

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING 10/28/09**

- County Staff on Zoning
- Holiday Lighting Plans
- Votes on D&V Texaco Motions
- Your Input & Concerns

**Oct 2009 A Public Service of Your Bluemont Civic Association**

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

**BCA MEETINGS AT A GLANCE**

# Record Crowd at September Meeting

**Code Enforcement Presentation**

It was standing room only at BCA's kickoff September 30 meeting. Supervisor Dana Wilson and Inspector Lorenzo Harris of the county's Code Enforcement Office covered a multitude of subjects and in response to members' questions defined what is and is not covered by Code Enforcement. Wilson noted that his office does handle noise complaints;

however, he also discussed the new limitations imposed after the Virginia Supreme Court overturned most localities' noise ordinances. When noise recurs on a frequent or regular basis, he recommended that residents call Code Enforcement. When the noise is a one-time or temporary event, he recommended that residents call police. (Unfortunately, Officer O'Daniel was not present to provide input.) Code Enforcement does not handle parking issues (that's a police matter), nor does it handle trash/recycling totter issues (a Solid Waste Bureau) matter. The office does, however, investigate when there are reports of large amounts of refuse, ➔3



**SRO @ ATS: Supporters as well as some detractors of D&V Texaco swelled the ranks of attendees at September's general meeting.**

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY 10/28, 7:30 pm**

The membership will meet at Arlington Traditional School (ATS) on N. Edison Street. BCA has invited county staff members from the zoning office to speak. After the presentation, members will be able to ask questions.

Melanie Jesick, a planner in Arlington County's Department of Community Planning, Housing, and Development has notified BCA of proposed changes to the site plan for the Holiday Inn at 4610 N. Fairfax Drive (near the I-66 off ramp). The proposal is for enhanced exterior lighting: green lights will shine upward on the front and side of the hotel, consistent with the new Holiday Inn marketing efforts. The County Board is scheduled to review the proposal at its November meeting. BCA has invited Jesick to make a short presentation so that members can review the plans. (See renderings on page 2 or in color online at [bluemontcivic.org](http://bluemontcivic.org).) ➔2

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## Is Your Block Missing Something?

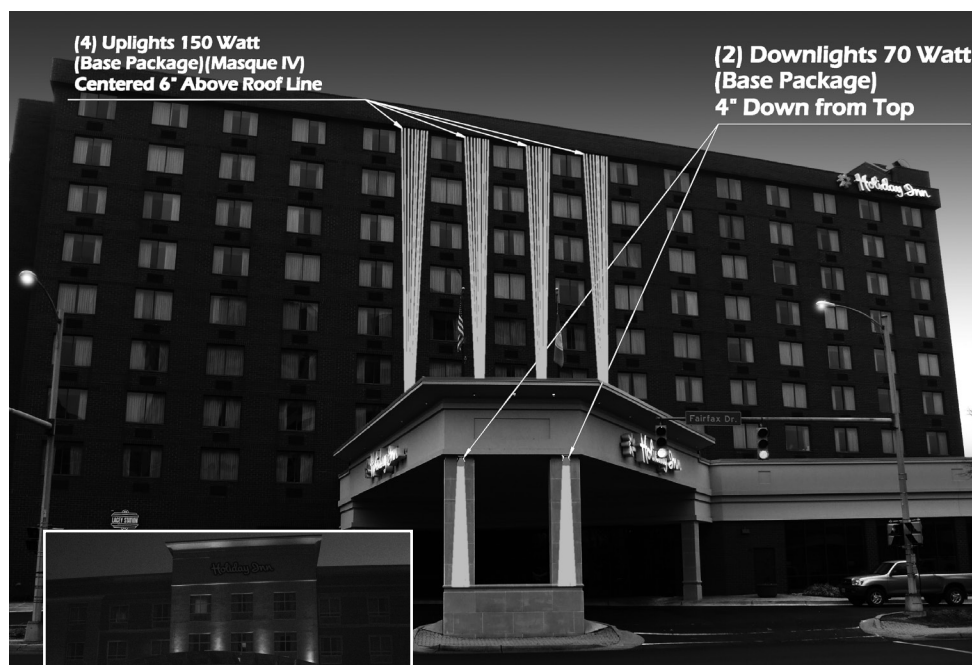
At the October meeting, the membership will decide which Neighborhood Conservation (NC) projects to send to the NC Advisory Committee. If you would like sidewalks, curbs, gutter, or lights on your street, now is the time to act. Bring a petition signed by at least 50% of your neighbors who approve of the project to the October meeting. Please call NC Representative Carl Drummond directly at 703-522-8259 with any questions. ■



### Did We Deliver?

An army of volunteers delivered BCA's September newsletter by hand to all (approximately 2,000) households and businesses in the neighborhood. We appreciate the efforts of our delivery volunteers and our newsletter distribution coordinator, David Van Wagner. If you did not receive a copy, please contact David at [dpvanwagner@mindspring.com](mailto:dpvanwagner@mindspring.com).

