

Way to Go Arlington

There's More than One Way to Get Where You're Going

Among the things that make Arlington such a special place to live and work are its many transportation options—Metrorail, Metrobus, Arlington Transit, walking, biking and carsharing. This spring, the County is launching “Way to Go Arlington,” a new campaign to encourage those who live and work in Arlington to get out of their cars and try another “way to go.”

To kick off the effort, on Saturday, May 28, the County will hold its first Arlington Community Bike Ride. One week earlier, May 20, Arlington participates in “Bike to Work Day” with a “pit stop” in Rosslyn. Special walking events are being planned for later in the year and are ongoing through the County’s WALKArlington program (www.walkarlington.com).

“Way to Go Arlington is about more than getting from Point A to Point B; it’s about having options and choices,” said County Board Chairman Jay Fissette. “Recognized for our smart growth, Arlington truly is a place where you can live, work and play—no car required.”

Recent research by the American Journal of Preventive Medicine shows a strong link between time spent driving and obesity. Every additional 30 minutes spent in a car each day translates into a 3 percent greater chance of being obese, according to the report “Obesity Relationships with Community Design, Physical Activity, and Time Spent in Cars.” The study also found that people who live in neighborhoods with a mix of shops and businesses within walking distance are 7 percent less likely to be obese.

Another national study found that people who live in the most sprawling communities walked less and were more likely to be overweight, obese and to have high blood pressure.

One of Fissette’s priorities for 2005 is to ensure a healthy, sustainable community by promoting walking and biking as ways to improve personal health and regional air quality, by lessening dependence on cars. Arlington recently was named America’s No. 1 “walking city” for 2005 by the American Podiatric Medical Association and in 2003 was designated a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists.



Community Bike Ride

The May 28 Arlington Community Bike Ride will be held from 8 a.m. to noon, beginning and ending in Clarendon. Participants can choose among three activities:

- An 18-mile bike loop highlighting Arlington’s bike lanes and trails, and many urban villages;
- An 8.5-mile bike loop predominantly on trails and targeted toward families and less experienced riders.
- A Kids’ Bike Safety Rodeo.

May is National Bike Month. The County’s Transportation Division is planning two or three bike commuting workshops prior to Bike to Work Day. For the latest information, check www.arlingtonva.us. To find out more about Bike to Work Day, visit the Washington Area Bicyclist Association’s Web site at www.waba.org.

When is Big Too Big?

County addressing infill housing and lot coverage

Renovation or McMansion? While much infill development is healthy and a welcome investment in our community, Arlington residents have expressed strong concerns about the undesirable effects of certain infill development—building on vacant lots or redeveloping parcels within established neighborhoods. As a result, the County Board is considering changes to Arlington’s Zoning Ordinance that decrease the amount of a residential lot that can be covered by houses, accessory buildings and driveways, known as “lot coverage.”

For example, on a lot zoned R-6, if the area occupied by the buildings and

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County’s FY06 Budget Cuts Real Estate Tax Rate 8 Cents

June 15 tax bills will reflect new rate

Arlington County’s Fiscal Year 2006 budget includes an 8-cent real estate tax rate reduction—the largest cut in 15 years—dropping the rate from 95.8 cents to 87.8 cents per hundred dollars of assessed value.

It also created a new homeowner’s grant program that could provide \$500 to any household in Arlington with an income of \$72,000 per year or less—estimated to be some 8,100 homeowners—with an additional \$50 for each dependent

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Please be sure to include your postal address in your e-mail requests. The office will respond via e-mail when possible but will use postal mail to deliver attachments, for example, that may not be available electronically.

Coming County Board Meetings

May 7 and 17, June 18 and 21

July 9 and 12

For the full schedule, visit

www.arlingtonva.us/cbo/meetings.

Coming Soon: Newsletter Redesign

Watch for a major facelift to *The Citizen* later in the year. But of course looks aren't everything—we'll also be tweaking the content to better align with *what you've told us is important to you*. Based on results from the 2004 county-wide Citizen Survey, as well as feedback from last year's smaller newsletter survey, look for these changes:

- increased frequency
- expanded coverage on residents' priority topics
- more contemporary look and feel, with more graphics and visuals
- shorter articles
- improved cross-promotion of website information and AVN 74 programming

¿Interesado en Empezar un Negocio?

