer backup in homes (as occurred in 2006 on N. Abingdon St.) be prevented?</p>
<p>2. Pedestrian connectivity</p> <p>Bluemont residents are concerned about the lack of easily walkable pedestrian connections between the Ballston Metro</p>

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area and Bluemont neighborhoods. We want to utilize Ballston's amenities, using multimodal transportation, but the status of the infrastructure does not provide a pedestrian environment that is comfortable or easy to navigate, especially for anyone with physical challenges, for children and for seniors. Given current conditions, it appears less risky and more logical to drive rather than walk/bike the less-than-one-mile distance to Ballston.

A. Accidents, including fatalities, have occurred at some intersections bordering Bluemont. Residents find it difficult, risky and stressful to cross N. Glebe Rd. at the following locations. What actions will be taken to improve these areas?

- Wilson Blvd.
- 7th St. N.
- N. Carlin Springs Rd.
- N. Fairfax Dr.

BLUEMONT EXPRESSES APPRECIATION TO THE BOARD and County staff for recent sidewalk and intersection improvements in some of these areas.

B. Obstacles for pedestrians traveling on Wilson Blvd. between N. Glebe Rd. and N. George Mason Dr. create a difficult pedestrian environment:

- Narrow sidewalks with utility poles and traffic signs obstructing the walkway
- No landscaping strip along Wilson for green space and a safety buffer from a high volume of fast moving traffic
- Sidewalks blocked by low hanging tree branches, shrubs and lawn/dirt overflow from yards
- Broken and irregular level of sidewalks
- Speed of traffic on Wilson Blvd.

Residents want to improve conditions for pedestrian movement to and from Bluemont to the Ballston Metro area. What are the options for improving the pedestrian environment including but not limited to reducing the speed limit, speed alert monitor, installing a road diet, sidewalk improvements, repairs and widening, utility undergrounding, etc.?

C. It is difficult to cross N. Carlin Springs Rd. at N. Abingdon St. — What traffic control aids can be implemented?

3. Management of current and future traffic between N. Wakefield St. and N. Glebe Rd.

A. What traffic management aids can be implemented at N. Wakefield and N. Vermont Streets on Wilson Blvd to address the current traffic difficulties (left turns from Wakefield or Vermont; exiting Vermont St. to enter left turn lane on Wilson Blvd.; left turns from Wilson Blvd. onto Vermont).

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<p>B. What additional improvements to N. Wakefield and N. Vermont Streets and sidewalks will be likely in conjunction with redevelopment of Peck, Mazda, Murphy Funeral Home and Exxon block sites?</p>	
<p>4. GLUP and zoning plan changes:</p> <p>A. What is the County contemplating for "community benefits" to be considered for the Peck-Staples project's request to change the GLUP designation to a higher density?</p> <p>B. What is the County's guidance on building heights, massing and tapering options to transition the Peck-Staples block in harmony with adjacent neighborhood of single-family and townhouse residences in eastern Bluemont?</p> <p>C. What is the County's response to the Arlington Housing Corporation (AHC) announced intention to request an up-GLUP for the Jordan Manor property?</p> <p>D. Are the AHC attempts to purchase single-family properties and up-GLUP the area on between N. Wakefield and N. Woodrow Streets consistent with the Neighborhood Consolidation Resolution policy adopted by the Arlington County Board in 1985?</p> <p>Bluemont will say THANK YOU to the County staff and the Site Plan Review Committee for the research developed on past land use study and GLUP-zoning decisions for eastern Bluemont area.</p>	
<p>Stop # 2: 7:00 – 7:30 PM at Fields Park to discuss North Bluemont, Lacey Woods Park and Fields Park neighborhoods: Return from Stop #1 by walking on the north side of Wilson Blvd. back to Fields Park.</p>	
<p><u>LACEY WOODS NEIGHBORHOOD and PARK</u></p> <p>1. Sidewalk, curb and gutter, storm drainage</p> <p>A. Residents on 11th Rd. N. are requesting sidewalks, curb and gutter and storm water management for the blocks between N. Frederick St. and N. Illinois St. to address some severe problems. This request cannot be addressed in the near-term time through the NC program due to the existing project backlog, staffing shortage and inadequate funding issues. What other one or two year options are available?</p> <p>B. BLUEMONT WILL SAY THANK YOU to the County Board and staff for the sidewalk, curb and gutter improvements on Washington Blvd. west of N. George Mason Dr. Is all the work completed?</p>	

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2. Lacey Woods Park

Repairs to the shelter/restrooms — Are the aged restrooms at Lacey Woods Park scheduled for repair/upgrade by Parks & Rec in an ongoing maintenance program? They are currently not up to the standards of modern/newer P&R facilities.

FIELDS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD

Storm water drainage and road surface repaired on 4800 block of 8th Rd N.

Residents are concerned about drainage, safety and health issues due to pooling and freezing of water caused by lack of a storm water drainage system. This request cannot be addressed in the near-term time through the NC program due to the existing project backlog, staffing shortage and inadequate funding issues. What other one or two year options are available?

FIELDS PARK

1. Residents are concerned about losing many mature trees to invasive species that are located here; along with safety concerns about large dead branches falling down from trees. Does Parks & Rec or another County authority have a maintenance/pruning/invasive species removal program that will address these tree problems?

2. The playing fields, which are used heavily by County sports teams/leagues, do not receive regular care and maintenance. Are these two soccer fields included on P&R regular overseeding and maintenance schedules? If not, how can they be added?

