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RCA: Reston's Independent Voice Community News

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Greetings!

Did you know that there are two highly controversial land discussions taking place? One is concerning the long-delayed update of the Reston Master Plan. The second discussion concerns twenty re- development proposals. In many cases, the re- development plans propose much higher densities than currently allowed for the Reston areas on both sides of the Dulles Toll Road between Wiehle Avenue and the Herndon boundary. The tools (the update of the Reston Master Plan and related planning documents) must come first. If they do not, development and density will be much harder to manage. RCA urges all Reston residents to contact Supervisor Hudgins , urging her to put updating the Reston Master Plan - as the first priority! You can reach Supervisor Hudgins by calling 703-478- 0283 or e-mailing her at hnrml@fairfaxcounty.gov

**Enjoy our new look! We will be sending you our newsletter monthly!
Marion Stillson, RCA President**

Metro's Cash Cow

At RCA's August meeting a discussion was held to debate the equity of MWAA's proposal to extend rail to Dulles airport. Facilitated by Joe Ritchey (Best of Reston Awardee), the board discussed the implications of the proposed plan. No one questions that the extension of rail to Dulles will benefit Reston and Herndon. But after careful study, one can see that the equation of value to cost is not very balanced.

Tyson's Corner will have four rail stations, allowing most residents and workers to be within walking distance of a rail station. In addition, there will be no commuter parking in the Tyson's Corner area for Metro riders, all of that will be centered in the Reston- Herndon area, causing additional commuter congestion in our area. In Phase I, there will be parking for 2,300 cars at the Wiehle Station. In Phase II, there will be an additional 3,500 spaces allotted for the Reston Station. That will be a minimum of 5,800 more cars coming into the Reston-Herndon area - certainly everyday. Can you imagine the impact to roads like Lawyers Road, Reston Parkway, and Fairfax County Parkway? There is apparently no funding available to seek solutions to the congestion that we know will occur.

The most egregious part of the proposal relates to funding. The funding proposal is highly dependent on revenue from tolls. In fact, 43% of the total project cost is based on toll revenue in Phase I. The dependence of tolls will increase in Phase II, jumping to be 81% of the total cost. There is no cap on the cost overruns which tolls may be needed to pay. Who will pay those tolls? To a great degree, the residents of Reston and Herndon. In fact, once the project is completed, it is estimated that Reston- Herndon and Loudon residents will pay 86% of the total cost, while landowners in Tysons will pay only 14% of the cost.

You can read Marion's complete testimony on the RCA

website by clicking [here!](#)

Reston Sustainability Award

On September 19, 2009 RCA's Sustainable Reston Committee held its first annual Reston Sustainability Awards Ceremony at Lake Anne Plaza.

The keynote speaker was Michael H. Shuman, an economist, attorney, author, and entrepreneur, whose latest book, *The Small Mart Revolution: How Local Businesses are Beating the Global Competition*, was awarded a bronze medal for best business book by the Independent Publishers' Association. Mr. Shuman outlined the ways in which local businesses benefit their communities as well as how communities like Reston can help local businesses thrive. He cited the study by a group of economists of the economic multiplier effect of a large chain bookstore versus two local bookstores in Austin, Texas. They found that a hundred dollars spent at the local bookstores would circulate 45 dollars in the community, while the same amount of money spent at the chain would only circulate 13 dollars in Austin. Another interesting example offered by Mr. Shuman was that of all of the NFL franchises, only the Green Bay Packers can never be sold to another city because the franchise is a community-owned nonprofit.

After Mr. Shuman's talk, awards in the youth, adult, nonprofit, and business categories were presented by Marion Stillson and Sharon and Rich Clark. The awards went to student Bobby Rae Allen and advisor Lezie Love (representing the EarthForce Club of Langston Hughes Middle School), members of Reston Environmental Action (REACT), representatives for Jeanne Strokes, and Small Change Consignments.

Those attending included Reston founder, Robert E. Simon; Reston town-planning scholar and entrepreneur, Professor Patrick F. Kane; Kathleen McKee, Vice President of the Reston Association Board of Directors; President Marion Stillson, RCA President; and a number of other members of the RCA Board. John Lovaas, local television personality was the Master of Ceremonies.

