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WEBA Members:

Summer is almost here. It's been an exciting year, with many good programs offered by WEBA, and a lot of activity in the West End which we have been following for you. We are encouraged by our ever-growing membership, which means we are fulfilling our function of being relevant to West End businesses. Please help us get even better! Here's how: give us your ideas for programs that would interest you, participate in our Local Government Liaison Committee, recruit your fellow West End businesses as members, and most of all, come to one of our June or July events!

WEBA Local Government Liaison Committee Advocates for You

WEBA's Local Government Liaison Committee has had its hands full lately with tracking a number of plans and projects of importance to the West End, as well as analyzing several Planning Commission/City Council docket items and preparing appropriate responses. Key items include:

Small Business Zoning

Planning staff has prepared new proposals to simplify zoning regulations pertaining to permitting processes for small businesses. WEBA has been very active on behalf of business in the last two years, making recommendations on earlier rounds of simplification. We have reviewed the current proposals, attended several meetings where these were being discussed, and prepared a letter to be presented to the Planning Commission on June 3 supporting staff's proposals.

Virginia Paving Company Application for Minor Amendment

VPC applied for a minor amendment to its Special Use Permit in order to be able to use natural gas as a fuel in addition to #2 oil. Natural gas was not available to the site when the company received its SUP. City staff ruled the company was eligible to apply through the Minor Amendment process, meeting all the City's criteria; however, the Federation of Civic Associations requested a full SUP process. WEBA submitted a letter in support of Virginia Paving's application, noting that the potential use of natural gas had been amply discussed during the original SUP process, and that it could only improve air quality, without any negative effects on Alexandria. After several meetings with the Federation, the Planning Director ruled in favor of the Minor Amendment.

Commercial Add-on Tax

WEBA monitored City Council's deliberations on a possible 3 cent add-on tax on commercial uses to help fund transportation improvements. Our feeling was that

although there needs to be a consistent and predictable funding stream for transportation, the proposal as currently structured was not favorable to business. City Council did not pass the tax during its approval of the City budget for FY 2011.

Beauregard Area Plan

WEBA members attended several meetings of the Beauregard Plan (see detailed account in Past Events), including official City-sponsored meetings, developer meetings, and meetings of the BRAC Task Force.

BRAC-133 UPDATE

Members of WEBA are also members of the Mayor's appointed BRAC-133 Advisory Group, and have been very involved in tracking and providing input into the direct access alternatives. The next BRAC-133 Advisory Group meeting is on Wednesday, June 16th and will be held at the Beatley Library at 5005 Duke Street. The meeting is open to the public. For further information, contact WEBA member James Nozar at jnozar@jbg.com, or log on to the City's BRAC-133 webpage at <http://alexandriava.gov/planning/info/default.aspx?id=29490>.

Streetcar line along Beauregard Street

WEBA members attended the April 22 meeting of the Northern Virginia Streetcar Coalition, where Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax transportation officials presented their jurisdictions' plans for high-capacity transit. Members are also working with Northern Virginia Community College which has expressed interest in a streetcar maintenance facility on the Alexandria campus, tying in to an educational program for streetcar mechanics and operators. We are also attending Columbia Pike streetcar planning meetings and meetings related to Fairfax County's Baileys Crossroads plan – all related to improving transportation in the west end.

In June, we will be presenting letters to the Planning Commission and City Council on Small Business Zoning Regulations. We will also continue to follow proceedings relating to the Beauregard area and to transportation improvements for the West End.

Calendar of Events

[WEBA's Online Calendar](#)



WEBA Membership is not required to attend WEBA Events

Thursday, June 10th – Networking Happy Hour

It's a great way to meet new professional and personal contacts as well as potential clients for your business, in the lovely atrium setting. There is free parking, half-priced drinks and a Mini Menu of meals and snacks for \$5. Put your name in the box for the Door Prize drawing. Celebrate with us as we enjoy the summer season!

