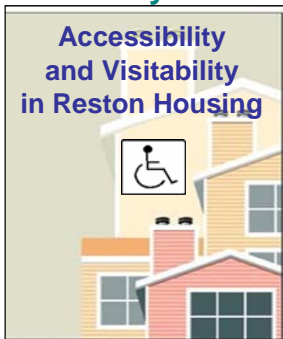


BE SURE TO VISIT RCA's BOOTH AT THE RESTON FESTIVAL JULY 8-9!

■ RCA/Reston Interfaith Accessibility & Visitability Forum Well Received



The housing infrastructure of Reston was mostly designed before access for disabled persons was an issue. For the most part, residential accessibility is not required under relevant law, but is becoming increasingly important. As Restonians acquire mobility impairments with age, they find they must move outside of Reston to locate suitable housing. This is a sad departure from one of Reston's goal of

enabling residents to remain in the community throughout their lives. How, instead of moving, can we adapt our housing?

In a forum sponsored by both RCA and Reston Interfaith on May 8, these issues were discussed with the aim of identifying contractors who are experienced with making accessibility and visitability modifications. These would include ramps, accessible bathrooms, residential elevators and lifts, and other accommodations. While most modifications may be for the benefit of individual homeowners (and their visitors), some modifications to common areas or to shared areas may also help to make Reston a place where we can "age in place" and maintain contact with our friends.

As one attendee at the forum later stated, "I relayed to a relative, a recent amputee, information I heard at RCA's Accessibility Forum on how John Canning, one of the presenters who has MS and lives alone, converted his 3-story townhouse to become completely accessible from his wheelchair. The relative found the information very uplifting since she had no idea that someday she might be able to use the toilet without assistance...get up from a couch and into her wheelchair by herself...cook a meal, or bathe. These activities of daily living that we all take for granted, she had resigned herself to never being able to do alone again (and she is not yet 60 years old). Hearing from me about John Canning's experience has given her a new lease on life. She looks forward to meeting John Canning and seeing his house as well as all the adaptive technologies he uses to be independent. For me, seeing my relative's reaction to my description of John and his capabilities made all the effort put in to this forum worthwhile. Thanks so much for this helpful presentation." Read more at:

www.restoncitizensassociation.org/access-forum.html

Recent presentations by RCA Board Members:

Mark Terry/Marion Stillson: April 1 – Unitarian Church of Reston's Social Justice Committee (see pg. 2 "Democracy Denied, Democracy Distorted")

Marion Stillson: April 13 - Reston Day Group of the Fairfax League of Women Voters

Mike Corrigan/Marion Stillson: May 16 - Mary Fenelon's Ch. 8 TV show

■ Oral Histories: Reston's Past, Present, and Future Wed., May 24

7:00 pm - Reston Museum

Steve Resz will talk about the making of his brand-new video on Reston at 7pm on May 24 at the Reston Museum. Free for members; \$15 for non-members. The DVD will be for sale at the Museum.

View the trailer at:

homepage.mac.com/steveresz/MovieTheater32.html

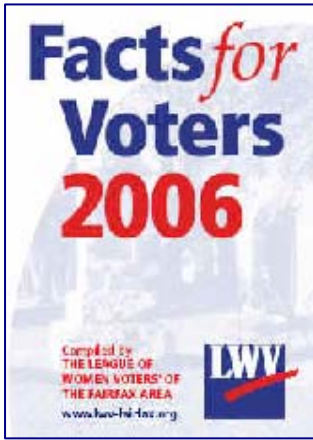


■ ResTOWN Advocates Perform Skit Re- Enacting Tax Day - April 17

"Uncle Sam," played by Reston Citizens Association board member Rod Koozmin, presented oversized mock checks to two homeowners at Lake Anne Plaza on Mon., April 17. In the skit, two average Reston homeowners realize that if Reston were a town their taxes would be deductible, saving them about \$79 each. RCA points out that town taxes are deductible and homeowner fees are not. In addition, RCA estimates that the average homeowner would save about \$203 per year if Reston were a town. Most of this savings are a result of businesses contributing to town taxes.



