

JOIN US!

NEXT GENERAL MEETING 1/20/10

- NC Survey Preview
- Acting County Deputy Manager Mark Schwartz on Budget Process
- Your Input & Concerns

< The Blizzard of '09 left Bluemont snowed under

www.bluemontcivic.org

BCA MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 1/20, 7:30 pm

Arlington Traditional School (ATS) on N. Edison Street.

(Note that the membership will meet on the third rather than the fourth Wednesday this month.) BCA member David Van Wagner has developed a draft of the survey the civic association will use in April to guide the update of the Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Plan for Bluemont. Members will have a chance to review these questions and provide input on the survey. Jane Kim, the graduate student who is helping BCA to develop its vision for a revitalized village center, will be on hand to review the survey questions with the membership and to discuss the upcoming design forum planned for February. (For additional details, see the design forum notice on p.2.)

Also at the January meeting, please also help us welcome Acting Deputy County Manager Mark Schwartz who will be on hand to discuss the upcoming — ➔2

It Was a Very Good Year

BCA MEMBERS WORKED TOGETHER FOR YOU IN 2009

Snow Removal the Old-Fashioned Way — After the blizzard, most neighborhood streets and sidewalks were impassible, leaving many residents stranded. One elderly resident put out a call for assistance, and BCA members Mary Thorne and Bob Waffle came to the rescue. They shoveled her walkway and cleared her car of snow. When winter weather is an issue, please keep an eye out for elderly residents who may need assistance but may be reluctant to ask for help.

Residents are also reminded that the county does lend a portable snow-clearing machine to the civic association in the winter. It's available on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Judah dal Cais at president@bluemontcivic.org if you would like to borrow it.

BCA Thanks Flu Fighters —

BCA extends a special thanks to the following members who assisted in distributing a flu prevention door hanger issued by the Virginia Department of Health to homes within the BCA area: Karen Decarlo, Henry and Mary Ann McFarland, Jody Harrington, Richard and Caroline Young, Stephanie Paup, Judy Collins, Allison Monroe, David Van Wagner and Robert Atkins.

In 2009, several Bluemont residents also worked as volunteers for Arlington's Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) to assist with the H1N1 flu vaccination clinics. The ➔3

What to do
about the flu.www.arlingtonva.us/flu

Arlington County's Web site has many resources to help us all fight the flu, including downloadable publications and web banners like this one. <http://www.arlingtonva.us/portals/topics/TopicsPandemicFlu.aspx>



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Envision the Future at the Village Center Design Forum

A design forum will be held at the on Sat., 2/6/10, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm, at ATS to discuss the neighborhood's vision for potential future development of Bluemont's commercial area along Wilson Boulevard from N. Greenbrier Street to N. George Mason Drive. The design forum will be led by Jane S. Kim, a graduate student from Virginia Tech, who is working with residents of Bluemont on the Neighborhood Plan revision.

The design forum will provide an opportunity for all Bluemont residents and stakeholders to express their vision for the future of this commercial district. Interested residents and property owners are encouraged to attend this meeting and to participate in the planning and design process. If there are any immediate questions or concerns, they can be sent to Jane at janesuekim@gmail.com. The membership will have another chance to review design options and to provide input into this process at the Feb. 17 general membership meeting. Ultimately, the ideas generated in the design forum process will be incorporated into BCA's update of its NC Plan. ■

► BCA MEETINGS AT A GLANCE FROM P. 1

ing 2011 budget process now under way. Prior to his present position, Schwartz served as director of Arlington's Department of Management Finance and chief financial officer. With falling residential and commercial real estate assessments and reductions in state funding, closing the 2011 budget deficit will require serious cuts and increases in service fees and other revenue-generating sources.

Please note that the general membership meeting for February will also take place a week earlier than usual (Wed., 2/17/10). The schedule changes were made in response to ATS scheduling conflicts.

DECEMBER 8 JOINT MEETING

■ Virginia Tech graduate student and county design engineer Jane Kim discussed her role in helping BCA members to develop a vision for a revitalized village center along Wilson Boulevard's commercial corridor that would be included as part of the association's update of its NC Plan. Kim is a student in the urban planning graduate program, and her work with BCA will form the basis of her graduate project. Members who are interested in the commercial corridor's revitalization were encouraged to sign up to participate in the Bluemont Village Center Working Group.

■ The BCA committee headed by BCA member and Carlisle Park resident-owner Paul Ducharme and eight other BCA members living near D&V Auto Service Center negotiated with D&V owner Robbie Guenther to produce a list of conditions under which the association would agree to allow Guenther to continue operating his rental truck business. There was a discussion of the list of conditions, and two minor changes were suggested. With these changes, the membership voted unanimously to approve the conditions.

■ President Judah dal Cais noted that county staff now supports the new lighting plan for the Holiday Inn on N. Fairfax Drive after having reached a compromise with the hotel's management company. Based upon this compromise and the membership's previous vote of support of Holiday Inn's plan at the October meeting, the membership authorized dal Cais to write a letter to the County Board noting the civic association's support of the site plan amendment for the lights.

