



# neighborhood news

The Latest News and Information from Your Bluemont Civic Association

April 2022

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

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## April 27 and May 25 Meetings In-Person, with On-Line Option, 7:30 pm

We are excited to be returning to in-person meetings on Wednesday April 27 and Wednesday May 25!

We will meet in the Library of Key Escuela Elementary (formerly Arlington Traditional School), 855 N. Edison. We look forward to coming together as a community again! In-person meetings will be conducted in accordance with the County and school guidance regarding COVID-safety protocols in place at the time of the meetings, see [www.bluemontcivic.org](http://www.bluemontcivic.org) for details. The General Membership meetings begin at 7:30 pm but come early for the Executive Board meeting at 7 pm, or to chat with neighbors!

We will also offer virtual participation via zoom. See [www.bluemontcivic.org](http://www.bluemontcivic.org) for the links to register for each meeting or contact [exec@bluemontcivic.org](mailto:exec@bluemontcivic.org). The same link can be used to join our Executive Board meetings that begin at 7 pm.

Our **April 27** General Membership meeting will include discussion of a possible reconfiguration of Wilson Blvd from N. George Mason to N. Vermont Street; and membership votes on the N. Edison Street connector to the Bluemont Junction Trail, and on seeking funding through the Neighborhood Conservation Program (NCP) for our recommended safety improvements to N. Carlin Springs Road.

Our **May 25** meeting will be a community discussion with County Board Member Takis Karantonis! If you have issues or questions you'd like to discuss, let us know at [exec@bluemontcivic.org](mailto:exec@bluemontcivic.org).

**Our June 29 annual meeting will be conducted only on-line using zoom** because the school will be closed. Our meeting will include elections for BCA offices and civic federation delegates. Nominees being sought NOW!



Takis Karantonis

Agendas for meetings are sent to our mailing list, which any Bluemont resident, business or property owner can join by contacting [exec@bluemontcivic.org](mailto:exec@bluemontcivic.org).

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## April and May Meetings (cont'd)

If you are not on our e-mail distribution, please contact [exec@bluemontcivic.org](mailto:exec@bluemontcivic.org) for the link to our monthly meetings, and monthly updates on neighborhood news. If you lack access to e-mail, please write the **Bluemont Civic Association at P.O. Box 5134, Arlington VA 22205** for information to phone into meetings, including any votes by BCA members.

General Membership meetings are typically on the last Wednesday of every month from September to June. The Executive Board meets in July and August, generally on the last Wednesday of the month. The public is welcome. We may move meetings to other dates and locations to avoid holidays and other conflicts. Meeting locations, date changes or cancellations are posted to [www.bluemontcivic.org](http://www.bluemontcivic.org), on the [Bluemont Civic Association Facebook page](#), and on [NextDoor Bluemont](#).

All Bluemont residents, property owners and businesses are welcome to join our meetings, and encouraged to become civic association members so they can use their voice and their vote to help decide what their civic association does. Dues are \$15 for the calendar year per household, with each household getting two votes. (See p. 9 for how to join!)

## Weigh in on Possible Changes to Wilson Blvd Between N. Vermont Street and N. George Mason Drive

Arlington County started public engagement for the potential changes to Wilson Blvd between N. Vermont St and N. George Mason Drive during upcoming maintenance and resurfacing. Until April 17, the County has been using a **“virtual open house” to get community feedback** on what works and what does not work for this section of road.

The County project team will develop a concept design. That design should address issues identified in the community feedback, the County’s Master Transportation Plan, crash data, and other resources. The team will present and seek community feedback on these concept designs at a public meeting in late Spring 2022. Additional information about the second and third phases of engagement for this program is available on [the project page](#).

The types of changes the County could consider may include:

- Reducing crossing distances for pedestrians through curb extensions, medians or median extensions and bike lanes.
- Making streets easier to understand by formalizing travel lanes and adding high visibility markings and advance signage.
- Providing more separation between people driving and people biking through buffered or protected bike lanes.
- Reducing vehicle speeds with pavement markings, including bike lanes or medians, curb extensions, medians and signage.
- Providing better sight lines and more controlled vehicle turning movements through curb extensions and pedestrian islands.