Musical interludes were provided by the acoustic blues group, BugSnakeWillie.

RCA Election Results!

RCA experienced a record voter turn out with nearly 1,200 ballots cast during July's election at the Reston Festival. RCA is pleased to welcome two new board members. They are Tammi Petrine, At-Large Director and George Kain, North Point Director. Marion Stillson was re-elected President. Incumbents Marie Huhtala, Diane Lewis, John Lovaas and Jane Wong were re-elected. In an interesting development, Colin Mills was re-elected as a write-in candidate and subsequently re-elected Vice President.

One vacancy remains on the 13-person Board. That vacancy is for the second South Lakes Director. Contact Marion Stillson at mbs@point0.net if you are interested. To be eligible you must support RCA's goals and live in Reston's South Lakes District (defined as living in Small Tax District 5 and voting in South Lakes, Sunrise Valley or Terraset Precincts).

Know a Candidate for RCA Citizen of the Year?

RCA is now accepting nominations for the 2009 Citizen of the Year. **Nominations forms must be received no later than November 5, 2009.**

Selection Criteria ^(a) Must be Reston resident for at least 5 years ^(a) Actions must be consistent with goals of Reston and RCA ^(a) Actions contribute to quality of life in Reston ^(a) People in need have benefited from nominee's action ^(a) Nominee's deeds are done without thought of personal recognition ^(a) Nominee is not currently serving as an elected public office or Board member of any major community organization (RA, RCA, ARCH or RCC)

Nominations should be returned to: Barbara Bureson RCA Citizen of the Year Committee 11400 Washington Plaza West Reston, VA 20190 You can download a form on the RCA website [here](#)

RCA August Board Minutes

The Board finalized plans for promoting the Reston license plate at RA's Community Yard Sale. The first "Sustainable Reston Awards Ceremony", to be held at Lake Anne was also discussed. The Board voted to move forward with the Reston Citizen of the Year contest.

August's outside presenter was Reston commercial real estate broker, Joe Ritchey who discussed the role of tolls in funding the Stage II expansion of rail to Dulles.

RCA's committee structure and other matters internal to the Board were discussed in its executive session.

The Spectrum Improves Accessibility

RCA's Reston Accessibility Committee (RAC) has been working with The Spectrum Center's property management since last November, trying to achieve a safer and thus more welcoming environment for customers with mobility impairments. The Spectrum is the large two-block shopping center north of the Reston Town Center, and is owned by Lerner Enterprises. While several recommendations are still on the table, in September a curb ramp was added at the end of the sidewalk just past Bubbles Hair Salon to provide safe access to La Madeleine Bakery Café & Bistro. The two closest accessible parking spaces were farther down the strip of shops and in front of the Navy Federal Credit Union.

Prior to now, La Madeleine customers using wheelchairs or electric scooters, and traveling from those two spaces, had to venture into the traffic lane behind a row of parked cars. That was a dangerous approach because drivers backing out of a parking space could not easily see a person using a low-to-the-road mobility device and because of the closeness of cars passing in the two-lane driving area. To celebrate the accommodation, RAC members and friends used the ramp and celebrated at the restaurant.

RAC is still communicating with the local Lerner property manager and hoping to secure an accessible parking space in front of La Madeleine's entrance and two spaces opposite the entrance to On the Border Mexican Grill & Cantina in the other Spectrum block. In keeping with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Virginia law mandates that "Accessible parking spaces shall be located on the shortest accessible route of travel from adjacent parking to an accessible building entrance."

Announcements

POLITICAL DEBATE

RCA and Reston Impact will sponsor a candidate debate between Delegate Ken Plum and Republican challenger "Mac" Cannon. Questions will be posed by the local press. [Watch your Comcast schedule for details.](#) The debate will be aired several times between now and the November election.

SUPPORT THE RESTON LICENSE PLATE

The Virginia DMV requires a minimum of 350 pre-paid applications to produce a specialized license plate. Complete the form [here](#)

NEXT ISSUE

- Reston Planning for the next 40 Years
- Land Use College

Editor
Reston Citizen's Association

email: sbowman@thehaefergroup.com

web: <http://www.restoncitizensassociation.org>

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