FROM P.1

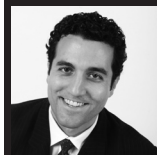


Rendering provided by the Holiday Inn suggests how lights would rake the facade facing N. Fairfax Drive. Photo at left is of similar lighting scheme installed at another Holiday Inn.

The membership also will review and vote on two motions related to D&V Auto Service Center on Wilson Boulevard at N. Frederick Street. One motion covers the Penske (formerly Budget) rental trucks; the other covers the station's automotive repair services. A county zoning official recently decided that additional permits are needed to operate the truck rental business and to perform automotive repairs. The property owner's subsequent request for the permits was denied. See the cover story, which lists the draft motions and provides additional details. ■

### When — and Where — Do We MEET?

Glad you asked! General membership meetings are usually held on the fourth Wednesday of each month (September through June) at 7:30 pm. Executive Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm (all BCA members are welcome). Meetings take place at Arlington Traditional School (ATS) unless announced otherwise. Visit [www.bluemontcivic.org](http://www.bluemontcivic.org) for current information. ■



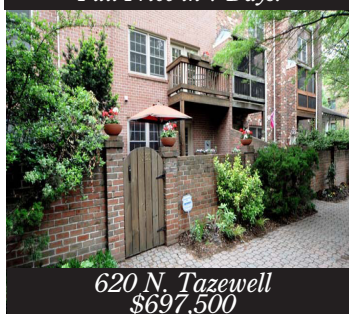
#### Nick Pasquini: Committed to Arlington!

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Co- Owner of C21 Redwood  
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## ► September Meeting FROM P.1

junked cars, or other debris piling up at a property. The rule covering grass is 12 inches: Wilson noted that this a rule based on safety and not beauty. There is no rule mandating property owners/residents to shovel snow from walkways. More details are available on the county's Website at [www.arlingtonva.us/departments/cphd/isd/code\\_enforcement/CPHDPlanningCode\\_enforcementCodeEnforcement.aspx](http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/cphd/isd/code_enforcement/CPHDPlanningCode_enforcementCodeEnforcement.aspx). Residents also may call 703-228-3232. Residents should be specific and provide full details when reporting a potential code enforcement problem.

### D&V Auto Service Center

D&V owner Robbie Guenther gave a short presentation about the rental truck parking issue. He updated members on the status of the zoning dispute. He is not the property owner, so he cannot directly apply for use permits or zoning changes; the owner is responsible for those matters. The owner is appealing the county's opinion that automotive repairs cannot be performed on the property, as it has since approximately 1950 when the station first opened.

Continuing the rental truck operation may require the owner to request a zoning change from the current C-1 local commercial zoning to C-2. The rezoning request would be a long shot and would cost approximately \$12,000 to \$15,000 to attempt. Robbie told the crowd that he knew the trucks could not continue being parked on residential streets. Parking the trucks on the street was not his preference but was a last-ditch attempt to save his business after a complaint from a N. Edison Street property owner (who was trying to sell the rental house that abuts the Safeway parking lot) prompted Safeway to revoke its agreement to host the trucks in exchange for monthly ➔4

## IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

### Adopt-A-Street

Arlington County has launched its Adopt-A-Street Program as an economical solution to storm water management and litter control throughout Arlington, while providing residents with an opportunity to do something positive for the community. Individuals or groups can volunteer to help keep our neighborhoods clean by "adopting" a section of road and pledging to keep the street, curb, and storm drain free of trash and debris for a commitment of 1 year by performing clean-up duties on a quarterly basis.

Get involved by adopting now; it's easy! Interested adopters can view available streets at [www.arlingtonva.us/des](http://www.arlingtonva.us/des) and sign up online. Once enrolled, duties simply include sweeping the curb and gutter lines, removing litter along the adopted street, reporting any hazardous conditions along the street, such as downed ➔6

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### Last Day for Absentee Voting Is October 31!

