

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

REDEVELOPMENT BOARD / PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Redevelopment Board

The Arlington Redevelopment Board (ARB) is both the planning board and the community development board for the Town. The board also has urban renewal authority for the Town under MGL Chapter 121 (b). As the permit granting authority for Environmental Design Review, the board spends considerable time reviewing applications for certain development projects to ensure that specific zoning standards are met.

In 2009 the ARB was given the authority to approve the design of ways for the purposes of ensuring that new building lots can meet zoning frontage and access requirements. The State legislature enacted Chapter 42 of the Acts of 2009 of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, vesting authority in the Redevelopment Board to approve ways in Arlington. Formerly, the Board of Selectmen had authority to approve ways, but was limited in the standards that could be imposed on their construction. The ARB must now adopt regulations for Board of Survey applicants.

Planning & Community Development

The Department of Planning & Community Development prepares and implements long-term and short-range plans related to the Town's natural and built environment. This includes land-use, transportation, economic development, housing, open space and recreation, natural resources, historic preservation, and plans and projects that preserve and enhance Arlington's community character. The Department also administers the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and other grant programs, oversees the day-to-day operations of the Redevelopment Board buildings, and supports the efforts of Town boards, committees, and commissions charged with planning-related responsibilities.

The Department is staffed by three full-time planners and a support staff of two. The staff supports over twenty-four Town committees and boards, plus Town initiatives. The Department administers five times as much value in federal revenue for Town services, not including the federal Weatherization and home rehabilitation programs, as it costs the Town to run the Department.

2009 Highlights & Initiatives

During 2009 the ARB and the Department focused on the Massachusetts Avenue Corridor Project, the Commercial Development Study, the Environmental Design Review for the new CVS store (Hogden-Noyes site), and actively pursued developers to acquire the Symmes redevelopment project with the current owner, JPI and the bank holding the mortgage. The Department managed \$1.3 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds that were allocated for thirteen pub-

lic services, four public facility projects, and for housing and planning activities. The Department manages seven ARB properties representing twenty-three tenants and approximately \$1 million in rents. Details of these highlights and initiatives are included in this report.

Massachusetts Avenue Corridor

The Town received funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for design and improvements to Massachusetts Avenue (Mass. Ave.) in East Arlington, from the Cambridge city line to Pond Lane. This grant came to the Town as a result of longstanding concerns about pedestrian safety on Mass. Ave. The goals of the project are to make Mass. Ave. a safer and more attractive street that improves safety and mobility for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users; to maintain motorist mobility and create a safer and more orderly traffic flow; and to improve the business environment by enhancing the streetscape and improving parking efficiency.

The project is being managed by the Town Planning Department and Department of Public Works, with guidance from a Project Review Committee made up of Arlington residents and business owners. During 2009 our consultant team conducted extensive traffic analysis and then developed a plan that will transform the wide open pavement into a more organized roadway which balances the needs of all users. Three new crosswalks will be added, along with curb extensions to shorten the crossing distance for pedestrians. The Lake Street commercial area will be improved with new trees, benches, bike racks, pedestrian-scale lighting and outdoor seating and dining areas. The plan was submitted in August to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division for their review after a series of public meetings to review the project, which was endorsed by the Board of Selectmen. Following additional design, engineering, and public hearings, construction is anticipated in 2012.

Commercial Development

Since February a team of consultants, led by Larry Koff & Associates, have been developing a Commercial Development plan. The task is to focus on ways to bring more vitality and vigor to the three commercial centers: East Arlington, Arlington Center, and Arlington Heights. The study will also analyze specified key potential development sites. Most of the Commercial Development Plan elements had been drafted and reviewed by business owners and commercial property owners by the end of 2009, after the consultants met several times with the Town's review team. Presentation of the draft plan to the public will be made early in 2010.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Environmental Design Review – CVS Store

A significant Environmental Design Review special permit was granted by the ARB for a new CVS store at the former Hodgdon-Noyes auto dealership site on Massachusetts Avenue, near the high school. The use was allowed by zoning. Demolition and site work began late in 2009.



CVS construction site

Despite the economic downturn, construction began on two retail developments in 2009. One in Arlington Heights and the other a CVS store at the former Hodgdon Noyes dealership.



Arlington Heights Retail Construction

Symmes

The redevelopment of the former Symmes Hospital site saw little progress this year as the credit-lending crisis limited potential buyers that could take over the site. JPI, the entity that controls the site, continued to seek investor/developers to take over the project, to fulfill JPI's obligations, and to develop the site as permitted by the Town. The ARB and other Town officials met in November with the bank holding the mortgage on the project. The ARB subsequently sent a detailed letter summarizing the important permit conditions that bear on the Symmes redevelopment project.

To review the present circumstances, given the lo-

cation, size, and prominence of the site, Town Meeting voted to purchase Symmes Hospital in 2002 to control its redevelopment and transfer it to the ARB for redevelopment. Town Meeting commissioned a study by the Symmes Advisory Committee to determine the best re-use for the site that could meet a range of community needs. In 2003 the ARB issued a Request for Qualifications for developers who could realize the criteria of the Symmes Advisory Committee study. A Land Disposition Agreement (LDA) was executed with a developer in 2004 to redevelop the site with condominiums, a medical office building, to preserve open space, and to construct a public park with views of the Boston skyline. The hospital buildings were demolished in 2007. Later that year, the country entered economic recession and construction was halted. The developer is seeking new investment in hopes of completing the project.



Boston Skyline as seen from Symmes site.

Community Development Block Grant

Arlington received \$1.3 million dollars in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds that were allocated for thirteen public services, four public facility projects, and for housing and planning activities. CDBG funds helped purchase an additional ten units of housing for affordable rentals, for a total of 58 units. CDBG-funded public services reached 1, 680 persons, 73% of whom were low-income, and approximately 37% of whom were extremely low-income.

Affordable Housing

The Department of Planning & Community Development continued to support the Town's strong affordable housing efforts this year, with the following accomplishments:

Ten units of affordable rental housing were developed by the non-profit Housing Corporation of Arlington with the use of CDBG, HOME funds (both from U.S. Housing and Urban Development), the Massachusetts Housing Partnership, and Cambridge Savings Bank.

The Authority continued planning and design work for 10 units of fully accessible special needs housing

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

on the Chestnut Manor site. These units will be funded primarily by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, with additional funding from the HOME program.

Four affordable condominiums were purchased and occupied by low and moderate-income first time homebuyers at Minuteman Village.

Four affordable condos at two different properties were resold this year to low and moderate-income first time homebuyers.

Cooke's Hollow

CDBG also funded work on Cooke's Hollow. In June Waterfield Design Group was selected to complete a feasibility study of Cooke's Hollow. This is a unique collaboration between the Cemetery Commission and the Conservation Commission. The project is about half to three-quarters completed and should be completed in the spring of 2010. The study is to analyze the feasibility of combining two uses at Cooke's Hollow: existing and traditional conservation use and the addition of niches for cremated remains. Since the site has historical significance, it also includes involvement from the Arlington Historical Commission.

Civic Block Garden Wall

Since the 1980's the Town has completed various efforts to maintain and renovate the "Civic Block" area encompassing Town Hall, the Library, the gardens between the two, and the Old Burying Ground. This entire area possesses recognized historical significance, with landscape design by the noted Olmsted Brothers firm in the early 1900's. The Town has received grants from the Massachusetts Historical Commission to help maintain, renovate, and re-create the original historical designs of the gardens and the wall running along Massachusetts Avenue and Academy Street. The Town has accumulated a significant amount of CDBG grant funds to help implement a detailed plan to repair and renovate this wall, but needs additional funds to complete the entire plan. However, the segment of the wall in front of the Library is in particularly poor condition, with an obvious lean toward the sidewalk, potentially creating a public safety hazard. The Town engaged consultant, Carol R. Johnson Associates, Inc., to analyze only this portion of the wall and design alternative solutions for eliminating this condition. The final report was submitted at the end of 2009. In early 2010 the Town will review this report and decide which alternative to implement so that work on the wall can begin in the spring.

Battle Road Scenic Byway

In 2009 the Town joined with Concord, Lexington, and Lincoln to successfully support federal designation of the "Battle Road Scenic Byway," which runs for fifteen miles along or parallel to the old Revolutionary

War battle road through the four towns. While clearly a main theme of this Byway is the Revolutionary War, just as important are the themes represented by the literary, environmental, and technological "revolutions" that have occurred along its length. This cooperative effort, administered by the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC), with involvement by the Minuteman National Historical Park, the Massachusetts Highway Department, and the four towns, is focusing on preservation and promotion of this historic corridor, while also exploring options for tourism and economic development. Arlington is participating on the main work group, which is working through a number of sub-groups to draft a comprehensive management plan for the Byway. During the year these groups met several times with various groups and the public in each of the towns and will continue to do so in 2010. The final management plan for the Byway will be drafted throughout 2010 with a final plan available early in 2011.

Redevelopment Board Properties

The Redevelopment Board (ARB) manages seven buildings with over 180,000 gross square feet of commercial space valued at over \$20 million, housing twenty-three tenants paying over \$1 million in rents. The seven buildings consist of four former schools, one former library, and two historic houses. 2009 was the third year of a focused effort to define and implement a comprehensive maintenance and capital plan for the buildings after a long period of relative inactivity.

Central School

The final phase of copper gutter replacement was completed at the Central School building behind the Town Hall. Badly worn flooring in the lobbies on the ground floor level of the same building was replaced. Upgrades were also made to the building's fire alarm system. New leases were negotiated with the state, keeping the two state agencies—the Department of Mental Health, and the Department of Developmental Services—in their spaces for another three years. Negotiations for remaining vacant ground floor space occurred during the year with a goal of filling this space in 2010. Other major goals include replacing the second (back-up) boiler with a new natural gas-fired boiler before the 2010 heating season begins and repairing the roof.

23 Maple Street

The historic house at 23 Maple Street was the beneficiary of capital improvements. All of the old aluminum siding was replaced with wood clapboards, substantially improving the look of this historic house. All windows were replaced with energy efficient ones manufactured to duplicate the look of the original windows. One of the four main doors was replaced. The old heat

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

detectors were replaced with smoke detectors, making the high school safer. Together with the new main roof, gutters, and downspouts, the house is now substantially improved in safety, visual appearance, and more energy efficient. Major goals for 2010 include replacing the old heating system with a new system that will include central air conditioning, replace the two porches, handicap ramp, and three remaining major doors, and renovating the kitchen. The decorative trim will also be replaced at a future date beyond 2010.

Jefferson Cutter House

The second historic house, the Jefferson Cutter House, saw the replacement of all of its wooden gutters and the replacement of the rear lower door. A major goal for 2010 is to replace or restore about four to six windows that are in particularly poor condition.

