



# neighborhood news

The Latest News and Information from Your Bluemont Civic Association

May 2014

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

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## *Mark Your Calendars*

BCA Meetings (Executive & General) 7/7:30 pm, ATS, Sally Baird, School Board	5/28
Free Tree Deadline (details on p. 5)	6/13
Saturday in the Park Celebration 10 am–2 pm, Bon Air Park (details on p. 5)	6/21
BCA Meetings (Executive & Annual) 7/7:30 pm, ATS, BCA Election of Officers & Reps.	6/25
Sidewalk Safety Task Force Meeting 8 am, Two Chefs Restaurant	7/19
BCA Meetings (Executive & General) 7/7:30 pm, tentative date	9/24

**Next Meeting:**

**Wed., May 28**

**ATS, 7/7:30 pm**

## **Next Meeting: Wed., 5/28/14**

### *May's Guest: School Board Vice-Chair Sally Baird*



Please join us on Wed., May 28, at Arlington Traditional School (ATS), 855 N. Edison Street. The Executive Board and general membership meetings will begin at their regular 7/7:30 pm times.

Baird (who leaves the board on Dec. 31) has been tapped as the Bluemont community's Arlington Public Schools (APS) liaison. Baird will be on hand to discuss the 2014 APS Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which the School Board will approve in June.

School Superintendent Patrick Murphy presented his recommended CIP on May 8. See his presentation at [http://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/arlington/Board.nsf/files/9JXLA95455D5/\\$file/H-1%202015-2024%20CIP%20Presentation%20final.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/arlington/Board.nsf/files/9JXLA95455D5/$file/H-1%202015-2024%20CIP%20Presentation%20final.pdf). APS is scrambling to deal with overenrollment at many Arlington schools, including Washington-Lee. And the Superintendent's CIP concentrates on resolving the shortage of classroom seats at all levels, though it does not provide many details. With regard to capacity, the top concern appears to be at the high school level.

BCA members have wondered whether parts of Bluemont may be moved from Washington-Lee High School into the Wakefield High School attendance zone. To review the various options being considered (including ones for Washington-Lee, Arlington Traditional School, and Lubber Run Community Center), visit [http://www.apsva.us/cms/lib2/VA01000586/Centricity/Domain/110/031914\\_CIP\\_ESMS\\_Community\\_Mtg2.pdf](http://www.apsva.us/cms/lib2/VA01000586/Centricity/Domain/110/031914_CIP_ESMS_Community_Mtg2.pdf). At present, the Superintendent's CIP appears to put the middle school options at Lubber Run Community Center and at ATS on the back burner, though these options could be reconsidered in the future. The School Board has decided to keep the Wilson School site. APS may locate a new middle school there, but it is unclear at this time whether the existing historic building would be renovated or demolished.

*(cont'd on p. 2)*

## BCA Seeks Candidates for June 25 Election



The BCA Nominating Committee continues to seek candidates to run for office in the BCA election to be held at the June 25 Annual Meeting. The terms for all offices will run from the election date until the June 2015 elections. Several BCA members have committed to run for election, but more people are needed to ensure at least one candidate for each open office. The broad participation of Bluemont residents in BCA affairs is essential to ensuring the Civic Association's continued vibrancy. Please consider serving as an officer.

Each office is described in detail at [http://www.bluemontcivic.org/docs/BCA\\_BYLAWS\\_Dec2013MasterFINAL.pdf](http://www.bluemontcivic.org/docs/BCA_BYLAWS_Dec2013MasterFINAL.pdf). The slate appearing below is accurate as of press time. Additions will continue to be made until the slate is finalized at the May 28 general membership meeting.

Send nominations (yourself or someone else) to [NominatingCommittee@bluemontcivic.org](mailto:NominatingCommittee@bluemontcivic.org), or contact any of the Nominating Committee members directly: David Van Wagner ([dpvanwanger@gmail.com](mailto:dpvanwanger@gmail.com) / 703-524-5068), David Hughes ([davhughes@comcast.net](mailto:davhughes@comcast.net)), or Dean Foster ([cdandmar@verizon.net](mailto:cdandmar@verizon.net)).

Please note that under the recently amended BCA Bylaws, the Nominating Committee must accept as nominees for elective office any and all members in good standing, 18 years of age or older, who approach them to be nominated, whether those members are solicited by the committee or not. Only current BCA members (dues paid for 2014) are eligible to run for or hold office.

