



# Reston Citizens Association NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2009  
View online at: <http://go-resTOWN.org/newsletters/>

## RCA Honors Citizen of the Year

On Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM, the Reston Citizens Association honored its **2008 Reston Citizen of the Year Hank Blakely** in a ceremony at the Reston Community Center. Mr. Blakely is being honored for his **"inspiration and leadership...promoting social justice, protecting our civil liberties and standing up for Reston" and its founding goals.** RCA President Marion Stillson lead the salute to the man one RCA Board member referred to as "Mr. Social Justice". During the ceremony which was open to the public, Mr. Blakely's name was added to the plaque honoring past Citizens of the Year.

## Reston Accessibility Committee (RAC)

This RCA Committee aims to improve comfort and convenience in Reston public places for people with mobility impairments. Ken Fredgren is Chair. Since the first meeting in January, 2008, the Committee has designed and produced a color brochure which explains the Committees goals and offers various ways for members of the Reston community to get involved.



On October 8, at a ceremony at Hidden Creek Golf Course Clubhouse and courtesy of the Reston Rotary Club, Chairman Ken Fredgren presented certificates of award to two Reston businesses - **Tetra Partnerships and the American Tap Room** - who have, at RAC's request, improved their premises. The Committee is now surveying Reston gas stations to

determine what facilities they have for mobility-impaired gas purchasers.

The RAC group is small and welcomes additional activists as well as additional supporters. Please direct any questions to Ken Fredgren at 703/391-9019.

## RCA Board Hosts Metro Series

In July, August and September, 2008, the RCA Board presented a series of prominent speakers whose expertise is Metro. After their presentations, the speakers answered questions posed by the RCA Board of Directors. The speakers in the series were: **Marcia McAllister** of Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project; **Scott Monett** of Tyson's Tunnel; **Patricia Nicoson** (pictured below) of Dulles Corridor Rail Association, with RCA President Marion Stillson.



## Reston License Plate Promotion



RCA is pleased to announce that **Reston Association** will promote the license plate (below) which won RCA's contest some time ago. If you have not yet registered for your own Reston license plate, please contact Dan McGuire or Diane Lewis of the RCA Board of Directors, who are pictured above at Reston Association's Newcomers Night at Isaac Newton Square on Nov. 6, 2008, accepting a registration and check from Robin Smyers, President of the Reston Association.



## Sustainable Reston Initiative

The newly-formed Sustainable Reston Initiative (SRI) meets on a bi-weekly basis and **intends to promote sustainability in Reston through short and long-term projects.**



In addition to choosing its distinctive name, the group has adopted a logo (created by member Hank Blakely), formed a Google Group (also thanks to Hank Blakely), and will have a presence on the new RCA website. The SRI is currently reviewing a list of sustainability projects which were brainstormed under the guidance of member Paul Hughes. Possible projects range from rain barrel installations to a plug-in hybrid fueling station.

Current members include Hank Blakely, John Bowman, Barbara Bureson, Paul Hughes, Patricia Simeral and Diane Lewis.

## ■ Report of RCA Stakeholder Committee on Reston Master Plan Review Process

1. Hunter Mill District Planning Commissioner Frank A. de la Fe responded to RCA President Stillson's letter request re: the **status of the APR (Area Plans Review) nominations pertaining to Reston**, stating that 21 of 23 nominations have been deferred by the Planning Commission to be addressed by the process of the current Reston Master Plan Special Study. The two nominations that were not deferred pertained to the IPAR initiative and Reston Hospital.



### 2. RCA sponsored a caucus on 9/28/2008 to initiate dialogue with several other Reston organizations to investigate the possibility of a mutual communiqué to Supervisor Hudgins.

The purpose was to advocate for broad-based participation in any process the Supervisor chose based upon DPZ recommendation. Given the short time window prior to closure of the DPZ discovery process, the effort did not achieve consensus.