For example, changes made in 2021 to Wilson Blvd between N. George Mason and N. Frederick Street included removal of traffic through lanes and addition of bike lanes.

## BCA Annual Elections on June 29th, Nominees Being Sought NOW!

Come join the team and help guide your civic association! We are seeking nominees NOW for the following positions: Voting Members of the Executive Board President, First Vice-President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) Representative; and Non-Voting Advisory Members of the Executive Board (4 Civic Federation Delegations, 4 Alternative Civic Federation Delegates and the NCAC Alternative Representative)

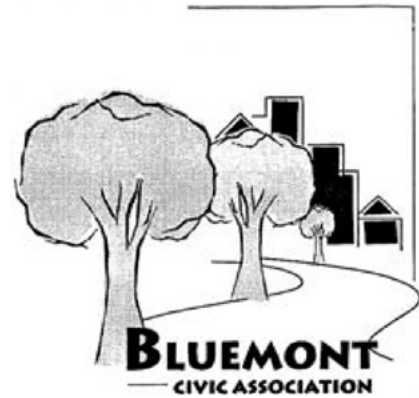
If you would like to know about how fun, rewarding and simple it is to serve in the civic association, or are interested in these positions, please contact [exec@bluemontcivic.org](mailto:exec@bluemontcivic.org) by May 23, 2022.

Nominations will be announced at our May 25 General Membership meeting where additional nominations can be made from the floor, including BCA members nominating themselves. The slate of nominees set at our May General Membership meeting will be announced on [www.bluemontcivic.org](http://www.bluemontcivic.org), to our e-mail distribution list, and on the [Bluemont Civic Association Facebook page](#). If any position(s) lack a nominee after the May General Membership meeting, nominations for those positions may be made from the floor at our June 29 Annual meeting.

Our annual elections will be conducted via zoom at our Wednesday, June 29th Annual General Membership meeting, which begins at 7:30 pm. Please see [www.bluemontcivic.org](http://www.bluemontcivic.org) for election updates.

### Upcoming Meetings

April 27	Exec Board, General Membership
May 25	Exec Board, General Membership
June 29	Annual General Membership Meeting
July 27	Exec Board (members welcome)
Aug. 31	Exec Board (members welcome)
Sept. 28	Exec Board, General Membership
Oct. 27	Exec Board, General Membership



### Executive Board

#### *BCA Officers & Reps*

President Laura Kirkconnell  
[president@bluemontcivic.org](mailto:president@bluemontcivic.org)

First Vice President Henry McFarland

Second Vice President Kate Mattos

Treasurer David Smith

Secretary David Hughes

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory  
Committee (NCAC)

Representative Nick Pastore  
Alternate Christopher George

Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF)

Delegates Christopher George, David  
Hughes, Allen Norton, Shakti Shukla

Alternates Mark Haynes, Bruce Leighton,  
David Smith, Nick Pastore

#### *Non-elected positions*

Parks Liaison Hugh Robinson

BCA Representative to Northern Virginia  
Transportation Authority (NVTA) Long-  
Range Multimodal Transportation Plan  
Allen Norton

## Your Opportunity to Support the West Entrance to Ballston Metro



Arlington County has applied to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) for a grant to offset the cost of building the west entrance to the Ballston Metro station. BCA has long supported the building of this entrance as an important transportation

improvement for our neighborhood. The public can send emails in support of this application from Friday April 15, 2022, until Sunday, May 22, 2022.

The west entrance would be at the corner of Fairfax Drive and Vermont Street. It would shorten the walk to Metro by about a quarter mile for many people in our neighborhood. Thus, the entrance would encourage the use of Metro by making it more convenient.

The west entrance also is important for safety. The entrance would make it easier to evacuate the station in case of an emergency, such as the fire at the L'Enfant Plaza Station a few years ago.

