



neighborhood news

The Latest News and Information from Your Bluemont Civic Association

April 2016

bluemontcivic.org

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Mark Your Calendars

BCA Meetings (Exec. & General) 7/7:30 pm, ATS	4/27
Ballston Farmers Market 3–7 pm (Thursdays, 901 N. Taylor St.)	4/28
Republican 8 th District Convention 10 am, Kenmore Middle School	5/7
Taste of Arlington Noon–6 pm (outside Ballston Mall)	5/15
BCA Meetings (Exec. & General) 7/7:30 pm, ATS	5/25
Memorial Day Bell Ringing Noon, Constitution Garden Park	5/30
Democratic Primary 6 am–7 pm (regular polling stations)	6/14
BCA Annual Meeting/Election 7/7:30 pm, ATS	6/22

NEXT MEETING: April 27, 2016

Topics for April:

- Pedestrian Safety on N. Emerson/Edison/6th Streets
- Update on Mazda Block Redevelopment
- Latest on Lubber Run Community Center
- Join/Renew Membership for 2016 (see p. 6)

Please join us on Wed., 4/27/30, at Arlington Traditional School (ATS), 855 N. Edison Street. The Executive Board and general membership meetings will begin at 7 and 7:30 pm, respectively.

BCA member and neighbor Nick Pastore has asked to discuss speeding, cut-through traffic and pedestrian safety problems at the intersection of N. Emerson, Edison and 6th Streets.



*Troublesome intersection
at N. Emerson/Edison/6th Streets*

These roads are fairly narrow, line of site

is poor, and there are two school bus stops in the vicinity. Complaints about pedestrian safety at this busy intersection have been reported since 2005.

The BCA will invite a member of county staff, perhaps from the new Neighborhood Complete Streets program, to review streetscape elements that improve pedestrian safety. (For more information about Neighborhood Complete Streets and to view the project-ranking guidelines, visit <http://projects.arlingtonva.us/programs/complete-streets/>.)

BCA committee chairs, representatives and liaisons (see list on p. 5) also will be on hand to update members on current redevelopment projects, plans for a new Lubber Run Community Center, and other important topics in the community. Come, ask questions and raise items for discussion.

Next Meeting:

**Wed., Apr. 27
ATS, 7/7:30 pm**

(cont'd on p. 2)

BCA Meetings at a Glance

March Recap

In the absence of a quorum (minimum of three officers present), no business was conducted. Instead, the Executive Board and general membership meetings were informational only.

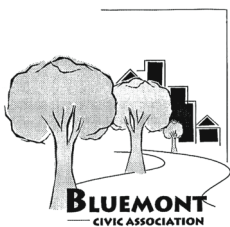
Police Liaison Officer Ruiz and Sergeant Tabibi relayed local crime statistics and answered members' questions. Both officers highly recommended filing online police reports to alert police to suspicious activity in the neighborhood (see related article on p. 4).

BCA member Nick Pastore provided an overview of pedestrian safety and traffic problems at the intersection of N. Emerson/ Edison/6th Streets, noting that he had nearly been struck by a vehicle while walking in that area. Pastore is seeking comments on these traffic problems and would like to receive community input on the traffic-calming options people prefer. Please submit comments online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TZ3VHGR>.

At the Feb. meeting, the membership voted to authorize Pres. Rovder to draft and send two letters. The first letter, addressed to the County Board, would express the BCA's disappointment with the county's snow-removal efforts in Jan. and provide the community's recommended changes to improve future efforts. The second letter, addressed to the Board of Zoning Appeals, would register the BCA's opposition to the extension of loading dock hours for the Va. Tech building (900 N. Glebe Road) to 5 am–11 pm, 7 days a week.

Copies of these letters were distributed to members at the March meeting. The snow-removal letter and the Virginia Tech loading dock letter will be attached to the meeting minutes for March. Minutes can be reviewed at www.bluemontcivic.org.

When Do We Meet?



The BCA meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month (Executive Board at 7 pm, the membership at 7:30 pm) in Arlington Traditional School's library. However, we may move meetings to other dates to avoid holidays or other conflicts. Please check

the BCA website—www.bluemontcivic.org—for last-minute meeting date changes/cancellations.