### 3. Reston Master Plan Review Process Community Meeting.

On Tuesday October 28, 2008 at 7 p.m., the Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) hosted a community meeting to share information gathered and discuss DPZ staff's recommendations for a planning process to review the Reston Master Plan and related portions of the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan.

Background: **DPZ conducted focus groups from July through October 2008 with 9 groups that included participants from the following:**

- Alliance of Reston Clusters and Homeowners (ARCH)
- Working Alliance of Town Center Homeowners (WATCH)
- Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce
- Reston Association (RA) Board
- RA Design Review Board
- RA Transportation Advisory Committee
- Reston Citizen Association (RCA)
- Reston Community Center (RCC)
- Reston Planning and Zoning Committee

### 4. Get more info on Fairfax County DPZ's webpage for the Reston Master Plan review.

- Draft summary copy of all the comments from the various focus group meetings that were held @ <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/projects/reston.htm>

- Compilation of Focus Group Comments (23 Pages) @ [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/projects/reston/summary\\_notes\\_from\\_reston\\_focus\\_groups\\_10-15-08\\_draft.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/projects/reston/summary_notes_from_reston_focus_groups_10-15-08_draft.pdf)

## ■ Reston Interfaith's Hypothermia Prevention Program – Dec. thru Mar.

In order to prevent weather-induced illness and loss of life among unsheltered homeless adult men and women in our community, Reston Interfaith is operating the North County Hypothermia Prevention Program again this year in partnership with Fairfax County. Last year, over 130 volunteers catered home-cooked meals, collected wish list items and assisted with a variety of activities for program participants. If you'd like to help, contact Mandy Guernsey at 571/323-9565 or [Mandy.Guernsey@restoninterfaith.org](mailto:Mandy.Guernsey@restoninterfaith.org)



## ■ Reston Eyes Future With Trepidation

From an article by Sandhya Somashekhar which appeared in the *Washington Post* November 28, 2008

From Tysons Corner to Rockville Pike, communities across the Washington suburbs are aspiring to become what Reston has been for more than 40 years: a place where you can buy milk, take a photography class and commune with nature without stepping foot in your car.

Now, Reston - which famously pioneered the kind of walkable, environmentally friendly, mixed-use suburban neighborhood that is all the rage these days - is on the cusp of its own transformation. And some residents say they fear it could lose the delicate balance that made it a model.

Three Metrorail stations are slated to open in the town as part of a planned extension to Dulles International Airport, and high-density developments are expected to be built around at least two of them. Plans are underway to redevelop Lake Anne Village Center, a lakeside plaza in Reston that was modeled after a European village. And several other redevelopment projects that would add density elsewhere in the town have been proposed.

Some residents have objected because of the traffic the changes could generate. They also say they fear that the character of the community could be altered. Kathy Kaplan, a children's book author, said she learned about the Lake Anne plans after discovering that her neighborhood library was being moved. She said she worries that development will eventually drive her from her home. *Read entire article at:*

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/11/27/AR2008112702233\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/11/27/AR2008112702233_pf.html)

## ■ Nature House Reaches Construction Goal



On November 19, (above) RCA President Marion Stillson attends a ceremony to mark the raising of sufficient private funds to build the new all-season, all-weather Nature House at the Walker Nature Center. Officials announced that the design has been chosen and is expected to be certified as "green" under LEED standards. The new, larger facility, built on the same spot as the current "hut" should be constructed and in use by late 2009.

Reston Citizens Association's newsletter is published 6 times/year and is available by email or on RCA's website at <http://go-resTOWN.org>. In the absence of a self-governing body, RCA seeks to protect and to promote the social and political interests of Reston, serving as a forum for all residents and a voice and advocate for the community with County and State government. RCA's monthly board meetings are shown on Ch. 28 RCTV at 8pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. To get on email list, or to suggest articles, contact Marion Stillson, RCA President at [mbs@point0.net](mailto:mbs@point0.net).