- **Date/Time:** Thursday, June 10th, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- **Location:** Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road
- **Reservations:** Portia Hood at phood@hiltonalexandriamc.com or at 703-845-2613

Monday, June 7th – Fairfax's Public/Private Partnership: Turning a Prison Complex Into a Dynamic Business Mix

Speakers include: Tim J. Sargeant, member of the Fairfax County Planning Commission, who helped to spearhead the groundwork to turn 2,700 acres into the successful mixed-use development in Lorton; and Tina Leone, the former head of the Lorton Arts Foundation, who is currently CEO of the Alexandria Chamber of

Commerce, who developed the innovative strategies to wed business and the arts at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center. How can this winning model be replicated elsewhere in Northern Virginia? Sandwiches, salads, soft drinks. \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Free parking.

- **Date/Time:** Monday, June 7th, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- **Location:** Washington Suites Hotel, 100 S. Reynolds St., Alexandria
- **Reservations:** contact brahmopticians@aol.com or 703-772-6716.

Monday, July 12th – Luncheon: Are You Looking For Money in All the Wrong Places?

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR MONEY IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES?! Find out better sources for loans to generate revenue and rebuild resources for your organization. The speaker is Frank Amantia, president of Mid-Atlantic Federal Credit Union, with 22,000 members and \$240 million in assets. He is a former winner of the Financial Services Advocate of the Year Award, presented by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Amantia has more than 30 years of experience in the financial services industry and is licensed to do business in four states. Choice of 4 entrees. Members \$15, non-members \$20. Free parking.

- **Date/Time:** Monday, July 12th, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.
- **Location:** Mango Mike's Restaurant, 4580 Duke St., Alexandria
- **Reservations:** contact brahmopticians@aol.com or 703-772-6716.

Past Events

What you May Have Missed

WEBA Volunteers Make A Difference for Shelter Care

WEBA members Nancy Benjamin and Portia Hood attended the 12th Annual Business Philanthropy Summit on April 30. John Porter, Susanne Waltemeyer, Alexia Arama, John McManus, Sharon Annear, Kerry Donley, Bill Euille, and Gwen Sigda also attended the event on behalf of WEBA and their own businesses. Breakfast at the event was very nice and the speakers spoke on many interesting subjects.

By 10 a.m., all volunteers had moved on to the work site, Shelter Care at 200 S. Whiting St., Alexandria. Our coordinators there, Sue Lumpkin and Laura, were extremely helpful.

Included in our WEBA team were:

Nancy Benjamin (Brahm Opticians), Dave Horton (VA Paving), Portia Hood (Hilton Alexandria), Sharon Annear (Aide to Councilwoman Alicia Hughes), Lynn Bostain (Seminary West Civic Association), Susanne Waltemyer (Commonwealth One Federal Credit Union), Dean Marnell (Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home), Clarke Slaymaker (Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home), Edgar Tapia (Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home).

We painted 12 bedrooms for Shelter Care residents from top to bottom; including the windows, ceiling, door frames, and walls. For lunch, the staff at Shelter Care cooked for everyone.... we had burgers, dogs, chicken, and ribs, and all the accompaniment salads, etc. Lunch was a nice chance to chat with everyone and learn more about their facility and to re-charge us for the rest of the painting.

I am truly grateful that I am surrounded by others who want to help out our community. I had fun being with everyone that day and am pleased that we got so much good work

done!

By Nancy Benjamin

Beauregard Corridor Small Area Plan Meetings

The last meeting held by the City of Alexandria was on April 10th, in which the City held an all-day community meeting to try to discuss and establish principles, goals, a vision and a planning framework for the future of the Beauregard corridor. The City's consultants had prepared detailed preliminary materials for the audience to react to. The resulting framework plan is available on the City's web site, which can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Following that meeting, The JBG Companies, a private landowner which owns approximately 140 acres within the boundaries of the Small Area Plan, hosted a community workshop from May 8th – 10th. At this work session, JBG presented draft concept ideas for their site for public review and comments. The draft plans, presentation materials and videos of the public presentation can be found at www.markcenterinfo.com

The next community meeting will be hosted by the City of Alexandria on Monday, June 28th from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. The meeting will focus on transportation, FAR/heights/density, land use and economic sustainability. The exact location of the meeting will be confirmed and announced through Alexandria's e-news and posted on the City's website.

