

Help RCA Celebrate Its 40th Birthday at the Reston Festival July 7-8, 2007!

■ RCA Elections are coming!

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, 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 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 fourth Monday of the month at 8pm at the Comcast TV studio, 12345-G Sunrise Valley Drive, and are broadcast live on Ch. 28.**

Download Candidate Form at: go-resTOWN.org/elections/

Check out **RCA's Reston Events Calendar** on Reston eVillage - the only centralized calendar for the Reston area - as a link off RCA's homepage (click on "Calendar" from left column)

■ New Options & Info on RCA Website

Check out the following additions to RCA's website:

1. **Read the updated plan for Reston self-governance** which includes a slide presentation, financial analyses, 2 brochures, a "Key Features" flyer (also attached) and more;

2. **Sign the referendum petition ONLINE** by going to gopetition.com and search for "rca reston". NOTE: You cannot sign the online petition if you have already signed a hard-copy.

3. **Make a donation ONLINE** (through PayPal's secured website) to help RCA achieve its initiatives by going to go-resTOWN.org/donate.htm



■ Need a Case for Reston Town Status?

Reston Groups Were Ignored in Recent Fairfax Supervisors' Decision on Reston Density Issue.

The following appeared in the Washington Post 3/27/07

Change Allows More Than 3,800 New Apartments

By Bill Turque, Washington Post Staff Writer
Over objections from Reston's three major community groups, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved zoning changes last night that would allow construction of more than 3,800 apartments.

County officials say the measure is part of a long-needed overhaul of the ordinance adopted more than 40 years ago to guide the development of Reston, a planned community founded in the early 1960s by Robert Simon. Some changes, such as requiring that construction plans be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors rather than handled administratively by planning staff, are supported by Reston leaders.



But they opposed a provision to alter population yardsticks used to regulate density in Reston. County officials say the old population factors don't reflect the decline in average household sizes shown by recent census data.

Read whole article and others at go-resTOWN.org/press

■ Reston-Herndon AAUW Endorses Referendum for Reston Self-Government

At its monthly meeting held on May 7th, the Board of the Reston-Herndon Branch of the American Association of University Women unanimously approved a motion putting the organization on record endorsing a referendum to allow the residents of Reston to decide whether or not to incorporate as a town or to remain as an unincorporated area in Fairfax County. As a town, Restonians would be empowered to decide future land use planning and zoning decisions among other things. Carol Hurlburt, co-President of AAUW, said she supported the motion because she thought the issue was a concern to many people and that such an important issue of governance is by its nature something the citizens should be allowed to decide. At this point, she noted, "AAUW is not taking a position on whether Reston should be a town or not. That will be decided once a referendum is approved and there has been a full airing of the issue by the community."



■ Hunter Mill District Supervisor's Race

By Debra Steppel

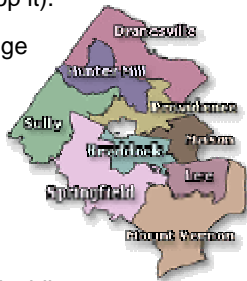
There is a very interesting political race for the Hunter Mill District seat on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. One of the candidates is Marie Huhtala, an Independent who is challenging the incumbent Cathy Hudgins. Ms. Huhtala is in favor of allowing Restonians to vote in a referendum to decide whether or not to become a town.

Marie Huhtala and her husband have been homeowners in Reston since 1981. After retiring in 2005 from a 33-year career in the U.S. Foreign Service, culminating in the role of Ambassador to Malaysia from 2001-2004, she earned a master's degree in linguistics and a certificate as a Teacher of English as a Second Language (ESL) from George Mason University. She also has a masters degree in Political Science from Laval University (Quebec, Canada). Recently Ms. Huhtala was one of the leaders of the successful effort led by PARN (Park and Ride Neighborhood) to stop Fairfax County from authorizing high-density development on the site of the Park and Ride Lot near Reston Parkway and Lawyers Rd.

Marie Huhtala is running for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to ensure that decisions about our communities are made with the big picture in mind. For example, she believes that high-density development (notably in Tysons Corner and near future Metro stations along the Dulles rail corridor) should never be approved without carefully planned and firm arrangements to mitigate the impact of development on traffic congestion and schools. Ms. Huhtala also wants to preserve the character of Lake Anne Village Center, the historic and cultural heart of Reston. Ms. Huhtala plans to bring much greater transparency and accountability to the Board of Supervisors.

She has great concerns about several recent Board of Supervisor decisions.

- They have approved very high-density projects in Vienna (Metro West), Merrifield and Tyson's Corner.
- They were seriously considering a plan for dense redevelopment of the South Reston park and ride lot (until community opposition forced them to drop it).
- They rushed through a measure to change the factors used to calculate density in Reston despite broad citizen calls to wait for a comprehensive community review of the Reston Master Plan.
- Now they are proposing redevelopment of Lake Anne at an unprecedented density for Reston.



If elected, Marie will be a true independent, deciding each issue on the merits and always ensuring full and open public discussion.