Bluemont's 2013 Neighborhood Conservation Plan asked that the west entrance be made a priority. Since then the addition of the Silver Line to the Ballston Station and the increased density and development along and near Glebe Road have increased the need for the new entrance. Given that two large new residential developments are planned for the area around the station, the need will increase.

After April 15, Bluemont residents can send emails in support of the grant for the west entrance to [SYPComment@thenovaauthority.org](mailto:SYPComment@thenovaauthority.org). Please consider sending such an email. Public support is important in determining which projects are chosen.



## Missing Middle Housing Study Working Group Interviews County Staff

In December, BCA's Missing Middle working group interviewed County staff concerning the purpose, procedure, and methods of the county's Missing Middle Housing Study.

County staff is currently working on the study's Phase 2 Report. They have retained an economic consultant to help assess the effects of zoning changes that will open up some neighborhoods to missing middle housing. Specifically the consultant will estimate the likely price of missing middle housing in those neighborhoods. That price would be influenced by design parameters, such as setbacks, that would be allowed by the hypothetical new zoning. Staff would then determine what income would be required to afford a house in that price range.

The Phase 2 report should be available in the second quarter of 2022. After the report is issued, the general public likely will have an opportunity for feedback. The forum for that feedback is undecided.

The County has posted [walking tours](#) for people who want to see examples of missing middle housing in Arlington.

The working group will continue to monitor the missing middle issue. It is collecting information about missing middle housing on a web page, [BCA Missing Middle](#).



## New Developments Proposed for Macy's and Holiday Inn Sites

BCA is currently participating in the planning review of two large development projects in our area. The first would be on the site currently occupied by the Macy's in Ballston. The second would be at 4600 North Fairfax Drive, a site currently occupied by a Holiday Inn and an adjacent office building. Come join BCA to discuss the latest developments and help your civic association represent Bluemont on these, and other proposed development projects.

The proposal for the Macy's site calls for a 16-story apartment building with retail space on the ground floor. The building will include 555 apartments (174 studio apartments, 168 one-bedroom, 185 two-bedroom, and 28 three-bedroom apartments). Parking will be provided on two levels below grade and one level located on the second floor over the ground floor retail. The building will include a courtyard terrace on the third floor and roof top green spaces. It will connect to the Ballston Quarter mall on the first floor and through the third-floor terrace. The ground floor will have a grocery store of 44,000 square feet. The developers have a signed letter of intent with a grocery chain, but they have yet to disclose its name.

BCA Members approved following goals for the Ballston Macy's site plan review by unanimous vote at our March 2002 meeting:

- Get a solution to the effect the proposed changes to N. Glebe Road would have on the safety of the pedestrian crossing across Glebe Road from N. 7th Street to the private street between the Macy's and the Ballston Point building. The current plan allows traffic to turn left from Glebe into the private street. To provide a lane for left turns, the pedestrian island at this point would be reduced from 11 to 6 feet.
- Work to reduce problems caused by the project for traffic on Wilson Boulevard, Glebe Road, and other neighborhood streets in Bluemont.
- Ensure the site plan does not increase, and if possible, decreases, the flow of stormwater into Bluemont.
- Oppose the excessive increase in density and transfer of development rights and decrease of economic diversity of residents.
- Keep construction traffic and staging off Bluemont residential streets.
- Keep residential parking for the new building off Bluemont residential streets.



BCA representatives have participated in a walking tour of the Macy's site and a meeting of the Macy's site plan review committee. BCA will continue to be involved in this process until the County Board accepts or rejects the final proposal. That decision is expected in Spring of this year.

The proposal for 4600 Fairfax Drive is still preliminary. The developer's representatives briefed civic association members in December 2021, discussing a preliminary plan for two apartment buildings, a seven-story building on the north side and a four-story building with a penthouse on the south side. The buildings would include 475 apartments. The proposal also called for 29 connected townhouses to be built behind the apartment towers, farther from Fairfax Drive. Developers hoped to break ground for the project in 2024. The developer has re-submitted its site plan to Arlington County, however, which changed some aspects of the plan.