■ BCA member Bob Atkins, a volunteer with the Medical Reserve

INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTICE

Should inclement weather force Arlington Public Schools to close on a day that a BCA meeting also has been scheduled, the BCA meeting will be cancelled.



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Get the word out to your neighbors in BCA News.

Whether in our monthly members-only issues, or Spring general distribution newsletter which reaches over 2,000 households, let your neighbors know your here!

**Contact Judah dal Cais at
president@bluemontcivic.org**

Did U Renu?

According to Treasurer Judy Collins, approximately 140 members still need to renew for 2010. Don't let this be your last issue of Neighborhood News. Bring cash or check for \$15 to the 1/20/10 meeting. Or mail a your check, made payable to Bluemont Civic Association, to BCA Treasurer, P.O. Box 5134, Arlington VA 22205. (Check your newsletter's label to determine your membership status; if the label says "Paid thru 12/31/2009," you need to renew for 2010.)



Please provide (or update) your information on the form below.

Name(s)

Mailing Address

Phone Number

E-mail (optional—for BCA notification only)

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Leaf Collection Extended

According to the county Website, the county was unable to collect leaves in every area due to the blizzard. Leaf collection crews will provide some limited service for areas that did not receive a second vacuum pass through the month of February, as weather permits. The County has also extended the bag collection program until January 29, 2010. To ensure the timely removal of leaves, the county recommends bagging leaves for collection in January. If you have questions, please call 703-228-6570.

Robbery: Be on the Lookout

Luckily, Bluemont has very little serious crime, but there was one recent event of particular concern. On 11/27/2009 at 8 pm, a man approached a woman ➡4



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► IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

FROM P.3

walking away from her car in the 800 block of N. Frederick Street and demanded her purse. The suspect assaulted the victim and fled with her wallet. The suspect was described as an African American male, 5'10" with an average build. He was wearing dark pants and a black hooded sweatshirt with the hood up. If you have information or questions about this specific crime, call the Arlington County Police 1st District at 703-228-4130.

Home Health Care Services Discussion

On 1/25/10, 11:00 am to 12:00 noon, the county is sponsoring an informative talk on Medicare's home health care benefits at the Culpepper Garden Senior Center (4435 N Pershing Drive). Lynda Bass, an R.N. from The Medical Team, Inc. (a home health care agency), will review Medicare and the coverage provided, who is eligible, and what home health care services are available. Call 703-228-4403 to register by 1/22/10. Attendance is free.

Arlington Farmer's Market

Did you know that the Arlington Farmer's Market operates year-round? Each Saturday, from 8 am to noon, regional vendors sell fresh produce, herbs, breads, meats and other items at 2100 Clarendon Blvd, near the Court House Metro stop.

...plus Antiques & Collectibles

Also on Saturdays year-round, 8 am to 5 pm, you can shop for furniture, art, and all manner of vintage treasures at the Antiques and Collectibles Market located on 15th Street North, next to Courthouse parking lot. ■

► A Good Year

Arlington County Public Health Division recruits and trains current or retired volunteer physicians, dentists, veterinarians, pharmacists, nurses, and others with relevant skills to help their fellow citizens during health emergencies. If you are interested in joining the MRC, visit the county's Website at www.arlingtonva.us and type "Medical Reserve Corps" into the main search box. You can also contact the MRC via e-mail at ArlingtonMRC@arlingtonva.us or by calling 703-228-4986.



Balls Crossing Sign Repair — NC Representative Carl Drummond has been working with local neighbors and county staff to fix the old Balls Crossing sign located on N. George Mason Drive, which has become rusty. Drummond reports that the county plans to paint the sign's posts sometime this

spring. Because this is a neighborhood sign and the Balls Crossing civic association merged with Bluemont's civic association some years ago, the county ordinarily would have removed the sign due to its age and state of disrepair. However, the marker does have historical significance, and the neighbors were opposed to its removal.

Frederick Street NC Project Is Funded

— NC Representative Carl Drummond reports that the sidewalk, curb and gutter project for N. Frederick Street (between I-66 and Wilson Boulevard) was approved at the December 2009 NC funding round. The project was the second half of the original N. 9th

Street/Frederick Street NC project. Congratulations and many thanks to Carl Drummond and Mike Minaie (the block captains) who shepherded their projects through the years-long funding and construction process. BCA's new first-priority project is now the sidewalk, curb and gutter project for the 1000 block of N. Edison Street (Larry Smith is the block captain). BCA wants to identify more potential NC projects and block captains. If your block is missing a complete sidewalk, curb and gutter on at least one side, contact Carl at carld10@aol.com for more information and instructions on how to begin the process.