Gibbs School

The Gibbs School building had the main roof replaced, eliminating several leaks. A long length of chain link fencing and concrete foundation below it were replaced eliminating a safety hazard. A new controlled entrance system was almost complete at year's end. This system should be completed early in 2010, significantly improving security of this multi-tenant building. A back-flow control device was added to the water systems at Gibbs and at the Crosby School building as required by the Town. Major goals for 2010 include replacing the gymnasium floor, replacing one of the two large natural gas-fired boilers with a more efficient boiler, retaining the other boiler as a back-up, and replacing one of the larger air conditioning compressors.

Crosby and Parmenter School Buildings

Since the Town is analyzing the costs and benefits of retaining the Crosby and Parmenter School buildings, no major capital projects have been scheduled until after a decision is made regarding the retention of those buildings. However, if the buildings are to be retained and operated by the Town, then the most immediate needs include at the Crosby School building: a new roof over the gymnasium and major steam pipe replacement. At the Parmenter School a new boiler will be needed. A consultant analysis of the costs and benefits of retaining the Crosby and Parmenter School buildings was almost complete at year's end. The final study should be completed early in 2010.

In addition to these major capital and maintenance projects, routine maintenance is completed on a daily basis by the Department's Building Craftsman, primarily at the Central School building, the Gibbs School building, the Jefferson Cutter House, and 23 Maple Street. Most routine maintenance at the Crosby and Parmenter School buildings and at the Dallin Library building is performed and paid directly by the tenants of those

buildings. The Town's facilities maintenance staff also helps the Department's Building Craftsman maintain the buildings.

Acknowledgments

After more than two decades of service to the Town of Arlington, Kevin O'Brien retired this year from his position as Director of Planning and Community Development. Kevin was instrumental in the conversion of the former landfill site near Reed's Brook into McClennen Park, and also guided the complex Symmes Hospital redevelopment project from its inception. His work on planning, zoning, serving the Redevelopment Board, and managing the board properties set a high standard in his profession and in the region.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) renders decisions as prescribed in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, The Zoning Act, and by the Town's Zoning Bylaw. Petitions heard by the Zoning Board of Appeals include variances, special permits, and comprehensive permits (Chapter 40B), and appeals of zoning decisions rendered by the Building Inspector as well as interpretations of Zoning Bylaws. Since its inception in 1946 the Zoning Board of Appeals has heard and rendered decisions on over 3,300 appeals.

The Zoning Board of Appeals is comprised of three regular members appointed by the Board of Selectmen, who also appoint two associate members to attend hearings when a member(s) cannot sit for a particular hearing. For any decision to be granted, the vote of the three-member board must be unanimous. All Hearings are open to the public and are generally held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month in the 2nd floor conference room at Town Hall annex. All hearings are advertised in The Arlington Advocate for two consecutive weeks and posted on the Town Clerk's Bulletin Board at least three weeks prior to the hearing date. Hearings are also posted on the Town website and via email to the ZBA Agenda email list. Residents can subscribe to this email list at arlingtonma.gov/subscriber. Additionally, relevant property abutters are notified by mail. The Rules and Regulations of the Zoning Board of Appeals are on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, in the Zoning Board of Appeals' Office at 51 Grove Street, and online at arlingtonma.gov/zba.

2009 Activities

The Zoning Board of Appeals heard and rendered decisions on twenty-two petitions.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Arlington Conservation Commission (ACC) is required by state and local laws to protect and preserve wetlands and waterways and their surrounding areas. The ACC is comprised of seven volunteer members and one volunteer associate member, who are appointed by the Town Manager with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, plus a part-time, paid administrator. At meetings twice a month and through on-site visits, commission members work to ensure that all construction and development projects, residential and commercial, that may alter any wetlands, floodplains, rivers, streams, ponds, or lakes are in compliance with state and local regulations. The ACC also protects and manages the Town's Conservation Lands and natural resources.

Regulatory Activities

The ACC is mandated to protect wetlands, waterways, water supplies, fisheries, wildlife, and wildlife habitat as well as regulate activities in a floodplain through its administration of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Arlington General Bylaw for Wetlands Protection. ACC members regularly seek continuing education to ensure legal compliance with frequently changing regulations, and to assist applicants through the regulatory process.

In the year 2009 the ACC convened twenty-four public meetings and provided coordination, monitoring, permit review, and consultation on numerous property residential and municipal redevelopments around Town. The board issued ten Orders of Conditions, two Extensions, three Certificates of Compliance, and three Determinations of Applicability.

One of the larger projects the ACC permitted was the Alewife Greenway. The Commonwealth's Department of Conservation and Recreation plans to enhance the multi-use trails and replant, with native plants, the section of the Alewife Reservation from Rt. 2 to Mystic Valley Parkway. This work is scheduled to begin in Spring of 2010.

Conservation Activities

Land Stewards

Our volunteer citizen organization, Arlington Land Stewards (ALS), has assisted in managing twenty-four Town-owned conservation lands comprising approximately thirty acres. Land stewards monitor, coordinate and maintain (with permission from the ACC) conservation land of their choice, often in their immediate neighborhood or sometimes elsewhere in Town. Each land steward is provided with a stewardship handbook listing the location of conservation lands, conservation land regulations, and problem/solution management information. The handbook is available online at arlingtonma.gov/conservation.

PETITIONS HEARD BY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS 2009

| | Granted | Denied | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------|----------|--|
| Petitions for Variance | 7 | | |
| Applications for Special Permits | 11 | 1 | |
| Appeal of Decision of Inspector of Buildings | 1 | | |
| Amendments to SP/ Variances | 2 | | |
| Comprehensive Permits | 0 | | |
| Total | 21 | 1 | |
| Total Petitions filed with Town Clerk | 22 | | |
| Total Hearings continued by the Board | 0 | | |
| Total Petitions withdrawn | 0 | | |

ZONING BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

Background

The Zoning Bylaw Review Committee (ZBRC) was formed as a result of a 1999 Town Meeting Vote *that the Town establish a committee to review the zoning bylaw to determine, among other things, if there were sufficient differentiation among the different zones, if size restrictions were appropriate, if sufficient protection was provided to our historic and open spaces, and that the bylaw met the requirements of recent regulatory and judicial standards...the committee shall propose and report suggested changes to improve the zoning by-law to subsequent town meetings.*

The ZBRC consists of ten members with one representative from each of the following: Arlington Redevelopment Board (ARB), the Town of Arlington Redevelopment Board of Planning and Community Development, the Arlington Historical Commission, the business community, the real estate community, two lawyers, and three Town Meeting Members, all of whom are appointed by the Town Moderator.

The Committee met several times in the winter and spring of 2009 to study, comment, and vote on Warrant Articles 5 through 11 for the 2009 Town Meeting. The Zoning Bylaw Review Committee has temporarily revised its meeting schedule to focus on review of proposed zoning-related warrant articles for the upcoming 2010 Town Meeting. The committee does not, at this time, have any proposed changes to the zoning bylaw.

2010 Objectives

Fully review proposed zoning-related warrant articles for the 2010 Town Meeting and provide recommendations. Review and seek out further suggested improvements to the Zoning Bylaw throughout the year.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Arlington Reservoir

The Commission continues to monitor the approximately 100 trees planted around the reservoir as part of the Reservoir Dam Rehabilitation project. A small area of reconstructed wetland was installed to replace some areas that were lost because of the dam repair work.

The ACC is looking for funding to treat the invasive plants (water chestnut, Eurasian watermilfoil, and curlyleaf pondweed) that plagued the reservoir this past summer.

Cooke's Hollow

The Conservation Commission along with the Cemetery Commission and Planning Department have joined together to develop a restoration plan for Cooke's Hollow. In the Fall of 2009 the Waterfield Design Group was hired to evaluate current conditions and to assist in the development of those plans. A number of team meetings were held in 2009 and we expect to have preliminary design options for public presentation in the Spring of 2010.

Mill Brook Linear Park

The Arlington Open Space Committee with involvement of the ACC and others has organized a group to study the Mill Brook area with the goal of enhancing the public use and awareness of this natural and historical resource. Planning for Mill Brook goes back to the 1920's but there is still much to do. This project also ties into Cooke's Hollow, a pocket park next to Mystic Street which contains a section of the brook.

Arlington's Great Meadows

The Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows (FoAGM) has sponsored regular public nature events. Information about these and future events and their annual report is available at www.foagm.org.

Meadowbrook Park and Mystic Valley Parkway

In May land stewards, ACC members, and others carried out two days of cleanup of the conservation area. This park collects many items that wash down Mill Brook each year.

Mystic Lakes-Mid-Lakes Dam Project

The ACC reviewed and provided comments on the proposed project to rehabilitate the dam located between Upper and Lower Mystic Lakes to ensure downstream flooding impacts were considered.

Walking Book

The ACC is revising this popular guidebook to open spaces and walking tours in Arlington.

Revised FEMA Floodplain Maps

After public comment, FEMA released its final draft floodplain map revision study for Arlington and surrounding Towns. The ACC reviewed the extensive modeling and map revisions to help ensure it accurately reports the conditions. The ACC provided comments to the engineering consultant hired by the Town to review the study and provide comments. The revised maps will become final once approved by Arlington Town Meeting, which is expected in 2010.

Spy Pond Phragmites Control Project

The ACC worked with the Spy Pond Committee and the waterfront property owners to coordinate a program for control of the Giant Reed, which is currently populating many areas of shoreline around the pond. This approach will involve a multi-year program including controlled spraying by a licensed applicator, Aquatic Control Technology, and volunteer winter cutting events. The program must balance the plant control with protection of the threatened Englemann's Sedge and create a healthy shoreline environment with a diverse and sustainable plant community.

2010 Objectives

The ACC will continue to encourage, support, and assist the various volunteer and environmental advocacy groups that are dedicated to better preserving the Town's precious conservation lands and other open spaces within its immediate borders as well as those directly adjacent to it. These groups include, among others: Arlington Land Stewards, Arlington Land Trust, Open Space Committee, Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows, Mystic River Watershed Association, and the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions.

The ACC will work actively to support all efforts directed at preventing raw sewage from entering Alewife Brook. The ACC would like to see the Alewife Brook restored to a healthy, fishable, and swimmable waterway in the very near future. To do so will be a significant challenge for the many parties involved in the betterment of Alewife Brook. Yet, the ACC believes this goal is attainable.

The ACC, in working with the Open Space Committee and the Arlington Land Trust, hopes to identify and, when available, acquire additional open space as protected "conservation land" to benefit residents of the Town.