During the December meeting, the developers took note of suggestions and concerns of Bluemont residents, including pedestrian and biking safety around 4600 N. Fairfax drive and the effect of the development on Lubber Run, which currently is routed through an underground pipe on the western edge of this property.

## Stormwater and Flooding Risks in Bluemont

Our civic association members continue to work on efforts related to stormwater mitigation. Stormwater concerns within our neighborhood were described in our October 2021 newsletter. Key efforts to address these concerns include the following.

- Members of BCA, with support from the Arlington County Civic Federation Public Services and Stormwater group, started a new “Lubber Run Watershed Group,” which includes presidents and delegates from six civic associations within the Lubber Run watershed: Bluemont; Arlington Forest; Ballston-Virginia Square; Waycroft Woodlawn; JM Langston; and GlebeWood. This group pulled together stormwater concerns within our watershed and on March 11 issued a group letter to the County Board and Administrator requesting support in these key areas:
  1. Remediation of flood issues in the Waycroft-Woodlawn/ John M Langston area of the Lubber Run Watershed
  2. Erosion control and channel maintenance along Lubber Run
  3. Continued effort with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to reduce impact of flood zone changes within Bluemont
  4. Adoption of new regulations and better enforcement of existing regulations to curtail the impacts of above ground stormwater as well as underground water flows caused by development
  5. Improvements to under capacity storm drains and addition of new overland relief.
- Our members also supported the Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) Public Services Committee development of a new Stormwater/Flood Mitigation Implementation resolution, which was passed by ACCF in February. That resolution made these three key requests:
  1. Provide a readily understandable public explanation and documentation of the stormwater management challenges and potential strategies of the County and for each watershed
  2. Move forward with full implementation of the pending stormwater-management and drainage-improvement projects and related commitments that the County has previously made
  3. Incorporate stormwater considerations into existing planning and implementation processes to assure that the County government as a whole is looking for opportunities to minimize demands on the limited capacity of the stormwater management system and maximize opportunities for expanding capacity with every project.
- In March, BCA passed a new resolution that supports additional funding to assess and build a new stormwater detention facility in Woodlawn Park which will benefit Bluemont by reducing stormwater peak flow, thus reducing the chance of flooding within Bluemont along Lubber Run. Bluemont Civic Association also supports the addition of on-going investments in infrastructure or other remediations which will reduce the potential for flooding.



### Come Ring the Bell!

At noon on every federal holiday, BCA hosts ringing the bell at Constitution Gardens (corner of George Mason and Wilson by Fire Station 2.) You and your children can ring the bell!

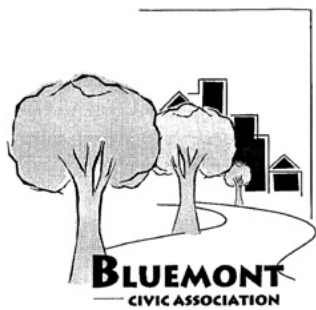
## Neighborhood Conservation Update: Priority Projects and Street Improvements

As described by the Arlington County website, the Neighborhood Conservation Program helps improve and enhance Arlington neighborhoods. When the program was created in 1964, the goal was to empower residents by having them come together to discuss and share ideas for improving their neighborhoods. Today, the program provides funding for a variety of improvements including installation of sidewalks, curbs and gutters, streetlights, signs, park improvements, neighborhood art and beautification. This program empowers citizens to identify and plan projects in their own neighborhoods.

In Bluemont, we have two priority projects:

- **Improvements to 6th St N and N Edison Street:** BCA submitted the 6th St N and N Edison St improvement project to the Arlington Neighborhood Conservation Program in 2020. The project proposal includes the installation of curb bump-outs with new 5 foot sidewalks and grass utility strips of varying widths at all four corners, concrete curb and gutter, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant ramps, and new trees on the north corner bump-out. Construction is expected to begin in the Fall of 2022. Visit the [Arlington County Project page](#) for more information.