Spreading the Word—

Thank You Volunteer Carriers!

We offer special thanks to all the neighbors who volunteered their time to deliver this newsletter to households



across Bluemont free of charge. Twice a year, BCA volunteers hand-distribute the association newsletter neighborhood-wide (to members and nonmembers alike) as part of our outreach efforts.

Distributing the newsletter is easy. And we have an ongoing need for carriers. Neighbors who are interested in volunteering to help distribute the newsletter should contact David Van Wagner (dpvanwagner@gmail.com).

NEXT MEETING: April 27, 2016 (cont'd)

Since we lacked a quorum (at least 3 officers) at the March meeting, the membership will take a formal vote to confirm three volunteers for the Nominating Committee (see related article on p. 6).

Reminder: We encourage all Bluemont residents to attend BCA meetings. However, only current members have voting privileges. If you haven't yet joined or renewed, please bring cash or a check for \$15 to the meeting, or use the form on p. 6 to pay by mail.

Redevelopment Projects

Mazda Site Redevelopment Update



On March 21, at the fourth site plan review committee (SPRC), the discussion focused on exterior finishes and architectural design. BCA representatives and other SPRC members continued to call into question the building's domination of the block. The design gives the external appearance of being several buildings, but it continues to function as single, monolithic structure.

Several established county planning policies and principles have largely fallen by the wayside, including the preservation and use of existing alleys (one of which provides access to N. Glebe Road) that could be used to facilitate vehicular circulation through and around this superblock site. Since passing a resolution in June 2015, the BCA has continued to press the applicant to provide design options that are consistent with county planning policies and principles for edge development countywide.

The applicant also has requested upzoning to an RA4.8 zoning district, which has no building height limit; the applicant (B.F. Saul) has stated that it has no plans to build beyond the currently planned height of 156 feet.

Another SPRC meeting will be held, likely in April, and the County Board has pushed back consideration of the project until its June meeting. Background information on this 483-unit, mixed-use apartment project can be found in back issues of *Neighborhood News* (May '15, June '15, Oct. '15, Jan. '16, March '16) at www.bluemontcivic.org.

672 Flats (670 N. Glebe Road)

Known locally as the "Exxon block," the Exxon station is scheduled to be demolished in April. A perimeter fence has been erected around the station. Once construction begins, cranes will be located at either end of the block. Access for construction vehicles to the site will be available from 7th Street North.

Background information for this 178-unit, mixed-use apartment building is available in back issues of *Neighborhood News* (Dec. '13, Jan. '14, April '14, June '14, Oct. '14, Oct. '15) at www.bluemontcivic.org.

We express our thanks for the long hours put in by Exxon Block Task Force Chair Terry Serie, David Hughes, and the many committee members who worked so hard—along with Penrose (the applicant)—to ensure that this edge development project resulted in a truly complementary design that makes a nice, compatible transition to the Bluemont neighborhood.

Ballston Quarter Pedestrian Bridge

The Ballston pedestrian bridge crossing Wilson Blvd. will be demolished as part of the site plan for redeveloping the Ballston Common Mall site. The design process to replace the bridge is now underway and will conclude in June when the proposed design will be presented to the County Manager.

Several initial design concepts were shown to the public at a community meeting held on March 30. To see the schedule for the bridge design process or to sign up to receive e-mail updates for this project, visit <http://projects.arlingtonva.us/ballston-quarter-pedestrian-bridge/>.

Filing Police Reports Online

Officer Cesar Ruiz, our police liaison, has encouraged residents to call the nonemergency police line (703-558-2222) when they see suspicious activity or people, but sometimes residents are hesitant to call the police for fear of being mistaken.

If you want an immediate response from police, you must call the nonemergency number to report suspicious activity (or 911 if a crime/emergency is taking place). However, if you see something suspicious or if you'd simply like to pass on a tip, you may submit your report online instead.

As with telephone reports, you must provide specific information—a detailed physical description of suspicious individuals, vehicle descriptions with plate numbers, time and location information, etc.—for online reports.

Filing an online report when you see suspicious activity keeps the police informed and helps them develop a better understanding of potential criminal activity and trends within our community. To learn more or to submit a police report online, visit <http://police.arlingtonva.us/online-police-reporting-system/>.

