

BCA

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Apr 2008

A Public Service of Your Blue Mountain Association

Celebrate Neighborhood Day With BCA!



Arlington's annual Neighborhood Day takes place on May 10. We invite you to join BCA at these events:

■ 7:30-11:30 am—Help establish the Revolutionary War Connector Trail and preserve an Arlington historic site. Meet at N. Harrison Street at N. Fairfax Drive (in St. Ann's parking lot). Come out and lend a hand on 5/10 to clean up the Shreve-Southern cemetery and begin the process of clearing the future site of the Revolutionary War Connector Trail. Bring a piece of gardening equipment (a rake or pruning shears) with you. Afterward, please attend the BCA BBQ (see below) at Fire Station #2 for lunch.

The Shreve-Southern cemetery (next to St. Ann's parking lot) is the final resting place of a Revolutionary War hero. This historic site needs a spring cleanup and sits adjacent to the proposed Harrison Street connector to the Custis Trail (dubbed the Revolutionary War Connector Trail). It's an ideal access point to the Custis Trail that would draw attention to the historic significance of the cemetery. For details, contact Chris Healey at cphealey@verizon.net or 202-302-2521.

■ 11:30 am to 1 pm—BCA's BBQ will take place in the park behind Fire Station #2 (near the corner of Wilson and George Mason). Eat FREE burgers and hotdogs at our Neighborhood Day celebration. We'll set up between 11:00 and 11:30 am at the picnic tables behind Fire Station #2 (clean up will begin no later than 1:30 pm). Want to help? Contact Judah dal Cais at jdalcas@verizon.net or 703-528-1551.

AND DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP YOUR FREE TREES

If you have reserved a free tree whip—a tulip poplar or an



JOIN US!

NEXT GENERAL MEETING 4/23/08

- Susan Retz on Accessory Dwellings
- John Welsh of AHC on the AHC Units at Peck-Staples-Jordan Manor
- Your Input & Concerns

www.bluemontcivic.org

No More BCA? Say It Ain't So!

Ever wonder 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 e-list, and no representative to the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee/NCAC (to fund curb and gutter, sidewalk, and lighting improvements), no Walking Town Meeting, and no response to the County's request for Neighborhood Infrastructure Plan (NIP) improvements.

To find out what your civic association does for you, visit www.bluemontcivic.org. Better yet, volunteer to work on a project or a committee or serve as an elected officer/representative. Elections will be held at the June Annual Meeting on 6/25. If you are interested in running for an elected position, please contact Nominating Committee Chair Bob Atkins at luddite2003@yahoo.com or 703-527-8859.

And mention BCA to your neighbors! Word of mouth is our best advertising. ■



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BCA Neighborhood News

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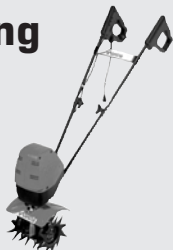
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Emergency Preparedness Liaison

open — volunteer needed

Help for Spring Yard Work

Spring is here, and it's time to work on your lawns, and prep your vegetable/herb gardens!



The association has a tiller available for loan, but in order to use this item your BCA membership must be current. The Mantis Tiller is an electric, lightweight, quiet, and easy to use tiller, de-thatcher, lawn aerator, planter/furrower, and border/edger. To reserve the Mantis tiller for your lawn and garden, please contact Judah dal Cais at jdalcais@verizon.net.

BCA MEETINGS AT A GLANCE...

Last General Meeting 3/26/08

■ Richard Young, on behalf of Culpepper Garden (CG), explained how CG uses a combination of public and private financing to provide Arlington seniors with affordable housing and other critical services. He noted that many residents come to CG because their children live in Arlington. Stop by the CG Garden Party and Open House on Sunday, 5/18 (11 am to 2 pm). For details, visit www.culpeppergarden.org or call 703-528-0162.

■ Susan Lane of the Arlington Agency on Aging (AAA) provided information on many helpful senior services. One time-sensitive program is the Seniors Farmer's Market program. Seniors living on fixed incomes (\$1,603 for singles, \$2,158 for couples) may qualify for free coupons for fresh fruits and vegetables. Applications MUST be received by May 8. For an application or more information, send an e-mail to arlaaa@arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-1700. (Note: AAA needs volunteers to serve as advocates for seniors who need help.)