- **Improvements to the intersection of Wilson Blvd and N. Lexington Street:** BCA voted for crosswalk and pedestrian safety improvements for the intersection of Wilson Blvd and N. Lexington Street to be its next priority project, and as of 2022 it has become Bluemont's first priority project. This project will flow through Neighborhood Conversation planning over the next few years. A site visit with Arlington County staff was conducted in March to understand the safety issues at the intersection. While no specific solution discussions occurred, BCA hopes to receive neighborhood input on what improvements to the intersection are desired. **Plan to attend BCA meetings to provide input to the Wilson Blvd and N. Lexington Street project!**



### YOUR Bluemont Civic Association

Bluemont is one of the largest neighborhoods in Arlington County. It comprises nearly 6000 people and includes Arlington Traditional School, Lacey Woods Park, Mary Carlin Woods, Fields Park, Balls Crossing, West Ballston, and the Custis, Bluemont Junction and Washington and Old Dominion Trails. It lies along Bon Air Park (including the Rose Garden) and Bluemont and Bluemont Junction Parks.

Civic Associations serve an important and official communications link between neighborhoods and the Arlington County government. Bluemont is represented by the Bluemont Civic Association. Please join us! We welcome your membership, participation and ideas! Dues are \$15 per household for the calendar year. Each household gets up to two votes. Visit our website for more information: [bluemontcivic.org](http://bluemontcivic.org), follow "Bluemont Civic Association" on Facebook for regular updates, and get on our mailing list by contacting [exec@bluemontcivic.org](mailto:exec@bluemontcivic.org).

## Resolution for a Vote at our April 27 Meeting: Designation of BCA-Recommended N. Carlin Springs Road Safety Improvements as BCA's Second Priority Neighborhood Conservation Plan (NCP) Project

Whereas: A first of its kind resolution was co-signed in February 2022 between the Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) and Arlington Forest Citizens Association (AFCA) for the implementation of N. Carlin Springs Road Safety Improvements.

Whereas: Pursuant to this co-signed resolution, there is existing broad support for improvements to N. Carlin Springs Road, specifically a call for the implementation of additional traffic calming and pedestrian safety measures and police enforcement of speeding and street crossing laws on N. Carlin Springs Road between N. Edison Street and N. Kensington Street in the Bluemont neighborhood to enhance safety and accessibility for all modes of transportation.

**Resolved:** The Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) adopts N Carlin Springs Road Safety Improvements from N. Carlin Springs Road between N Edison Street and N Kensington Street in the Bluemont neighborhood as its 2nd Priority Neighborhood Conservation Project. These safety improvements are to be consistent with the recommendations in the "Resolution: N. Carlin Springs Road Safety Improvements" co-signed by the Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) and Arlington Forest Citizens Association (AFCA) in February 2022.

NOTE: See [our website](#) for the Resolution approved by Bluemont and Arlington Forest Civic Association members on safety recommendations for all forms of transit on N. Carlin Springs Road between N. Edison Street and N. Kensington Street.

Also on [our website](#) is information on the work of BCA's N. Carlin Springs Task Force.

### Connect with Bluemont



**Facebook:** Like our [Bluemont Civic Association page on Facebook](#) for regular updates on news of interest to Bluemont, and civic association activities.

**BCA website** for BCA meetings and official information.

**BCA e-Mails:** Neighbors who provide their e-mail address to [exec@bluemontcivic.org](mailto:exec@bluemontcivic.org) receive e-mail reports roughly monthly on issues affecting Bluemont residents, and civic association activities.

**Contact the Executive Board:** BCA welcomes comments, suggestions and questions from members. Contact us at [exec@Bluemontcivic.org](mailto:exec@Bluemontcivic.org).

**Nextdoor.com** is a free, private social network where you can connect with people who live nearby. BCA posts announcements on Nextdoor.com. [Sign up here](#) by providing your name, address and email address.



## Resolution for a Vote at our April 27 Meeting: Approval of County Plans for the N. Edison Street Connector Path to the Bluemont Junction Trail

Whereas: As guided by the County's Master Transportation Plan Bicycle Element plan, the proposed paved N. Edison Street connector trail will be compliant with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), providing improved access to the trail for all, including bikes, and strollers.