Taste of Arlington, May 15



The annual Taste of Arlington features more than 50 of Arlington's best restaurants. It will be held along Wilson Blvd.—from N. Glebe Road to N. Quincy Street—across from the Ballston Common Mall, noon–6 pm, on Sun., May 15.

In addition to food, there will be a KidZone with face painting and games and activities as well as a BarkPark for dogs. Tickets (nonrefundable, as the event is held rain or shine) can be purchased via the Ballston Business Improvement District (Ballston BID) website at <http://www.ballstonbid.com/taste/faqs/about>.

Ballston Farmers Market Opens

The seasonal Ballston Farmers Market is held on Thursdays beginning April 14 (thru Oct. 27) from 3 pm to 7 pm each week. In addition to fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, eggs, cut flowers, breads, beauty products and more are for sale. The market is located at 901 N. Taylor Street (Welburn Square) across the street from the Ballston Metro stop.

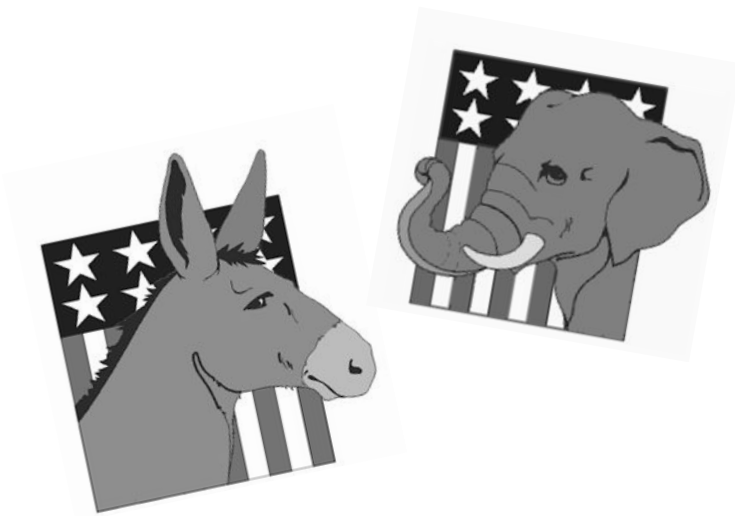


I-66 Widening Inside the Beltway

In Feb., Gov. McAuliff struck a deal to approve HOT lanes inside the beltway on I-66. High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes are scheduled to open in the middle of 2017. The tolls are demand-based, meaning that the toll will go up or down based upon the number of users going inbound during the morning rush and outbound during the evening rush. Drivers using the HOT lanes during the rush hours must have an E-ZPass transponder in the vehicle.

Drivers with at least one other occupant in a vehicle still get to ride free. Hybrid drivers will lose their exemption and pay the toll unless they meet the HOV-2 requirement.

The deal will accelerate the eastbound widening of I-66 inside the beltway between the Dulles Connector and Ballston by as much as 5 years (with completion by 2020). Though the governor promised that all construction would take place within the "right of way," there may be some visible impact to property owners living along the highway. Engineering drawings showing the existing right of way can be found at http://inside.transform66.org/documents/meetings/jan2015designhearing/0066-96a-08_washington_blvd_to_glebe.pdf. Questions about the project may be sent to the I-66 project team at <http://inside.transform66.org>.



Spring Primary/Convention

- **Rep. Convention May 7 (8th District Rep.)**
- **Dem. Caucus May 19 & 21 (School Board)**
- **Dem. Primary June 14 (County Board)**

The Republican Party will hold a convention (canvass) on May 7 to select its nominee for the House of Representative's seat for the 8th congressional district. Two candidates, Charles Hernick and Mike Webb, are seeking the nomination. Participation in the canvass is restricted to those registered voters who sign a pledge to support the Republican Party and its nominee. See <http://vagop8cd.org/2016-8th-district-convention/> for details.

A Democratic caucus will be held on May 19 and 21 to endorse a candidate for Arlington School Board. Caucus candidates are Nancy Van Doren (incumbent), Chaz Crismon, Michael Shea, and Tannia Talento. School Board candidates do not run as party nominees but may be endorsed by a political party. For details, visit <http://www.arlingtondemocrats.org/>. Party caucuses typically require voters to sign a pledge to support the Democratic-endorsed candidate. Other competing candidates will have until June 14 to qualify for a spot on the general election ballot in Nov.