The Nominating Committee will announce its slate of nominees at the May 28 general membership meeting.

### Offices Open for Election

- President — **Candidate needed.**
- 1st & 2nd Vice-Presidents — Larry Smith and Kate Mattos
- Secretary — Jonn Lau
- Treasurer — **Candidate needed.**
- Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee Representative — Ed Fendley
- Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee Alternate — Dayna Davitz
- Civic Federation Delegates and Alternates (4 each) — Delegates: Dean Foster, David Hughes, Suzanne Sundburg, (**1 candidate needed**). Alternates: James McMullin, (**3 candidates needed**)

### Next meeting (cont'd)

In preparation for Baird's visit, BCA Webmaster Jonn Lau set up an online survey and has collected members' questions for Baird in advance. Several members have asked about options to let more local students attend ATS, including making it a neighborhood school. More information about the survey and the APS proposals for more seats for students is available at [http://www.bluemontcivic.org/index.php/bca\\_news/coming\\_up\\_on\\_may\\_28\\_sally\\_baird\\_to\\_visit/](http://www.bluemontcivic.org/index.php/bca_news/coming_up_on_may_28_sally_baird_to_visit/). (See p. 4 for a related article on school additions and construction.)

# BCA Meetings at a Glance

## Highlights from the April Meeting

- **Safeway** — The Bluemont Village Center Task Force reported that it has not received word from Safeway after having been told, most recently in January, to expect news in 60 days. In previous conversations, Safeway has said that decisions have been slowed by Cerberus Capital Management's impending acquisition, for which government regulatory approval may not occur until the end of 2014. The task force will reach out to Safeway again in May.
- **25 Glebe** — The task force reported that a draft site plan, including options for development with and without the Exxon service station parcel, has been submitted to the county. The remaining issue concerns liability for hazardous waste on the Exxon parcel. The draft site plan is not public, and county staff won't discuss it with the public. Despite community opposition, county staff continues to support locating the loading dock on an alley within as little as 8 feet of townhouse doorsteps.
- **Lubber Run Community Center Vote** — Members voted in favor of an amended resolution supporting the Arlington Forest Citizens Association's position on Lubber Run: "[T]he BCA supports both the March 19, 2014 and April 9, 2014 Resolutions and the January 30, 2014 Vision Statement of the Arlington Forest Citizens Association as they pertain to the Lubber Run Community Center and the surrounding green and outdoor recreation space."
- **Unnamed Woods Vote** — Members voted to approve a motion to name an unnamed woodland bounded by N. Carlin Springs Road, N. Kensington Street, 4th Street North, and the Arlington Forest Club. [UPDATE: Additional research is in progress after it was learned that the BCA passed a similar motion in May 2003.]
- **Neighborhood Day Vote** — Members vote to approve a budget of up to \$200 to cover advertising and activity costs related to Neighborhood Day (May 17) and a possible arrangement with the Tiny Tim Treats food truck.

Complete draft minutes can be reviewed at [bluemontcivic.org](http://bluemontcivic.org). Many thanks to Webmaster Jonn Lau for taking minutes in the absence of Secretary Laura Kirkconnell.

## April Civic Federation Meeting Recap

The Revenue & Expenditures Committee presented a report on a resolution recommending a reduction in the County Manager's proposed \$1.006 real estate tax rate by \$0.03. Copies of the report and the resolution are available on the Federation's home page <http://www.civfed.org/> under the "April 1 Meeting" heading. Members voted in favor of the resolution, and the County Board subsequently approved a \$0.01 reduction to the real estate tax rate.

County Planner Deborah Albert, with the county zoning staff, presented Phase II, Part B of staff's requested revisions to the zoning ordinance which she described as an effort to codify current administrative practices and to update the ordinance to reflect changes in the Virginia statutes. At the County Board's May 10 meeting, staff requested authorization to advertise these revisions. A complete copy of the proposed revisions with staff comments is available at <http://projects.arlingtonva.us/zoning-ordinance-update/>.

Many thanks to Dean Foster and David Hughes for reporting on this meeting.

## Updates on School Additions

**Ashlawn Elementary School** — Grunley Construction says the addition is on schedule and will be ready for the opening of the 2014–15 school year. Eighth Street North will be closed to nearly all traffic for seven weeks in order to reconfigure the front entrance to the school. Discussion continues on the design of the “back entrance” on N. Montague Street, with several people pressing for more “sustainable” construction using less concrete. [Note: Part of the existing building already encroaches into a Chesapeake Bay Resource Protection Area.] Even with the addition, Ashlawn is projected to be overenrolled by 2017 and may need relocatables in 2018.