Whereas: The Department of Environmental Services (DES) has confirmed that the proposed N. Edison Street connector trail will be located at the T Junction at the end of N. Edison Street as described by DES to the March 30, 2022, General Membership meeting.

Whereas: The proposed location for the N. Edison Street connector Trail is on the public right of way.

Whereas: The proposed path location will steer clear of tree roots while ensuring positive drainage, constructed to allow storm water to be directed to the nearby drainage swale and storm water collection system.

Whereas: There is no ADA-accessible or compliant pathway connecting residents of 6th St N, N Edison St, and portions of N Emerson street to the Bluemont Junction Trail.

Whereas: Multiple ADA accessible trail connectors were installed on the Bluemont Junction Trail, and N Edison is a last remaining connector requiring installation.

Whereas: A parent documented injuries to a child from riding on the nearby hardpack bike trail highlighting the need for a new safe paved trail connector. The Arlington County Board acknowledged the parent's report of the injuries.

**Resolved:** The President of the Bluemont Civic shall send a letter to the Arlington County Board expressing the Bluemont Civic Association's support for a paved N Edison Street trail connector at the proposed location.

# Join or Renew Today!

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

## BCA Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Bring this form and cash or a check for \$15 to renew your membership at any General Membership meeting, or

Mail this form with your check made out to "Bluemont Civic Association" to  
BCA Treasurer, PO Box 5134, Arlington, VA 22205.

All information is for BCA use only.

# Summary of Civic Association Meetings Since Our October 2021 Newsletter

(See meeting minutes for details and resolutions.)

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## October

### Zoning, Permitting and Enforcement for Residential Construction

Our October meeting featured a presentation and Q&A on residential construction, permitting, and code enforcement with Stephen Risse, Zoning Policy, Research and Information Management Supervisor; and Kimberly Kalaha, Zoning Plan Review Assistant Manager. There is useful information on this County website about Zoning Ordinances: [Permits & Application Types](#), [Zoning Ordinance](#), and [Board of Zoning Appeals](#), and this County website about the [Land Disturbing Activity Stormwater Permit Overview](#). Additional information is in the [minutes for the October meeting](#).

### School Bus Stop Safety

Members voted that the President should write appropriate school officials regarding moving a middle school bus stop from N. 6th and N. Edison Street to the northern side of N. Carlin Springs Road to improve safety for students walking to the bus stop.

## November

### Homelessness

The meeting featured a presentation and Q&A with Scott Miller, Senior Director of Philanthropy for [Path Forward](#) (formerly the Arlington Street Peoples Assistance Network). In response to questions on what to do if you have concerns about someone who appears unhoused, Scott provided the contact numbers below, and explained how Path Forward connects with people, builds their trust, and helps them access the services they need to live stable, secure, and independent lives free from the threat of homelessness.

Arlington County Housing Crisis Hotline: (703) 228-1010 (24/7)  
Path Forward Street Outreach Team: (703) 228-7853 (daytime)  
Non-Emergency Police Wellness Checks: (703) 558-2222 (24/7)

Scott offered to be a resource to the Bluemont community and noted that we can obtain pocket-sized "Street Guides" that can be given to people to provide a list of services available to them. The civic association handed out these paper Street Guides at our Thanksgiving Day bellringing. The list of services listed on them is similar to [this virtual list on the Path Forward website](#).

## N. Carlin Springs Road

The civic association's N. Carlin Springs Road Safety Committee reported on it is past year of work surveying residents in Bluemont and Arlington Forest, consulting County staff, and considering how to improve safety for pedestrians, bikes, vehicles and all forms of transit on N. Carlin Springs Road between N. Edison Street and N. Kensington Street. Members voted to advertise a resolution described below for a vote at the December meeting.