(Interested in Starting a Business?)

Arlington enjoys one of the most diverse residential communities in the Washington, D.C., region. But did you know that we also match that diversity in our business community?

In particular, Arlington enjoys an impressive number of Hispanic residents, business owners and entrepreneurs. To serve this active community, BizLaunch—Arlington's Small Business Assistance Network—partners with the Greater Washington Ibero Chamber of Commerce to offer business information, counseling, research and education to Arlington's

Hispanic business owners and entrepreneurs.

"The Hispanic business community is incredibly strong, educated and successful," said Isabel Guisantes, communications and business development specialist of the Ibero Chamber. "Most of our clients have been in the U.S. for over 10 years. They have lived and worked in this country, and have a very good understanding of the market. Our clients find a lot of value in the services Arlington offers to start or grow their business, and we're able to help them every step of the way."

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County's FY06 Budget Cuts Real Estate Tax Rate 8 Cents

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in a qualifying household. For the average tax increase of \$482, this grant would reduce or completely offset tax bills for thousands of Arlington households.

Despite the increase in tax bills, due to higher assessments, Arlington's overall tax burden will remain the lowest of any major jurisdiction in the region. The first installment of real estate tax bills at the new rate is due on June 15.

The \$758.9 million balanced budget, adopted by the County Board in April, also includes increased tax relief for the elderly and persons with disabilities. These measures, along with increased funding for the County's affordable housing loan fund, represent a comprehensive approach to addressing affordability in Arlington.

"The Board focused on lowering the tax rate and providing targeted tax relief while increasing funds for affordable housing," said Arlington County Board Chairman Jay Fisette. "This is a constrained budget that continues our high-quality services yet maintains the lowest tax rate in the region."

Recognizing the larger tax burden placed on homeowners vs. commercial property owners, the Arlington County Board lowered the real estate tax rate for the fourth consecutive year—for a total of 14.5 cents since 2001.

The budget continues funding for core County services and Arlington Public Schools and provides additional support for policy priorities whose demands have increased, such as tax

relief and affordable housing. It represents a 5.6 percent increase over the adopted FY05 budget.

Expanded Tax Relief for Elderly and Persons With Disabilities:

The County Board increased income limits—to the maximum allowed by state law—for the County's tax relief program for the elderly and persons with disabilities, from \$62,000 to \$72,000. The Board also increased asset limits to \$240,000 for exemptions, and \$340,000 (the state-allowed maximum) for deferrals. The program provides tax exemptions of 100 percent, 50 percent or 25 percent for households that qualify and any balance can be deferred for as long as the person owns the home.

Conservation Easements: In addition, the Board is encouraging homeowners to consider conservation easements as a means of potentially lowering their real estate assessments. More information about such easements is available from the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, www.nvct.org.

For more information on Arlington's tax relief programs, visit the County's website, www.arlingtonva.us/taxrelief. For further details about the Homeowner's Grant Program or expanded relief for the elderly and persons with disabilities, call (703) 228-1350 or e-mail dhs@arlingtonva.us.

When is Big Too Big?

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driveway is 2,400 sq. ft. and the total lot is 6,000 sq. ft., the coverage would be 2,400 divided by 6,000 or 40 percent. The maximum allowable lot coverage in Arlington is 56 percent for all five of the County's residential zoning districts regardless of lot size, which allows oversized, out-of-character homes to be built right next to smaller homes. Based on a Planning staff analysis, very few homes approach or exceed 56 percent coverage.

This issue has generated a great deal of public interest in the community, and some confusion, as well. Staff has recommended that it be deferred until the June 6 Planning Commission meeting and the June 18 County Board meeting.

