



neighborhood news

The Latest News and Information from Your Bluemont Civic Association

June 2014

bluemontcivic.org

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Mark Your Calendars

BCA Meetings (Executive & Annual)	6/25
7/7:30 pm, ATS, BCA Election of Officers & Reps.	
Independence Day Bell Ringing	7/4
Noon, Constitution Garden Park	
Sidewalk Safety Task Force Meeting	7/19
8 am, Two Chefs Restaurant	
Labor Day Bell Ringing	9/1
Noon, Constitution Garden Park	
Sidewalk Safety Task Force Meeting	9/20
8 am, Two Chefs Restaurant	
BCA Meetings (Executive & General)	9/30
7/7:30 pm, ATS, tentative date	

June Annual Meeting & Election

Please join us on Wed., June 25, at Arlington Traditional School (ATS), 855 N. Edison Street. The Executive Board will meet at 7 pm, and the Annual Meeting and election will start at 7:30 pm.

Slate of Elections 2014–2015

President—Jonn Lau

1st Vice-President—Kate Mattos

2nd Vice-President—Larry Smith

Secretary—George Rovder

Treasurer—David Van Wagner

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 more
candidate needed). Alternates: Carla Aly (3 more candidates
needed)*

*Note: James McMullin notified the BCA that he was withdrawing as a
candidate for Civic Federation alternate. He hopes to serve again in the future.



Next Meeting:

Wed., June 25 ATS, 7/7:30 pm

Only current BCA members (dues paid for 2014) age 18 or older are eligible to run for or hold office. Nominations from the floor will be taken to fill the open slot for a delegate and the three slots for an alternate delegate to the Arlington County Civic Federation.

The 2014 Nominating Committee—David Van Wagner, Dean Foster and David Hughes—are to be commended for their hard work in drafting candidates. The final election slate, shown above, was presented at the conclusion of the May meeting.

BCA Meetings at a Glance

Highlights from the May Meeting

- **Sally Baird's Visit**—The discussion centered primarily on the various options to relieve school overcrowding, with the School Board looking carefully at building a “choice” elementary school on county property next to Thomas Jefferson Middle School and a new, midrise middle school on the historic Wilson School site in Rosslyn. Though she didn't discount other possibilities, saying, “nothing is off the table.”



In response to questions about adding a preference for Bluemont children at ATS, Baird replied that she thought there was little chance of a preference for local kids being added unless the school was enlarged to take grades K–8. Moving ATS or any other choice program to another existing school building is problematic because it displaces neighborhood students at the receiving school.

Baird covered an exhaustive list of programs and initiatives to improve student achievement and graduation rates at Wakefield High School. She also noted that APS was still in the process of determining Ashlawn's incoming enrollment for 2014–2015. If the enrollment figures are higher than expected, Baird thought that some kindergarteners who were scheduled to move from McKinley to Ashlawn might remain at McKinley.

- **Safeway**—The Bluemont Village Center Task Force provided a written report on Safeway and answered questions. Safeway's public relations manager has indicated that the impending acquisition by Cerberus Capital Management (a private equity group) is slowing down the decision-making process a bit. Task Force Co-Chair Carla Aly noted that Safeway still has not solidified its plans for the store located in the Palisades (on MacArthur Blvd. in DC), for which redevelopment is also being contemplated.

The task force will continue to monitor the situation over the summer. Subsequent to the May meeting, Georgetown Day School announced its purchase of the Safeway site in Tenleytown. Safeway had originally considered replacing the existing store with a mixed-use building including more than 160 apartments.

- **25 Glebe**—Terry Serie, chair of the 25 Glebe Task Force, reported that the results of soil tests (for toxic materials) on the Exxon property would determine whether it will be included as part of the site plan. Without the Exxon parcel, the plan calls for 120 apartments. Still at issue is the location of the loading dock. The community has repeatedly stated its objections to locating the loading dock, adjacent to existing single-family townhomes, in the alley at the 7th Street end of the building. The BCA membership voted to extend the 25 Glebe Task Force charter through May 27, 2015.



BCA's Summer Break

Please remember, the BCA typically doesn't hold general membership meetings in July or August. The Executive Board continues to meet monthly, and all members in good standing are welcome to attend. Please visit www.bluemontcivic.org for Executive Board meeting dates/locations in July and August. Our next general membership meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tues., Sept. 30 (pending confirmation from ATS).

A Message From the President

After our long winter and as we enjoy longer, warmer days, we can reflect with pride on the achievements that we—as neighbors who meet, discuss and work together—have accomplished this past year.

Participation: We have added new members. Many have volunteered to serve the community as BCA officers, representatives and liaisons or as members of committees that research and inform us on matters of special interest.

Recognition: The Arlington County Board acknowledged the hard work of many BCA members when it officially accepted Bluemont's updated Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Plan in December. The updated plan serves as the Bluemont neighborhood's reference document outlining residents' view of how we wish to develop and move forward as a community. The updated plan also places Bluemont at the top of the funding queue for NC projects.

Policy: Members voted to approve updates to the BCA Bylaws—the document governing the association's operations.



Community Solidarity: BCA representatives attended meetings held to consider site plans in neighboring associations. Members voted to support the Arlington Forest Citizens Association's vision statement and resolutions concerning the possible repurposing of public land in Lubber Run.

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Preserving and Improving the Fabric of the Neighborhood: BCA volunteers devoted many hours meeting and working with County Board and staff members to develop a complete-street configuration to make Wilson Boulevard safer for all users. Members also voted to adopt an official BCA position regarding possible future redevelopment of the Safeway located at 5101 Wilson Blvd.

