



neighborhood news

The Latest News and Information from Your Bluemont Civic Association

October 2018

bluemontcivic.org

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Mark Your Calendars

2018: Wed., Oct. 24; Wed., Nov. 28;
Wed., Dec. 12

2019: Wed., Jan. 23; Wed., Feb. 27;
Wed., March 27; Wed., April 24;
Wed., May 22; Wed., June 26*

*Annual Meeting: Vote for 2018-19
Executive Board and officers

Meeting dates are subject to change due
to space availability or other conflicts.
Please check <https://bluemont.nextdoor.com>
and <http://www.bluemontcivic.org/>
for updates.

Next Meeting: Wed., Oct. 24, 2018

7 pm Executive Board, 7:30 pm General Membership

Topics for April:

- **VOTE on resolution opposing cutting of trees for Upton Hill Park renovations**
- **Requested Site Plan amendment to expand loading dock hours and on-street loading at 800 N. Glebe Road**
- **County improvements to pedestrian safety on 6th Street**

Please join us on Wednesday, Oct. 24 at 7:00 pm for the Executive Board meeting and at 7:30 pm for the General Membership meeting in the library of the Arlington Traditional School 855 N Edison St. All members are welcome to attend the Executive Board meeting.

Don't forget to renew your membership! Please bring cash or a check in the amount of \$15 payable to the "Bluemont Civic Association".



Thanks to Our Newsletter Carriers!

A volunteer army of neighbors hand-delivered this month's free newsletter to your home or business. That's over 2,000 newsletters! We greatly appreciate the efforts of our volunteers in helping keep us all informed about Bluemont news.

BCA thanks Maureen Weiller, Adrienne & Michael Pilot, Mary Thorne, Henry & MaryAnn McFarland, Don Sottile, Kathleen Reilly, Dean Foster, John & Julie Van Doren, Judy Collins, George Rovder, Ellen Armbruster, Stephanie Paup, Lynn Barton, Mike & Bernadette Wolford, Susan Mockler, Bob Maynes, Laura & Bill Brothers, Lisa Kelly, Kate Mattos, Joi Kudirka, Caroline & Mark Haynes, Jody Harrington, Richard & Caroline Young, Terry Serie, and Angelo Collins for contributing their time and effort.

The BCA delivers a free newsletter to all houses in the neighborhood in the spring and fall. We could always use more help distributing newsletters. If you'd like to help, please contact David Van Wagner (dpvanwagner@gmail.com).

Next Meeting:

Wed., Oct. 24

ATS, 7/7:30 pm

Come Ring Our Bell!

Every federal holiday at noon, BCA hosts the ringing of the bell at Constitution Gardens (corner of George Mason and Wilson). Everyone is welcome. You and your children can ring the bell! Mark your calendars for **Thursday, November 22 (Thanksgiving); Tuesday, December 25, (Christmas Day); Tuesday, January 1 (New Year's Day); Monday, January 21, (Martin Luther King Day); Monday February 18 (President's Day)**, and all the federal holidays!

Improving Pedestrian and Vehicular Safety Along 6th Street

Arlington's Neighborhood Complete Streets (NCS) program is funding safety improvements at the intersections of 6th Street, North and N. Edison Street; and 6th Street North and N. Emerson Street. North Edison Street is also a bike route that leads to the Bluemont Junction Trail, one block north of the project area. Currently the combination of a sharp curve and an extremely wide intersection creates unsafe conditions for pedestrians.

NCS planners reviewed options for safety improvements with BCA at the June 27th General Membership meeting. On July 9th, an NCS designer informed the BCA Executive Board that NCS had revised plans based on input from BCA and an on-line survey. The finalized plans are available at this link: <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/6th-street-n-at-edison-street-and-emerson-street/>. Changes include moving the center line of the curb; painting curb extensions; reducing parking restrictions; and reducing the speed limit in the curve. The NCS designer said that while many Bluemont respondents found flexipost delineators unattractive, others wanted them to protect pedestrians. Flexiposts could be put back into the design with planters added inside the pedestrian area if the neighborhood would like planters and be willing to maintain the plants. The NCA designer said the County cannot install planters without flexiposts. The NCS designer looks forward to continuing this dialog with BCA and moving forward on the improvements.