■ Officer Green and Officer O'Daniel (our new police liaison) spoke about current crime trends (generally low, with an increase in robberies). They noted that the police officers are now patrolling the local bike/walking trails and urged women to avoid traveling the trails alone, particularly at night. ■

Next General Meeting 4/23/08, 7:30 pm at ATS

■ Join us at Arlington Traditional School (ATS) on Wednesday evening. Susan Retz, a member of the Housing Commission's Accessory Dwelling (AD) subcommittee and a former chair of the Housing Commission, will be on hand to present accessory dwelling information and answer questions. The County Board will review (and probably will approve) the measure at its July 19/22 meeting. If you have questions about how ADs may affect your neighborhood, now is the time to speak up. (For more details on ADs, visit www.bluemontcivic.org.) We also will open up the floor to discuss other items of concern. ■

And coming in May...

Holly Hawthorne, the principal of Arlington Traditional School, has agreed to address the membership on 5/28.

When — and Where — Do We MEET?

Glad you asked! BCA holds general membership meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month (September through June) at 7:30 pm, and the meetings are usually held at ATS, unless announced otherwise. Executive Committee meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at ATS unless announced otherwise. Executive Committee meetings are open to all BCA members.

Visit the bluemontcivic.org for updates on meeting times and locations.

Did We Deliver?

Many thanks to the newsletter volunteers who hand-delivered the March issue to all residents living within BCA boundaries. Due to cost constraints, BCA mails the newsletter to current members only, except for a twice-yearly outreach effort. If you did NOT receive the March newsletter, please contact Judy Collins at jc.swings@verizon.net or 703-276-0124.

Peck-Staples Preconstruction Meeting Recap

Member John Herickhoff attended the 3/26 Peck-Staples preconstruction meeting held by Clark Construction, JBG's contractor, and he reported the following information. (To see a copy of Herickhoff's full report, please visit www.bluemontcivic.org.)

Demolition of the Peck building is slated to begin mid-April 2008; the whole site should be clear (including Staples) by mid-July 2008. Installation of water and electric lines should start "soon" and is slated to be complete by the end of 2008. This will involve digging and closures on both sides of Wilson and perhaps a bit on Vermont/Wakefield, although all lanes should be open during rush hour.

Excavation of the garages (garages for all three buildings are being built at the same time) is slated to begin around January 2009 and finish, at-grade, by late summer/fall 2009. Above-ground construction should begin in late summer/fall of 2009 and last approximately 20 months, with a projected completion in the spring/summer of 2011.

There will be covered sidewalks along Wilson and Glebe, but it isn't clear exactly when sidewalks/curb and gutter will be installed on both sides of N. Wakefield Street.

According to County Planning staff member Lisa Maher, AHC has submitted its site-plan amendment to the County, and the County should finish its review within a couple of months. (As of now, there are no scheduled public meetings to review AHC's new plans.) JBG stated that the land-swap with AHC is slated for December 2008. JBG then hopes to sell the parcel west of Wakefield, believing it will be developed "quickly" into 19 townhouses.

During construction, the best point of contact (other than the police) for questions and complaints will be Clark Construction Community Liaison Lee Delong at 301-272-8100 or lee.delong@clarkconstruction.com. ■

NC Vote in April

The Neighborhood Conservation (NC) project for 5th Street N. is under construction. Unfortunately, the lighting component (part of the original project) had to be removed so that the project would not exceed the dollar limit for NC projects. However, additional funds had to be allocated to the project anyway, but the County would not allow the lights to be automatically reincorporated into the project. Therefore, we will vote on April 23 to add lights for 5th Street N. to the NC funding queue.

At this time, no other new projects for the queue have been identified. Whereas we will have two items in line for funding—Phase II of 9th and N. Frederick Streets and the lights for 5th Street N.—we need to identify projects for the future. The path to funding is a long one, so if you want sidewalk, curb and gutter, or lighting improvements on your block, please contact NC representative Wendy Dean now at wjlarlington@yahoo.com.

