

November 2 is Election Day

While the candidates for president will top the ballot on Nov. 2, Arlingtonians also will have local candidates and State and local issues to consider.

Arlington voters will choose one County Board member, two School Board members, the 8th District member of the U.S. Congress. Also on the ballot are two proposed State constitutional amendments and four County bond questions (see adjacent article).

“Arlington has a long ballot and we anticipate large crowds at the polls this November, so we urge all citizens to read about the ballot issues before they get to the voting booth,” said General Registrar Linda Lindberg.

Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. If you are unsure where you need to go to vote, please visit the Office of Voter Registration at www.arlingtonva.us or call (703) 228-3456.

What to Bring to the Polls

All voters are required to present photo identification at the polls. Either your Virginia voter registration card or Virginia driver’s license is ideal. Most voters can still vote without presenting their ID’s as long as they sign a statement confirming their identities.

Absentee Voting

If you are out of town on Election Day or are physically unable to stand in line at the polls, absentee voting is available by mail or in person. Others who registered by mail, however, must vote in person and show identification unless they are full-time students or have a physical disability or illness that prevents them from voting in person.

Absentee voting may be done in person weekdays at the Office of Voter Registration at 2100 Clarendon Blvd. Suite 320, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. The office will also be open on Thursday, Oct. 28 and Saturday, Oct. 30 from 5-7 p.m. Obtain your absentee ballot by calling (703) 228-3456 or downloading it from the office website or send an email to voters@arlingtonva.us. Completed applications must be mailed in or faxed to (703) 228-3659 by 5 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 28. All ballots must be received by 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 2 in order to be counted.

Emergency absentee ballots are available in special circumstances for residents who have been hospitalized or otherwise incapacitated immediately before the election and for citizens called out of town on business or family emergencies after 12 p.m. on the Saturday before the election. Call (703) 228-3456 for more information.

Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities

A number of accommodations are available for voters with disabilities at the polls. All voting booths are wheelchair accessible with removable voting machines to accommodate disabled voters or those unable to stand or reach the machine. The machines also have an audio ballot that allows blind voters to cast their ballots without assistance.

Persons with physical limitations who can’t enter the polling place have the option of voting curbside. They can send someone inside on their behalf and an election official will bring a voting machine out to the car. The polling places will also have a magnifying device for

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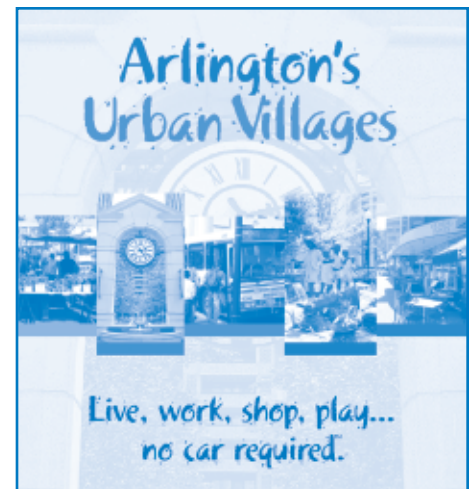
Arlingtonians to Consider Four Local Bond Referenda

On Nov. 2, Arlingtonians will have the opportunity to vote on four local bond referenda totaling \$208 million. The four referendum questions cover these areas:

- Local Parks & Recreation
- Transportation and Community Infrastructure
- Metro
- Arlington Public School Projects

They are components of the County’s revised six-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and Arlington Public Schools’ adopted Capital Improvement Program. If approved by the voters, proceeds from the bonds will be used to pay for capital improvements including neighborhood improvements, school renovations, parks, recreation centers, fire stations, pedestrian initiatives and the County’s contribution to the Metro system. The CIP was approved by the County Board after over a dozen County commissions reviewed the program and a

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A new map from the County’s Division of Transportation, enclosed, shows the variety of transit options in Arlington to the places we “live, work, shop and play...no car required.” See story on page 2.

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Mapping the Way to Live, Work, Shop, Play ... No Car Required

Arlington County has a wealth of transit options — Metrobus, Metrorail, Arlington Transit (ART), bike trails, pedestrian walkways, carsharing and paratransit services — making it simple and convenient to get around. Now there’s a map to make it even easier!

Inserted in this edition of *The Citizen* is a detailed map showing all the transit options in Arlington; use it to explore your transportation options and find which routes serve each of the County’s unique Urban Villages — where you can “live, work, shop, play... no car required.”

The map also shows the locations of many County buildings, community centers, schools and other points of interest in Arlington. The flip side contains information on Arlington’s various transit options, CommuterPage.com and the Commuter Stores. The map was created for Arlington County Commuter Services by Bowring Cartographic in Ballston.

Arlington is committed to providing a first-rate transportation system that benefits commuters, the environment and the communities it serves. To find out more, visit www.CommuterPage.com.

Public Transit Access to Arlington County Public Schools

See the inserted “Arlington County Transit Options” map for school locations and complete bus route information.

	Metrobus	ART	Metrorail
Middle Schools			
Gunston	22B,10AB, 23AC		
Jefferson	4A, 10B, 23AC	73	
Kenmore	4A, 25AB	75	
Swanson	2ABCG		
Williamsburg		53	
H-B Woodlawn	3ABEY	53	
High Schools			
Career Center	10B, 16ABDJG	73	
Family Center	4A, 10B	73	
High School Continuation			
Arlington Mill	16ABDJG	75	
Langston	3ABEY, 23AC		
New Directions	4B, 38B	66	Clarendon
Teen Parenting	4A, 10B	73	
Wakefield		75	
Washington Lee	38B	52, 53, 62	VA Square
H-B-Woodlawn	3ABEY	53	
Yorktown		52	
Stratford	3ABEY	53	
Bishop J OConnell	2AB,3AB, 24T	52	East Falls Church

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voters who may have difficulty reading the ballot. Any voter who needs assistance in casting a ballot because of physical or educational disabilities is entitled to request assistance. The voter may bring an assistant with him or her into the voting booth, or ask an election official to assist.