If you will be out of town or unable to go to the polls on Election Day (November 3), you can vote by absentee ballot at the Office of Voter Registration, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 320. The Office of Voter Registration will be open for absentee voting from 8:00 am until 5 pm, Monday, 10/26/09, through Friday, 10/30/09, and Saturday, October 31, 8:30 am to 5 pm. For more details, visit <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationAbsenteeVoting.aspx> or call 703-228-3456. ■

### ► September Meeting FROM P.3

charitable donations from Guenther. Guenther, along with other BCA members, is still trying to get Safeway to reconsider allowing the rental trucks to be parked in its lot, but Safeway officials have not been particularly quick to respond although they seem open to the possibility. In the meantime, Guenther has moved trucks that are not needed in the short term to a Penske satellite lot in Springfield.

Paul Ducharme, of Carlisle Park, spoke on behalf of the townhouse owners' association. (Carlisle Park abuts the D&V/Texaco property.) Ducharme noted the extreme unsightliness of the trucks that are parked in the public spaces along both sides of N. Frederick Street, near the townhouses. He also objected to having the trucks turn around in the single driveway that Carlisle Park residents must use to access their own parking lot. Ducharme remarked that the townhouse residents were disturbed in the early morning hours by the trucks being started and moved. Ducharme reported that he spoken with about 50 residents (approximately 40 of which are residents of Carlisle Park) who strongly object to having the trucks parked on residential streets. Another resident of Carlisle Park noted the inadequate amount of parking for residents and guests in the Carlisle Park lot and objected to having trucks or other vehicles parking in public spots that could be used by townhouse residents and guests. It was also noted that on one occasion, a person had been locked inside a truck and had to be released by a Carlisle Park resident. Guenther responded by saying that he would place exterior locks on all the trucks to keep them secure when parked. ➔5



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## ► September Meeting FROM P.4

Lisa Byington, a resident of N. Edison Street, said that although she likes Robbie and used his service station for auto repairs, she was fed up with the large trucks that have been parked in the public spots along N. Fairfax Drive (between I-66 and the ATS ball fields). In addition to problems with early-morning noise, she reported that the trucks had torn down limbs and damaged trees that provide the only sound barrier for houses along the north end of Edison Street. She also reported incidents of groups of men gathering around the trucks to drink and litter. Another N. Edison Street resident, Chris Spencer, reported that the trucks speed along N. Edison Street next to the school. Spencer said that she and some other residents would be against having the trucks relocated to the Safeway parking lot, objecting to their unsightliness.

Many residents spoke out in support of Guenther as a helpful and sympathetic business owner who has provided trusted and reliable auto repair services for the neighborhood for many years. Two residents noted Guenther's flexibility and kindness when they had forgotten to pay their bills. One gentleman noted that in addition to Guenther's other contributions to the community, Guenther also had given jobs to the man's son and other young men in the community, providing them with an opportunity to obtain job skills and the discipline that had enabled them to turn their lives around. In answer to one attendee's question, Guenther replied that he didn't know whether his business would still be viable if he were to lose the rental truck revenue. At a minimum, he said that he would have to fire at least some of his eight employees but countered that he would attempt to continue operating the business.

Most members of the crowd expressed the hope that some sort of compromise could be reached that would enable Guenther's business to survive while addressing neighbors concerns about the trucks. In that regard, the two motions below were made and passed by the membership for consideration and a vote at the October 28, 2009, general membership meeting:

1) BCA supports the mechanical automobile repair services being performed at the D&V Auto Service Center located at 5201 Wilson Boulevard.

2) BCA supports negotiations between D&V Auto Service Center (located at 5201 Wilson Boulevard) and nearby residents to determine a list of conditions that D&V would have to meet in order for BCA and residents to support the continued operation of the rental truck business.

BCA Civic Federation delegate and Planning Commission member Terry Serie urged the civic association to facilitate discussions of this matter between neighbors and D&V well before the October 28 meeting date. Serie noted his success in working with the owner of Union Jack's pub at Ballston Common Mall in resolving noise-related issues. He advised the membership that from his experience, once matters go before the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA), anything could happen and the outcome could be both unexpected and unwelcome. The best option for all concerned, in his opinion, was for neighbors to reach an agreement with Guenther prior to the BZA hearing. ■

## County Board Approves Union Jack's Permit

BCA's neighborhood representative and Planning Commission member Terry Serie reports that on September 26, 2009, the County Board approved the Union Jack's (a local pub at Ballston Common Mall) "live entertainment and dancing" use permit renewal with the new noise control conditions proposed by the neighbors living across N. Glebe Road.