## December

### N. Carlin Springs Road

Members voted to approve the recommendations of the N. Carlin Springs Road Committee. The final text of the resolution, after some edits to make it a joint resolution also approved by the Arlington Forest Civic Association, is [here](#). Additional information on the work of the Task Force is [here](#). The resolution notes that at a minimum, BCA and AFCA request:

Addition of marked ADA compliant crossings, and median island refuges with curb extensions and streetscaping, where possible, at the intersections of:

- 2nd Street North and N. Jefferson Street
- N. Greenbrier Street
- Assumption by Arlington County of street lighting management and conversion to dark sky compliant Carlyle style lights; and
- Consideration by Arlington County of lowering the speed limit on N. Carlin Springs Road from 30 mph to 25 mph in accordance with the County's commitment to Vision Zero.

(cont'd on p. 11)

# Summary of Civic Association Meetings Since Our October 2021 Newsletter

(See meeting minutes for details and resolutions.)

## In pursuing safety improvements, BCA and AFCA request

- That Arlington County work collaboratively with the two civic associations to maximize public participation and input into the further consideration, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the previously implemented and newly proposed traffic calming and pedestrian safety measures. This includes taking resident engagement and accountability approaches involving County elected officials and staff, the Arlington County Police department, neighborhood residents, local businesses, neighboring civic associations, and other potentially affected parties;
- That Arlington County considers implementing improvements in coordination with AFCA and BCA as part of a Vision Zero, repaving, or Neighborhood Conservation project effort; and
- That the County consider using a demonstration project to pilot changes before full implementation of improvements.

## Deer Population in Arlington County

Bill Browning, Arlington Regional Master Naturalist ([ARMN](#)) and member of the [County's Forestry and Natural Resources Commission](#) held a presentation and Q&A on the deer population within Arlington County. [The slides from his presentation](#) are on the BCA website.

Key points included: Deer destruction of forest understory erases habitat suitable for small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and birds, and contributes to storm water runoff from these denuded forest floors. The non-federal acreage within the County can support 30 to 40 deer in optimum conditions. The County's recent study showed that the actual population of deer on non-federal property within Arlington was 290 in 2021. The study indicated that Bluemont Park and Bon Air Park have higher deer counts than experts agree is healthy for regeneration of native plants.

Mr. Browning also reviewed how local jurisdictions manage deer populations, and the state of Arlington County's efforts. Additional information is in the meeting minutes. Bill offered to be a resource for the Bluemont community and has continued to provide helpful answers to questions from Bluemont residents.

## Proposed Redevelopment of 4600 N. Fairfax (The Holiday Inn site and an adjacent office building)

Please see separate article on p. 5.

## Renovations of Upper Bluemont Park

BCA's First Vice President provided an update on the County's proposed concept designs for Upper Bluemont Park. One proposal will slightly reduce the parking lot and move two tennis courts. As of the date of this April 2022 newsletter, the County has not held its planned second round of public engagement, but the County project page has [information about the project](#).

## January

### Preserving Arlington's Tree Canopy

Kit Norland and Susan Land of the [Arlington Tree Action Group](#) held a presentation and Q&A on ATAG's work to grow Arlington's urban forest to keep Arlington green and fulfill the vision in the County Urban Forestry Master Plan. [Topics included the growth of impervious surfaces.](#)

ATAG also works to protect rivulets and streams that flow into Chesapeake Bay and their Resource Protection Areas (RPA's). They noted how mature trees are affected by single family in-fill development. There are close to 200 tear downs a year, so ATAG is asking the County for more and better trained Urban Foresters on staff to review development. They also are exploring how trees could be counted as a "stormwater credit."

(cont'd on p. 12)

# Summary of Civic Association Meetings Since Our October 2021 Newsletter

(See meeting minutes for details and resolutions.)

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- [Tool for valuing benefits from trees.org](#)
- [Yard signs available supporting Arlington's Tree Canopy](#) are available for free.
- [Arlington County's Property Search](#) has information on the history of a house.

The full January 26 presentation can be [downloaded here](#).