Acknowledgments

The ACC sincerely thanks all individuals and organizations that contributed directly or indirectly to the activities of its fortieth year. Many special thanks go to the scores of volunteers who came out for cleanup projects, assisted as land stewards or participated in the

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

many Friends groups that work to preserve our natural resources and heritage. The Commission welcomes Brian Thomas as its newest associate member.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

The Open Space Committee (OSC) was established by Town Meeting in 1996. Members include Arlington residents and representatives of key Town departments and commissions. The committee meets monthly to exchange ideas and discuss ways to protect and maintain the Town's open space and recreation resources. The committee serves an oversight function but does not have direct management responsibility for Town properties. Its main purpose is to enhance communication and coordination among those entities that do have ownership and management authority. In addition, the OSC seeks to raise broad-based community concerns and to advocate for the protection, stewardship, and appropriate uses of the Town's open spaces.

Open Space Plan

The Committee's primary responsibility is to prepare the Town's official Open Space and Recreation Plan every five years, monitor its provisions and goals, and document accomplishments. The current Plan covers the period 2007–2012. It was approved in December 2007 by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA), a Division of Conservation Services (DCS). Printed copies of the Plan are available at the Robbins Library, Planning Department and Town Clerk's office at Town Hall, and online at arlingtonma.gov/planning. In November 2009 the Committee learned that the EOEEA/DCS was encouraging towns to extend their active plans for two years. The Committee began making those changes immediately in order to extend the scope and timeline of the plan from 2012 to 2014, and will submit them to the state by the deadline of late February 2010.

Site Management Plans

During most of 2008 and 2009 the Committee worked on site management plans for twelve key open space and recreation properties in Town. The statewide guidelines for these site plans are part of the standard Open Space and Recreation Plan document. One committee member worked with appropriate Town staff, commission members, Friends' groups, and other stakeholders for each of these sites. Plans are now completed for the following properties: Arlington Reservoir, Minuteman Bikeway, Arlington's Great Meadows, Robbins Farm Park, Spy Pond Park, the Route 2 Path next to Spy Pond, Menotomy Rocks Park, Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Meadowbrook Park, McClennen Park, Town Hall Gardens, and Old Burying Ground. These site plans will need to be updated every few years and new

sites will be identified for future management plans.

Mill Brook Initiative

In a major new initiative, an ad-hoc committee of the OSC and other Town committees began meeting in March to study the feasibility of developing a Mill Brook Linear Park. This important ecological and historical feature of the Town travels nearly three miles, parallel to both Massachusetts Avenue and the Minuteman Bikeway. Enhancement of, and improved access to, existing open spaces are key goals of the Open Space and Recreation Plan, and recent projects at Cooke's Hollow and Wellington Park brought renewed interest to the brook and the linear park concept. These are just two of the Town-owned facilities that abut Mill Brook, thus offering public entry points for greater access to the corridor. Other properties are the Arlington Reservoir, Hurd Field, Arlington High School and fields, Buzzell Field, Mt Pleasant Cemetery, and Meadowbrook Park.

The study is looking into the feasibility of linking these properties together in a greenway with pedestrian facilities and other improvements to help restore the environmental and visual qualities of Mill Brook. This work involves reviewing parcel lines, lot ownership, and current uses, as well as photo-documenting the conditions of the brook and its nearby built neighborhood. There are 109 parcels of land along Mill Brook. The Town owns sixteen of them, accounting for about thirty-five percent of the land abutting the brook. The other sixty-five percent is in private ownership with a variety of residential, commercial, and industrial uses.

The Mill Brook committee is also working closely with the Planning Department and Redevelopment Board in conjunction with their ongoing efforts to enhance economic development opportunities in Arlington. Interspersed among the Town-owned parcels are numerous business and industrial zones where new kinds of brook-oriented activity could benefit from collaborative planning.

Other Activities

The Committee continued to monitor a wide range of open space concerns that affect the Town and its residents' quality of life. Some of the issues that came before the committee during the year were citizen concerns about encroachments along the Minuteman Bikeway (which prompted a letter to bikeway abutters), the proposed Green Dog pilot program and policies for off-leash times and locations at Town parks, the state Department of Conservation and Recreation's proposed Alewife Greenway Path as part of the larger Alewife Reservation Master Plan, the Cemetery Expansion Committee's explorations of alternative burial options and locations, and the Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows plan to restore upland meadows.

Other timely issues addressed by the Committee

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

included planning for the Summer Street Playground, the management of phragmites in Spy Pond, portable toilet facilities at selected parks and playing fields, and the sale of Busa Farm to the Town of Lexington. The committee is especially concerned about the future uses of the land at Busa Farm because it abuts the Arlington Reservoir, a natural resource area, and could affect the water quality of the beach. In October the committee wrote to the Board of Selectmen to encourage Arlington's active engagement with Lexington officials on the planning for this sensitive property.

The OSC participated in Town Day, as it does each year, displaying maps of local open spaces, copies of the Open Space and Recreation Plan, flyers about the Conservation Commission's Land Stewards Program and invasive plants, and a sign-up sheet for residents interested in getting more involved. Committee members also were involved with the Eco-Fest ecological gardening event at Town Hall in March.

Objectives for 2010

The Committee will continue to address specific elements of the Action Plan outlined in the original 2007–2012 Open Space and Recreation Plan, as well as new goals and objectives incorporated into the state-requested extension to 2014. Some activities will be educational programs on invasive plants and ecological gardening with the Arlington Garden Club, Land Stewards, and other groups, continuing work on enhancing the Mill Brook corridor and other Mystic River watershed issues, and contributing to a Conservation Commission's evaluation of Cooke's Hollow as a possible site for a memorial garden for cremains, in conjunction with the Cemetery Expansion Committee.

The Committee will also continue to collaborate with other Town entities and community groups to advocate for the proper maintenance and management of the Town's valuable open space and recreation resources. In particular, monitor the situations regarding Elizabeth Island and the Mugar land, both significant privately owned natural resources that are priorities for conservation protection through acquisition or other means.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The goal of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) is to improve the quality of life in Arlington by improving safety and mobility for people using all modes of transport, as well as contributing to improving the environment and public health. In this effort, the TAC, Arlington Police Department's Traffic Division, the Public Works Department, and the Planning Department work closely together.

The Traffic Authority for Arlington is the Board of Selectmen. The TAC was established by the Board

of Selectmen in the spring of 2001 to advise them on transportation matters. The TAC membership includes six citizen representatives, a representative from the Chamber of Commerce, Town staff representatives from Police, DPW and Planning, two associate members, and a representative from the Board of Selectmen, to act as liaison.

The TAC continues to be very concerned by the limited Police resources for traffic and parking enforcement. Transportation management requires the Three Es: Engineering, Education, and Enforcement. All three are essential to maintain a high quality of life in Arlington. Enforcement is the weakest at this time.

2009 Highlights

Arlington Schools

A multiyear plan led by the TAC was approved by both the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee in 2008 to improve traffic and walking safety around schools. Phase 1 of the plan provides inexpensive safety improvements (paint and signs) for the public elementary schools. This effort includes designating and improving preferred walking routes and reducing conflicts between students and autos at drop-off and pick-up periods. Phase 2 requires more expensive infrastructure improvements, such as adding or repairing sidewalks and handicap ramps along the preferred walking routes. Both state aid and funds from the Capital Plan for these items are being sought. The Dallin School was selected as one of the first five elementary schools in the state to receive infrastructure improvements as part of the Federal Safe Routes to School Program. Safety recommendations have now been made and voted by the Board of Selectmen for all of the elementary schools except Brackett, which is underway. Next on the agenda for 2010 is the Ottoson Middle School.

Massachusetts Avenue Corridor

Phase 1 of this project is an upgrade of Massachusetts Avenue between the Cambridge city line and Pond Lane for safety and streetscape improvements. Federal and state funds were released for design work, which got underway in 2009. The Town's consultant, Fay, Spofford & Thorndike, conducted extensive traffic analyses and then developed a plan for a more organized roadway that balances the needs of pedestrians, motorists, bicyclists, and transit users. The 25% design is currently being reviewed by the State Department of Transportation, Highway Division. Members of the TAC serve on the Review Committee for the project.

Downing Square

Several alternatives for this difficult six-way intersection (Park Ave, Lowell St, Park Ave Extension, Bow St., and Westminster Ave) have been identified and analyzed. After a long public process a conceptual de-

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

sign was recommended and voted on by the Board of Selectmen in 2009.

Green Line Extension

Working with the Planning Department, the TAC is an advocate for the Green Line Extension to Route 16, where it can be useful to residents of Arlington. We have participated in the public process for this project and submitted comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report.

Reports

TAC studied and made recommendations to the Board of Selectmen on the following:

- Winter Street traffic congestion.
- CVS Special Permit traffic mitigation (recommendations to Redevelopment Board).
- Peirce School Phase 1b circulation.
- Bishop School Phase 1b circulation.
- Dallin School Phase 1b circulation.
- Downing Square preliminary design.
- Appleton Place traffic and parking.
- Germaine Lawrence School parking and neighborhood mitigation.
- Yerxa Road/Winchester Road traffic safety.
- Thorndike Field Phase 2 parking plan (recommendation to Parks and Recreation Commission).
- Pond Lane/Spy Pond Park traffic circulation.
- Westminster Avenue safety improvements.
- Winslow Towers pedestrian safety improvements.
- Broadway crosswalk request.
- Summer Street crosswalk request.
- Green Line Extension.
- Hardy School Bike Pilot Program.
- Jason Street school bus stops.
- Chestnut Street crosswalks.

Outreach

The TAC participated in transportation meetings and events conducted by the Boston Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, MBTA, Massachusetts Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, and the Arlington Board of Selectmen, Redevelopment Board, and Parks and Recreation Commission. The Mass. Ave. Corridor project was featured at the TAC's 2009 Town Day booth. The TAC maintains a website containing all formal reports submitted to the Board of Selectmen, committee agendas and minutes, and other transportation resources. It can be viewed at www.arlingtonma.gov/tac.

BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee (ABAC) was appointed by the Board of Selectmen in 1996 to advise the Town on improving local bicycling conditions for both residents and visitors. The all-volunteer Committee promotes all forms of safe bicycling on Town roadways and the Minuteman Bikeway, from recreational riding to using the bicycle for transportation and running errands.

ABAC's annual events include the ABAC Winter Social, the BIKE-Arlington Tour, and ABAC's Bicycling Information booth at Town Day in September.

ABAC meets monthly, usually the first Monday night of the month, to discuss bicycle-related topics and issues in Town. If you are interested in local bicycling matters please attend an upcoming ABAC meeting. Meetings are posted in advance and open to the public. For more information, visit our website at www.abac.arlington.ma.us, contact the Department of Planning and Community Development at 781-316-3090, or e-mail tonk-inc@comcast.net.