What's Up with the Website?

If you've visited the BCA website, www.bluemontcivic.org, you probably wondered why it was out of date, or why (as of September) it had little more than updated meeting notices. We are currently updating the website so it will be under construction for the next few months. Don't worry, we will still post meeting announcements while this construction occurs! That content will be updated and again made available after a new site is developed that can keep members up to date on BCA activities.

Construction Update: Carlin Springs Road Bridge Project

Construction of the replacement Carlin Springs Road bridge has passed the half-way point. A new southern bridge deck now provides a pedestrian walkway and carries one lane of vehicular traffic in each direction.

The current traffic pattern will remain in place through 2018 until the new northern bridge deck is completed. Work is currently underway to rehabilitate the abutment on the north side of the bridge. By early October, the contractor should have installed steel beams that will allow construction of the remainder of the new bridge deck.

Upon completion, the new Carlin Springs Road Bridge will have four vehicular travel lanes, two bike lanes, and wider sidewalks. Bluemont residents should visit the project's web page for further details and updates (<https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/carlin-springs-road-bridge/>).

In addition, the County installed a new sanitary sewer main in the Carlin Springs Road/North Abingdon Street intersection. Arlington County currently estimates that street pavement and other restoration should be complete by late fall 2018.

Volunteers Needed!

BCA depends on volunteers. We currently have openings for:

Newsletter Journalists. Gather content and write articles for BCA newsletters.

Webmaster. Update and maintain the BCA website.

If you can help, please contact exec@bluemontcivic.org.

Saving Trees at Upton Hill Park

The Bluemont Executive Board approved a letter to County officials and the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA) on Sept. 10, 2018 expressing concerns that 115 trees were to be cut down at Upton Hill to make room for an expanded parking lot, new climbing structure, and related renovations. Separately from BCA efforts, a county-wide petition drive garnered over 1,300 signatures opposing the expanded parking and tree-cutting. The proposal was particularly concerning because many recent projects on public lands in Arlington also involved the loss of trees, as described at this link, <https://arlingtontreeactiongroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/v2-Tree-Removal-Numbers-Matrix-for-Public-Sites-as-of-8-28-18.pdf>.

NVRPA subsequently revised its plans, but the revised plan would destroy 66 high-value trees, including 18 mature maples surrounding a children's playground. At the September General Membership Meeting, a motion was proposed opposing the loss of these trees advertised in the newsletter and will be voted on at the October 24 meeting.

Whereas, trees purify our air by filtering pollutants and producing oxygen;

Whereas, asthma rates among Arlington County children have risen 44% in the last 5 years, fueled in part by massive loss of trees (the equivalent footprint of the Pentagon every few years [1]), increased asphalt and concrete with relentless new construction (which excrete toxins), and rising pollution from idling trucks and increased vehicles on our roads [2];

Whereas, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority's plan to remove 66 mature trees [3], is inconsistent with federal and state laws protecting the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and Arlington's own 2007 Nature Resource Management recommendations [4], which documented through field observations that large trees at Upton Hill should be protected from future park development or redevelopment, including the construction of facilities and trails;

Whereas, the expansion of the upper parking is unwarranted and unnecessary, and no justification has been offered by the Park Authority for why more parking is needed, with its attendant erosion and pollution;

Whereas, the parking lot expansion is a waste of Arlington County funds to NOVA Parks because Upton Hill swimming pool is only open three months a year, and for the remaining nine months parking is plentiful for the mini golf and batting cages;

Whereas, 45% of Arlington County is already covered with impervious surfaces, increasing pavement on parkland, contradicts Arlington County's own policies of trying to minimize or eliminate surface parking;

Whereas, Upton Hill provides the last remaining forest between Bluemont and the extensively paved area known as Seven Corners, and U.S. metropolitan areas lose 36 million trees annually;

Whereas, the beautiful forest at Upton Hill is frequented by families, hikers, bikers, bird watchers and wild life,

Therefore, be it resolved that Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority's plans be halted until they are revised to prevent the removal of 66 mature trees and expansion of the parking lot; that permits issued ensure the preservation of these 66 mature trees; and there be sufficient supervision and oversight to ensure that the construction at Upton Hill preserves these 66 mature trees.