Residents' concerns

In recent years, the Board has received numerous complaints from residents about infill development, including loss of open space, bulky and incongruous homes that are incompatible with neighborhood character, loss of separation between houses, visual intrusions, loss of trees, and more area devoted to parking and driveways. Arlington is a largely "built out" community, and when new single-family homes are constructed here, often it is on lots previously occupied by homes. In the case of larger lots, sometimes one older home might be torn down and replaced by two or more houses. Few new residences are built on vacant lots.

What's been done so far: Lot coverage studied

Over the past few years, responding to residents' concerns, the County Board has directed the Zoning Ordinance Review Committee (ZORC) and Planning Division staff to research and recommend amendments to the Zoning Ordinance to address certain undesirable effects of infill development on established neighborhoods. To date, amendments have been adopted addressing building height, setbacks and pipe-stem lots.

Lot coverage is the fourth issue identified and the only one remaining. A study was undertaken to determine reasonable coverage limits that would protect neighborhoods from very large houses in the future while still allowing reasonably sized houses for today's market.

At this point there are two options before the County Board, both incorporating a "sliding scale," yet differing on the application of the sliding scale.

Option #1: New coverage rules apply to all properties

Establish a sliding-scale requirement that would reduce overall coverage in each of the five districts zoned for single family residences, but allow larger coverage on smaller lots. For example, this would reduce the maximum coverage from 56 percent to 45 percent for the R-5 district (the smallest) and from 56 percent to 20 percent for R-20 (the largest). Coverage limits for the other three districts—R-6, R-8 and R-10—also would be reduced similarly as follows:

- 45 percent in R-5 zoning districts, to 25 percent in R-20.
- 48 percent in R-5 to 28 percent in R-20 (with front porches).
- 50 percent in R-5 to 30 percent in R-20 (with detached rear garage)
- 53 percent in R-5 to 33 percent in R-20 (with a front porch and rear garage)

This option also proposes a zoning ordinance amendment to limit the main building footprint size and a maximum main building footprint cap for oversized lots. Five percent additional coverage would be permitted for detached garages located in rear yards and 3 percent additional coverage for front porches—so as not to discourage these desirable features. Main building footprint coverages and caps would vary as follows:

Maximum main building footprint coverage ranges

- 34 percent in R-5 to 16 percent in R-20
- 37 percent in R-5 to 19 percent in R-20 (with front porch)

Main building footprint cap

- 2040 square feet in R-5 to 3,880 in R-20
- 2200 square feet in R-5 to 4610 in R-20 (with front porch)



If approved, this recommendation would apply to all existing residences, new construction and substantial additions and renovations. It also would allow a main structure that was destroyed by fire or calamity to be rebuilt to its original coverage, even if that exceeds the new coverage limits.

Option #2: New rules apply to new construction or major additions

The County Manager's recommendation differs from Option #1 in one distinct way. The new coverage requirements reflected in the sliding scale would only apply to new home construction and substantial modifications of existing houses, i.e., additions that more than double the existing main building footprint, or remove more than 50 percent of the existing exterior walls. This alternative would still deal with the most egregious examples of overbuilding. However, it would avoid any unintended consequences for existing homeowners, such as limiting their ability to build appropriate additions.

For further information

For an in-depth discussion of these issues, please visit the Dept. of Community Planning, Housing and Development's Web pages, accessible from the County's homepage, www.arlingtonva.us/lotcoverage.

County Planning staff has been making presentations to the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee and several civic associations. For more information or to request a presentation to your civic association, a hotline has been established: (703) 228-4793. Homeowners may also call with questions and for help determining if specific properties would be in compliance with the proposal.