2009 Highlights

In the past year ABAC has organized a number of annual events and worked on a wide range of projects and initiatives including:

- Advised on the successful program for snow plowing the Minuteman Bikeway in Arlington. Also advised the Town of Lexington on a trial bikeway-plowing program this winter.
- Installed, with the aid of Arlington DPW, multiple new bicycle-parking racks throughout Town, funded by a state grant from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC).
- Hosted the ABAC Winter Social at the Whittemore-Robbins House in March, featuring informative presentations by David Watson of MASS Bike and State Representative Will Brownsberger, covering cyclists' rights and responsibilities.
- Organized the 12th annual BIKE-Arlington Tour, a casual-paced bicycle tour around town in May, which concluded with refreshments at Jefferson Cutter House.
- Held a fund raiser/information event on the Minuteman Bikeway in June that sold T-shirts, informed path users of bike issues, and helped cyclists with some minor repair issues.
- Hosted a Bicycling Information booth at Town Day, where members distributed bicycle-related information, discussed local bicycling issues with the community, and sold T-shirts.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Organized a fall bike tour of Arlington that was better attended than the one held in the spring. Better weather is attributed for the improved attendance.
- Continued to discuss and plan various improvements to Mass. Ave. that would benefit both pedestrians and bicyclists related to the proposed Mass Ave Corridor Project.

Worked with the Department of Public Works to provide basic maintenance on Arlington's three mile stretch of the Minuteman Bikeway, including organizing a bike-way cleanup day in early May. For more information on the Minuteman Bikeway, see the website at www.minutemanbikeway.org.

Represented Arlington at the annual National Bicycle Summit in Washington, D.C., organized by the League of American Bicyclists in March.

Met with U.S. Representative Edward Markey to encourage support for federal Transportation Enhancements funding for local-area bicycling, pedestrian, and transit improvements.

Together with members of Arlington's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), started the development of a Town Bike Safety Program and work on a solution to the issues surrounding the break in the Minuteman Trail in Arlington Center and how to advise cyclists to traverse the gap.

2010 Objectives

ABAC is planning to organize a number of community events in 2010, including the ABAC Winter Social and the BIKE-Arlington Fall Tour. ABAC is also advising on the Mass Ave Corridor Project and bike-friendly shoulder/lane markings on other streets in Town as well. ABAC continues to work on common bikeway issues with representatives from Arlington, Lexington, and Bedford. In addition, ABAC continues to work on many items listed in the previous section of this report.

ARLINGTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Arlington Housing Authority (AHA) is proud of its distinction of being the largest single provider of affordable housing in the community. The AHA manages 1,156 housing units: 520 units for elderly and/or residents with disabilities, 180 units designated for family housing, a home for 13 mentally challenged residents, and 442 vouchers that help participants live in privately-owned dwellings throughout the community.

This year marks the Arlington Housing Authority's sixty-first year offering housing to low and moderate income persons, either through direct housing in government-owned developments, or subsidized housing in privately owned dwellings.

The Authority is a quasi-governmental agency that administers these programs sponsored by the State or Federal government. Properties owned by the Authority are exempt from local property taxes, yet the Authority annually pays the maximum "in lieu of" taxes as allowed by state statute.



Arlington Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

The five-member Board of Commissioners of the Authority is the policy making body of the agency. The Executive Director, John J. Griffin, is appointed by the Board of Commissioners and manages the day to day operations of the Authority.

In 2009 the Arlington Housing Authority continued: improvements to its properties, the expansion of its tenant services support programs, and worked on creative partnerships with many housing groups and service providers in the community.

Properties

The Authority completed the final phase of the modernization of its 179 unit family housing development, Menotomy Manor. This modernization project was funded through the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and the 2002 Housing Bond Bill. All 179 units were renovated with new kitchens, baths, plumbing, electrical upgrades as well as painted and had new floors installed. Because there were no handicapped family housing units in Arlington, the Authority created 10 new units of wheelchair accessible family housing units. The total renovation cost came to just over 13 million dollars.

The 144 unit, seven-story Hauser Building at Drake Village, and the 100 units seven story building Chestnut Manor, both received two new elevators each. At Cusack Terrace a new elevator was added. Chestnut Manor Community Room was also renovated with new walls and new kitchen making it bright and attractive. New emergency generators were added to Chestnut

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Manor and Drake Village.

The Authority continues to work on energy conservation efforts in all its properties. In 2009, at Chestnut Manor all new energy efficient lighting was installed and at Drake Village 100 five-gallon flush toilets were replaced with new low flow toilets. At both locations, gas lines were installed in anticipation of the new gas hot water systems to be installed in 2010.

Community Partnerships

2009 was a great year in expanding our partnerships with a number of community service program providers. The Authority continued to take advantage of the Community Work Program (CWP) sponsored by the Middlesex Sheriff's Office. For the ninth year in a row, inmates under the supervision of correctional personnel assisted the AHA maintenance staff in its spring and fall cleanup efforts.

Minuteman Senior Services has been very successful at our Drake Village location by providing services to our seniors and a meals program. The AHA Board of Commissioners, along with Minuteman, has agreed to expand the program to all our other facilities in year 2010. Together they are also working towards providing an emergency senior domestic violence unit in one of our properties.

In 2009 the Arlington Boys and Girls Club and Fidelity House open afternoon programs in our Menotomy Manor Development that provides homework help, games, and programs for our young residents of Menotomy Manor. This program has been extremely successful, with a large number of residents participating.

The award winning evening program, Operation Success, continues to be a major factor in improving grades by providing homework help and guidance for the residents of Menotomy Manor. In 2009 they have expanded the program to include college level participants. Janet Maguire and Peggy Regan run this program with a large group of young volunteers.

The Arlington Housing Authority Board would like to thank all our partners for their hard work, and we look forward to many new and exciting ideas being put into action in the coming year.

Administrative Services

The Authority continues to be a member of the MassNAHRO Centralized Section 8 Wait List program. The list is now open to all daily. Arlington residents are given a preference.

The AHA's website, www.arlingtonhousing.org, is now available and provides valuable information to those wishing to learn more about the AHA and its programs. You can also find the Arlington Housing Authority on Facebook.

| Wait Lists | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Stated-Aided Elderly/Handicap One Bedroom Units | |
| Arlington Applicants | 30 |
| Non-Arlington Applicants | 143 |
| Total | 173 |
| State-Aided Family 2-Bedroom Units | |
| Arlington Applicants | 29 |
| Non-Arlington Applicants | 275 |
| Total | 304 |
| State-Aided Family 3-Bedroom Units | |
| Arlington Applicants | 1 |
| Non-Arlington Applicants | 142 |
| Total | 143 |
| Section 8 Wait List | |
| Arlington Applicants | *430 |
| *Because Arlington is on a centralized wait list, the Section 8 wait list is extremely long, therefore, only Arlington residents are listed for this program. | |

| State Program Rents | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Average Elderly/Handicap Monthly Rent | \$380/month (includes heat and lights) |
| Average Family Monthly Rent | \$469/month (tenant pays utilities) |

Tenant Services

The AHA's two Tenant Service Coordinators continued their active participation in the bi-monthly meetings of the Geriatric Providers Group. This group, consisting of representatives from over twenty outside agencies, meets regularly to ensure communication between these agencies and providers for the benefit of our elderly tenants.

The Property Manager continued her work on the Youth Watch program through monthly meetings with members of various agencies in the community to monitor the activities of troubled youths. The group cooperatively works on ways to help provide assistance to local "at risk" juveniles.

Annual Cookouts

Annual cookouts for the elderly and disabled residents were held in each of our four elderly/handicap developments. The Hawaii Luau theme was a complete success.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Annual Cookout

Challenges Ahead

Although the Authority has been successful in maintaining our buildings and operation, the continued lack of modernization funds available will soon have a negative effect on our aging properties. Many of our 520 elderly disabled housing units were built in the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's and are in desperate need of modernization and energy efficient systems as well as roofs, windows, kitchens and bath upgrades. The majority of them are heated by electricity, with the Authority paying all the utilities while the tenants pay 30% of their income towards rent, in accordance with state regulations. With many of our residence living on Social Security or having little or no income, there is little hope that the Housing Authority will be able to make the necessary modernization needed in the coming years without help.

Because the AHA serves the lowest of income residents, 95% of them would not be able to afford the rent in the new affordable housing units being constructed in Town. On our current waitlist 86% of the applicants have incomes below \$10,000, and many of them receive only temporary assistance in the amount of \$3,000 per year.

Acknowledgments

The AHA salutes the following 2009 *Tenant of the Year* award recipients: Charles Clement (Drake Village), Pat Porter and Marilyn Ruma (Chestnut Manor), Claire Caggiano (Winslow Towers), and Janice Ferrone (Cusack Terrace). Tenants voted for the winners in their respective building. The success of this outing was the direct result of the combined efforts of both Maintenance and Administration staff personnel.

The Arlington Housing Authority would like to thank all its employees for their dedication throughout the year. We further recognize the service of Sue Culhane, who retired at the end of this year. Sue, in her capacity as tenant service coordinator, was a compas-

sionate guiding light to many of our senior residents and an outstanding Housing Authority employee. We wish her well in her retirement. She will be missed by all.

VISION 2020

Background

June 2009 marked Vision 2020's twentieth anniversary as a strategic project that builds on Arlington's past while planning for its future.

Initiated in 1990 to address a need for broad, long-range planning, the Vision 2020 Steering Committee began a two-year exploration process of formulating goals, strategies, and actions with the help of Town leadership, employees, and townspeople.

Town Meeting created the Vision 2020 Standing Committee as an official committee of the Town on June 8, 1992. With the motto *A Proud Past, A Focused Future*, the Committee was charged to "...ensure the long range planning process initiated by the Town in 1990 ... also to create, implement, monitor, and review methods for open, Town-wide public participation in the Vision 2020 process."

Town Goals covering the areas of Business, Communication, Community and Citizen Service, Culture and Recreation, Diversity, Education, Environment, Fiscal Resources, and Governance were adopted as by-law at the 1993 Annual Town Meeting for the "...Town to consider as it conducts its business." These goals are supported by individual task groups which have representatives on the Standing Committee. Three additional groups have formed under the Environment Task Group - the Spy Pond, Reservoir, and Sustainable Arlington Committees. The Standing Committee also includes Town leadership and a student representative from Arlington High School.

To this day Vision 2020 continues efforts to bring the Town closer to the intent of these goals by partnering with townspeople, Town committees, employees, and leaders through its task groups and standing committee. These endeavors range from awareness/appreciation pieces on Town resources, to planning for improvement of Town practices, to research and development of Town Meeting warrant articles, to forums on emerging issues, as well as publications, and actual physical improvements. The Standing Committee and its goal-supporting task groups are responsible for the annual Vision 2020 Town-wide survey.

2009 Highlights

Employing the concept that *while you are being counted, your opinions count too*, Vision 2020, with the help of Town Manager Brian Sullivan and Town departments, created, tallied, and analyzed resident responses to the 2009 Vision 2020 Annual Census Mailing Insert Survey from more than 20% of all Arlington

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

households. The 19th annual survey's principal focus was on Town and resident Sustainable Practices including: energy use/consumption, recycling, and composting and their importance and residents' opinions on the Town's commitment to its own efficiency and advocacy of these practices.