Serie believes the new conditions should effectively deal with the loud noise that was coming from the outdoor speakers and the open doors (now to be closed) during live and amplified entertainment.

Customer noise late at night in the outdoor seating area will still be a challenge. Whereas one of the conditions calls for the Union Jack's staff to take reasonable measures to control customer noise, it remains to be seen how effectively this will be managed. Serie suspects there will be a learning curve on the part of the Union Jack's staff. The neighborhood will probably have to make some calls, send e-mails, and have additional meeting with the owner to work on the customer noise control.

A six-month administrative review was added to the permit, so that there will be leverage to try to get effective management of the late-night customer noise. ■

### EDITOR'S NOTE

**The BCA offers paid advertising to neighborhood businesses and individuals. Publication of these ads does not constitute an endorsement by the BCA of the services offered.**

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

<b>BCA General Meeting</b>	<b>10/28</b>
Medicare Workshop (info below right)	10/30
Last Day of Absentee Voting (info page 4)	10/31
Kids' Halloween Parade	10/31
Annual neighborhood-planned event starts at N. Emerson St. and proceeds along the Bluemont Junction Trail, approximately 4pm.	
NOVEMBER	
Election Day	11/3
<b>Executive Board Meeting</b>	<b>11/10</b>
<b>November General Meeting</b>	<b>11/18</b>

## BCA Neighborhood News

is a service of YOUR community civic association.

**bca@bluemontcivic.org**

### President

Judah dal Cais-703-528-1551  
president@bluemontcivic.org

### First Vice President

Wendy Dean-wjlarlington@yahoo.com

### Second Vice President

Talmadge Williams-703-522-5575/ttwrec@aol.com

### Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee Representative

Carl Drummond-703-522-8259/carld10@aol.com

### Treasurer

Judy Collins-703-276-0124/jc.swings@verizon.net

### Secretary

Mary Thorne-mary.thorne3@verizon.net

### Civic Federation Representatives

Delegates: Kate Mesches, Talmadge Williams, Ed Fendley, Terry Serie. Alternates: Bob Atkins, Judah dal Cais, Sam Ferro, Larry Smith

### BCA COMMITTEE CHAIRS & REPRESENTATIVES

#### Webmaster

Dave Leichtman-dave@leichtman.org

#### Newsletter Editor

Suzanne Sundburg-pro.wordsmith@verizon.net

#### Newsletter Design/Layout/Photos

Sam Ferro-sam@ferroplusferro.com

#### Newsletter Distribution

David Van Wagner-dpvanwagner@mindspring.com

#### Wilson Boulevard Safety Committee

Bob Waffle-rwaffle@comcast.net

#### Bluemont Village Center Working Group

president@bluemontcivic.org

#### Ballston Partnership Representative

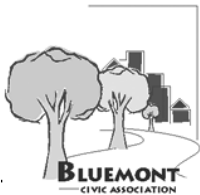
Talmadge Williams-ttwrec@aol.com

#### Metro Liaison

Henry McFarland-hmcfarland@hotmail.com

#### Emergency Preparedness Liaison

James Thorne-james.thorne7@verizon.net



**Bluemont Civic Association**

**PO Box 5134**

**Arlington VA 22205**

### ► September Meeting FROM P.3

power lines or street light outages, and reporting clean-up activities. Adopters are only required to perform these duties once a quarter and update their account of completed tasks online. In addition to providing each adopter with safety equipment and a bucket, the Solid Waste Bureau picks up debris.

Make a difference in your environment! Sweeping of the curb and gutter line and litter collection is imperative to keep dirt, silt, and trash out of the storm drains, the Potomac River and our other valu-

able waterways and natural habitats. The Program will greatly reduce the amount of sediment and litter accumulating along the curb and gutter line that our large street sweepers are unable to reach due to parked cars lining the streets.

Trash and litter is greatly preventable through great individual stewardship. Keep Arlington and our watershed clean by Adopting-A-Street! Sign up now at <http://egov.arlingtonva.us/des-adopt-a-street>. ■

### October 30 Medicare Workshop

Come to a Medicare 2009 Workshop sponsored by Cornerstone Senior Financial. Subjects to be covered include Medicare Parts A, B, C and D; supplemental coverage options; and Long Term Care. The workshop will begin at 11:00 a.m. at the Aurora Hills Senior Center, 735 18th Street South. The workshop is free, but you must register in advance. For more details, call Julie Albers at 703-228-5722. ■