For further information, contact the City's project manager Dirk Geratz at 703.746.3815, Pat Mann at 703.746.3857 or log on to the City's Beauregard Corridor Plan webpage at <http://alexandriava.gov/planning/info/default.aspx?id=24024>

Posted by SBA Administrator Karen Mills on May 17, 2010 at 09:00 AM EDT

Today, the Treasury Department is releasing [more details](#) on the ways small businesses will benefit from health insurance reform. Rising health care costs have been the biggest concern for small businesses for decades. But as a result of the Affordable Care Act, we are already putting in motion steps that will reform the health insurance system so it works for small businesses, rather than strap them with continually rising costs.

One of the many ways the new law is helping small businesses is through tax credits starting this year. These credits will help small business owners provide health insurance to their workers – by giving back up to 35 percent of the employee premiums they pay starting this year. Just as important, today's announcement made clear that small businesses may receive state health care tax credits and still qualify for a federal tax credit. In addition, today's announcement clarifies that dental and vision coverage qualify for the credit.

With this announcement today, I'm reminded of a woman small business owner I met in New Jersey last summer. She said to me that the day she was able to provide health insurance for her staff was the day she knew she was a success. But rising costs forced her to cut back on the coverage and even put her at risk of not being able to provide coverage at all for her employees. That's why these tax credits are so important. It will mean she and countless other small business owners across the country can do what she thinks is best for her employees and for her business.

An estimated 4 million small businesses may qualify for credit, which will provide about

Tax Credits are First Step in Health Insurance Reform for Small Businesses

	<p>\$40 billion in tax relief over the next 10 years. Already, the IRS has sent out millions of postcards to small business owners connecting them with tools to help them to determine their eligibility for federal tax credits this year.</p> <p>In 2014, the maximum tax credit will increase from 35 to 50 percent and small business owners will also have the chance to access affordable plans through health insurance exchanges. These exchanges will be a marketplace where small businesses can pool their risk together and spread it more broadly, while reducing their administrative costs.</p> <p>It's important to note that the Affordable Care Act also will help small businesses in other ways.</p> <p>For example, rules will prohibit insurance companies from dramatically increasing premiums for a small business just because one worker gets sick. Also, by outlawing discrimination based on pre-existing conditions, the Affordable Care Act will make it easier for small businesses to compete for quality workers, as well as allow more Americans to break out of "job lock" and start their own business. Read more benefits of the Affordable Care Act for small businesses here.</p> <p>Overall, the Affordable Care Act will provide entrepreneurs and small business owners with lower costs and more tools to provide health insurance for their employees, whom they often think of as members of their own family. We owe them nothing less as they work to grow, create jobs, and lead us toward full economic recovery.</p> <p><i>Karen Mills is Administrator of the Small Business Administration</i></p>
<p>Health Care Reform Web Portal Requirements</p>	<p>HHS published an interim final rule regarding the health insurance web portal required by the health care reform law. The web portal is intended to assist individuals and small businesses in identifying health insurance coverage options in each state, effective July 1, 2010. The interim final rule adopts the categories of information that will be collected and displayed via the website, and the data required from issuers and requested from states, associations, and high-risk pools in order to create this content. For more information, including the interim final rule, go to: http://www.hhs.gov/ociio/regulations/index.html#health_care_reform</p> <p>Fire and emergency services are provided by neighborhood fire stations, but also through inter-jurisdictional agreements near City borders. Eisenhower Avenue's West End has long relied on Fairfax County emergency services due to the lack of a station able to serve the area. The City has now designated a fire station location on the site of the existing City Impound Lot and Police Shooting Range, and has advertised for bids for design of the station. The Eisenhower Partnership opposes the proposed location, stating that the site is a valuable one close to the Van Dorn Metro that should be developed at a higher density and better use.</p>
<p>Our Mission</p>	<p>WEBA's mission is to provide the city of Alexandria Virginia's West End businesses with networking, education and growth opportunities</p>
<p>Contact Us</p>	<p>We Want to Hear From You! For comments, questions or recommendations regarding this newsletter, please click HERE or email us at: alexandriaweba@gmail.com.</p> <p>If you're not already a member of WEBA, please click HERE to join us</p>
<p>WEBAonline</p>	<p><i>Editors: James Nozar, AJ Artemel; Contributors: Agnes Artemel, Nancy Benjamin, James</i></p>