Election Officials Needed

Interested in working at the polls? There may still be openings available. Call (703) 228-3456 for details. Election Officials will receive \$130 for the day. Standby Officials receive \$50 for the day or \$130 for the day if they are called to work the polls.

Candidates for Office

Candidates’ names are listed in the order and format in which they will appear on the ballot. Please note that party affiliation will NOT appear on the ballot for County Board or School Board; however, the information is provided below. D = Democrat, R = Republican, C= Constitution Party, L = Libertarian Party,

I = Independent (no party affiliation).
* = incumbent

President and Vice President of the United States

John F. Kerry/John Edwards (D)
George W. Bush/Dick Cheney (R), *
Michael A. Peroutka/Chuck Baldwin (C)
Michael Badnarik/Richard Campagna (L)

U.S. House of Representatives, 8th District

James P. Moran, Jr. (D), *
Lisa Marie Cheney (R)
James T. Hurysz (I)

County Board

Barbara A. Favola (D), *
F. Landey Patton IV (R)

School Board (two seats)

William S. Barker (I)
E. T. “Libby” Garvey (I), *
Shaun W. Whelden (I)
Frank K. Wilson (I), *

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of Virginia

Question 1: Shall Section 6 of Article II of the Constitution of Virginia be amended to provide that members of the United States House of Representatives, Virginia Senate, and House of Delegates who are serving in the year following a new United States Census, when decennial redistricting is required, shall complete their terms of office and continue to represent the district from which they were elected for that term of office and that any vacancy during the term shall be filled from the same district that elected the member whose term is being filled?

Question 2: Shall Section 16 of Article V of the Constitution of Virginia be amended to provide for additional possible successors to fill the office of Governor in the event of an emergency or enemy attack and until the House of Delegates is able to meet to elect a Governor?

Arlington Prepares Fair, Saturday, Oct. 30

Are you and your family or co-workers prepared for an emergency? Do you have enough food, water and supplies for three days? To be better prepared, Arlingtonians are invited to attend the free Arlington Prepares Fair, Saturday, Oct. 30, beginning at 9 a.m. Attendance is free and no registration is required.

Sponsored by Arlington County and the Citizen Corps Council (CCC), it will be held at the Arlington Career Center, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. One key element of the fair is an emergency preparedness “table-top” exercise from 1:15 to 2:45 p.m.

“From our Florida experience in the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Charley, we know how important it is for all Arlingtonians to be as prepared as possible,” said Robert Griffin, Arlington’s Director of Emergency Management. “I strongly urge all residents to come on October 30th and to sign up for Arlington Alert.”

During the 90-minute exercise, participants will work through a simulated emergency scenario to exercise the community’s preparedness and to discuss

appropriate responses for the emergency scenario. The exercise also will explore communication and coordination among County agencies, volunteer organizations and the public during an emergency. While this is principally an exercise to benefit Arlington County and its partner organizations, the public is welcome to observe and participate.

The tabletop exercise will be preceded by an Information Fair from 9 a.m. to noon.

Arlington’s Office of Emergency Management (OEM), the CCC

and other partner organizations will offer free information to help you prepare for and recover after an emergency. Arlington County also will provide a display of a variety of emergency equipment, including the new Mobile Command vehicle and the County’s specialized HazMat equipment.

Arlington Alert

Be sure to sign up for Arlington Alert, a free service to send emergency text messages to your email or mobile devices. Visit www.arlingtonalert.com.



Calling All Secret Santas

Each year, Arlington’s Secret Santa Program makes the holidays a little brighter for more than 600 Arlington families in need of a holiday meal and gifts for family members. The 2004 program is now seeking organizations and individuals to sponsor or “adopt” a family for the winter holiday season.

Families are nominated by Arlington Department of Human Services staff members and range in size from one or two people to large extended families of 10 or more. Single-member families are usually senior citizens, individuals with a disability, or young people in independent living situations.

Desirable gifts include gift certificates to grocery and department stores, school supplies for the children, and hats, gloves and scarves. Personal hygiene items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste,

combs, brushes, shampoo, soap and shaving items are always needed.

All gifts, except for big-ticket items, should be new. This may be the first time that some of the families ever had brand new items, especially clothes. There is a particular need for used computers, sewing machines and baby equipment (cribs, highchairs, strollers, car seats, etc.). Donations are tax deductible. Deliveries may be made at drop-off sites in the County or directly with the families (not all families will accept direct deliveries).

For more information, call the Secret Santa Hotline at (703) 228-6412 or e-mail jcover@arlingtonva.us.



For the fifth year, Walk to School Day, Oct. 6, highlighted the partnership between Arlington Public Schools and Arlington County Government to provide a safe pedestrian environment for children. For more information about Safe Routes to School, visit www.walkarlington.com.

Your County Board

Barbara A. Favola, *Chairman*

Jay Fisette, *Vice Chairman*

Members:

Paul Ferguson

J. Walter Tejada

Christopher Zimmerman

County Board Office

2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

(703) 228-3130 (voice)

(703) 228-4611 (TTY only)

(703) 228-7430 (fax)

E-mail: countyboard@arlingtonva.us

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

Nov. 16 (Tuesday, 1 p.m.),

Dec. 11,

Jan. 1 (annual organizational meeting)

For the full schedule, visit www.arlingtonva.us/cbo

Washington-Lee Students Learn “Community Building”

“You can’t put the homeless shelter there. It needs to be next to the church.”

“Why do we have to keep it anyway? Nobody living around there wants it near them.”

“We don’t have enough parking for all this housing.”

“Why can’t we just take out some housing? We don’t need to keep all this housing.”

“But that’s the affordable housing! You can’t take that away.”

So went the sometimes intense discussion in Peter Vogel’s second-period sociology class at Washington-Lee High earlier this year, where 27 juniors and seniors were among the first students in the nation to participate in UrbanPlan II.