For more information about Marie Huhtala and her campaign, please go to: www.marie4supervisor.org

“Celebrate the Seasons of Reston”

Order RCA's custom-designed note cards featuring original photos of Reston scenes taken by RCA board members. **Free delivery in the Reston area and a FREE RCA calendar magnet with your first order while quantities last.** Go to: restoncitizensassociation.org/RestonNotecards.htm

■ RCA Sponsors Health Forum



The Northern Virginia Regional Health Information Organization (NoVa RHIO) nvrhio.gmu.edu/ is organizing an effort to develop a system of electronic health records to aid in more efficient delivery of healthcare. As a first step in this community outreach, the Reston Citizens Association, in cooperation with HCA Virginia & Reston Hospital Center and the Hunter Mill District Supervisor's Office, held a public meeting to get input from and inform the residents, businesses and healthcare practitioners in the Reston community on how to improve communication between healthcare providers and between providers and patients. **View the slide show from this event at:** go-resTOWN.org/issues/healthcare.htm

■ Two 'New Town' Meetings Held in April

by Marion Stillson mbs@point0.net



On April 4 and April 7, 2007, two teams of RCA Board members and supporters presented the RCA 2007 Town Proposal to the community. The main new feature to the Proposal is the addition of a Planning and Zoning Department. This addition was made in response to community demand, particularly in light of recent County actions which many Reston residents saw as unresponsive to their needs. **(See article on pg. 1)**

The 2007 Proposal also provides a Financial Analysis with 10-year estimated costs and revenues and clarifies which taxes would be available to the Town and addresses transition costs. An updated Schedule shows that the earliest the Town could be established is 2009.

RCA introduced and distributed its new brochure, “*What's in it for Us?*” which features problems in Reston and how self-government would solve them. RCA also distributed to participants its new flyer outlining the financial effect of Town status on three Reston families of different levels of income and housing valuation. You can access all the documents at <http://go-resTOWN.org/governance/>

The second meeting was attended by representatives of the PARN (Park and Ride Neighborhood) and the Reston Grassroots Volunteers groups, both of which have made themselves available as allies to RCA in its quest for town status for Reston. This meeting was recorded by town supporter and Reston resident Ken Meyercord, who will focus on the meeting for his show on Fairfax County Public TV, cable Channel 10. This show will be cablecast on May 29th @ 12am, 29th @ 9:30pm and 31st @ 2pm.

► **Look for workshops on specific elements of the Town Proposal to be held in the upcoming months.**



Order Your Reston License Plate Now

Here's the perfect opportunity for Restonians to show off to all the world what a great place Reston is! Get details at: <http://go-resTOWN.org>

KEY FEATURES OF RCA'S 2007 PROPOSAL FOR RESTON TO BECOME A TOWN (5/7/07)



Town Council

-will consist of the part-time Mayor and six Councilors with two-term limits for their four-year staggered terms, subject to Virginia law. They will hire a Town Manager and staff. Reston will continue to have a Hunter Mill Supervisor, in addition to a Mayor and Town Council. This is the same as Vienna and Herndon have always enjoyed.

Town Departments

-will be limited to Planning and Zoning; Parks and Recreation (what the Reston Association currently provides); Cultural Services (what the Community Center currently provides); Infrastructure; and Coordination Services. Fairfax County will continue to receive taxes as now from Reston to pay for schools, libraries, courts, police and rescue services. Contrast Vienna and Herndon whose taxes support town police and public works departments. Total estimated number of

RestonTOWN employees: 130, not counting the Mayor and Town Council.

Town Income

-residents will pay 11c per \$100 tax on the assessed value of their property, with large houses paying more than lower-priced condos. Businesses will pay 11c per \$100 assessed value. Taxpayers who itemize will be able to deduct their Town property tax payments from state and federal taxes. The Town will also receive as income the assessments and fees currently paid to the Reston Association and Community Center.

Reston Association (RA)

-the same RA staff, performing the same services as now, will report to the Town Department of Parks and Recreation. They are included in the number of Town employees, 130, above. There will be a volunteer Board of Governors to guide the Department of Parks and Recreation (and another volunteer Board of Governors to guide the Town Planning and Zoning Department). Renters, currently disadvantaged, will become fully enfranchised in local government. In addition to the Town Referendum, another referendum will be needed to authorize the current RA to transfer its assets to the Town.

Covenants Administration

-a remnant of RA will survive, to administer RA covenants. Residents will pay \$38 per year for this service. Cluster contracts and covenants will not be affected when Reston becomes self-governing.

Town Charter

-will include Reston's founding goals, in order to assure for the future the same human and planning values which have created the community we enjoy now.

Town Center

-the Town Center, not currently subject to RA, is still controlled by the developer. Residents there have their own covenants and Design Review Board, which they will have to pay for in full when the developer leaves.

Transition

-Virginia law allows one day only per year, July 1, for the adoption of town budgets. A temporary Town Council will need to hold budget hearings prior to this date, so that upon assuming office on July 1, the permanent Town Council, elected in May, can adopt a budget. It may take some time for full financial transition to the town.



See details in April 07 Power Point presentation, at <http://go-resTOWN.org/governance/>

*** BUMPER STICKERS ARE NOW AVAILABLE WHICH SAY: SIGN ResTOWN PETITION TO GET YOURS CALL: 703-860-0019**