Work Continues on the New Strategic Plan

By: Robert G. Smith, Superintendent

In the January issue of *The Citizen*, I outlined the efforts that the Arlington School Board had undertaken to develop a new Strategic Plan to guide the work of the school system from 2005 through 2011. Using results from our 2004 Customer Satisfaction Survey and feedback from focus groups held last summer, the School Board adopted seven goals last September for the new plan:

With the help of the Arlington community, the Arlington Public Schools will address the following goals:

1. *Raise achievement: Assure rising achievement for all students on standardized tests and other measures of performance that go beyond state and federal standards.*
2. *Eliminate achievement gaps: Eliminate gaps in achievement among identifiable subgroups.*
3. *Success after graduation: Prepare each graduate to make choices and experience success in post-secondary education, work, or other pursuits.*
4. *Individualized education: Consistently provide high quality instruction, support, and experiences that respond to each student's talents and challenges.*
5. *Quality of school life: Ensure that each school is a place where every student and employee wants to be and feels encouraged, supported, and challenged.*
6. *Engagement gap: Ensure that every parent and other member of the community knows about the school system and how to participate in the education of our children and feels invited to do so.*
7. *Cultural competence: Use Arlington's diversity and the region's cultural variety to thoroughly prepare students to live and work in an international world.*

The Board then appointed task groups consisting of 82 citizens, 51 staff and 10 student members to begin developing objectives and strategies for each of those goals. The task groups concluded their work by the end of January and a 21-member steering committee comprised of two parent co-chairs (Pamela Hodge

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Gunston Middle School Teacher Named Arlington's 2005 Teacher of the Year

Gunston Middle School seventh grade American Studies teacher Patricia A. Tuttle-Newby has been named the 2005 Arlington Public Schools Teacher of the Year.

"Patricia Tuttle-Newby represents the teacher that many new teachers aspire to become. Her colleagues admire her for her professionalism, dedication, and perseverance and her students appreciate her ability to bring learning to life in the classroom. She is the kind of teacher that students will remember long into their adult lives as a teacher who truly cared about them and challenged and encouraged them to be the very best," said Superintendent Dr. Robert G. Smith.

In addition to her daily responsibilities as a teacher, Tuttle-Newby serves as Gunston's Seventh Grade Team Leader and has served as the Social Studies Lead Teacher.

She is also well respected among her colleagues for her role as a curriculum developer. In the past she collaborated with High Intensity Language Training (HILT), English and Social Studies colleagues to create a five-week interdisciplinary immigration unit that included a grade-level simulation and a field trip to

New York City. In her quest to relate the material she teaches to the lives of her students, she also collaborated with Special Education and HILT colleagues to create a two-week interdisciplinary "Decades" unit, focusing on the last half of the 20th century and incorporating technology, research, and the multiple intelligences and culminating in a grade-level wide "Decades Day."

Tuttle-Newby is credited with being a leader in differentiated instruction and has, in collaboration with Gunston's gifted resource teacher Anne Reed Reed, presented a series of workshops on the subject for her fellow teachers.

Last summer Tuttle-Newby received a Teaching American History Grant from the U.S. Department of Education to attend the "Creating a Community of Scholars Institute" at Northwestern University, which was co-sponsored by the Minority Student Achievement Network, a national organization of which the APS is a member.

Instead of relying on the textbook, Tuttle-Newby uses photographs, songs, video clips, newspaper articles, political cartoons, maps, letters and historical fiction to help bring the content alive for students in her classroom. Her students

learn to observe, analyze, and evaluate information to form their own hypotheses, and most of them learn to accept the idea that there is not always one right answer.

"Patty is a positive-spirited individual with a true love of teaching. She very much enjoys working with children and is especially effective with middle school students," said Gunston's library media specialist Elena Rodriguez. "She is an exemplary role model as a

teacher and a professional. Her presence at Gunston has made a significant difference in the lives of hundreds of students over the years."

Tuttle-Newby is also extremely involved in the Arlington community outside of her classroom. She supports her civic association through her partici-

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Patricia A. Tuttle-Newby

Work Continues on the New Strategic Plan

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and Larry Robertson), citizen chairs of each of the task groups and staff liaisons to each of the task groups began its work. The Steering Committee met during February to combine the work of the task groups into a draft of a new strategic plan, and included objectives and indicators for each goal. During March and early April, we asked various citizen and staff groups to review the draft and to provide feedback.

During the month of April, the steering committee revised the plan using community feedback. Members of the School Board and Senior Staff held a two-day work session in early May to discuss the revised draft plan.

We welcome your comments.