Developed by the Urban Land Institute (ULI) and the University of California, Berkeley, UrbanPlan II is a high school urban design course that provides a glimpse into the arduous process of community building. The program at Washington-Lee was the first in the country outside of California. It gives students hands-on experience in learning the roles, issues, trade-offs, and economics involved in community development—specifically in neighborhood revitalization.

“Thanks to the UrbanPlan program, Arlington’s legacy as a community committed to smart growth is in very good hands,” said County Board Vice Chair Jay Fisette, who serves on ULI Washington’s executive committee. Planning Director Susan Ingraham Bell also is a member and sits on the UrbanPlan subcommittee.

Added Vogel: “This was one of the most rewarding units of study I have ever been associated with. The program engages students in many critical ‘real world’ decisions and encourages group decision making and intellectual growth.” The program was so successful that additional classes will be offered at Washington-Lee next year and at several schools throughout the region.

In this 15-plus-hour program, students form five-person teams to respond to a redevelopment agency’s “Request for Proposal” for the redevelop-

ment of a 5 1/2-block site in the mythical city of Yorktown.

To accomplish their goal and to win the contract from the city, the students must address and resolve challenging financial, social, political, aesthetic and environmental issues.

Teams consist of a site planner, financial officer, marketing director, city liaison and neighborhood liaison. Each contributes a different essential component to the solution.

Students gather and analyze information, then advocate within their group for the issues associated with their role. Through the roles, students develop a visceral understanding of the various stakeholders in the urban development process and the challenge of reconciling the stakeholders’ often competing agendas to create a well-designed, sustainable project.

Students in the program are taught three fundamental principles:

- The built environment does not happen by accident or mandate.
- Urban environments are a result of interplay of dynamic market and

non-market forces, both institutions and individuals.

- Students’ actions as citizens and consumers can influence what is built, when it is built and where it is built.

The students’ project was judged by a panel of community leaders, professional real estate developers, urban planners and elected officials and the winners were announced in May.

“If we are to effectively address, rather than hide from, the challenge of our growing population, if we are to improve our communities as they grow, we must elevate the sophistication of the discourse and improve the decision-making environments at the local level,” said ULI Executive Director Laura Cole.

“That is why land-use professionals across the country, through ULI, are supporting UPII in their local schools, providing tomorrow’s voters, neighbors, community leaders, public officials and land use professionals with the insights and language to become engaged and informed problem-solvers.”

For more information about ULI Washington’s UrbanPlan program, visit www.urbanplan.org.



Peter Vogel works with Margaret Langhans and other students in the UrbanPlan II program at Washington-Lee High School. The team creates a neighborhood using Lego blocks and real urban planning criteria.

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public hearing was held by the County Board in June to solicit additional feedback.

The County Board adopted the revised Fiscal Year 2005-2010 CIP at its June 26 meeting.

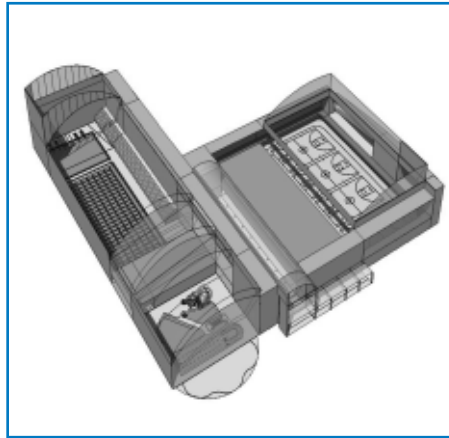
Arlington holds the distinction of being one of only 22 counties in the nation to receive a triple AAA/AAA/Aaa rating from the three major rating agencies. In order for Arlington to achieve triple AAA/AAA/Aaa status, this CIP faced much scrutiny. During the most recent assessment of Arlington, the rating agencies commended the County for its investment strategies.

In its report, Moody's stated that it "believes the county's continued financial stability in the face of a host of fiscal challenges in recent years demonstrates the resilience of local revenues as well as prudent management." And according to the Fitch Report: "Arlington's economy continues to outperform national averages, with vacancy and average rental rates better than most of the major urban office markets...."

Local Parks & Recreation

QUESTION: Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$75,395,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of various capital projects for Local Parks & Recreation?

EXPLANATION: The proposed Local Parks & Recreation program would fund park land and facility acquisition, recreation center improvements and open space development. The major portion of this issue is \$61.75 million Parks and Open Space Development which includes \$50.0 million for the North Tract—phase I project. This 28-acre tract of land represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to develop a comprehensive recreational plan on one of the few remaining large areas of open space in Arlington County. The proposed Local Parks & Recreation program includes proposed funding for new opportunities, such as the North Tract, Greenbrier Park, and replacement or renovation of existing facilities, such as Fairlington Community Center.



The North Tract project would include a state-of-the-art aquatics/community sport and fitness center (design concept pictured above). Its main 50-meter x 25-yard pool could accommodate recreational, fitness and competition aquatics.

Transportation and Community Infrastructure

QUESTION: Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$35,944,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of various capital projects for:

- A. Community Conservation, \$13,025,000
- B. Transportation & Pedestrian Initiatives, \$10,195,000
- C. Public Facilities, \$9,769,000
- D. Storm Drainage, \$2,955,000

EXPLANATION:

A. Community Conservation

This proposal would make funds available for Arlington County's ongoing community conservation efforts. Since the beginning of the Neighborhood Conservation Program in 1964, the County has promoted joining private funds with public funds and resources to improve, upgrade, and conserve older residential and commercial areas of Arlington. The Commercial Revitalization Program provides a greater focus on the revitalization efforts in Arlington's commercial sectors. Construction and improvements for community conservation programs could include all or some of the following: construction of roadways, curbs, gutters, and pedestrian ways;

lighting; drainage improvements; landscaping; acquisition of land; and relocating utilities above or underground. Projects would include those in commercial and multi-family areas as well as single-family neighborhoods.

