

# VIRGINIA

## eVOICE



Home Builders Association of Virginia

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### News from the Square

In a year where slim margins will make all of the difference in the House of Delegates, House Minority Leader Ward Armstrong is faced with the retirement of another one of his long-term faithful troops. On June 24th Kris Amundson announced the end of her eighteen year tenure representing Fairfax in the House of Delegates.

Amundson was a fierce advocate for improving education and the availability of health-care. Amundson also carried a bill in the 2009 session that increased the amount of the Liveable Homes Tax Credit, which was part of a larger housing package of legislation.

Delegate Amundson will be missed around the halls of the Capitol and the General Assembly Building. HBAV wishes her well as she transitions back into private life.

On June 29th the Republican Caucus hosted a meet-and-greet for the Republican challengers in the upcoming House of Delegate elections similar to one held by the Democratic Caucus earlier in the year.

The Republicans have over 30 candidates challenging seats held by Democrats and vying for open seats in the 2009 election. There are several shining stars in the bunch, which will make for some intense campaigns this summer. A couple of interesting stories accompanied some of those candidates.

Among them is Sasha Gong, a Chinese immigrant who began her political career as an underground revolutionary in China fighting for democracy. Gong has a PhD from Harvard, and is running against Del. Charnielle Herring from Alexandria. Herring won Brian Moran's seat by 16 votes in a Special Election after



Moran resigned to run for Governor.

Another unique story is that of physician and brother of State Senator Ken Stolle, Chris Stolle. The younger Stolle was a navy Obstetrician and now runs a private company with his sister in Virginia Beach. Stolle ran for this seat in 2007 against now incumbent Del. Joe Bouchard for the seat vacated by Leo Wardrup. Ken Stolle is running for Sheriff of Virginia beach, and if he is successful will have to resign his Senate seat.

### Fascinating *FAKE* Facts

*If you say it with confidence, people will believe you.*

Roman school children used binders that had stone binders and leather coverings.

### HBAV Successful in Diverting Sprinkler Mandate

The Codes and Standards Committee of the Virginia Board for Housing and Community Development voted "overwhelmingly" to change the "Mandatory" requirement for all new one- and two-family dwelling units to "Optional" in the proposed update of the Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC), on June 22nd. This was the first step in the 2009 update of the USBC.

The Home Builders Association of Virginia (HBAV) has led the

"Virginia Assault" on the Sprinkler Mandate, since the sprinkler industry and fire officials hijacked the International Code Council (ICC) code making process last September, which resulted in the Sprinkler Mandate in all new homes in the IRC.

The proposed regulation will be published in the Virginia Register and a Public Hearing on the 2009 update of the USBC, including keeping Sprinklers optional, is scheduled for Monday,

July 27th in Richmond.

HBAV and the home building industry will need a STRONG showing of members that day to urge the board NOT to Mandate a requirement that all new homes in Virginia be constructed with expensive sprinkler systems, especially when life safety statistics do not justify such a mandate. Please contact Mike Toalson to inform him of your willingness to participate at [mtoalson@hbav.com](mailto:mtoalson@hbav.com).

## Update on Chinese Drywall

*Visit NAHB's link to learn more about Chinese Drywall. [www.NAHB.org/chinesedrywall](http://www.NAHB.org/chinesedrywall)*

Drywall imported from China that was used in home construction in the United States is causing some concern for home owners and home builders. Home owners have reported foul odors and air conditioning-related problems in homes constructed with some of the drywall imported from China. It is believed the drywall was imported into the U.S. between 2004 and 2008. Some of this drywall is alleged to contain high levels of sulfur and/or other contaminants, which it is emitting or off-gassing. Governmental agencies are investigat-

ing the potential adverse health consequences of exposure to the sulfur gases.

The issue has generated national media attention and spurred legislation in several states. Little is known about the proper methods for investigating and remediating the drywall, which has led to concern for many on how to address the issue. In an effort to shed some light on the issue, NAHB has created a special Web site page to help association members understand the rapidly evolving Chinese drywall issue. The topic

has been the subject of much speculation in national headlines, and is causing concern for home owners and home builders.

HBAV is confident that the impact in Virginia will be minimal as only one container of Chinese Drywall was delivered in Virginia. However, if you think there might be a problem with drywall in some of your projects you can visit NAHB's page dedicated to the issues at [www.nahb.org/chinesedrywall](http://www.nahb.org/chinesedrywall).

## Regulatory Nuts and Bolts

Emergency Operation and Maintenance regulations for Alternative Septic Systems are well on their way to being completed. The first meeting of the work group responsible for ironing out the details met on June 25th. The all day meeting evaluated such issues as setbacks, maintenance frequency, and the differences between maintenance and inspection.

HBAV is well represented on this committee by Director of Regulatory Affairs Barrett Hardiman, and land use attorney

Merle Fallon. Also serving on the work group is Del. Ed Scott, although not in his capacity as Delegate, but as an installer of alternative systems. The regulations are on track to be completed by December of this year, which will trigger the enactment clauses of HB1788.

HBAV would like to thank those members and staff who took time out of their busy schedules to speak at the public hearing on the proposed stormwater regulations in Augusta County on July 1st. Jay Willer, J.M. Snell, Royce Hilton, Chuck Rot-

gin, and Greg St. Ours were all instrumental in organizing the comments on behalf of HBAV.

The next public hearings will be in Manassas on July 7th and in Hampton on July 9th. Please plan to attend those meetings to speak on behalf of HBAV. For more information on the meetings and HBAV's position, contact Barrett Hardiman at (804) 643-2797 or [bhardiman@hbav.com](mailto:bhardiman@hbav.com).



### 2009 HBAV Annual Convention

Thanks to everyone who attended the 2009 HBAV Annual Convention. A great time was had by all! We look forward to seeing everyone in 2010!

## Builders Receive \$\$ from HBAV's Builder REBATE Program

The recently introduced HBAV Rebate program for Builder members has just paid out it's first round of rebate checks for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2009. Nine (9) builders will be receiving checks totaling **\$2527.00** for their claims that were filed in the first quarter.

***Congratulations to the following participants...***

Boyd Corporation - VA Beach, David James Homes - Roanoke, JDA Custom Homes -

Vienna, Neal D. Fridenstine, Inc. - Kilmarnock, Patowmack Associates, Inc. - Purcellville, PD & M, Inc. - Moneta, Progress Street Builders, Inc. - Blacksburg, SDP, Inc. - Maidens, and W.B. Garrett, Inc. - Richmond

Besides the money, that's the best part of the program - it relies on very little from you and doesn't change the way you conduct business. You do NOT have to change the way you currently buy. We do the paper-

work, collect the money and mail you the quarterly checks directly! The average rebate last year was \$799.

*For more information on the HBAV Builder Rebate Program contact Jim Bonnell at [jbonnell@hbav.com](mailto:jbonnell@hbav.com) or 804-643-2797.*