Whether or not you have had an opportunity to participate in the process, I hope you will take some time to review the work of your fellow Arlingtonians. After you review the revised draft of the strategic plan, please let us know what you think.

- Are there objectives, indicators, strategies or targets included in the plan on which you think the school system should not be working?
- Are there any objectives that are missing?

The proposed Strategic Plan will be presented to the School Board at its regu-

larly schedule meeting on June 2.

A public hearing will immediately follow the presentation of the plan, and members of the community are encouraged to attend and voice their comments about the plan. If you cannot attend on June 2, the draft of the strategic plan and a feedback form for the plan is also available on our web site at www.arlington.k12.va.us/schoolboard/strategicplan/.

This new Strategic Plan will guide our work and provide clear direction for our school system over the next six years. I hope you will take some time to help us create a plan that helps us meet the educational needs of all children and families in Arlington County.

New APS Website Design Makes Site Easier for Citizens to Use

If you've visited the Arlington Public Schools website lately (www.arlington.k12.va.us), then you have discovered the new look. The changes make the site more user-friendly for the over 100,000 parents, students, community members and staff who access it each month.

In addition to a new color scheme, visitors can now to permanently change the font size for their screen to make it easier to use, by clicking on one of the three "A's" in the upper left corner of the page. The setting will be stored and remembered each time that a user accesses the web site.

The new layout also makes the site easier to use by allowing for more information to appear on the screen before the user has to scroll down. If you still can't find what you are looking for, the Search feature ("Find It") is now located at the top of the every page.

Additionally, the site will be easier to access for individuals with disabilities, especially those using non-visual access devices. We've also made the site compatible with Microsoft Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari, and Netscape Navigator, the top four browsers that citizens currently use to access it.

The screenshot shows the Arlington Public Schools Home Page as of Friday, 3/11/2005. The page features a search bar at the top right and a navigation menu on the left. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- News of Note:** Arlington Superintendent Presents FY 2006 School Budget
- Contact APS:** Arlington Public Schools, 1426 N. Quincy St, Arlington, VA 22207, Ph: 703-228-6000
- Subscribe to APS School Talk:** Includes a link to "Send Us Feedback"
- Recent Updates:** How to use the APS Web Site
- About APS:** Closings, Delays & Changes; Información En Español; 2004-05 Handbook; 2004-05 School Calendar; Superintendent's Office; Emergency Preparedness
- Jobs @ APS**
- School Board:** Members; Meeting Minutes & Agendas; School Directives & Policies; 2005-2011 Strategic Plan; Current Issues; Watch Meetings; Newsletters
- Departments & Programs:** Budget & Finance; Curriculum & Instruction; Facilities & Operations; Personnel; Planning & Evaluation; School & Community Relations; Student Services; Technology in APS
- Any New/Updated Information is styled like this sentence**
- Curriculum & Instruction:** Preschool Programs; Kindergarten; K-12 Programs of Study; Career, Technical, & Adult Ed; Curriculum Areas; Summer School
- Schools:** Register/School Options; School Boundaries; Elementary Schools; Middle Schools; High Schools; Other Programs
- News, Events, & Meetings:** Press Releases; TV Broadcast Schedule; Awards & Recognitions; Committee on Access to Advanced High School Classes
- Demographics & Scores:** No Child Left Behind; Monthly Enrollment Figures; Civil Rights Statistics; Enrollment Projections; Free Lunch Statistics; SAT Scores; SOL Scores; Stanford 9 Scores; 04-05 Testing Calendars
- Other APS Links:** Volunteer Opportunities; College Corner; Related Resources; Telephone Directory; Breakfast and Lunch Menus
- APS Staff Links:** Blackboard; Email: Groupwise - APSMail; Electronic Registrar Online (ERO)

At the bottom of the page, there is a disclaimer: "The Arlington Public Schools prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, pregnancy or marital status. This policy provides equal access to courses and programs, counseling services, physical education and athletics, vocational education, instructional materials and extra-curricular activities. Violations of this policy should be reported to the Director of Administrative Services at (703) 228-6008 or the Assistant Superintendent for Personnel at (703) 228-6110."