B. Transportation & Pedestrian Initiatives

Transportation projects and Pedestrian initiatives programs are intended to include the construction, rehabilitation or replacement of, and improvements to, pedestrian systems, streets, highways, transit, bridges, curbs and gutters, bikeways, sidewalks, and other pedestrian ways including residential traffic management efforts.

The funds could also be used for the installation of traffic controls, street lights, acquiring land, landscaping, and for other improvements to the transportation system.

C. Public Facilities

Arlington County is in the process of improving many of its fire station facilities. Funding in the CY 2004 referenda includes proposed funding for capital renovation and/or relocation of the County's fire stations and renovation to the fire training academy. These funds will be used to continue with the design, renovation, relocation, and replacement of Arlington's ten fire stations. In the early nineties the County committed to improve fire facilities to enhance emergency response and better serve the community.

D. Storm Drainage

Projects include improving or replacing storm drainage systems.

Metro

QUESTION: Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$18,536,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of construction, acquisition, and rehabilitation of Metro facilities by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority?

EXPLANATION: These funds would be used to continue funding Arlington's portion of the construction, acquisition, and rehabilitation of Metro facilities. The proposed bonds issue would provide

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funding for Metro Capital Improvement Program, which includes the Infrastructure Renewal Program (IRP), the System Access/Capacity Program (SAP), and the System Expansion Program (SEP).

Arlington Public School Projects

QUESTION: Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$78,128,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the costs of various capital projects and land for Arlington County public school and community purposes?

EXPLANATION: This proposal would make funds available for the Arlington Public Schools' ongoing capital improvement program. This funding would be a primary part of the next major phase of the Public Schools' multi-year capital program initiatives.

The Schools' capital proposal was developed after a review of the physical conditions at school facilities, an analysis of existing and future facility needs of the public school system, and debt affordability analysis. The 2004 bonds are intended to finance the following components of the Schools' capital program: (1) reconstruction of Washington-Lee High School; (2) design of Phase II reconstruction at Yorktown High School; (3) completion of reconstruction at Kenmore Middle School; (4) design of renewal and rehabilitation of existing space to preserve the capital assets, meet changing program requirements, and provide for future sustainability at the Arlington Mill and Reed facilities (see also page 8).

Why Arlington Issues Bonds

Large capital projects with long-term benefits are typically financed in whole or in part with bonds. Bond financing spreads annual principal and interest payments over the life of the project, and permits future users to benefit from the long-term improvements while they are being paid for.

Payments on bonds usually consist of fixed principal payments and variable interest payments. The variable interest

payments are based upon the amount of outstanding principal.

In order to finance a major portion of the CIP, the County proposes a series of bond referenda every two years for consideration by Arlington voters.

The \$942.3 million FY 2005-FY 2010 CIP funding strategy includes 50 percent in General Obligation Bond financing, 18.2 percent in Virginia Revolving Loan Fund (VRLF) financing and 31.8 percent in pay-as-you-go (PAYG) appropriations which includes state and federal grants, utility fees and other sources of revenue. VRLF proceeds are exclusively used to finance Water and Sewer Utility Fund Capital Projects. All VRLF related debt service costs are supported by utility user fees and have no effect on local tax rates.

The County's disciplined use of bond funding is critical to maintaining and expanding Arlington's schools, parks, government facilities and public infrastructure. Several factors are considered in the decision to use bonds as a source of funding for CIP projects:

- **Fiscal Sustainability-**Fiscal sustainability is the government's ability to manage its finances so it can meet its spending commitments, both now and in the future.
- **Quality of Life and Standard of Living-**Bond financing provides funding so that desirable public facilities and vital infrastructure improvements can begin earlier without having to first accumulate annual tax revenue.
- **Intergenerational Equity-**Intergenerational equity ensures that future generations of taxpayers do not face unmanageable tax increases for debt-financed improvements and services provided to the current generation. It also guarantees that all users or beneficiaries of capital improvements contribute to the cost of those improvements, through annual tax payments, over the period of use.
- **Financial Resource Management Strategies-**Ensuring that the useful life of capital improvements coincides with the annual debt repayments associated with the bond-financed improvements is an important

component of the County's financial management strategy.

How Much Will the Bonds Cost?

Arlington is currently one of just 22 counties in the United States with a triple AAA/AAA/Aaa bond rating-the highest possible. This allows the County to borrow funds at the lowest possible interest rates available on the market. In recent ratings, the County's debt level was described as "moderate."

In Fiscal Year 2005, the debt service budget for the County and Schools totals \$64.0 million out of total General Expenditures of \$787.4 million. This debt service represents 8.13 percent of the General Expenditures, which include General Fund expenditures and Special Revenue Funds of the County and Schools.

The County Board in 2002 approved a debt policy that is consistent with standards used by the major bond agencies; it will be used to evaluate the amount of bonds to be sold. The annual debt service of the outstanding bonds plus the new bonds must not exceed 10 percent of the General Expenditures.

If the \$208 million (excluding other bonds authorized in previous bond referenda) in bonds proposed in these referenda are approved by the Arlington voters, the total debt service for FY 2006 would be \$66.1 million. The highest level of annual debt, assuming the \$208 million in bonds are sold in four years, would be \$75.4 million in FY 2009, an amount that the County could afford with the current and projected revenue flow.

During the four-year period that the \$208 million in bonds are planned to be sold, the County will have paid off \$179.9 million of the outstanding bond debt, which represents approximately 86.5 percent of the total bonds sold. Therefore, the net increase in bond debt as a result of the Calendar Year 2004 bond referenda will be \$28 million. In addition to the principal and interests costs, there may be an increase in operating costs associated with the projects financed by the bonds.