A summary and analysis of the 3,770 household responses received by March 15 was reported to Town Meeting, Town officials, and departments on June 8. It follows this report. Data gleaned from this survey continues to be useful to Town departments for planning and evaluation purposes.

Conducted a Forum on the Obama-Biden Health Care Initiative, with other Town leaders, attended by 79 residents, many in the healthcare professions. The following observations and recommendations emerged and were sent to Washington:

- Basic health care should be a universal right.
- Health care policies should be based on human outcomes.
- Employers and insurance companies should not be making health care policy decisions.
- Physical and mental health must have equal support.
- Pre-existing conditions should not affect one's ability to receive coverage/treatment.
- Include personal responsibility and preventive care as goals.
- Support simple, easy access to good care, portability of records without compromising privacy.
- Use the team approach (patients, doctors and other health care providers) for decisions.
- A Single-payer system, or something similar to our congressional leaders' health system, should be available to all.

With the Conservation Commission, again sponsored a Warrant Article at Town Meeting to appropriate \$15,000 to the Water Bodies Fund for the purpose of maintaining, treating, and providing oversight of all the Town's water bodies. This account may receive monies from the general tax, including the possibility of borrowing, gifts, or grants. These monies are expended under the direction of the Town Manager who will report to each Annual Town Meeting on the revenues and expenditures of the fund, as well as a projection for future needs. This article received unanimous approval by Town Meeting.

With the help of Arlington High School's Workplace students and residents, distributed flyers to residences in the entire 748 acre Spy Pond Watershed warning of the impact high-phosphorous fertilizers have on weed growth at Spy Pond or any water body, and informing of Eco-Fest and Spy Pond Trails Day opportunities.

Planned and implemented the Fifth Annual Spy Pond Trails Day at the pond's southern path abutting the Route 2 exit ramp, focusing on tree pruning and invasive plant and trash removal with help from community groups and the Boston Area Appalachian Mountain Club.

Identified and mapped the areas of Phragmites invasion around the water's edge at Spy Pond and investigated the best method of diminishing the presence of, or eradicating, this invasive plant. Raised funds to augment the Town's Water Bodies Fund to address this problem and helped the Town develop a process for a late-summer/early-fall 2009 phragmites treatment and future treatment(s).

Intent on helping Arlington become as green and sustainable a community as possible, Sustainable Arlington continued to raise climate and environmental awareness in Town with its current projects such as the Energy Smackdown. Designed as a competition among selected families in Arlington, Cambridge, and Medford to see which community can lower its carbon foot print the most, this 2008-10 project finds Arlington ahead so far.

Sponsored the Fall Energy Solutions Fair on home energy use, systems, materials and practices.

Met with knowledgeable horticulturists and residents to construct a plan for the installation of habitat gardens at the Arlington Reservoir.

Discussed with the Town Treasurer, the School Committee, and School officials the feasibility of developing a fund to augment Arlington Public School activities fees.

Prepared for a Retrospective Analysis Report on Arlington's recently completed Five Year Financial Plan.

With the Board of Selectmen (BOS), sponsored and organized the Annual State of the Town Address and Reception on the first night of the 2009 Annual Town Meeting. The address was given by incoming BOS Chairman, Kevin Greeley.

Continued to participate in the Superintendent of School's Advisory Committee on Diversity, advocating for recruiting and employing minority staff for both Arlington's Public Schools and Town positions.

Helped select four titles for the 2009 Community Book Read: *Escape from Slavery* by Francis Bok, *Tears of the Desert* by Halima Bashir, *They Poured Fire on Us from the Sky* by Benjamin Ajak and Alephonsion and Benson Deng, and *What is the What* by Dave Eggers. All focus on the plight and enormous courage of those suffering from the long-standing turmoil of those from Darfur and South Sudan.

Partnered with Arlington's South Sudanese Education Foundation on several projects.

With the League of Women Voters of Arlington, co-sponsored Candidates' Night.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Developed Vision 2020's Annual Survey to accompany the Town's Annual Census Mailing. This 2010 survey, titled *Looking Ahead: Services & Revenues in the Balance, We Invite Your Input*, will be mailed to all Town residences in early 2010 asking for responses to a series of options addressing the Town's Financial Crisis for FY11. It also includes a section on parking in Arlington Center.

Recognitions

Vision 2020 appreciates all who contribute to this program. Their skills and expertise, persistence, research, opinions, note-taking, grant writing, web posting, physical labor, planning, program creation, and creative ideas, all offered generously, have truly enabled Arlington's Vision 2020 to assist the Town in preparing for its current and future needs.

2009 Vision 2020 Survey Report Based on 3,770 Arlington Household Responses by March 15, 2009

Titled *Sustainable Practices in Arlington: We Invite Your Input*, the 2009 Vision Survey was a collaborative product of Vision 2020, its Sustainable Arlington Committee, and Arlington's Recycling Committee. The following pages report the responses to all sections of the survey with the exception of new interest in joining the efforts of Vision 2020's Task Groups.

Several benchmarks over the last few years prompted the selection of Sustainable Practices as a topic for this survey: the Town's increase in materials recycled and the accompanying reduction in trash to be incinerated thus generating significant savings, the adoption of Arlington's Sustainability Action Plan, several infrastructure improvements throughout the Town, and Arlington's 88.4% voter mandate to November 2008's Ballot Question 4, instructing our legislators to enact legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2020. Hoping to inform the Town on Arlington's future energy and sustainability efforts, the survey was designed also to assist / inform residents on ways they could benefit their own household's operating costs.

In this report most responses are displayed as charts and tables. Where percentages (%'s) are used, the number of respondents actually answering the question, not the blanks, are the data points used for the calculation.

- Demographic Data
- Town Energy Use
- Household Energy Use
- Transportation
- Household Energy Reduction
- Recycling and Consumption

Demographic Data

The number of respondents from each precinct:

| Pct | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | Blank |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| # | 132 | 175 | 146 | 189 | 150 | 152 | 152 | 181 | 147 | 188 | 151 | 197 | 153 | 137 | 160 | 173 | 120 | 139 | 173 | 145 | 158 | 454 |
| % | 4.0 | 5.2 | 4.4 | 5.7 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 5.5 | 4.4 | 5.7 | 4.6 | 5.9 | 4.6 | 4.1 | 4.8 | 5.2 | 3.6 | 4.2 | 5.2 | 4.4 | 4.8 | |

Respondent's household demographic data (5 tables):

| Household Age Demographics | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|-------|
| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | >4 | Blank |
| Adults aged 65 or older : | # | 2015 | 596 | 379 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 767 |
| | % | 67.10 | 19.85 | 12.62 | 0.33 | 0.07 | 0.03 | |
| Adults aged 18 to 64 : | # | 339 | 851 | 1754 | 229 | 90 | 10 | 497 |
| | % | 10.36 | 26.00 | 53.59 | 7.00 | 2.75 | 0.31 | |
| Children 17 and under | # | 17.00 | 503 | 481 | 104 | 20 | 8 | 459 |
| | % | 60.37 | 17.86 | 17.08 | 3.69 | 0.71 | 0.28 | |

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

| Years in Arlington | | | | |
|--------------------|-------|---------|-------|-------|
| | < 5 | 5 to 15 | >15 | Blank |
| # | 801 | 978 | 1441 | 550 |
| % | 24.88 | 30.37 | 44.75 | |

| Own or rent | | | |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Own | Rent | Blank |
| # | 2678 | 951 | 141 |
| % | 73.79 | 26.21 | |

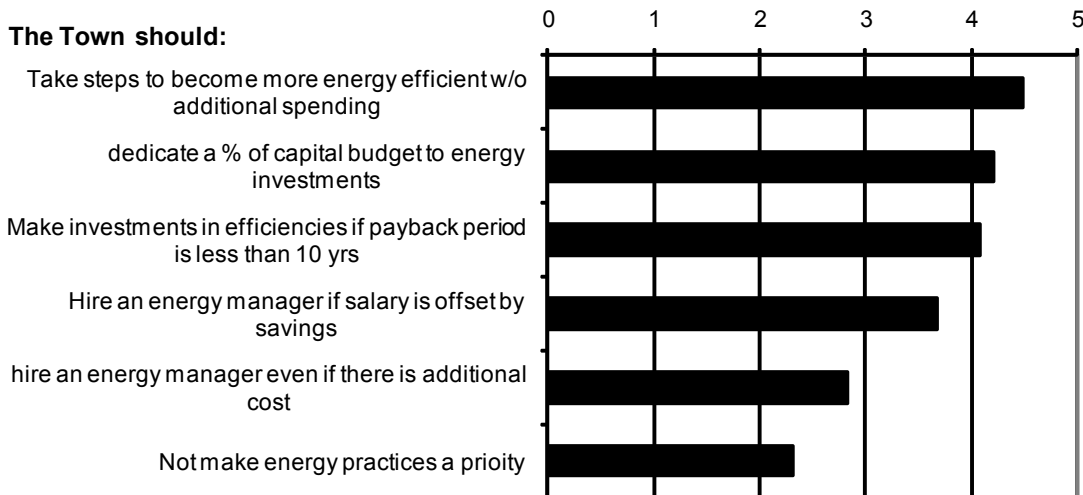
| Housing description | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|-------|--------------|------|-------|
| | Single family | Condo | 2 to 4 units | >4 | Blank |
| # | 1928 | 560 | 916 | 224 | 142 |
| % | 53.14 | 15.44 | 25.25 | 6.17 | |

| Internet Access | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------|-------|---------|------|-------|
| | Home | Work | Library | None | Blank |
| # | 3155 | 1835 | 238 | 296 | 204 |
| % | 88.47 | 51.46 | 6.67 | 8.30 | |

Town Energy Use

| Indicate how the Town should dedicate resources and efforts to greater efficiency. | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|--------------------|-------|
| The Town Should: | Strongly disagree (1) | Disagree (2) | Neutral (3) | Agree (4) | Strongly agree (5) | Blank |
| Take steps to become more energy efficient w/o additional spending. | 19 | 75 | 260 | 952 | 2113 | 351 |
| Make investments in efficiencies if payback period is less than 10 yrs. | 43 | 88 | 624 | 1369 | 1214 | 432 |
| Dedicate a % of capital budget to energy investments. | 29 | 61 | 374 | 1662 | 1312 | 332 |
| Hire an energy manager if salary is offset by savings. | 203 | 299 | 807 | 1202 | 890 | 369 |
| Hire an energy manager even if there is additional cost. | 422 | 845 | 1193 | 549 | 292 | 469 |
| Not make energy practices a priority. | 815 | 1412 | 662 | 347 | 173 | 361 |