APS Gears Up for Summer School

Arlington Public Schools will open its Summer School Program for most classes beginning on July 11, with classes ending in mid-August. Registration for enrichment programs such as the popular Summer Laureate and Global Village programs was held in March, while registration for skill-building programs continues through May, and in some cases up until classes begin.

For a complete listing for APS summer school classes being offered and registration information, visit www.arlington.k12.va.us, and click on the Summer School link under Curriculum and Instruction. Parents also may obtain a copy of the APS "Summer School 2005" catalog by contacting their child's home school.

In addition to skill building programs and courses that address deficiencies in Standards of Learning (SOL) competencies at the elementary, middle and high school level, there are a variety of courses for which students can still register.

Elementary courses available also include pre-kindergarten, kindergarten math/Language Arts, grades 1-5 math/language arts, and ESOL-HILT classes at all levels. The registration deadline for middle school courses is June 3 and the deadline for most high school courses is June 15. (Please see the catalog for exact deadlines and application materials).

High School courses available also include New Work for Credit (20 classes offered), Drivers Education and Safety, and a variety of HILT courses.

Details on other classes, including some Life Skills Enhancement classes for which registration is still open, may be found in the Summer School catalog and on the APS website.



Graphic designed by Wakefield High School student Michael Salinas

Late registration for middle and high school make-up-and-strengthening courses will be held June 30, from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. in the Yorktown cafeteria. Exceptions include SOL Strengthening Courses which will accept registration up to the day classes start in order to accommodate students who are notified of failing SOL test scores.

The Arlington Career Center also offers a summer enrichment program for students entering grades 4-12. Courses include topics ranging from pet care and photography to television and multimedia production. Each program meets five days a week, from either 8-12 p.m. or 12:30-4:30 p.m. and classes can be coupled together to create an all day program. The registration deadline is June 24. Course catalogs have been mailed to the homes of all APS students and are available at www.careercenter.arlington.k12.va.us/ClassOfferings/Enrichment/newindexenrich.htm and in the public libraries as well as the School & Community Relations Department. Registration forms can be mailed, or students can register at the Arlington Career Center, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive.

Parents with questions about their child's eligibility for Summer School courses should contact the child's home school and speak with teachers or the school counselor. Teachers and teaching assistants interested in applying to teach summer school should check the website for program needs and contact the APS Employment office as soon as possible. For general information, individuals also may call the Summer School office at (703) 228-7645.

Gunston Middle School Teacher Named Arlington's 2005 Teacher of the Year

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pation, and last summer her family won a prize for their entry in the Fairlington Civic Association Parade—true to her calling, it was a wagon covered with Social Studies vocabulary words!

"I love working with middle school students. They make me laugh; they give me hope; they remind me of what is good and important in life. I enjoy their energy (except, maybe, during seventh period on a Friday)," said Tuttle-Newby. "I'm honored to have the privilege of working with students from my own neighborhood and from all over the world. I am inspired by their diverse journeys, and feel there is

no better way for me to contribute to my community and to society than to be a teacher."

Tuttle-Newby has been at Gunston since 1995. Prior to that, she taught in Delaware and Wisconsin. She received her Bachelor's degree in history from Northwestern University and her Master of Arts in Teaching Social Studies from Brown University. Tuttle-Newby has also taken courses at the University of Delaware and George Mason University, and is currently working towards National Board Certification in Early Adolescence Social Studies/History.

Tuttle-Newby, who will serve as the school system's nominee for 2005 Virginia Teacher of the Year, is one of 20 metropolitan D.C. area "Teachers of the Year" who were honored in April at *The Washington Post*, as part of the annual Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Awards sponsored by The Post Company's Educational Foundation. The awards were established to recognize dedicated teachers who have shown initiative, creativity, and an exceptional degree of professionalism in teaching. Each Teacher of the Year winner receives a crystal apple and \$3,000 honorarium.