2004 Marine Corps Marathon Covers More of Arlington

The annual Marine Corps Marathon, which starts and ends near the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima) just outside Rosslyn, will be run this year on Sunday, Oct. 31. Every year, tens of thousands of runners, support personnel and fans pour into Arlington for this event. Known as the “People’s Marathon,” many first-time marathoners “earn their stripes” at this race.

The 2004 marathon will cover more ground in Arlington than ever before, making Arlington truly the “Home of the Marine Corps Marathon.” The neighborhoods of North Rosslyn, North

Highlands, Colonial Village, Lyon Village, Radnor/Ft. Myer Heights and Aurora Highlands will all be directly affected by the race course. Information about changes in traffic patterns and parking is available on the County website at www.arlingtonva.us.

One of the premiere annual events in Arlington, the Marine Corps Marathon contributes millions of dollars to the County’s economy in food, lodging, entertainment, transportation and retail purchases.

For more information about the marathon, visit www.marinemarathon.com.



Events Around the Corner, November-December 2004

NOVEMBER 4

e-Council’s Tech-E Awards, The Arlington e-Council is presenting its third annual Arlington Tech-E Awards, highlighting successful technology companies and individuals either located in Arlington, or who are members of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce. Award categories include Technology Young Mind Award and Scholarship, Technology Corporate Citizen of the Year, Technology Innovator of the Year, Technology Company of the Year and the Technology Executive of the Year. Sheraton National Hotel from 7:30-9:30 a.m. www.arlington-council.org

NOVEMBER 8

Sneak Preview with WETA—“Heroes, History, and Hamburgers:” Join us for preview clips from a new WETA production; this Arlington special is an historic and nostalgic look at the people, places and events that make Arlington special. Arlington Central Library Auditorium. A discussion with the producer will follow. 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Information: (703) 228-5990.

NOVEMBER 10

Walking Tour at Fort C.F. Smith Park: Grades 3 and up. Come visit Fort C.F. Smith Park and learn about the park’s Civil War history and explore the many different habitats found in this 19-acre park. Dress for the weather, but it will be canceled if raining. 2:30-3:30 p.m. Meet in the parking lot. Free. Reservation required. #614251B. Call (703) 228-4747

NOVEMBER 13

Odds Bodkin Storytelling Concert: Award winning master talesman and author Odds Bodkin has been dazzling listeners young and old for more than 15 years. He creates magical worlds, from high adventure to lighthearted humor, with amazing character voices, sound effects and musical instruments. He will appear for one concert only at the Arlington Unitarian Church, 4444 George Mason Drive, Arlington. Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and the Unitarian Church. 7 p.m. (703) 528-5406

NOVEMBER 16

Birding Trip to Westmoreland County, Va.: Adults are invited to join us on this exciting excursion to view the great variety of bird life that occurs in our region. Participants should dress for the weather and bring binoculars, a bag lunch and snacks for the day. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Departs from Lubber Run Community Center, 300 N. Park Drive. \$20 fee. Reservations required. #614250C. Call (703) 228-4747

NOVEMBER 17

Transit Customer Appreciation and Dialogue Forum: Arlington County staff will answer your questions and discuss your concerns about transit in Arlington. 3:30-7 p.m., Rosslyn Metro. Information: (703) 228-RIDE

American Civil War Family at Fort C.F. Smith Park: This is an opportunity for both boys and girls to see what life was

like for families during the Civil War. There will be a booklet of paper dolls for kids to take home, as well as a story and craft. 2:30-3:30 p.m. \$5 Fee. Registration required. #612250C. Call (703) 228-4747

NOVEMBER 18

Friday Morning Music Club (on Thursdays): J.S. Bach: Suite No. 6 in D Major, BWV 1012; Haydn: Trio No. 2 in G Major from “The London Trios.” Free lunchtime chamber concert, noon-1 p.m. Ellipse Arts Center. (703) 228-7710

DECEMBER 4

Annual Messiah Sing with the Metropolitan Chorus, First Presbyterian Church of Arlington, 601 N. Vermont St. 5 p.m. Free. (703) 933-2500. www.metchorus.org

DECEMBER 5

Saint-Saëns’ Christmas Oratorio: The Metropolitan Chorus joins the Northern Virginia Community College Choir and Mt. Vernon Orchestra, conducted by Artistic Director Barry Hemphill. Schlesinger Concert Hall. 5 p.m. (703) 933-2500. www.metchorus.org

DECEMBER 16

Friday Morning Music Club (on Thursdays): Free lunchtime chamber concert at the Ellipse Arts Center, noon-1 p.m. (703) 228-7710.

Another Year of Progress and Achievement

Dear Arlington Citizens:

I am very pleased to report that this year's opening was one of the smoothest first days of school and first weeks of school I have ever experienced. APS Senior Staff members and I visited each of the schools and were pleased to report that:

- It did not seem like the first day, students were engaged in instruction from the outset.
- Beginning or entry activities appeared to be very well organized, reducing confusion to a minimum.
- The school facilities appeared to be in great shape. Even in those schools where construction activities were still underway, the schools looked good.
- Classrooms were prepared for instruction.
- The atmosphere was positive and upbeat.
- The transportation system worked well.

I know this kind of first day does not happen by accident. It takes careful planning, good organization and a lot of work.

Along with the new students, we welcomed 183 teachers new to APS. Over half (54 percent) hold masters degrees or higher, 30 percent are new to teaching as well as to APS, 40 percent have taught

one to five years, 19 percent have taught six to 10 years and 11 percent have taught 11 or more years. By all reports, our students and schools will benefit from their presence.

In addition to the excellent teaching staff, we are extremely fortunate to welcome six excellent and talented new principals to Arlington this school year (Yvonne Dangerfield—Hoffman-Boston, LaDarla Haws—Oakridge, Renee Bostick—Randolph, Dr. Karen Culp—Stratford, Frank Haltiwanger—H-B Woodlawn, and Dr. Gerald Caputo—Arlington Career Center) along with our former science supervisor Dr. Mark Johnston, in his new position as Assistant Superintendent of Instruction. These exemplary educators will help us work towards meeting our twin goals of raising achievement for all students while eliminating achievement gaps among certain groups of students.