## Lubber Run Watershed Working Group

The Chair of the Lubber Run Watershed Working Group, BCA Treasurer David Smith, reported on the Lubber Run Watershed Working Group's meeting with County staff, which helped Group members to determine which priorities should be in the draft letter to the County Board and County Staff from the Bluemont, Arlington Forest, Ballston, GlebeWood, JM Langston and Waycroft Woodlawn civic associations, the Arlington County Civic Federation Public Services and Stormwater Chair, and the Chair of the Lubber Run Watershed Group. BCA members agreed the President could sign the letter, which endorses positions that BCA had previously taken regarding stormwater concerns, and added issues presented by the other civic associations, resulting in five key issues to raise with the County Board and County Manager. [The letter can be viewed here.](#)

David also reported on his engagement as a member of the Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) subcommittee dealing with stormwater issues, and his work on a related resolution for the meeting for the February 8 ACCF subcommittee meeting.

## Possible Lubber Run Pollution

The BCA President reported that the County had advised about the possibility of increased pollution in the Lubber Run stream during the Ballston Pond Project. The County asked people to immediately notify the 24-7 County non-emergency number if pollution is spotted (703-558-2222.)

## Appreciation for Volunteers at the Quarry Shade and Sun Demonstration Garden in Bon Air Park

BCA members voted that the President could send a letter in support of an award nomination for six volunteers who help create and maintain the Quarry Shade and Sun Demonstration Garden in Bon Air Park.

## February

[The Arlington County Police Department \(ACPD\) Community Engagement Team](#) held a presentation and Q&A. There has been noted a year-over-year increase in both fraud and larceny. They noted an increase in reports of suspicious circumstances, and commended people for reporting suspicious circumstances to the police. They said that if something looks strange, it is better for us to call the police so they can figure things out, rather than assuming it is nothing. The police non-emergency number is 703-558-2222. It is answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Principal crime prevention tips: Lock your vehicle upon exiting the vehicle. Do not leave your vehicle with the engine running. Do not leave valuables in your vehicle. Refrain from wearing earbuds while walking outdoors. Be sure that your house shows the number of your street address to help first responders. Be on guard against fraud, including any request that you pay via gift cards. Another common type of fraud is a call claiming to be the Sheriff about paying off warrants—it is not possible to pay off any warrant, anyone facing a warrant must resolve it by going to Court.

Regarding BCA questions about the intersection of N. George Mason Drive and Wilson Blvd, the police indicated that from February 2019 through February 2022, there had been 19 traffic accidents at the intersection of Wilson Blvd and N. George Mason Drive. Last year there were seven. Between January 1 and February 23, 2022, the police have recorded four crashes at this intersection. The police noted that

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# Summary of Civic Association Meetings Since Our October 2021 Newsletter

(See meeting minutes for details and resolutions.)



*Dec. 29, 2021 accident on Wilson Blvd.*

these statistics depend on how the Police Department enters a crash into its system, because they only record a crash in their statistics if the police report it to be “serious.”

ACPD encouraged people to let the police know about problems like speeding, aggressive driving and red light running, so that the police can educate people and mitigate problems. They noted that we in the community are the “eyes and ears” of the police. They recommended using the **“Ongoing Transportation Complaint Enforcement Request” form** on the ACPD website, and providing the date, time and day(s) of the week that the problem is observed. This form should be used only to inform the Police Special Operations Division about ongoing parking and traffic complaints. For in-progress violations and hazards, call the Emergency Communications Center at 703-558-2222 so an officer or parking service aide can be dispatched to investigate. The police explained that in response to traffic complaints like speeding, aggressive driving, and red light running, the police can go to monitor the area, use machines to monitor it, use a radar gun, and/or issue a summons.

## March

### Connector Paths to the Bluemont Junction Trail

County Landscape Architect and Project Manager Juan Du held a presentation and Q&A on connector paths to the Bluemont Junction Trail at N. Edison, N. Greenbrier, and N. Illinois. Photos of the planned paths for these paved, American with Disability Act compliant paths are in the Photo Gallery of the [County’s project page](#).

### Ballston Macy’s Project

Members approved goals for the site plan review. (See separate article on p. 5.)

### Stormwater Mitigation and Flood Prevention

Members voted to approve a resolution supporting additional funding for a stormwater detention facility along Lubber Run in Woodlawn Park, and additional infrastructure investments or other remediations to reduce the potential for flooding. The resolution can be downloaded [here](#).