Arlington School Board Announces 2005-2006 School Year Calendar

Arlington Public Schools' 2005-2006 school year will begin on Tues., Sept. 6, 2005. High school graduation ceremonies will be held on Thurs., June 22, 2006.

The last day of the school year will be;

- Wed., June 21, 2006 for high school
- Thurs., June 22, 2006 for middle school
- Fri., June 23, 2006 for elementary school

Holidays: The calendar includes the following school holidays;

- Mon., Oct. 10—in observance of Columbus Day
- Fri., Nov. 11—Veteran's Day
- Wed., Nov. 23-Fri., Nov. 25—Thanksgiving Break
- Fri., Dec. 23-Mon., Jan. 2—Winter Break
- Mon., Jan. 16—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
- Mon., Feb. 20—President's Day
- Mon., April 10-Fri., April 14—Spring Break
- Mon., May 29—Memorial Day

Makeup Days: Last year, the School Board approved provisions within the calendar for makeup days to be used in the event that school is closed due to inclement weather or other unusual circumstances. The same provisions will apply for the 2005-2006 school year, which includes 182 instructional days for elementary students, 183 instructional days for middle school students, and 184 instructional days for high school students. By adding time to the instructional day, a total of five days will be "banked" and are available in the schedule to offset any lost school days. The school starting and ending times will remain the same for the 2005-2006 school year.

If school is closed for seven days, the President's Day holiday on Mon., Feb. 20, will become a school makeup day. If school is closed for nine days, the Teacher Planning/Grade Preparation Day originally scheduled for Fri., April 17, will become a school makeup day and will follow the early release schedule. The sixth and eighth day missed do not

have to be made up according to state law.

A copy of the complete calendar, including early release days and conference and teacher planning/grade preparation days is available at www.arlington.k12.va.us. The calendars

for Barcroft Elementary School, Arlington's modified school-year program, as well as for the high school continuation program at Arlington Mill and Langston are available on the web as well.

APS Calendar—May, June, July 2005

May

- 25 Elementary Early Release
- 30 Memorial Day (School & Administrative Offices Closed)

June

- 1, 8, 15, 22, 23, 24 Elementary Early Release
- 3 Student registration for middle and high school make-up-and-strengthening classes and HILT/HILTEX and Special Education closes.
- 15 Student registration for high school make-up-and-strengthening classes and HILT/HILTEX closes.
- 22 Last day of school for high school students
- 22 Middle School Early Release
- 23 Last day of school for middle school students (early release)
- 23 High School Graduation
- 24 Last day of school for elementary school student (early release)
- 30 Late registration for middle and high school students who are registering for make-up-and-strengthening courses will be held in the Yorktown cafeteria. (Students will not be able to register for new-work-for-credit classes during late registration.), 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

July 2005

- 4 Fourth of July (School & Administrative Offices Closed)
- 11 First Day of Summer School

For more information on these or other Arlington Public Schools events, visit the school system website at www.arlington.k12.va.us/publicinfo/event_list.html.

Two Arlington Teachers Chosen for Hall of Fame

Two Arlington Public Schools teachers—Marilyn Barrueta and Karen Crow Roark, Ed.D., Ed.S.—are among five educators nationwide being inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame for 2005. It's the first time two teachers were selected from the same school district in the same year, and the first time that Virginia teachers have been selected for this honor.

Barrueta is a Yorktown High School Spanish teacher, and Roark is assistant principal and resource teacher for the gifted at Long Branch Elementary School.

"I am very proud that two of the five teachers across the nation selected for this honor represent the excellence of Arlington teachers," said Arlington Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Robert G. Smith.

Barrueta and Roark will attend induction ceremonies in Emporia, Kan., June 16-18, which will be followed by ceremonies and a banquet on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., on June 20-21.