Excellent instruction requires excellent teaching and learning environments. We continue to make progress in our capital improvement program to ensure that our children will receive a world-class education in a world-class instructional setting. Approval of the Nov. 2 bond referendum this fall will provide \$78 million for the replacement of Washington-Lee, the completion of

Kenmore (scheduled to open in Sept. 2005), and design work for the reconstruction of much of Yorktown (Phase II), Arlington Mill, and Reed. For a copy of the **2004 School Bond Q&A** with details about all of the bond projects, go to www.arlington.k12.va.us/finance/budget/cip.html or call our School and Community Relations Office at 703-228-6005.

We received very encouraging responses from parents and community members in our recent Customer Satisfaction Survey where 96 percent of our parents reported that they are very or somewhat satisfied with the overall level of instruction that their child is receiving. This and other findings (see the complete report on page 9) suggest that we are making progress in meeting the community's high expectations for high-quality schools.

We will continue to work on improving student learning at all of our schools by focusing on teaching for meaning and by supporting best practices in instruction and assessment. We persist in believing that instruction reduced to only that which is tested represents impoverished education, and is unacceptable to our parents, community, students, faculty and staff.

The 2004-2005 school year promises to be a productive one for our students and staff, filled with progress and achievement. This year marks the final year in our six-year Strategic Plan. We have been reviewing the results of the past five years, and the School Board has begun to formulate a new Strategic Plan to guide our work through the year 2011. We welcome every citizen's participation in this process. However, there are many other ways to get involved—as a volunteer, a member of an advisory committee or a school partner. I hope you will join us in the important work of providing the children in our community with the highest quality education they need and deserve.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Smith,
Superintendent



The 2004 School Bond will provide \$78 million for the replacement of Washington-Lee (artist's rendering above), as well as the completion of Kenmore (scheduled to open in Sept. 2005) and design work for the reconstruction of much of Yorktown (Phase II), Arlington Mill, and Reed.

APS Receives High Marks for Customer Satisfaction

2004 Customer Satisfaction Survey Released

Ninety-four percent of Arlington parents gave Arlington Public Schools either an 'A' or 'B' when asked what grade they would give the county's public schools, according to the results of the 2004 Customer Satisfaction Survey. Eighty-three percent of Arlington citizens said they believe their tax dollars are being well spent by the school system in the same survey.

"I believe these responses, both positive and negative, will be useful as we move through the process of developing a new strategic plan for the 2005–06 through the 2010–11 school year," said APS Superintendent Dr. Robert G. Smith. He continued, "I find these results very encouraging because the rising levels of satisfaction over the past few years suggest that the school system is making progress in meeting the community's high expectations for high-quality schools. The high marks given to schools, teachers and principals, and the high levels of satisfaction expressed regarding the quality of instruction suggests that our community truly values our contribution to their children and our students."

Smith added, "Conversely, the results also indicate that we still have room for improvement. We expect to use these data as we plan for future improvements to the schools and, along with results from previous and future surveys, to monitor the satisfaction of our customers with the Arlington Public Schools."

Several of the survey questions were designed so the results can be compared with those gathered from national education surveys sponsored by Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitude Toward Public School. Based on the 2004 survey, the grades that

Arlingtonians gave APS are consistently higher than grades given on the national Gallup Poll. According to the survey:

- Each year the Gallup organization asks parents to give a grade to their community's public schools. In 2003 (most

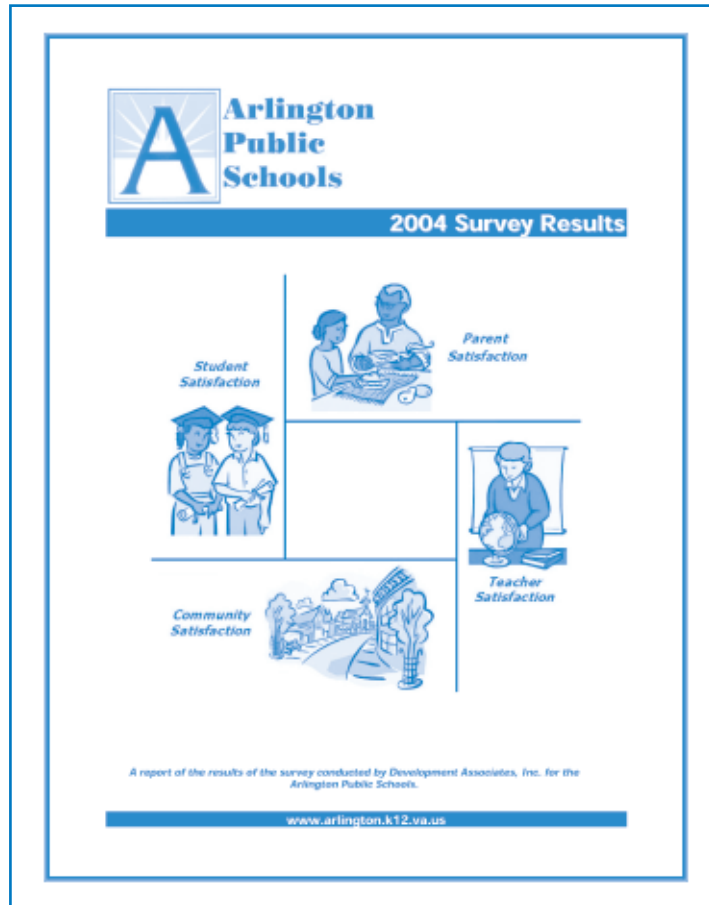
to 51 percent in 2002 and 44 percent in 1999. In 2003, 29 percent of the nation's parents gave their child's school an 'A.' students were less generous with their assessment, giving 'B's' most frequently in all three surveys.