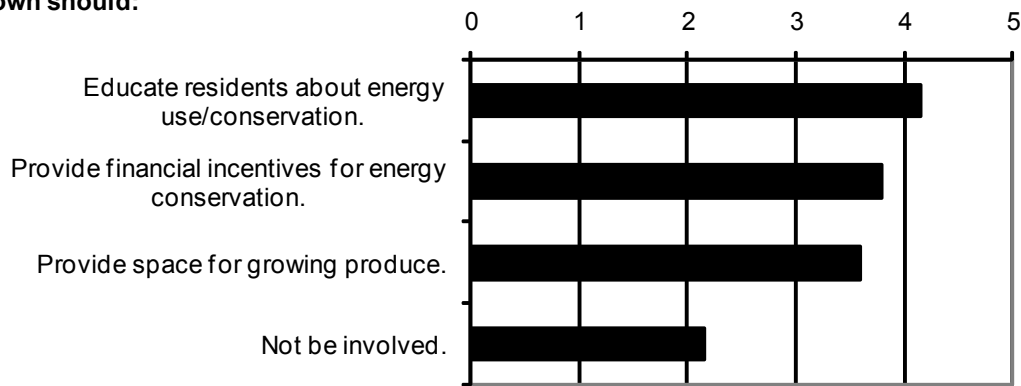
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



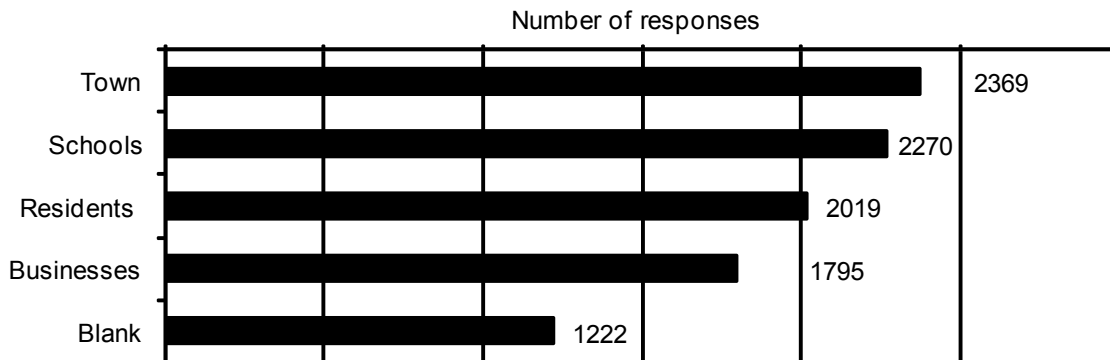
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

| How involved should the Town be in residents' energy use? | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|--------------------|-------|
| The Town Should: | Strongly disagree (1) | Disagree (2) | Neutral (3) | Agree (4) | Strongly agree (5) | Blank |
| Educate residents about energy use/conservation. | 51 | 119 | 405 | 1537 | 1338 | 320 |
| Provide financial incentives for energy conservation. | 117 | 336 | 695 | 1252 | 1003 | 367 |
| Not be involved. | 885 | 1327 | 620 | 216 | 113 | 609 |
| Provide space for growing produce. | 101 | 258 | 1265 | 1118 | 674 | 354 |

The Town should:



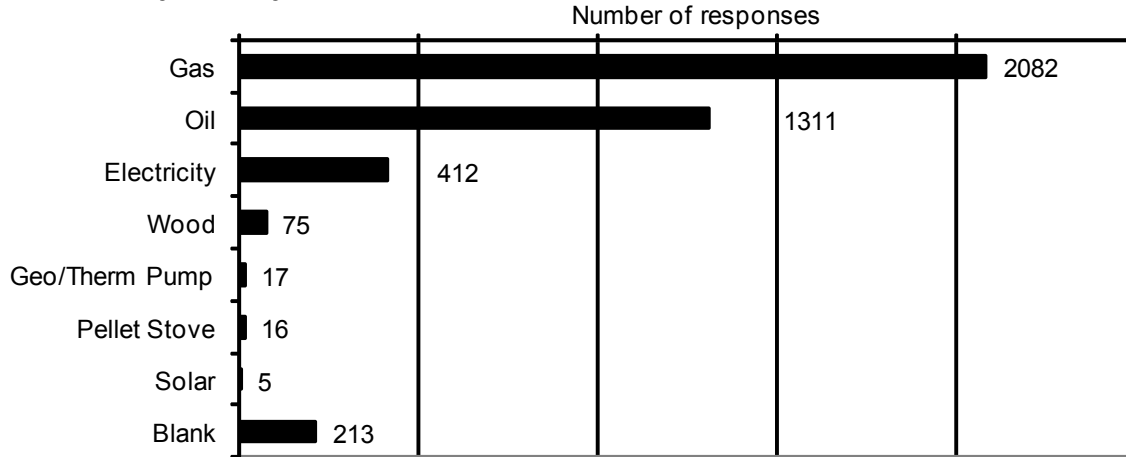
If you support the hiring an energy manager, how should the manager work with the following?



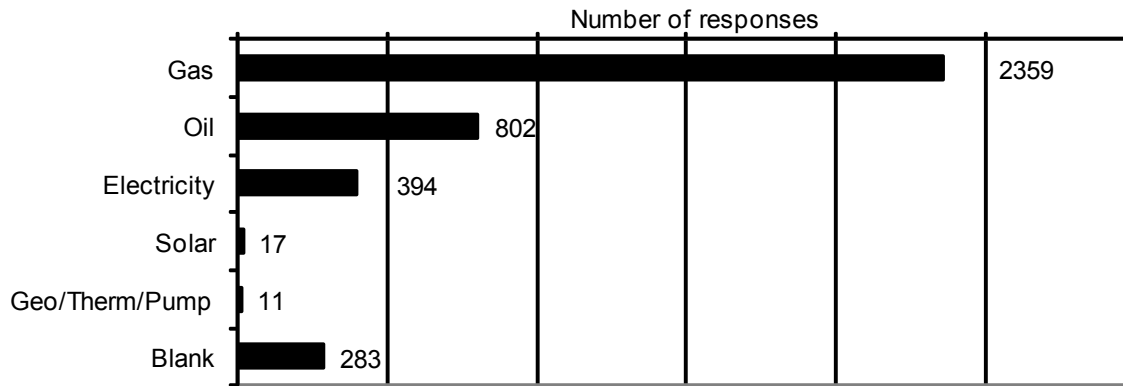
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Household Energy Use

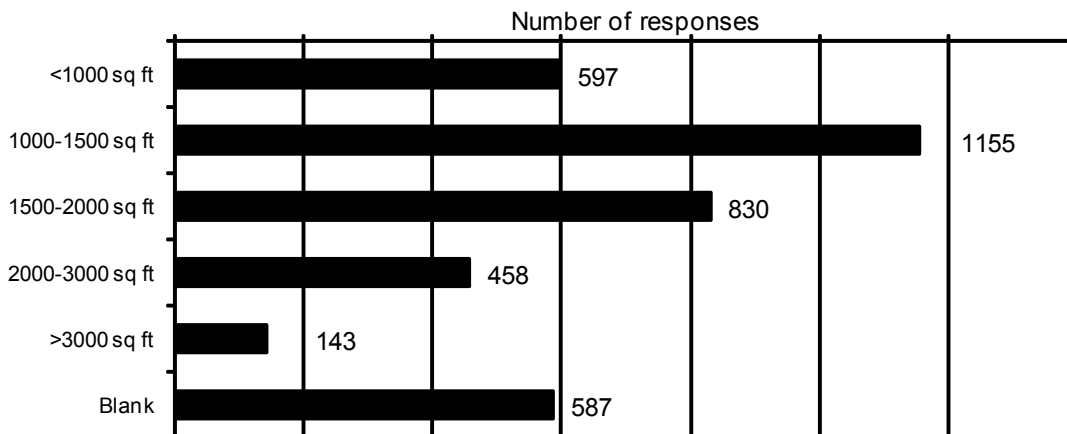
How do you heat your home?



How do you heat hot water?



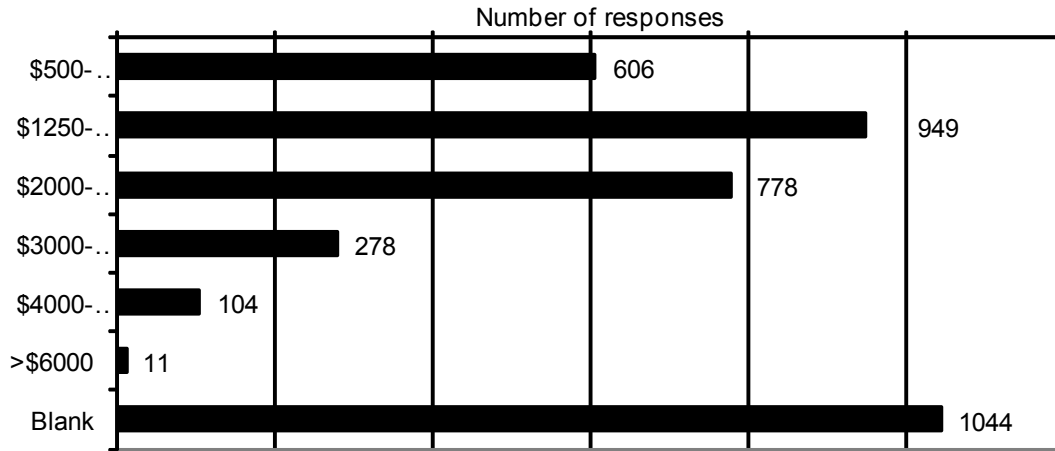
What's the approximate sq. footage of your residence?