Arlington Arts Calendar, May-June 2005

Through June 26: "Jason and the Argonauts"—The ultimate hero story, it chronicles the adventures of Jason and his band of legendary hero friends who set sail to Colchis in search of the Golden Fleece. The heroes battle monsters, the wrath of God and finally the schemes of Colchis' king. Synetic Theater. Rosslyn Spectrum. (703) 824-8060. www.synetic.org

Through July 9: Solos—Arlington Arts Center solo exhibitions by E. Sherman (Mur) Hayman, mixed media drawings; Gabriela Bulisova, photography; Leonard Ragouzeos, large scale pen and ink; Lincoln Mudd, sculpture installation; Carolina Mayorga, technological installation (projection). **Group Shows:** Arlington High School Biennial Juried Exhibition and Artists Books by Arlington Elementary Students. (703) 248-6800. www.arlingtonartscenter.org

May 17-July 3: "Pacific Overtures"—Spanning 120 years of Japan's fascinating history, *Sondheim's "Pacific Overtures"* begins in 1853 with America's first contact and tells the story of Japan's emergence from an isolated country rooted in tradition to its current position at the forefront of international politics. Signature Theatre. (703) 820-9771. www.signature-theatre.org

May 20-June 18: "Contiente Viril" (Virile Continent), by Argentine playwright Alejandro Acobino—A trip to the bottom of the world, an encounter with Antarctica. This broad satire combines biting attacks on society's love of order with mankind's current war against nature. Teatro de la Luna. Theatre Two at Gunston. Post-show discussions on Fridays, live English dubbing at all performances. (703) 548-3092, (202) 882-6227. www.teatrodelaluna.org

May 21-22: "Fatal Song or the Great Opera Murders"—Music by 10 opera composers, libretto by Kathleen Cahill. A witty new

opera that examines why so many opera heroines die on stage and what would happen to the story if they did not. Opera Theatre of Northern Virginia. Theatre One at Gunston. (703) 528-1433. www.novaopera.org



June 3-12: "Monster in the Closet"—Emily has a big problem. Not only is she sent to bed just as she reaches the highest level of her new video game, but also there's a monster in her closet! If your family enjoyed the blockbuster movie, you will love TCT's live stage production. The Children's Theatre. (703) 548-1154. www.ensemblestage.org

June 10-18: "Oh, Coward!"—Interspersing his songs with biographical anecdotes and sketches from his various writings, "Oh, Coward!" celebrates the life and work of the legendary Noel Coward. Dominion Stage. Theatre One at Gunston. (703) 683-0502. www.dominionstage.org

June 23-July 30: "The Emperor Jones"—This is a play that announced the genius of Eugene O'Neill to the world. It made Paul Robeson a star, and changed theater history with its tale of a Pullman porter who becomes the dictatorial ruler of a jungle island, only to be overthrown and hunted by his former subjects. American Century Theater. Theatre Two at Gunston. (703) 553-8782. www.americancentury.org

June 30-Aug. 14: Tour of Arlington Classic Mini-Putter—Ellipse Arts Center's summer exhibition will be an Arlington-specific, nine-hole miniature golf course, with each hole designed by a different artist, featuring Arlington neighborhood themes. Ellipse Arts Center. (703) 228-7710.

For more information about arts events in Arlington, visit www.arlingtonarts.org.

¿Interesado en Empezar un Negocio? (Interested in Starting a Business?)

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The BizLaunch-Ibero Chamber partnership also assists recent immigrants who are interested in starting a business. "Many of the educational programs we run on starting a business, writing a busi-

ness plan, getting financing, and developing a marketing strategy are conducted in Spanish," Guisantes said. "We feel it's important to offer small business services to everyone in the Hispanic community."

For more information on the services available through BizLaunch and the Ibero Chamber, call (703) 228-0802 or visit www.arlingtonvirginiausa.com/bizlaunch.

County offices will be closed on Monday, May 30, in observance of Memorial Day. Check www.arlingtonva.us for other closings.

The Citizen is the official publication of Arlington County and is published quarterly by the Public Information Office, Office of the County Manager. Inquiries should be directed to: Citizen Editor, Suite 314, 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201. *The Citizen* is available online at www.arlingtonva.us Telephone: (703) 228-3969 (voice); (703) 228-4611 (TTY) E-mail: publicaffairs@arlingtonva.us Editor: Charles Taylor
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