3. What can be done to improve and enhance the park from its current condition? What current programs can we utilize to improve this park to add:

- benches along bike trail through park,
- year-round comfort facilities
- a barbeque grill, additional picnic tables and trash receptacles, and
- community bulletin boards

BLUEMONT JUNCTION TRAIL (from Fairfax Dr. through Fields Park to Wilson Blvd.)

1. The entrance to the Trail needs to be widened at N. Fairfax Dr. to allow the many pedestrians and cyclists to comfortably and safely pass side by side on the Trail.

2. Repairs are needed to sinkholes and cracks between N. Fairfax Dr. and N. George Mason Dr. to prevent long-term, expensive repairs. Repairs to the existing split rail fence also are needed in this area.

Stop # 3: 7:30 – 8:00 PM at N. Emerson St. and N. Bluemont Dr. (meet adjacent to the Bluemont Junction bike path)

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Walk from Fields Park across Wilson Blvd. and then across N. George Mason Dr. to enter Bluemont Junction Trail and proceed west to N. Emerson St. At this stop, discuss topics for west and south Bluemont neighborhoods, including Bluemont and Bon Air Parks and the Bluemont Junction Trail
<p>1. Our Bluemont Junction Trail is badly in need of repair and installation of safety improvements including the following:</p> <p>A. Replacement is needed for over 70 rotten, missing or broken rails in the fence between N. George Mason Dr. and Bluemont Park, many fence posts need to be straightened up and large cracks and sinkholes on the path need to be filled.</p> <p>B. What programs are available to install more trash receptacles, benches, community bulletin boards and timed safety lights? (in conjunction with review by adjacent residents)</p> <p>C. Is there a comprehensive vision to improve and maintain the landscaping on this section of the Trail?</p> <p>2. There has been a significant increase in home invasion robberies, which may be linked to proximity to the bike path. What actions have been taken to address crime problems in other residential areas adjacent to bike paths and parks?</p> <p>3. What plan does the County have for the removal of invasive species along the Trail and in the parklands from N. Illinois St. to Bluemont Park?</p> <p>4. Storm water and sewer capacity — What will be done to prevent a repeat of the backup experienced in homes last year on N. Illinois St.?</p> <p>5. What is the time frame (year/qtr) for completion of the NC approved project (N400) for N. 5th St. from N. Greenbrier St. to N. Fredrick St. and N. Frederick St. – Carlin Springs Rd. to N 5th St.</p>
<p>Stop # 4: 8:00 – 8:30 PM at Safeway parking lot. Discuss Wilson Blvd. commercial area and adjacent neighborhoods Walk from the Bluemont Junction Trail along N. Emerson St., cross Wilson Blvd. and enter Safeway parking lot near the corner of N. Edison St.</p>
<p>BLUEMONT’S WILL EXPRESS ITS APPRECIATION TO THE COUNTY BOARD for funding the Wilson Blvd. ATM project and to the County staff for their planning work and ongoing communications with the Civic Association.</p>
<p>1. Recommend new placement of both the school warning signal pole and the traffic light pole at N. George Mason Dr. and Wilson Blvd. How can the school warning light be moved south to the next section of planting strip along George Mason where it</p>

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<p>can be better viewed by drivers (instead of at the intersection where drivers are paying attention to traffic and the traffic lights)? How can the traffic light pole be moved away from in front of the Bluemont garden and Constitution bell (to the position of the old cobra light pole which now holds the school warning signal).</p>	
<p>2. What is the schedule for completing the remaining ATM street and sidewalk improvements between N. George Mason Dr. and N. Frederick St.?</p> <p>Would the County consider adding a pedestrian light or other pedestrian safety improvements to the pedestrian crossing at N. Emerson St. and Wilson Blvd.? [Note: Despite the many good ATM improvements, this crossing is still hazardous.]</p>	
<p>3. What are the options for the future revitalization and development of the Wilson Blvd. commercial area as a “one of the few remaining locations in Arlington County where small businesses, sole proprietors and crafts-people can still find affordable commercial space.” (p. 32, <i>BCA NC Plan</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What long-term planning and funding support can BCA get from the County to address this aged commercial area? 	
<p>4. Undergrounding of utilities along Wilson Blvd. between N. George Mason Dr. and Bluemont-Bon Air parks — What are the options and a timeframe?</p>	
<p>5. Bike path connector along HWY I-66 to utilize the dead-end of the former Fairfax Dr. (at N Harrison St., near overpass) extension that now dead-ends in the I-66 easement area (behind St. Ann’s Catholic Church property) to create a N. Harrison St. spur to the existing adjacent Custis Bike Trail. Are there funds/programs available to complete this project that includes reclaiming unused right-of-way near I-66 W? Bike Arlington? Parks & Rec?</p> <p>[Note: There has been a noticeable increase in gang graffiti on the fence bordering I-66 on the south side as well as gang tags on nearby street signs. The isolation of the dead-end makes it a perfect sight for illicit gatherings and the dumping of trash.]</p>	
<p>6. What is the time frame for the ATM phase # 3 for N. Frederick St. to Bluemont Park and finally to the County line?</p>	
<p>7. What is the funding and completion time frame (year/qtr) for the proposed NC projects: Z076 for N. Frederick St. from I-66 to Wilson Blvd., and Z070 for 9th St. N. and N. Edison St. to N. Frederick St.</p>	
<p>Conclusion at 8:30 PM: Walking along the west side of Wilson Blvd., return to Fire Station for refreshments and wrap-up discussion</p>	

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