[1] Quote from John Vihstadt, Arlington County Board meeting, July 2018

[2] Arlington County Department of Public Health community hearing, May 31, 2018

[3] Tree numbers derived from NOVA Parks Land Disturbing Activity application (LDA 18129) submitted May 15, 2018, to Arlington County for work at Upton Hill, Sheets 37-39, "Tree Preservation Plan and Details" reviewed in person and received under the Virginia FOIA by Friends of Upton Hill. Available at: <https://sites.google.com/view/friends-of-upton-hill/dead-trees-walking>.

[4] <https://sites.google.com/view/friends-of-upton-hill/home/spoiling-natural-resources>

BCA Opposes Site Plan Amendment Request for 800 N. Glebe Road. (SP#401)

As approved at the June General Membership meeting, the BCA sent the County Board a letter conveying the motion passed at that meeting opposing the requested site plan amendments to extend loading dock hours and on-street loading for the 800 N. Glebe Road site, and requesting that original and existing approved site plan conditions be enforced. (The motion is discussed in on page 4.) Following receipt of the BCA motion, Board Member John Vihstadt reached out to the community and walked the site on August 1. Later in August, Board Member Christian Dorsey also toured, followed by Board Chair Katie Cristol at the end of August. Since then, County Planning Staff advised the community that the scope of the requested minor site plan amendment has been narrowed to only the applicant's building at 800 N. Glebe Road, but enforcement of site plan loading dock and on-street delivery conditions remains in abeyance at all three buildings nonetheless (800 N. Glebe Road, 900 N. Glebe Road and 801 N. Wakefield Street).

At the September General Membership meeting, it was agreed that a BCA Board member will join the community meeting with County Staff on October 4, with a possible vote by the County Board at their October 20 meeting. Next steps will be discussed at the BCA October 24 General Membership meeting.

Connect with Bluemont



Check our website www.bluemontcivic.org for BCA meetings, volunteer and committee opportunities, and how you can get involved with BCA. Join today!

BCA Website: BCA posts official information at www.bluemontcivic.org

Email Group: Get messages in your inbox from our Google Group, or check it out online. You can join on the BCA website or at <https://groups.google.com>, search Bluemont Civic.

Facebook: Like our Bluemont Civic Association page on Facebook! www.facebook.com/bluemontcivic

Nextdoor.com is a free, private social network where you can connect with people who live nearby. BCA has begun posting official announcements on Nextdoor.com. Sign up at <https://nextdoor.com> by providing your name, address and email address.

Other BCA Motions Passed:

BCA members have also passed these motions since the April 2018 newsletter.

- At the April General Membership meeting, BCA members voted on its two priority projects for funding via the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC): First Priority Project: Funds for the traffic study for Wilson Blvd; Second Priority Project: Extend new sidewalks being constructed on 8th Road, N. to include one side between Kensington and Lexington Streets. Improvements to the N. Lexington St. crossing at south side of Wilson Blvd.
- At the June General Membership meeting, BCA members passed a motion opposing requested Site Plan amendments for 800 and 900 N. Glebe Road and 801 N. Wakefield Street (SP #401) The motion asked that existing Site Plan conditions be enforced to continue restricting loading dock hours and existing street loading/unloading activities to protect residents from noise those activities generate. The motion also asked that any site plan amendments be acceptable to the residents living on or near N. Wakefield Street and 9th Street, North, proximate to the buildings on SP #401. Finally, the motion asked that the Country Board exercise the same care and consideration for the residents on the north side of Wilson Blvd (adjacent to or near 800-900 N. Glebe Road) as it did for residents living on the south side of Wilson Blvd. Specifically the County should place the same or similar requirements on the applicant of the "minor" site plan amendment for 800 N. Glebe Road as it placed on the 750 N. Glebe Road site, including an effective loading dock management plan.

