



Arlington Green Party

The Arlington Greens Newsletter

Special points of interest:

- Greens work with unemployed
- 2010 Green candidates do well for school and county boards
- Banning plastic bags and Styrofoam in Arlington
- Greens push for year-round shelter
- Audrey Clement is 2011 Green candidate for county board
- I-66 highway lawsuit buffed
- Community energy plan

Arlington Greens work with unemployed for jobs and dignity by Steve Davis

Throughout 2010 and into 2011 Arlington Green's have advocated on behalf of Northern Virginia's unemployed. In January 2011, Green Party members traveled to Richmond to lobby on behalf of Senate Bill SB 1401, which would have expanded unemployment benefits to part-time workers, to unemployed workers with family concerns, and to unemployed workers receiving training. Although the bill was defeated in the General Assembly, Green Party members stood in support of unemployed workers, such as Marie Pellegrino, as they testified to the pain of unemployment and the relief that SB 1401 would have brought. Greens

have also met Arlington Employment Center staff to explore new ways of assisting Arlington's unemployed. The Green Party proposed a pilot program to train unemployed individuals to retrofit Arlington homes and commercial properties to become more energy efficient. This proposal would address Arlington's unemployment problem while advancing the goals of Arlington's new Community Energy Plan (see article next page). In meeting with Employment Center staff, Arlington Greens also suggested new sources of federal funds, such as grant funds available by the Department of Energy and the



In 2011, 5,000 people are unemployed in Arlington,

Department of Labor, to address the goal generating more green jobs.

Gennari and Chisholm do well in 2010 school and county board elections by John Reeder



The two, first-time Arlington Green candidates, Miriam Gennari (left) for school board, and Kevin Chisholm for county board received excellent vote totals, exceeding expectations of many for first time candidates. Miriam received 24 percent of the votes cast for school board against long time Democrat Sally Baird. Kevin had a more uphill battle taking on both a Republican and the incumbent Democrat Chris Zimmerman, but still received 6

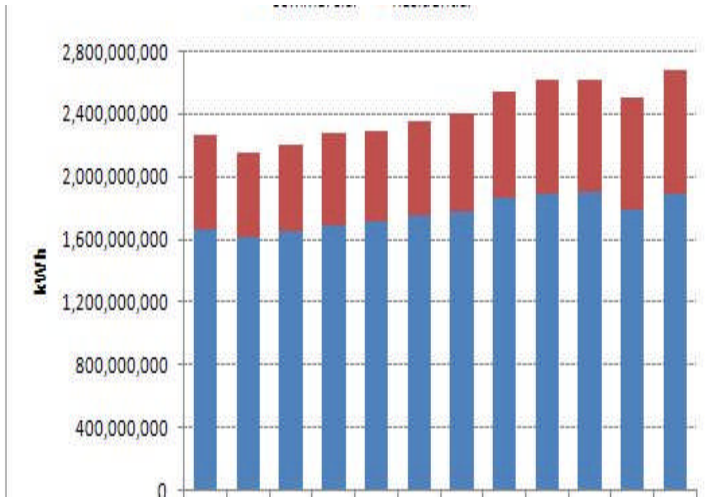
percent of votes cast in the county board race. Miriam raised the issue of environmental sustainability, high school drop-outs and slipping minority achievement. While many were disappointed with Miriam's loss, her work to build a unified coalition to address sustainability has led to several wins for Arlington students. Those victories include a new APS Energy, Environment,

and Recycling Initiative; more hours for the public libraries; and saving the Planetarium. Recently, the school superintendent agreed to form a citizen advisory committee to make recommendations on sustainability, stewardship and conservation

Miriam has started a website devoted to sustainability ideas: <http://styrofoammom.com>

Arlington Community Energy Plan—good start, but flawed

by Steve Davis



Consumption of electricity in Arlington, 1999-2010, in private sector: —dark bar (residential) and lighter bar (commercial) .

Source: Arlington County Dept. of Sustainability & Energy Mgmt.

Electricity use in Arlington rose by 25% during 2000-10 as A/C use and development expanded. Residential use was about 30% and commerce 70% of total use .

In January 2010, the County Board set up a Task Force to write a Community Energy Plan for Arlington’s citizens, business community, and government for the next 40 years. The County Board approved the Plan in May,

and the next step will be for the County Staff to develop and submit an Implementation Plan to be completed for final Board approval by November 2012. Although Arlington Greens were not allowed to formally vote and participate on the Task Force, Arlington Greens nonetheless attended the Task Force meetings and submitted comments regarding the draft report. In general we agreed with most of the Plan’s recommendations, but we concluded that the central premise of the plan (a district energy model) is flawed.

In particular, we believe that the County government should more aggressively seek ways to provide direct financial incentives, that the County should place greater emphasis on raising environmental and energy consciousness in Arlington’s

public schools, and that the County should more actively advocate with state and federal officials for those policies which will assist it reaching its Community Energy Plan goals.