Updating the BCA NC Plan

The two items in our NC queue (see related "NC Vote" article) mark the end of the projects currently listed in BCA's NC Plan. (The original 1999 version can be viewed on the Web site at www.bluemontcivic.org/minutes/BCA_Conservation_08-99.pdf.) At a minimum, we must update our NC Plan to include prospective NC projects. ➡4

WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Ballston Arts & Crafts and Farmer's Markets

■ Starting on May 10 — and happening every second Saturday of the month through the summer from 10 am to 4 pm, visit Welburn Square (between Wilson Blvd. and N. Fairfax Dr. on N. Stuart St.) to purchase original handmade items thru October. And these are not your average crafts! Come and see the trendy and fun creations these select artisans have for sale. More info at: <http://ballstonarts-craftsmarket.blogspot.com/>

■ Also each Friday beginning 5/30 visit the farmer's market at Welburn Square between 11 am and 3 pm. Admission to both markets is FREE! ■

Register for 2008 Primary by 5/12

The deadline to register to vote or update your address for the June 12 primaries is 5 pm on Monday, May 12. For further information, contact Arlington's Office of Voter Registration at 703-228-3456. ■

Please Help Us Incorporate!

BCA would like to incorporate. We are looking for an attorney (with experience in incorporating non-profit organizations) to volunteer his or her time to help us at cost. If you are interested, please contact Wendy Dean at wjlarlington@yahoo.com. ■

Historic Four Mile Run May Look Clean, But...

You may have heard or seen warnings about a recent sewage leak into Four Mile Run creek which runs through Bon Air and Bluemont Parks. Although County crews quickly fixed this problem, due to regular over-EPA limit measurements for fecal coliform bacteria, the County advises some ➡4

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Next General Meeting-ATS	4/23
Neighborhood Day BBQ	5/10
Exec. Committee Meeting-ATS	5/13
General Meeting-ATS	5/28

Neighborhood Day Free Trees

FROM P.1

Allegheny serviceberry—you MUST pick it up on Saturday, May 10 (Neighborhood Day) between 9 am and 2 pm at the home of Ramona Femenias who has graciously offered to serve as our tree distributor.

A few of these trees will also be available at the Neighborhood Day BBQ, but they won't last long! ■

NC Plan

FROM P.3

The County has suggested that we substantively update our NC Plan (which would require NCAC approval). Our Plan already states that we oppose any change in current zoning or the General Land Use Plan (GLUP), particularly with respect to the residential neighborhoods east of N. George Mason Dr. The County, however, is continuing to push for increased height and density west of N. Glebe Road, and the pressure will grow if/when the County reopens N. Woodrow and/or N. Wakefield Streets to N. Fairfax Drive. (the off ramp of I-66). The question remains whether it would be safer to leave the NC Plan alone and simply update the NC projects list or whether we should make more substantive revisions to the NC Plan. ■



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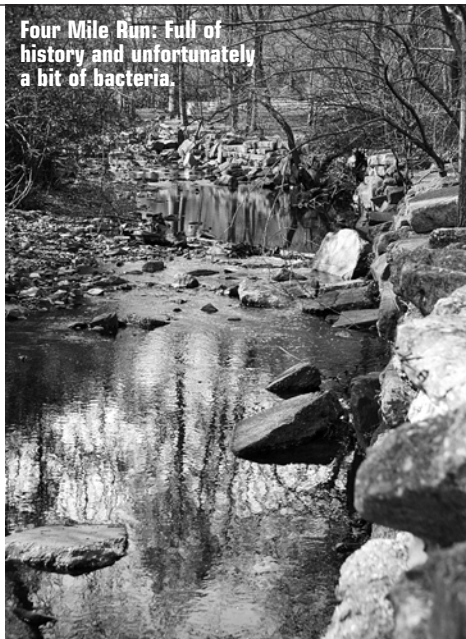
Four Mile Run FROM P.3

caution when enjoying our neighborhood stream.

According to the Arlingtonians for a Cleaner Environment web site (arlingtonenvironment.org): Arlington County park management recommends the following safety precautions:

- Never drink stream water.
- Fishing and wading with shoes or boots are OK but do not swim or bathe in streams.
- Do not eat uncooked fish caught in local streams.
- Wash your hands after coming into contact with stream water.

Four Mile Run: Full of history and unfortunately a bit of bacteria.



■ Keep stream water out of your eyes, ears, mouth or any open sores.

■ Children who are too young to understand these precautions should not be allowed to play in streams.

The stream — part of which once defined the northernmost boundary of George Washington's Four Mile Run Tract, and was home to several mills including one destroyed by Union troops in the Civil War — runs four miles and empties into the Potomac.

So enjoy historic Four Mile Run but be aware of this easily avoidable hazard. ■