- Ninety-six percent of parents are satisfied with their child's instruction. Among that proportion, sixty-two percent of parents are very satisfied, while only four percent responded negatively with somewhat or very unsatisfied.
- Parents and students were asked to grade their child's school, principal and teachers. Eighty-nine percent of parents gave their child's school an 'A' or 'B,' Students were not as generous though, with 68 percent giving 'A's.'
- Ninety percent of parents gave the principal at their child's school an 'A' or 'B,' as did 68 percent of students.
- Ninety-two percent of parents gave their child's teachers an 'A' or 'B.'

- The most frequent response given by community members without children in school was "don't know," both in 2002 (44 percent) and 2004 (49 percent). In both years, the next most frequent response was the letter grade 'B.'

Other attitudes were measured on a variety of subjects, including instruction and school climate, progress on the achievement gap, teachers' work environment, and the issues APS should address in the next strategic plan.

A full report of the 2004 APS Customer Satisfaction Survey results is available at www.arlington.k12.va.us/admin_serv/plan_eval/downloads/2004_attitude_survey.pdf.



recent year for which results were available when the results were compiled), 17 percent of the parent respondents across the nation gave 'A's' to their community's public schools. In Arlington in 1999, 24 percent of parents gave the Arlington schools an 'A.' In 2002 the proportion of A's rose to 20 percent and in 2004 to 46 percent.

- When Arlington parents were asked to grade their child's school (as opposed to the entire system), 57 percent gave the schools an 'A' in 2004, compared

Committee to Study Boundary Changes

The School Board voted at their meeting on Sept. 9, 2004, to approve the membership of the Boundary and Enrollment Adjustments Process Committee. Linda Henderson was appointed to serve as the Chair of the committee. The committee will meet weekly through the fall to discuss possible solutions for boundary and program adjustments in elementary schools in North Arlington. The process was initiated as an outgrowth of the Board's desire to alleviate crowding and utilize existing building capacity.

The committee will examine boundaries and program options for 11 elementary schools, including Arlington Science Focus, Ashlawn, Barrett, Glebe, Jamestown, Key, Long Branch, McKinley, Nottingham, Taylor, and Tuckahoe. The committee's charge, adopted by the School Board at its July 1 meeting, includes:

- To discuss as a whole, and within the schools and school communities through the school work groups, the boundary/enrollment adjustment options,

- To develop questions, concerns, and requests for data or explanation of existing data,
- To view the criteria outlined in the School Board policy on the development of boundaries, particularly based on their own school's needs, and determine the degree to which the proposed options align with Board policy, and
- To provide the Superintendent with recommendations on boundary/enrollment adjustments by December 2004.

The committee will make their recommendation to the Superintendent by the end of November, and the Superintendent, in turn, is expected to present his recommendations to the School Board in December 2004. The School Board will act on the recommendations later in the winter or the early spring of 2005. Any changes that are approved by the Board will go into effect in September 2005.

Committee chair Linda Henderson will join Superintendent Dr. Robert G.

Smith and APS staff to discuss the boundary and enrollment adjustment process in greater detail in an upcoming segment of "15 Minutes with the Superintendent." The program will air on Channel 70 Nov. 16-Nov. 30.

Details about the process are available at www.arlington.k12.va.us/facilities/northboundary.html or via the APS homepage at www.arlington.k12.va.us under "News and Events." The page will be updated regularly as work progresses, and includes a roster of the committee, meeting dates, communication updates, and links to the minutes from each committee meeting, as well as boundary maps, draft scenarios, and demographic information.

Citizens may send questions or comments by email to boundary@arlington.k12.va.us. For more information, contact APS Special Projects Coordinator Mark Macekura at 703-228-8633.

Calendar of APS Events



November 2004

- Nov. 1- Jan. 21 Timeframe to apply for secondary school transfers and H-B Woodlawn
- Nov. 1 Middle School Information Night, Washington-Lee, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 2 Teacher Work Day (No school for students)
- Nov. 11 Veterans' Day (No school)
- Nov. 11-13 Play at H.B. Woodlawn, 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 19-20 *We the People* musical at Gunston, 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 21 *Much Ado About Nothing* at Washington-Lee, TBD
- Nov. 24-26 Thanksgiving Holiday (No School)

December 2004

- Dec. 2 Silent Auction at H.B. Woodlawn, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 2 High School Early Release
- Dec. 23-31 Winter Holiday (No school)

January 2005

- Jan. 5 Original One-Act Plays at Yorktown, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 13 *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Kenmore, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 17 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday (No school)
- Jan. 28 Teacher Work Day (No school for students)
- Jan. 31 Kindergarten Information Night, Washington-Lee, 7 p.m. (Snow Date: Feb.7)

NOTE: A wide range of additional school arts and music performances are also posted on the web at www.arlington.k12.va.us under "News & Events."

APS Receives Gold Medal for Healthy Initiatives

On Oct. 13, APS staff accepted a GOLD medal from Virginia's First Lady, Lisa Collis on behalf of Virginia Action For Healthy Kids (VAFHK), a statewide task force dedicated to improving the health and educational performance of children through better nutrition and physical activity in schools. The award was given in recognition of the school system's efforts to promote nutrition and/or physical activity among students. After the award presentation, Collis participated in a taste testing of several of the menu items that APS students eat for lunch.



Research indicates that healthy students learn better. With the formation of a new Comprehensive School Health Committee, APS staff have initiated a wide range of activities in the past year to help to ensure that all Arlington students adopt healthier eating habits and lifestyles. The following are some of the initiatives implemented:

- All students participated in Walk Smart Virginia!, a state initiative designed to encourage students to be more physically active. APS purchased more than 9,000 pedometers, which were loaned to students to record their progress based on the number of steps they took each day.