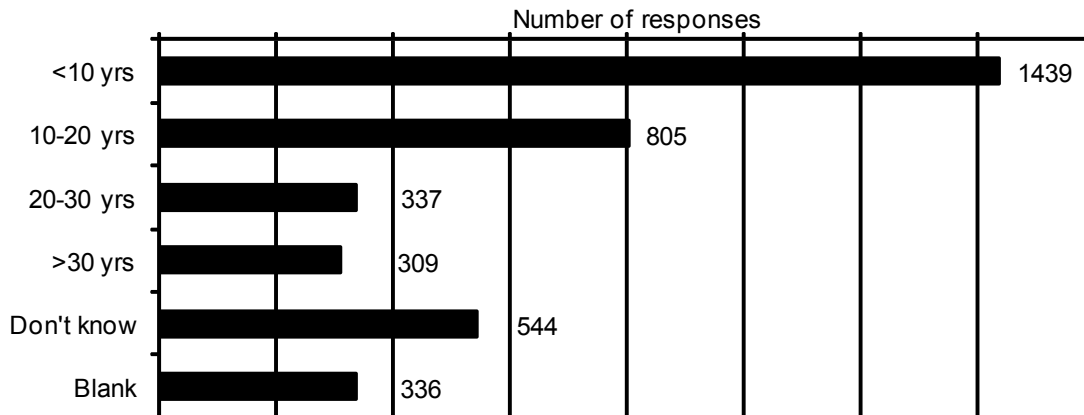
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Household Energy Use

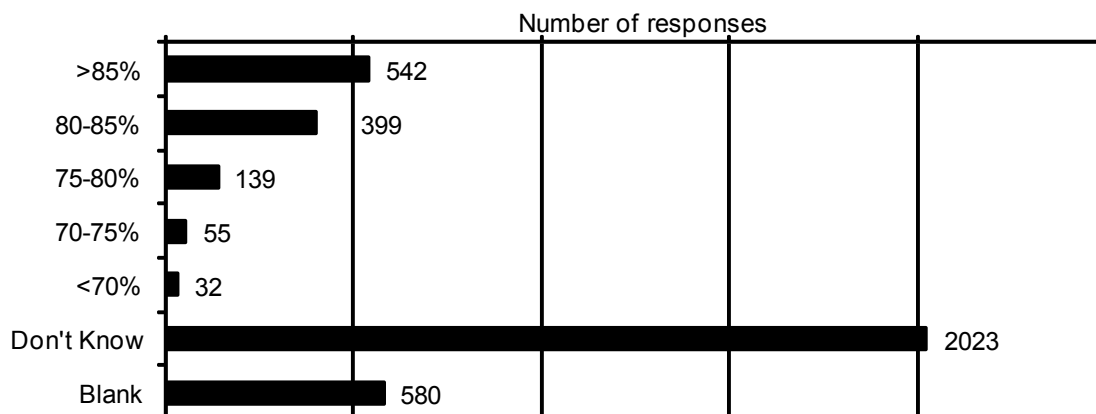
What is your annual energy heating cost ?



What is the age of your heating system?



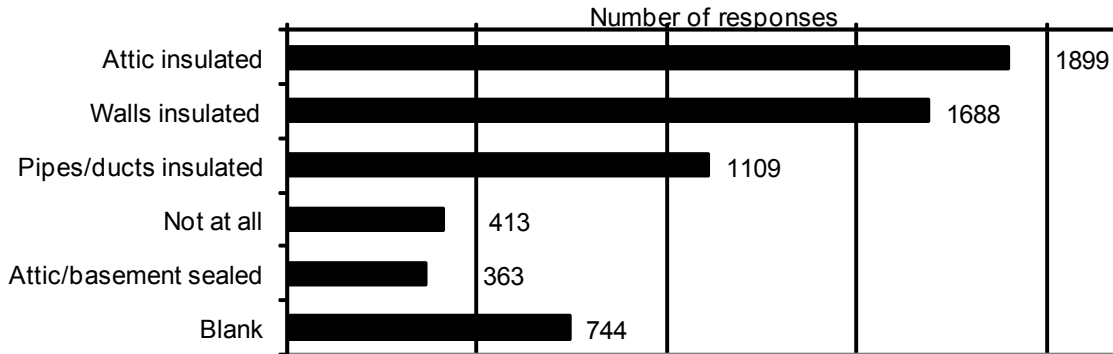
What is the efficiency of your current heating system?



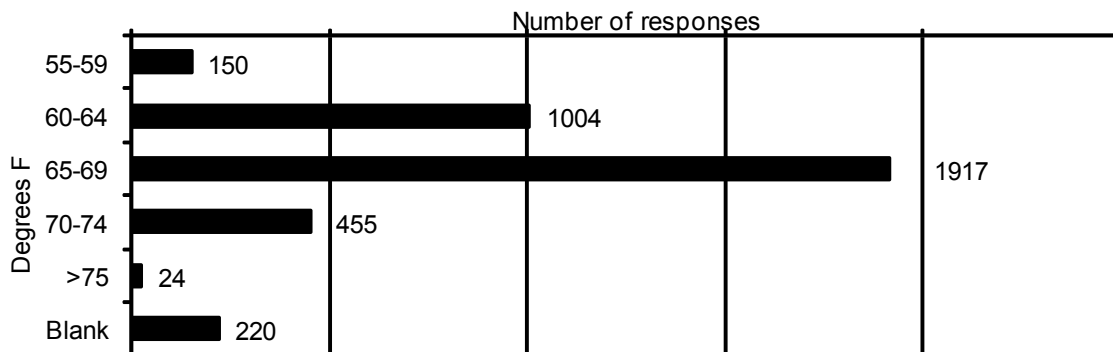
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Household Energy Use

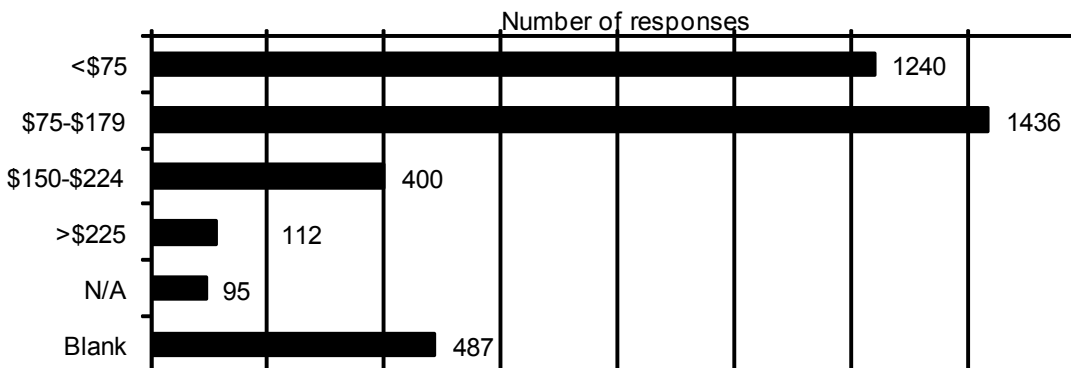
How is your house insulated?



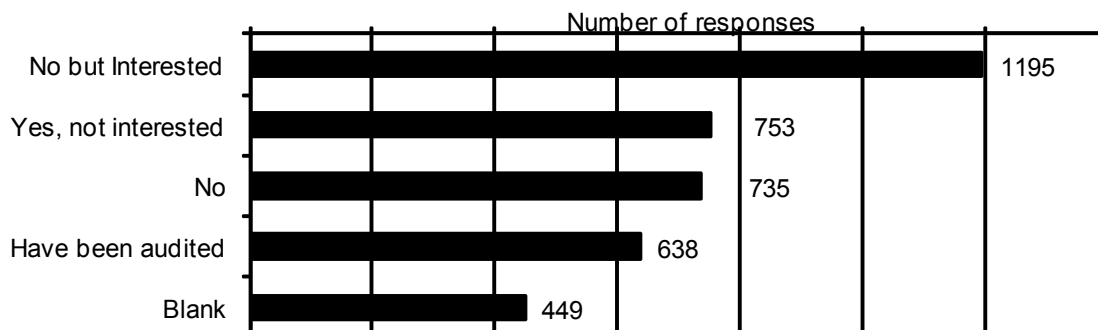
What is your thermostat setting when you're at home?



What is your average monthly electricity bill?



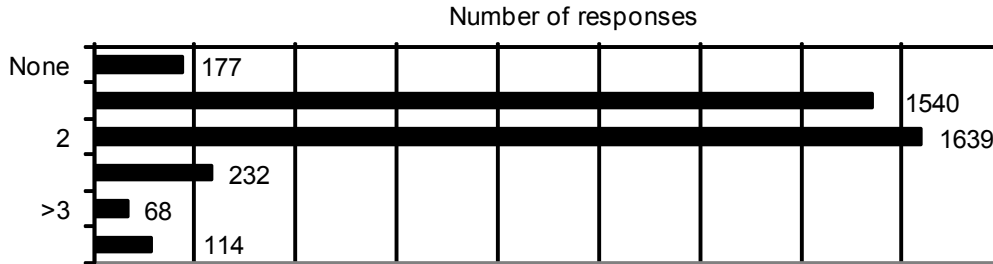
Are you aware that MassSave.com provides free energy audits?



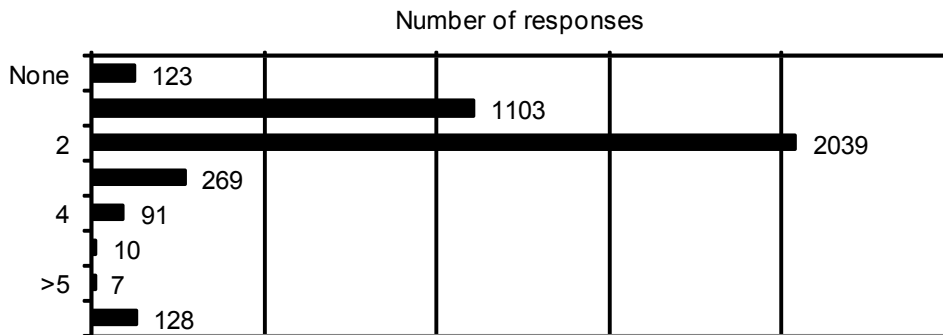
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Transportation

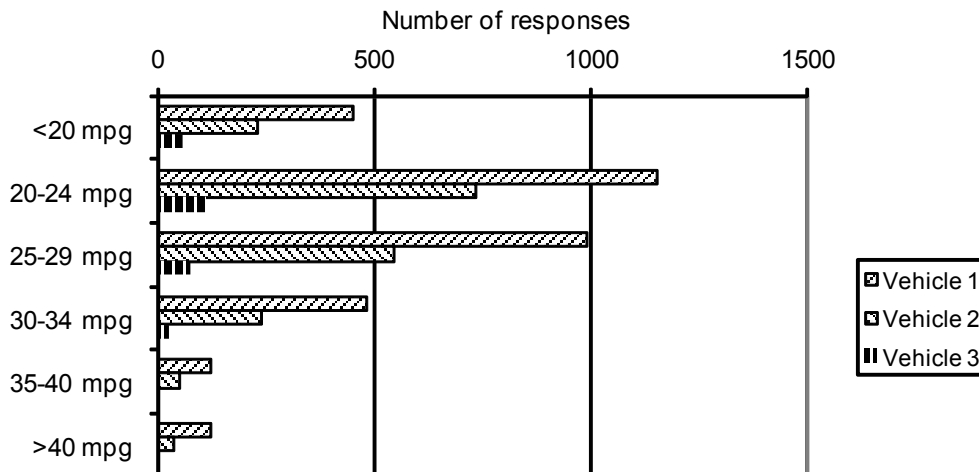
How many motor vehicles in your household?



How many drivers in your household?



