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# AOBA AT ISSUE DIGEST

*Monthly Recap &  
AOBA News*



## ADVOCACY HEADLINES

Each month, *At Issue DIGEST* includes summaries of articles that appeared in the previous month's email editions of *At Issue*. Complete articles are available online. Inside, you'll find details on the following:

### District of Columbia

- DC Voters Decide Fate of Schwartz, Five Other Councilmembers in Primary
- AOBA Expresses Concerns at Hearing on Proposed 2008 Building Codes
- AOBA Convenes Meeting to Discuss DC Fire Department Building Survey
- WASA Adopts a 7.5% Rate Increase for Fiscal Year 2009
- Reminder – Class 3 Real Property Rate Increase Effective Oct. 1

### Maryland

- New Laws Effective Oct. 1
- Montgomery County Council Proposes Excise Tax on Employee Parking Spaces
- Rent Control Study Updated for Montgomery County
- New Prince George's County Fire/EMS Outreach Programs Implemented

### Virginia

- Virginia Budget Forecasts Remain Gloomy
- Joint Subcommittee Kicks Off Study of Local Growth Management
- AOBA Continues to Fend off Jurisdiction-Wide Inspection Districts
- Political Sidebar

## SAVING DC MEMBERS' MONEY

### *AOBA Wins Reduction in Vault Rental Charges*



Working in concert with colleagues in the parking industry, AOBA recently secured passage of legislation by the

DC Council which retroactively reduces the "vault rental charge formula" by one-third, effective immediately. This fee refers to rental of underground parking space that is within the city's jurisdiction.

**As a result of this legislative win, property owners will see substantial reductions in the vault rent, beginning with the 2009 vault rental bill that was due on June 30, 2008.**

AOBA commends the DC Council, particularly Councilmember Jack Evans (D-Ward 2), for this important initiative. ■

## Greening Existing Buildings Conference Draws More than 250 Members

### SPEAKERS' PRESENTATIONS NOW ONLINE

At AOBA's green conference on Sept. 25, national and regional industry experts offered practical tips and thoughtful recommendations to members who are striving to enhance ongoing sustainability initiatives. Feedback from participants was positive, with members gaining insight from best practices, case studies and networking with firms offering green products or services.

Missed the Conference? Want to review what you heard? Just visit AOBA's website, click on the *Going Green* section, and you'll find a Conference page with powerpoint presentations, as well as several hand-outs.

Special thanks go to Conference sponsors: **AOBA Alliance, Inc, Pepco Energy Services, Inc., and Washington Gas,** to a

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## GREEN NEWS FROM MEMBERS

*A periodic compilation of green-worthy news from AOBA members*

### **AOBA MEMBER DELIVERS ULTRA-GREEN, HEALTHY BUILDING**

The Tower Companies and Lerner Enterprises have delivered a building of the future - 2000 Tower Oaks Boulevard (www.toweroaks.com) in Rockville, MD, designed to meet USGBC's "LEED Platinum" criteria.

The 200,000 square foot building's green efficiencies are "Designed to Earn ENERGY STAR" and reduce energy consumption by 41%, water consumption by 48%; the HVAC system is 30% more efficient than for typical offices; a four-stage air filtration system circulates 30% more outside air, turns over every 51 minutes and removes 85% of airborne pollutants.

Other unique aspects include: 90% of occupants have outside views, 74% have natural daylight, 80% of all electric equipment is Energy Star-rated, 50% of the materials are manufactured within a 500-mile radius, and 75% of the construction waste is recycled. Outside, the grounds feature more than 17,000 drought-resistant plantings of trees, and ornamental grasses and bulbs compliment the buildings' landscape in the park-like setting.

### **LOCAL LANDSCAPER PURCHASES LOW-POLLUTING LAWNMOWER**

**Professional Grounds, Inc.**, a full-service landscaping company in Northern Virginia, is the area's first landscaping firm to implement the use of a low-polluting propane lawnmower. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, a propane lawnmower reduces emissions of ozone precursors by one-third and fuel economy is boosted by 14%.

"After learning that each gasoline powered lawn mower pollutes as much as 40 automobiles, I knew our company had to develop more sustainable practices to reduce pollution, and we hope other landscaping companies will follow our lead," said Bill Trimmer, the firm's President and founder.

Submit your company's significant green news to: [mtibor@aoba-metro.org](mailto:mtibor@aoba-metro.org) ■



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