Making the Most of Redevelopment: BCA volunteers devoted many hours representing our interests at public meetings related to proposed redevelopment. One example of the BCA's positive influence is the Marymount site plan, which now includes significant funding for a western entrance of the Ballston Metro station and improvements to parkland surrounding the beaver pond.

Information: The BCA has provided members with updates and opportunities to participate in various local initiatives such as the Auxiliary Police Program; rehabilitation work in Lacey Woods Park, Bon Air Park, and along the Bluemont Junction Trail; free tree give-aways; street cleaning efforts; leaf collection; emergency response; and more.

Speakers: The BCA has hosted speakers—including the Arlington School Board, Arlington Food Assistance Center, Arlington Neighborhood Villages and Marymount University—on topics of community interest.

Arlington County Civic Federation: The BCA's Civic Federation delegates and alternates have represented us well. Several participate on committees that

(cont'd on p. 4)

From the President (cont'd)

study and recommend good governance policy for our community.

Supporting Our Own: The BCA continues to reach out to our neighborhood's great small businesses to seek their views and see how we can help them.

Fun: We have continued neighborhood traditions such as the children's Halloween Parade and celebrating Neighborhood Day, and we added a holiday social and food drive in December.



Tribute:

In January, members hosted a tribute to the memory of our dear friend Bob Atkins, founding president of the association and a tireless advocate for good in our community.

It's Up to Us: All that we have done collectively to make and keep Bluemont a safe, pleasant and friendly place to live is thanks to the efforts and contributions of those who have taken an active role in our association by volunteering their time and talents. It has been my privilege as president to meet and work with each of you. It's great to see so many actively involved members and so many new faces.

My best wishes to the incoming president and Executive Board.

George

May Civic Federation Meeting

The Revenues & Expenditures (R&E) Committee updated delegates on the county's efforts to establish an independent audit function, as requested by the county's external auditor for the past two years. R&E distributed a written report, a copy of which can be accessed at <http://www.civfed.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/ArlingtonCtyInternalControls.pdf>.

Delegates passed a resolution asking the county and school system "to select sites [for school construction] that will minimize the degradation or reduction of existing park, recreation, resource, wildlife and open space and preferably find a way to repurpose existing county or school facilities if at all possible; and ... to carry out at the earliest stages environmental impact assessments and design reviews aimed at evaluating, among other impacts, how best to minimize the discharge of additional storm water to the Chesapeake Bay watershed that is projected to result from school redevelopment or new construction." This resolution was prompted by the proposal to build a 1,300-seat middle school on the Lubber Run Community Center site, which would involve the removal of over 170 mature trees. See the full resolution at <http://www.civfed.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Resolution-by-Enviro-Affairs-w-Seymour-Pelton-and-Jolly-edits-2-1.pdf>.

Arlington's Virginia General Assembly delegation was on hand. They reported that Virginia is losing \$5 million a day in federal Medicaid funds to which it is entitled. Without the expansion of Medicaid, a hospital in Southwest Virginia has already announced that it must close. [Update: The resignation of Sen. Puckett (D-Russell) altered the balance in the Virginia State Senate, scuttling the expansion of Medicaid but likely avoiding a state government shutdown.]

Following up on a question about expansion of the North Anna nuclear power station, approximately 70 miles south of Arlington, BCA delegate Suzanne Sundburg asked the legislators whether their colleagues downstate were aware that North Anna is located in the Central Virginia Seismic Zone. Despite the 5.8 magnitude earthquake in Aug. 2011 that shook the plant hard enough to shut down the reactor and jostle 1.15-ton spent fuel casks, the legislative delegation's consensus was that few members of the legislature in Richmond were well informed on the matter.

Va. House Delegate Patrick Hope presented a certificate containing a resolution passed by the General Assembly to honor Robert G. "Bob" Atkins's life and public service.



New Yard-Waste Collection

Beginning July 1, the county will have a new, separate, weekly, year-round yard-waste collection for those residents who currently have county trash and recycling pickup. (This collection replaces the spring yard-waste collection.)

As of 7/1, plastic bags cannot be used to dispose of yard waste, and yard waste can no longer be placed in the black trash carts. The new, green yard-waste carts won't be delivered until August or September. Until then, yard waste must be placed in brown paper bags (leaf bags) or bundled for pickup. The county is providing free paper bags at only two locations: 2100 Clarendon Blvd. (the government center) and the Arlington Trades Center at 4300 29th Street South. You are asked to limit yourself to 10 bags per person per visit.

You may still call for a special brush pickup for larger tree limbs and similar materials. And the fall leaf collection will continue as usual.

If you contract with a lawn service, you are responsible for instructing the lawn service to use the brown paper bags for disposal of yard waste, or you must transfer the waste from plastic bags into the brown paper bags for collection.

For more details, visit <http://recycling.arlingtonva.us/residential/yard-waste/year-round/>.

HELP WANTED: Newsletter Editor(s)

The BCA is looking for writers/editors to help produce the association's newsletter. The BCA publishes up to 10 editions between September and June. If you are interested, please contact George Rovder at president@bluemontcivic.org.

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Use the email addresses listed below to reach specific individuals electronically.

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June Meeting Guest: The Penrose Group

The Penrose Group is our invited guest. After the election, Penrose will present plans for the 25 Glebe site (600 block of N. Glebe Road between Carlin



Rendering of the proposed 25 Glebe building

Springs Road and 7th Street) that it intends to submit to the county over the summer. The Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) will likely take up the matter in September. The proposed building is 6 stories (height of approx. 70 feet) with ground-floor retail and apartments above. See related information on p. 2.