Harrison Street Bike Trail Access Completed — Over the years, many BCA members have worked have the abandoned portion of Old Fairfax Drive at N. Harrison Street (next to the I-66 overpass) connected to the Custis Trail so that bikers and walkers could access the trail from Harrison Street. In 2008, BCA member Chris Healey



wrote and submitted a park enhancement grant (PEG) for that purpose, which was subsequently approved. At long last, the 100-foot asphalt connector trail (dubbed the Revolutionary War Connector Trail in honor of a local hero) has been completed. We thank Chris and all those BCA members who have worked

over the years to bring this project to a successful completion.

Bluemont Park Fence Replaced

— BCA worked with the county and local residents to arrange for the replacement of the split-rail fence in Bluemont Park (next to the trail) that was abruptly removed in August 2008. The county had not planned to replace the fence, which was removed because it was in an advanced state of disrepair. After repeated requests from Bluemont residents, the county agreed to replace the fence. New landscaping and the installation of new trees also accompanied the fence replacement.

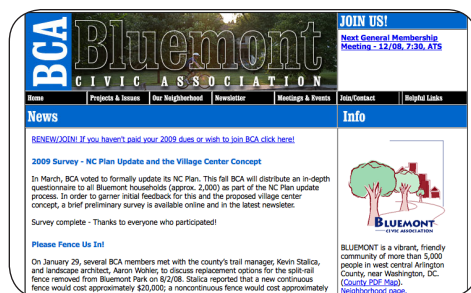


Help BCA, Help Yourself

What would happen if your civic association disappeared? No one would track and relay information about development projects, changes to the zoning ordinance, or other matters that could affect your property value or quality of life. There would be no newsletter, no Web site, no list serve, and no one to help you qualify neighborhood streets for curb, gutter, sidewalks and lighting improvements.

Most BCA officers and volunteers have been serving you faithfully for MANY YEARS, and several cannot serve another term. We need to identify new volunteers to serve as elected officers/representatives. Elections will be held at the June Annual Meeting. If new volunteers do not step forward, the civic association may become inactive. Please contact Judah dal Cais at president@bluemontcivic.org if you are willing to help yourself and your neighbors. ■

BCA Website Undergoing Renovation



Last year, a server failure occurred, and some archived documents on BCA's Website were lost. Webmaster Dave Leichtman and Sam Ferro are working to restore the archived items that were lost and to update the Website. ■

► BCA MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

FROM P.3

Corps (MRC), distributed information and spoke about the H1N1 flu pandemic and the inoculation effort in Arlington County. (See related "Flu Fighters" article on p.1.) For additional meeting details, please visit bluemontcivic.org to review the approved meeting minutes. ■

H1N1 Vaccinations Still Available

During the month of January 2010, H1N1 clinics will be open Monday through Friday at both Arlington health department locations.

JANUARY 11-29

(H1N1 shot and H1N1 nasal spray available at both locations)

■ 800 South Walter Reed Drive, 1st Floor

Mondays	10:30am – 6:30pm
Tuesdays	8:30am – 4:30pm
Wednesdays	10:30am – 6:30pm
Thursdays	8:30am – 4:30pm
Fridays	8:30am – 4:30pm

(No clinic on 1/29 at this location)

■ 3033 Wilson Blvd, 2nd Floor

Mondays	8:30am – 4:30pm
Tuesdays	8:30am – 12:00pm
Wednesdays	8:30am – 4:30pm
Thursdays	8:30am – 4:30pm
Fridays	8:30am – 12:00pm

H1N1 Clinics will be closed on Monday, January 18, 2010, in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

2nd Doses for Kids Under 10

The CDC recommends that children under age 10 receive two doses of H1N1 vaccine separated by 4 weeks (28 days or more). For more details, visit <http://arlingtonva.us/portals/topics/TopicsPandemicFlu.aspx>.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

BCA General Meeting 1/20

Home Health Care Services 1/25
Discussion, Culpepper Garden
Senior Center, Noon

FEBRUARY

Village Center Design Forum 2/6
at ATS, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Executive Board Meeting 2/9

General Meeting 2/17

MARCH

Executive Board Meeting 3/9

General Meeting 3/24

HAPPY 2010!
from the Bluemont Civic Association

BCA Neighborhood News

is a service of YOUR community civic association.

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Bluemont Civic Association

PO Box 5134

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on the label says
"Paid through 12/31/2009"
(or earlier), fill out the
form on page 3 and send
your check for \$15 to
BCA, or bring it to
the next BCA
meeting!

Fire Prevention Tips



Since Thanksgiving 2008, there have been more than 158 fatal fires in the United States resulting in over 200 fire fatalities. Residential fires are most common in December and January, and home heating equipment is often to blame. Be sure that fireplaces and wood stoves have at least 36 inches of clearance from flammable surfaces and proper floor support. Have chimneys inspected

annually and cleaned by licensed professionals. Ashes can stay hot for days. Place them in a metal container away from the home and anything flammable. For more tips, visit www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/Fire/FireMain.aspx. ■

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