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**Taste of Arlington Tickets Now Available Online
Event Announces Restaurants, Sponsors, and Family Friendly Activities**

April 15, 2009 - Ballston (Arlington, VA) – Online ticket sales are now available for the **22nd Annual Taste of Arlington®** taking place on **Sunday, May 17, from noon to 5:00 p.m.** on Wilson Boulevard in front of Ballston Common Mall. The Ballston-Virginia Square Partnership is organizing and hosting the highly-anticipated event, having purchased the rights from Community Residences, Inc., a local non-profit organization that assists people with disabilities to live independently in the community. Each year, Taste of Arlington® draws nearly 12,000 attendees who have the opportunity to sample dishes from over 40 restaurants. Proceeds from the spectacular community event will continue to benefit Community Residences, Inc.

The **advance online Taste booklet sale price is \$20** and can be purchased at the Taste of Arlington Web site (www.tasteofarlington.com). Tickets are required to sample gourmet tastes and beverages. Taste of Arlington® tickets are sold in booklets of 8 tickets. Each food sample, soda and water costs 1 ticket; beer and wine cost 2 tickets. Advance booklet sales will be available **through May 10**. Ticket booklets may be purchased on-site the day of the event for \$25.

This year, Taste of Arlington® expands its footprint showcasing businesses, restaurants, the arts and community organizations in Arlington County's many urban villages, including Ballston, Clarendon-Courthouse, Columbia Pike, Rosslyn, Shirlington, Lee Highway, Crystal City and Pentagon City. Many of Arlington's signature restaurants such as Bus Boys and Poets, JALEO, Café Pizzaiolo, Yaku, Lebanese Taverna, Liberty Tavern, Lalibela, Union Jacks, Carlyle Grand, Sangam, Domaso, Piola, Clarendon Ballroom, and Willow will be participating in the event.

The Taste of Arlington® will also feature local live music as well as creative participation from the county's well known theatre houses such as Synetic, Signature Theatre, and Arena Stage.

The event will have a full range of kid-friendly activities ranging from moon bounces provided by Jumpworks and an appearance by Washington Capitals' Mascot Slapshot, to interactive kid activities hosted by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The NSF will host "Taste of Science," with exhibitions and programs engaging parents and children in the discovery and exploration of scientific topics. This year, a select group of Arlington students with award-winning projects in the recent Northern Virginia Regional Science and Engineering Competition will showcase their projects.

Also, for the first time, Arlington County will host a World Café at Taste of Arlington®. Similar to the Diversity Dialogue cafés hosted by the County last year, the World Café at Taste of Arlington® will serve as a catalyst environment for Arlingtonians to explore topics with someone new.

The Dittmar Company (www.rentdittmar.com) is the Co-Underwriter for the 2009 Taste of Arlington. Other top level sponsors include SRA International, Gates Hudson, CommuterPage.com, Strategic Analysis, Harris Teeter and the Rosslyn Business Improvement District. ABC-7/News Channel 8, MIX 107.3, Washington Parent Magazine, and Washington Woman Magazine are premier media sponsors. The full list of sponsors is located at www.tasteofarlington.com.



The Ballston-Virginia Square Partnership has teamed up with the Clarendon Alliance, Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization, Rosslyn Renaissance and the National Science Foundation to produce the 2009 Taste of Arlington®

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About Ballston Virginia Square Partnership

The Ballston-Virginia Square Partnership is a public-private organization of citizens, real estate professionals, businesses, civic and condominium associations, educational institutions and non-profits with the mission of promoting and enhancing the Ballston and Virginia Square areas as desirable communities in which to live, learn, work, shop and play. Founded in 1985, it has played a role in, and continues to influence, the development decisions and environmental enhancements for these two urban villages. www.ballstonvasquare.org

About Clarendon Alliance

The Clarendon Alliance is a public-private partnership chartered by the Arlington County Board in 1986 to promote the health and vitality of Clarendon, Arlington's original downtown commercial district, and its surrounding areas. We market existing businesses in Clarendon and the community in general. Members of the Alliance include commercial property owners, small and large businesses, financial institutions, government representatives, neighborhood community groups and individuals. www.clarendon.org

About Rosslyn Renaissance

As a membership organization, RR informs, involves and engages the community in planning for the future. Founded in 1991, its mission is to work with residential, commercial, cultural, and government communities to realize Rosslyn's potential as a distinctive urban environment through a focus on urban design and development. www.rosslynva.org

About Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization

The Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization (CPRO) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, public/private partnership. Established on May 14, 1986, CPRO is a coalition of businesses, civic associations, property owners, and individuals working with the Arlington County Government. It works to provide direction and support to improve and revitalize Columbia Pike and its adjacent neighborhoods. www.columbiapike.org

About National Science Foundation

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent federal agency that supports fundamental research and education across all fields of science and engineering, with an annual budget of \$6.06 billion. NSF funds reach all 50 states through grants to over 1,900 universities and institutions. Each year, NSF receives about 45,000 competitive requests for funding, and makes over 11,500 new funding awards. NSF also awards over \$400 million in professional and service contracts yearly. www.nsf.gov