BCA Bylaws Being Updated

At the October and November meetings, the BCA General Membership will discuss enhancing and clarifying its bylaws. Come join the discussion! You can download a copy of the current BCA Bylaws at http://www.bluemontcivic.org/docs/BCA_BYLAWS_Dec2013MasterFINAL.pdf. You can also join the bylaws committee by emailing exec@bluemontcivic.org.

FAQs about Voting in November 2018



Election Day this year is Tuesday, November 6th. The polls will be open from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Unsure about your polling place?

The Bluemont Civic Association covers four different voting precincts: Ballston, Arlington Forest, Ashlawn and Westover. To find your polling location (and check on your voter registration status), visit the Virginia Department of Election's website. (<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>).

Think you'll be out of town on Election Day?

You can obtain a **Virginia Absentee Ballot Application Form** by going to the Arlington County voter registration website and applying online (<https://vote.arlingtonva.us/absentee/>). For your vote to count, the Office of Voter Registration must receive your application no later than 5:00 pm, October 30th, and it must receive your absentee ballot by 7:00 pm, November 6th.)

Interested in voting absentee in-person?

Any eligible voter can go to the Office of Voter Registration (Suite 320, 2100 Clarendon Blvd.) and vote an absentee ballot in person during the following dates and times.

- September 21st – November 2nd
Monday-Friday: Registrar will be open 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
- October 20th, October 27th, and November 3rd
Saturdays: Registrar will be open 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Have any other voting-related questions?

Contact Arlington County's Office of Voter Registration at (703) 228-3456.



June Annual Meeting Election Results

Meet our new Executive Board and volunteers across the Bluemont Civic Association! There are a few new faces as a result of the June election and we are pleased to welcome all new members.

President

Nick Pastore
president@bluemontcivic.org

First Vice President

Laura Kirkconnell

Second Vice President

George Rovder

Treasurer

David Van Wagner

Secretary

Barbara Wien

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC)

Representative
Richard Gibson

Alternate
Angelo Collins

Civic Federation

Delegates
Mark Haynes, Allen Norton, David Hughes,
Laura Kirkconnell

Alternates
George Rovder, Marilyn Stone, Flint Lewis,
Barbara Wien

Check our website www.bluemontcivic.org for BCA meetings, volunteer and committee opportunities, and how you can get involved with BCA. Join today!

Not a Member? Join Today!



Blueмонт Civic Association membership benefits include newsletters, post card and/or e-mail updates more often than these twice-a-year neighborhood-wide newsletters, so you can learn of ongoing BCA activities in time to weigh in. You also gain the right to vote at BCA meetings. As a BCA member, you have representation in the Arlington County Civic Federation and at Arlington County Advisory Commissions and other County meetings on matters pertaining to Blueмонт.

Use this membership form to pay \$15 dues by check or cash in person at the Oct. 24 meeting for 2018, or send your dues check to BCA Treasurer, PO Box 5134, Arlington, VA 22205.

Renew Your Membership for 2018!

When & Where Do We Meet?

Generally, the BCA meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month (Executive Board at 7:00 pm and General Membership at 7:30 pm) in Arlington Traditional School's library, but we may move meetings to other dates and locations to avoid holidays and other conflicts. Again, all members are welcome to attend the Executive Board meeting.



Please check the calendar of events for upcoming meeting dates. Meeting date changes/cancellations are posted to the website: www.bluemontcivic.org and <https://bluemont.nextdoor.com>.

Join or Renew Today!

Keep your membership current! Please use this form to join or renew.

Name _____

Address _____

E-Mail _____

- ☐ Bring this form and cash or a check for \$15 to renew your membership to any general membership meeting at Arlington Traditional School, or
- ☐ Mail this form with your check made out to "Blueмонт Civic Association" to BCA Treasurer, PO Box 5134, Arlington VA 22205.

Go paperless & save trees!

- ☐ Check this box to receive *BCA Neighborhood News* by email.

All information is for BCA use only.