Two candidates, Libby Garvey (incumbent) and Erik Gutshall (a member of the Planning Commission), who are vying for a seat on the Arlington County Board will be on the June 14 Democratic primary ballot. Primaries in Arlington are open to all registered voters (no loyalty oath required). Whoever wins this primary will face Independent candidate Audrey Clement in the Nov. 8 election.

Contact Information

Use the e-mail addresses listed below to reach specific individuals electronically.

President

George Rovder president@bluemontcivic.org

First Vice President

Larry Smith firstvp@bluemontcivic.org

Second Vice President

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Treasurer

David Van Wagner treasurer@bluemontcivic.org

Secretary

Christy Vigfusson secretary@bluemontcivic.org

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) Representative

Rich Gibson ncac-rep@bluemontcivic.org

Civic Federation Delegates and Alternates

Dean Foster, David Hughes, Suzanne Sundburg
(Alternates: Carla Aly, Mark Haynes, Kate Mattos, Larry Smith)

BCA Representatives & Committee Chairs

NCAC Alternate

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Webmaster

Jonn Lau webmaster@bluemontcivic.org

Ballston BID Board Member

Larry Smith firstvp@bluemontcivic.org

Emergency Preparedness Liaison

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Metro Liaison

Henry McFarland hmcfarland@hotmail.com

Parks and Recreation Liaison

Nora Palmatier norapalm@verizon.net

Sidewalk Safety Task Force

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Chris Healey cphealey@mac.com

Bikeshare Task Force

Nick Babiak n.babiak@verizon.net

Ed Fendley edfendley@gmail.com

Arlington Police Dept. Liaison

Officer Cesar Ruiz cruz@arlingtonva.us

BCA Nominating Committee Seeks Candidates



In March, three BCA members—Dean Foster, Mark Haynes, and Nick Pastore—volunteered to serve on the 2016 Nominating Committee. We will vote to confirm them at the April meeting. This committee will finalize an elections slate at the May 25 meeting in preparation for the June 22 Annual Meeting and election.

Candidates for all positions are being sought. Descriptions of each elected office are found in the association's bylaws: http://www.bluemontcivic.org/docs/BCA_BYLAWS_Dec2013MasterFINAL.pdf. Members in good standing who wish to run for a position must identify themselves to the committee prior to or during the May 25 meeting. We urge all members in good standing to consider running for elected office. The organization's ability to serve the needs of residents and our community depends solely on volunteers. The BCA receives NO COUNTY FUNDING.

Please contact Dean (cdandmar@verizon.net or 703-243-9495), Mark (mqhaynes@gmail.com), or Nick (nick@nickpastore.com) to nominate yourself or recommend someone else.

Mulch Is Available

In addition to shrubs and bedding plants, trees need a layer of leaf-mulch nourishment to energize the soil. Leaf mulch delivers more nutrients more quickly than does wood mulch.

When applying mulch around trees, avoid the volcano syndrome—piling mulch up against the trunk. Instead, spread mulch evenly around the tree in a circle (like a doughnut with a hole in the middle for the trunk). Mulch should be only 3 inches deep and placed 3 inches away from the trunk to avoid pest infestation or rot.

Arlington County will deliver 2.5 or 5 cubic yards of leaf mulch throughout the year for \$40 or \$50, respectively. Order mulch online via the county's website (<http://recycling.arlingtonva.us/residential/mulch-dirt/>) or call 703-228-6570. Prepare your trees and shrubs now for important spring growth and to summer heat!

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Enclose or attach \$15 dues for Jan. 1–Dec. 31, 2016.

GO PAPERLESS AND SAVE TREES

- Check this box to receive *BCA Neighborhood News* electronically rather than by mail. Be sure to provide your e-mail address! (All information is for BCA use only.)

Name _____

Address _____

E-Mail _____

- Bring this form and cash or a check for \$15 to join or renew at the April 27 general membership meeting at ATS, or
- Mail the form with your check to the Bluemont Civic Association at BCA Treasurer, PO Box 5134, Arlington VA 22205.