**McKinley Elementary School** — The final design has been decided: The addition will be placed on the front of the existing building. Residents of N. McKinley Road had preferred locating the addition behind the existing building to preserve the trees and open space on the front, whereas residents living behind the school wanted the addition placed on the front. Site schematics and the presentation made on April 24 are available at [https://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/arlington/Board.nsf/files/9JFPA3639715/\\$file/G-1%20McKinley%20Schematic%20Design.pdf](https://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/arlington/Board.nsf/files/9JFPA3639715/$file/G-1%20McKinley%20Schematic%20Design.pdf) and [https://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/arlington/Board.nsf/files/9JFPA63A378/\\$file/G-1%20%20McKinley%20Schematic%20Design%20Pres.pdf](https://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/arlington/Board.nsf/files/9JFPA63A378/$file/G-1%20%20McKinley%20Schematic%20Design%20Pres.pdf).



**Washington-Lee High School** — APS has proposed spending between \$5 and \$10 million on interior renovations to the W-L building over the next few years to increase the capacity of core spaces and right-size some classrooms. The renovations would expand W-L’s capacity to 2,200 in order to accommodate projected enrollment growth through the 2017–18 school year, if voters approve the APS bond proposal (including funds for this project) in November. It appears that APS has abandoned plans to co-locate a middle school nearby.

### Sidewalk Tour with Mary Hynes

On May 1, County Board Vice-Chair Mary Hynes joined BCA President George Rovder and Sidewalk Safety Task Force Co-Chair Ed Fendley on a bus/walking tour to compare and contrast street configurations and sidewalk conditions along Washington and Wilson Boulevards.

During the visit, the group studied Washington Boulevard’s “Complete Street” configuration and observed its impact on midday bus travel. Between rides on METRO and ART buses, the group walked through Westover’s urban village—named as an aspirational model in Bluemont’s Neighborhood Conservation Plan (NC Plan)—and then through Bluemont to reach Wilson Boulevard. There, the group compared its configuration and conditions with those of Washington Boulevard. Though Wilson has a similar traffic count, it provides little or no safe space for pedestrians or cyclists—a problem Bluemont’s NC Plan seeks to remedy.

County staff has reported to the County Board that it is considering the BCA’s request to reconfigure Wilson Boulevard in order to improve sidewalks so that they meet safety standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The BCA Sidewalk Safety Task Force will next meet Sat., July 19, at 8 am at Two Chefs Restaurant.



## Select Your Free Tree NOW!

Wouldn't you like a FREE 6-foot-tall shade tree planted in your yard this fall by a professional tree service? All you have to do is provide water to maintain it. Review the program guidelines and 26 species from which to choose at <http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org>, then contact neighborhood coordinator David Queen at [daqmtq@yahoo.net](mailto:daqmtq@yahoo.net) or Nora Palmatier at [norapalm@verizon.net](mailto:norapalm@verizon.net) for assistance in selecting and registering your choice. The deadline to order your new tree is June 13.



## June 21: Bon Air Park Celebration



*Bon Air's Rose Garden*

On Sat., June 21, Arlington will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its Virginia Cooperative Extension program with the garden tours, tree walks, and nature walks in Bon Air Park.

Master Gardeners will be on

hand to answer questions, and TreeStewards will lead tree identification walks at 11 am and 2 pm. Volunteers have worked hard to rejuvenate Bon Air's parkland and gardens. Please consider becoming a volunteer.

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### ***What's Inside?***

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- ***Safeway Update, p. 3***
- ***Free Trees, p. 5***

### **Remember To Lock Up!**

With the nice spring weather comes the temptation to leave doors and windows unlocked. In addition to keeping doors and windows (particularly those on the first floor of a residence) secure, the Arlington Police Department has some helpful home-security tips to minimize the risk of burglary and the loss of valuables. Visit <http://police.arlingtonva.us/prevention-safety/> to learn more.



Bluemont's police liaison, Officer Beth Lennon, also consistently urges residents to keep cars locked and to remove ALL items from your car when not in use. GPS units are hot targets, but other items left in a car may tempt burglars to break in and see what else they might find.