Lisa Collis, Virginia's First Lady

- The committee created a Comprehensive School Health Model and Assets Services chart that serves as a framework for implementing a coordinated school health program.
- APS' Food Services staff sponsored taste tests to determine students' reactions to various healthy food items, allowing staff to provide more variety to school menus and encourage healthier food choices.
- Posters featuring school staff and administrators eating healthy foods to model good behavior were hung throughout the schools.
- Staff and parents received "Guidelines for Healthy Food Choices" a flyer with a list of suggested food items for healthy snacks.
- The Health and Physical Education curriculum was revised to align with the state Standards of Learning to better promote a physically active lifestyle.
- Work has begun to develop a district recess policy to ensure that students receive an opportunity to participate in physical activity every day.
- Healthy Eating-Healthy Activities workshops were held with parent and teen groups to showcase efforts that encourage healthy food choices and physical activity.
- Staff and Women's Health Virginia joined forces to raise awareness of issues that affect women and girls' wellness during April's Women's and Girls Wellness Month. Activities included guest speakers, presentations, and seminars.
- School and County staff members participated in advocacy efforts to gain five mental health therapists in nine selected schools to support children and families.

APS students will continue to participate in these and other programs, as staff continues to make healthy eating habits and lifestyles a priority in educating students.

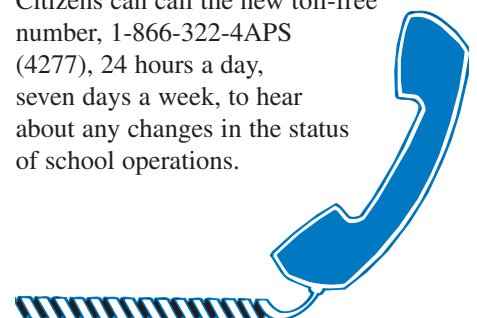


Sign Up for 'APS School Talk' Messages

Arlington parents and community members can receive the most up-to-date news from Arlington Public Schools via email. Register online to receive the information you want, including announcements about inclement weather; emergency closings; press releases; adult education information and School Board updates. APS School Talk subscribers can register to receive the information they want sent to their e-mail address at home, at work, or both. For extreme emergencies, text messages can also be sent to a subscriber's cell phone or pager. Go to www.arlington.k12.va.us and click on the APS School Talk logo to register.

New Toll-Free Hotline: 1-866-322-4APS (4277)

Arlington Public Schools now has a new, toll-free telephone hotline for emergency messages in case of snow, ice or other unusual weather conditions including power outages or excessive heat, as well as updates related to local or national emergencies. The recorded message is available in English and Spanish. This new toll-free service was introduced this fall to allow more people to call the hotline at the same time, reducing delays and busy signals during peak-use times. Citizens can call the new toll-free number, 1-866-322-4APS (4277), 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to hear about any changes in the status of school operations.



Did You Know?

Under County code **refuse containers must be removed from the curbside after collection day.** All refuse carts, household containers, recycling bins, brush, appliances, bundled material and plastic bags should not be placed at curbside any earlier than 5 p.m. the day before and no later than 6 a.m. the day of scheduled collection. All containers must be returned to their normal storage locations within 24 hours after collection. Also, the biodegradable craft paper bags provided by the County for yard waste collection during the months of April, November and December should not be used at any other time of the year and will not be collected. Place contents into plastic bags or rigid containers for collection. For more information on proper refuse and recycling preparation, please call the Solid Waste Bureau Customer Service Center at (703) 228-6570.

The Solid Waste Bureau's call center (number above) is now also the place to contact about traffic engineering problems.

Nov. 15 is America Recycles Day, a time to recognize those who are committed to recycling, saving natural resources one yellow bin at a time.



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
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2004 Leaf Collection Program to Begin Nov. 1

Ah, the red, gold and brown splendor of autumn leaves. Oh, the raking, the bagging, the hassle! Arlington will begin its 2004 curbside vacuum truck leaf-collection program on Monday, Nov. 1, for residents who receive County curbside refuse collection service.

Crews will collect piles of leaves raked curbside Monday through Saturday and all holidays, except Thanksgiving and Christmas. They will make two full passes through each neighborhood, once during November and another in December. It's important that leaves are free of stones, litter, branches and other debris.



Advance notice of pickup days

Weather, rate of leaf fall and other factors affect vacuum truck collection, making it difficult to predict when a crew will arrive at a particular location more than a few days in advance. Signs, however will be posted in each neighborhood at least five days prior to the crews arrival. Updates and progress reports are available from the Leaf Collection Information Line at (703) 228-6565. Cable television subscribers can monitor the daily Leaf Collection Update on the County's cable channel, AVN 71, and those with access to

the Internet may check the County website, www.arlingtonva.us. Civic association boundaries determine collection zones, which have familiar neighborhood names.

Bag it, we'll get it!

Also, from Nov. 1-Jan. 7, crews will collect leaves placed in biodegradable bags and set curbside one business day after residents' regular refuse collection day. Special bags for this purpose are available at several locations in the County:

Aurora Hills Recreation Center,
735 S. 18th St., (703) 228-5715

Information and Referral Desk,
2100 Clarendon Blvd., (703) 228-3000

Langston Brown Recreation Center,
4854 Lee Hwy., (703) 228-5210

Lee Recreation Center, 5722 Lee Hwy.,
(703) 228-5255

Long Branch Nature Center,
625 S. Carlin Springs Rd., (703) 228-6535

Lubber Run Recreation Center,
300 N. Park Drive., (703) 228-4727

Madison Recreation Center,
3829 N. Stafford St., (703) 228-5310

Solid Waste Bureau, Trades Center,
4300 S. 29th St., (703) 228-6570

Thomas Jefferson Recreation Center,
3501 S. 2nd St., (703) 228-5920

To find out when each location is open, call the phone number listed above.

Holiday Closings

County offices will be closed Nov. 11, 25, 26 and Dec. 24, 31.
Check www.arlingtonva.us for other closings.

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