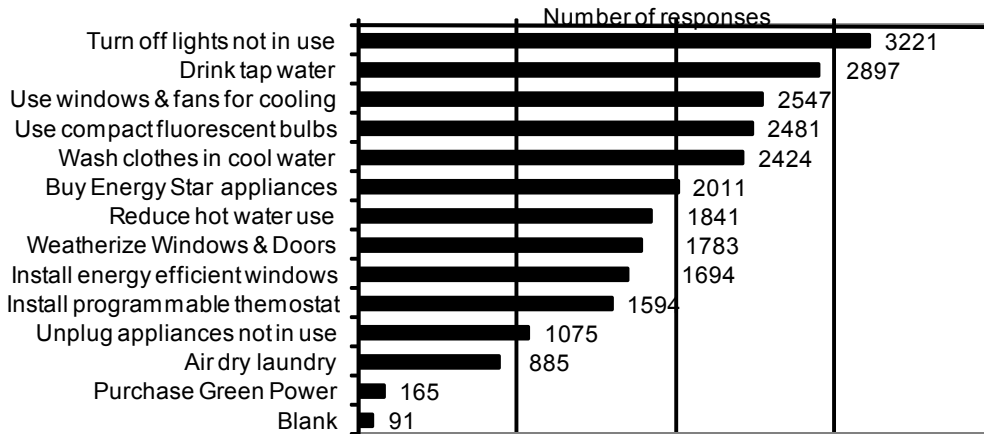
| Average Miles Per Gallon | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-------|
| Miles Per Gallon | <20 | 20-24 | 25-29 | 30-34 | 35-40 | >40 | Blank |
| Vehicle 1 | 453 | 1153 | 991 | 483 | 123 | 122 | 445 |
| Vehicle 2 | 230 | 736 | 547 | 241 | 50 | 37 | 1929 |
| Vehicle 3 | 59 | 111 | 77 | 28 | 3 | 4 | 3488 |



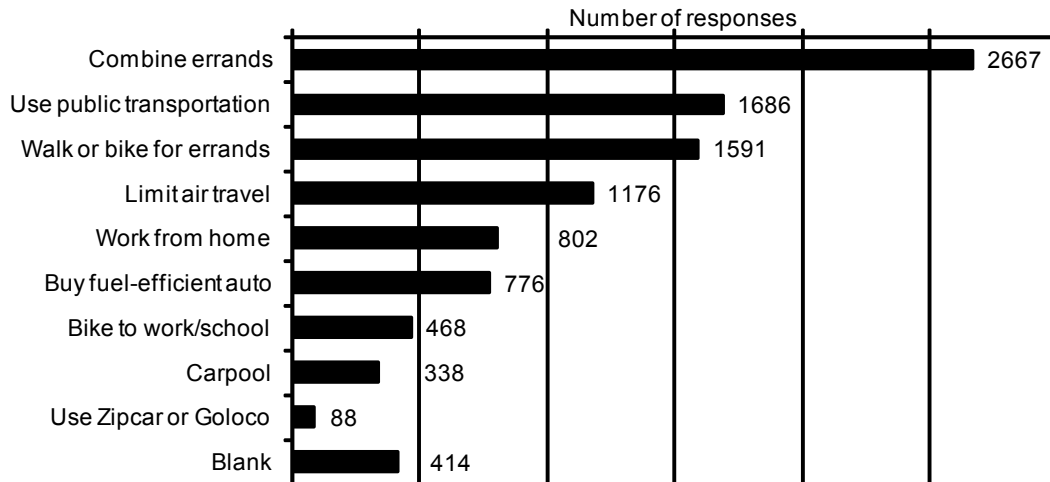
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Household Energy Reduction

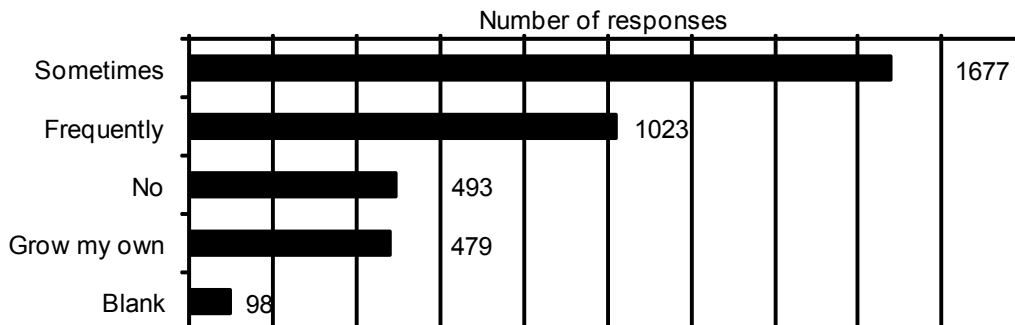
What do you do at home toward energy reduction?



How does your household reduce greenhouse gas emissions?



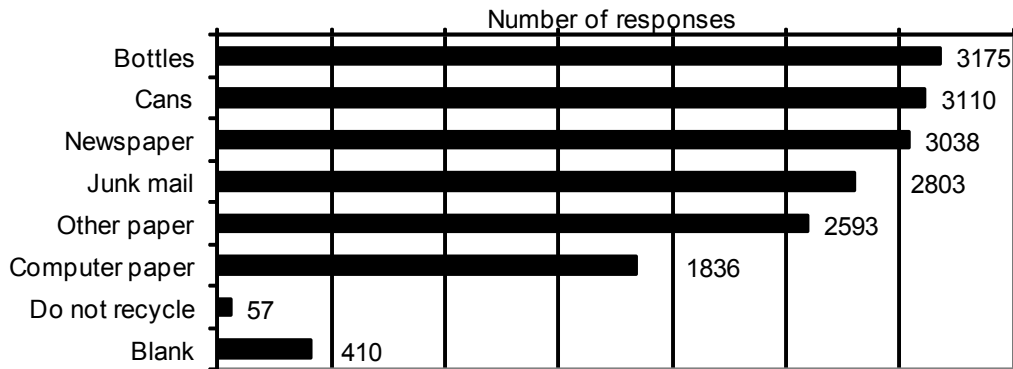
Do you shop for locally produced foods or grow your own?



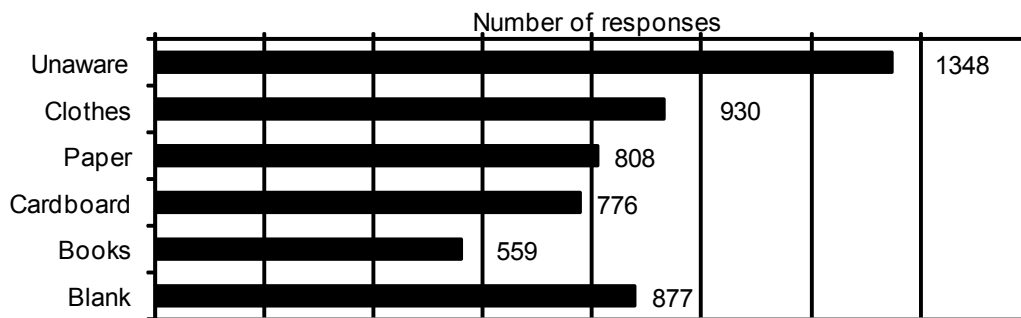
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Recycling & Consumption

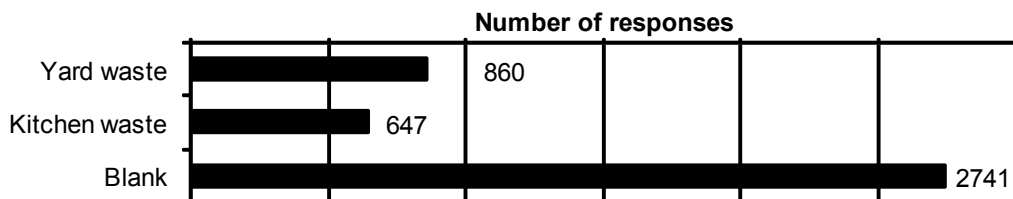
What do you recycle regularly?



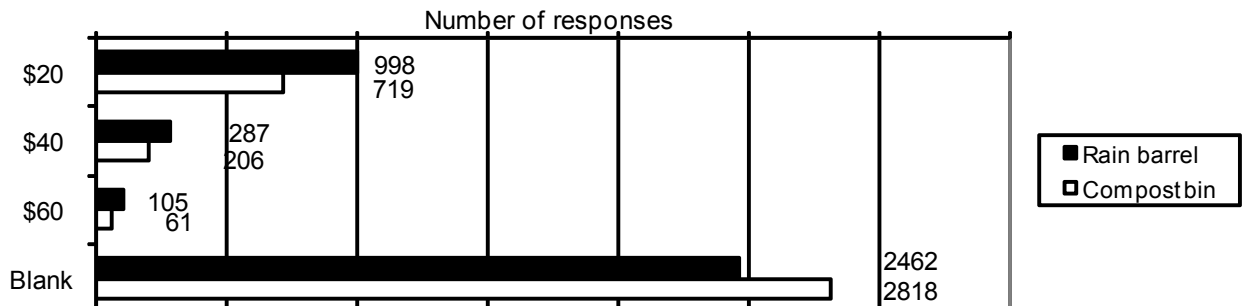
What do you take to public bins around Town?



What do you compost regularly?



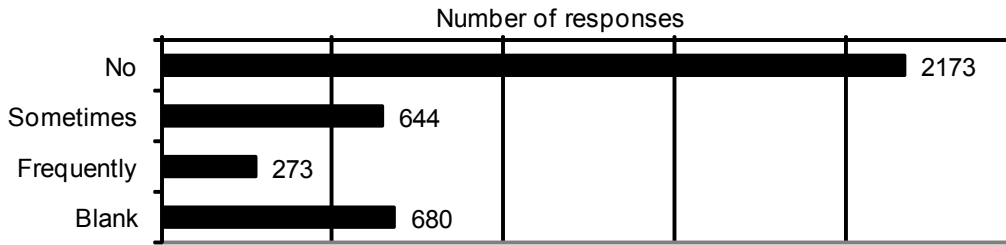
How much are you willing to pay for a rain barrel or compost bin?



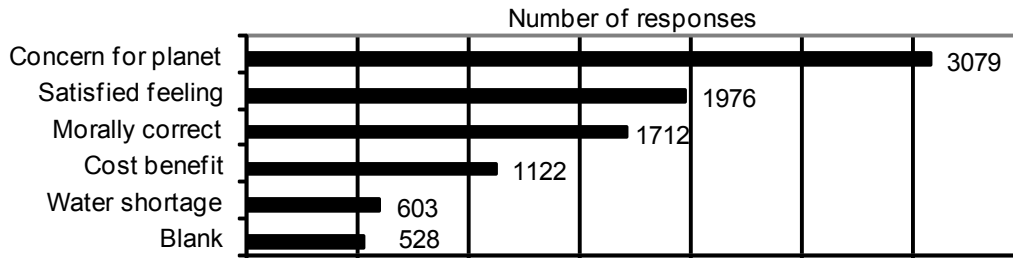
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Recycling & Consumption

Do you use internet services to sell, obtain, or recycle used items?



What motivates you to recycle?



Why do you not recycle?

