

# Boathouse Update

Arlington Boathouse Foundation

November 2004

## Arlington County Board Action

On July 13, 2004 about 60 rowers and water recreation supporters gathered in the Arlington County Board room to hear the presentation on proposed development (with a 10-story condo building) of 1101 Lee Highway. This 0.6 acre property has been identified as a potential boathouse site for rowers and paddlers in Arlington County and adjacent jurisdictions.

About 15 rowers/supporters spoke in support of a boathouse at this location or an adjacent piece of property owned by the Virginia Department of Transportation. One or two speakers argued against a boathouse at this site. The County Board ultimately turned down the developer's site plan request, along with the concurrent issues of a general land use plan change and an up-zoning of the property.

The five Board members individually stated their views in support of a non-motorized recreation facility in the

County. They acknowledged the community-building aspects of crew as a sport, the physical and mental benefits to individuals, and the need to enable more members of our community to experience the Potomac River in a canoe or a rowing shell. They also stated their frustrations with the many years this matter has remained unresolved, but pledged their continued support in working with the community, the National Park Service (NPS) and the State of Virginia to resolve the access issues.

The Board's rejection of the site plan keeps the 1101 site as a possible future boathouse location. That site is one of five options being considered by the NPS in an *Environmental Impact Statement for Arlington County and Vicinity Rowing Facility (EIS)*. An NPS Open House was held in Arlington on June 21, 2004 to provide information and solicit public

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## Dedication To Crew: Marion Kirschbaum

For nearly 20 years Marion served as a "crew mom" at Washington-Lee High School. She organized the annual potluck suppers and sub sales, made the arrangements for away regattas and spent every Tuesday of the crew season on the dock as a "dock sitter."

The Kirschbaum family has requested that contributions in her honor be made to the Arlington Boathouse Foundation. These contributions will ensure a lasting memorial to Marion Kirschbaum in an Arlington Community Boathouse for her many years of volunteer service. ■

Arlington Boathouse  
Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 7585  
Arlington, VA 22207



# Public Comment on Boathouse EIS

► *Continued from front page*

comments. The NPS projected distribution of the Draft EIS is expected in the Spring/Summer 2005 with public review of the draft and public meetings.

## How to Comment on the National Park Service Environmental Impact Statement

For information contact Deborah Feldman, Park Planner, and Audrey F. Calhoun, Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway, National Park Service.

### By Mail:

George Washington Memorial Parkway  
Turkey Run Park  
McLean, VA 22101

### By Phone:

703-289-2500

### By Email:

Deborah\_Feldman@nps.gov

### On the Web:

<http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/boathouse>

Please note that the EIS will evaluate four potential boathouse locations as well as a “No Action” alternative. The “No Action” alternative means that “Existing and future public demand for rowing programs and related boat storage space would be accommodated by the existing facilities, other planned rowing facilities, or would remain unmet.” Comment on *each* of the five options identified in the EIS Study, including the “No Action” alternative. 🏠

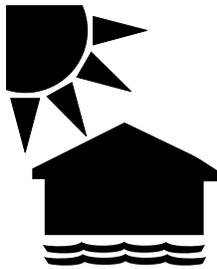


## Arlington Access to the Potomac River:

- Create public access to the Potomac River in Arlington County.
- Establish a home for the rowing programs of Arlington's three public high schools.
- Provide water access for other area schools and non-motorized boaters.
- Offer ecological and environmental education opportunities on the Potomac River.

*Access to the river begins with the footbridge over the George Washington Memorial Parkway.*

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### CHARLIE'S DREAM: A COMMUNITY BOATHOUSE

The current effort for an Arlington boathouse was inspired by the vision of the late Charlie Butt to build a boathouse for school and community rowing on the Rosslyn shoreline. Charlie began the crew program at Washington-Lee High School in 1949. During the 42 years of his coaching career there he turned out 35 national championship crews, including 13 in the boys' varsity eight. Charlie took eight of his crews to the Henley Royal Regatta at Henley-on-the-Thames, England, winning the Princess Elizabeth Cup in 1964 and 1969. In 1991 Charlie organized a group of rowers, parents, coaches and other supporters into the Arlington Boathouse Coalition.

**The Arlington Boathouse Coalition** is a local citizen group comprised of alumni of the Arlington high school rowing programs, their parents and neighbors, and other local citizens, rowers and non-rowers, who support the idea of Arlington access to the Potomac River.

**The Arlington Boathouse Foundation**, registered with the State Corporation Commission in 1991, is the legal entity that has been established to receive and disburse money in support of an Arlington Community Boathouse. The current Directors are Carl Anderson, Edward Holland, John McDermott, Conchita Mitchell, Nancy Butt Packard, Diane Gardner Quinn, Carole Robinson, Robert Swennes, and Charles Veatch.

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**With your help, the dream of an Arlington boathouse will become a reality.**

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization or business \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

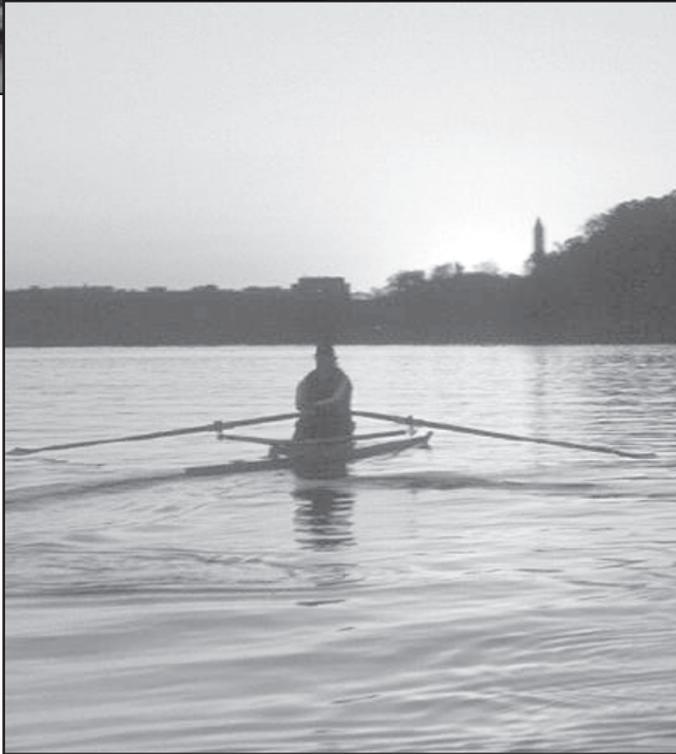
Phone (indicate day or evening) \_\_\_\_\_

Please call me about ways I can help this effort.

*Make check payable to the Arlington Boathouse Foundation, Inc. and mail it to P.O. Box 7585, Arlington, VA 22207*

*The Arlington Boathouse Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.*

**Tel:** 703-525-4583    **Fax:** 703-243-6172    **Web site:** [www.arlingtonboathouse.org](http://www.arlingtonboathouse.org)



George Kirschbaum

### Access to the Potomac River

Above: The view from the footbridge over the George Washington Memorial Parkway in Rosslyn. A boathouse on the Potomac River will allow access for rowing, canoeing and kayaking as well as for environmental education. At present, Arlington students must travel more than 25 miles to the Outdoor Lab. An Arlington boathouse will provide valuable access for environmental education activities along the river for our schools and other outdoor programs.

Left: A single sculler at sunrise.

*If you received more than one copy of this newsletter, please share it with a neighbor.*

**ENCLOSED: Boathouse Update**

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P.O. Box 7585  
Arlington, VA 22207