Ever wonder who governs the "Hole in the center of the donut," called Reston Town Center? Visit Reston Town Center Association's new website at: <http://restontc.org>



To keep informed on local, state and national issues, download the current "Facts for Voters 2006" produced by the Fairfax League of Women Voters on their website: www.lwv-fairfax.org

Reston Festival Coming Soon! July 8-9
That means the election of RCA Board members in the following areas: South Lakes, North Point, Hunters Woods, Lake Anne, At-Large (3)



Some things to consider about running for the RCA Board:

Are there characteristics about Reston that you want to preserve or change? Are you concerned about Reston redevelopment and open space? Do you want to strengthen the spirit of the community through shared celebrations like the Reston Festival? Are you ready to exercise the gift of citizenship and participate as a voice for your community?

Consider the stability and the changes we have seen in Reston. Consider what has made this a wonderful home and community. And consider what you, your families, neighbors, friends and fellow citizens want to preserve, protect, enhance or create. Without a formal Reston government, we are often subtext in Fairfax County decisions that affect us. Reston is more than a subdivision. We have created a community that attracts world-renowned corporations and world-class associations. We have created a community that is representative of the world's cultures and races - a suburban community, with urban character and rural beauty. This dynamism and diversity does not evolve without growing pains and conflict; nor does it evolve without dedicated, energetic and involved citizens.

All Reston residents over the age of 16 are eligible to run and vote in our elections. We are particularly in need of representatives to strengthen the voice of Reston's racial and cultural diversity. RCA Board meetings are normally held on the 4th Monday of the month at 8pm at the Comcast TV studio, 12345-G Sunrise Valley Dr., and are broadcast live on Ch. 28.

Download Candidate Form from RCA's website at: restoncitizensassociation.org/elections/index.html

Democracy Denied, Democracy Distorted
by Marion Stillson, Vice-President of RCA

How many Restonians does it take to replace a light bulb? At least seven: the Hunter Mill Supervisor; our state Delegate; our state Senator; someone from RCC; and a three-person committee from RA's Architectural Board of Review...



How many Restonians would it take to replace a light bulb if Reston were a town? One. The Mayor.

Joking aside, RCA has developed a proposal for Reston to become a town in part because it believes that our current local arrangements distort and deny us the processes of representative government - Democracy.

The following chart shows some examples in condensed form:

DEMOCRACY DENIED		DEMOCRACY DISTORTED	
RA denies "One person, one vote" to homeowners/renters in families. Families must agree on how to cast their single vote for elections.		Who's in charge in Reston? Elected officials cannot be held accountable and some problems are insoluble, when standards of different groups conflict; residents cannot find out who has authority to solve a problem.	
In RA referenda, renters are completely disenfranchised and because they are disproportionately poor, minorities and immigrants, these demographic groups are not fully represented.		Newcomers are effectively disenfranchised for several years, until they learn the Byzantine complexities of the Reston governance arrangements.	
A community of 61 thousand people needs official elections. Informal "card table" elections for RCC in effect disenfranchise those who are not aware of them.	and	Informal "card table" elections enable an organized few to exert undue influence in RCC elections.	
Reston Homeowners unfairly bear the entire burden of maintaining community facilities, without help from businesses.	and	Business owners are unfairly denied appropriate participation in local governance, because they are not homeowners.	
Reston has no place at the table when regional plans are made, but tiny Vienna and Herndon do.		Reston's hi-tech businesses are stifled in innovative community problem-solving by having no clear official partner.	
Reston is denied a single official (mayor) who is exclusively authorized to represent its interests when dealing with forces outside Reston.		Land use decisions are made by Fairfax County; Reston has control over only two Supervisors (Hunter Mill; Chairman of the Board).	
Reston is denied a mechanism for making Bob Simon's goals official and mandatory.		In pothole politics, residents must deal with the distant state, not a local official.	
Reston is denied a mechanism for having Bob Simon's goals cover the Town Center.	and	The heart of Reston, the Town Center, has been ripped out, and is controlled mainly by the profit-motive, not Reston's goals.	
Homeowners are deprived of state and federal income tax deductions.		RA and RCC, being separate, do not cooperate effectively to maximize efficiency or optimize programs.	
The community is deprived of state and federal income tax deductions which might be spent locally.		Reston's infrastructure is aging, not just in Lake Anne but all over: Can the County organize local, comprehensive revitalization, free of any developer distortion?	