A key component to the Community Energy Plan is the formation of District Energy entities. Clearly, the District Energy model provides significant benefits for higher density developed areas, such as greatly improved efficiency, better security and a smaller green- house gas footprint.

But to create a District Energy entity, Arlington would have to seek and obtain authority from the Virginia General Assembly, highly unlikely in our view, and thus the likelihood of successful implementation of the entire Community Energy Plan is in doubt.

I-66 widening on westbound lanes to proceed in Arlington

by Audrey Clement



I-66 lawsuit dismissed as court ignores environment

On October 7, 2010 the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed an earlier district court decision authorizing construction of the I-66 Spot Improvement Project. This long delayed decision, Green Party pro se Plaintiffs Audrey Clement and John Reeder, filed in June 2010 was

expected. What was unexpected was the court’s decision not to publish its opinion, as the courts are rarely at a loss for words in quashing environmental challenges, especially those involving road projects.

The effect of an unpublished opinion is that the decision can-

not be used as precedent in any other case. But this actually operates in VDOT’s favor, since it establishes a new precedent that a transportation agency can violate federal law—as VDOT did in failing to produce an environmental assessment.

Arlington Greens Propose Ban on Plastic Bags and Styrofoam by Audrey Clement and Miriam Gennari

On April 22, 2011—Earth Day--the Arlington Green Party called on Arlington County Board to adopt ordinances banning plastic bags in supermarkets and chain drugs stores and eliminate Styrofoam from food service outlets. The need has never been greater, since the EPA has called for a massive reduction in the waste that flows into the Chesapeake Bay watershed, with much of it consisting of plastic bags and Styrofoam debris. Arlington County has the authority to enact the bans because

Virginia law allows municipalities to draw up plans to reduce waste. Nevertheless the County board refused in a letter to Arlington Greens to adopt the ban, arguing that it would violate the Dillon Rule against localities adopting ordinances not expressly authorized by Virginia law. Arlington Greens believe that the County Board could win a court challenge to a bag ban ordinance, since the law allows

municipalities to control solid waste. The County Board says it wants a tax on plastic bags, like the one adopted by the District of Columbia in 2010 that reduced bags used by 80 percent. However, the Virginia General Assembly took that option off the table by defeating in 2011 two bills to tax plastic bags. The San Francisco ban cut 5 million plastic bags per month.



An Arlington ban on single-use plastic bags and Styrofoam would clean up the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay

Arlington Greens Push for a Year-Round Shelter by Steve Davis

In recent years, advocating for a year-round homeless shelter has been a high priority issue for Arlington Greens. Homelessness in Arlington has been a long-term and difficult issue. The County government developed a 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Arlington County, Virginia, and since 2007 homelessness in Arlington has not been significantly reduced. The most glaring of the Plan's deficiencies is the absence of a provision for

a year-round, low-barrier emergency shelter. This shortcoming has been reflected in the County Board's repeated failure to provide funding to keep the current shelter open on a year-round basis. Arlington Greens have testified before the Community Service Board and Arlington County Board for a year-round emergency shelter. Greens lobbied on Capitol Hill on this issue to seek federal assistance to address

this issue. The number of Arlington homeless persons rose from 410 in 2008 to 531 in January 2010. The cost of the homeless shelter is less than \$20 per person per night, compared to closer to \$120 per person per night at the county jail. Decency and common sense suggest a year round shelter is a rational policy.



Arlington adult shelter closed April—October

Audrey Clement nominated for county board

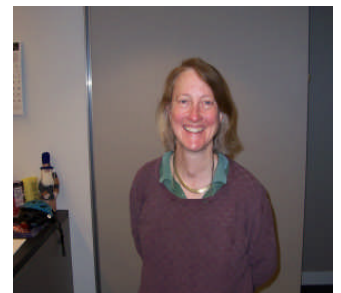
The Arlington Green Party endorsed Audrey Clement, a seven year resident of Arlington County and long time community activist, as its nominee for Arlington County Board at a meeting on May 4. There are two positions open on the Board this year. Arlington Green chair John

Reeder said, "With her experience in environment, transportation planning and community affairs, Dr. Clement, who has qualified for the ballot, will provide an alternative and rational voice on the County Board."

This is the sixth consecutive year an Arlington Green has run for

County Board. Clement runs on a platform of fiscal, social, and environmental responsibility. She wants to end taxpayer support for wasteful public works. Check out Audrey's website

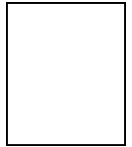
<http://audreyclement.org>



Audrey Clement runs for Arlington County Board in November 2011 election



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Get Involved !

Yes, I would like to get involved with the Arlington Green Party. I'm interested in:

- Attending monthly meeting [First Wednesday of every month, 7 PM, at Clarendon Silver Diner]
- Receiving email and newsletter updates
- Organizing events
- Working on Green Party campaign for Arlington County Board fall 2011
- * Yes, I would like to join the Arlington Green Party, here is my \$25 dues (check payable to "Arlington Green Party")

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Please return to: Arlington Green Party, P.O. Box 50473, Arlington, VA 22205

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