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Banner image: artist's conception of new OLLI parking garage on pool parking lot.

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FLASH: OLLI IS CHOSEN FOR HAWAIIAN EXCHANGE PROGRAM!
Read [details below](#).

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HAWAIIAN EXCHANGE PROGRAM

OLLI-Mason members can exchange with OLLI-Honolulu



By [Gordon Canyock](#), Communications Committee Chair



STARTING THIS SUMMER, the OLLI National Resource Center has announced that it will sponsor student exchanges among some of its affiliated OLLIs. It has selected OLLI-Mason and OLLI-Honolulu for the initial pilot program since both offer access to major tourist attractions and excellent weather; thus, such an exchange program is likely to be an instant hit.

Students from each site will be able to attend all classes at the other location and will also exchange homes, thereby avoiding the cost of hotels. OLLI-Honolulu is located on the ground floor of a high-rise building (see photo above) adjacent to Waikiki Beach, and many of its members live in condos on the upper floors with breathtaking views of Waikiki and Diamond Head.

Anyone wishing to participate in this exciting new program should contact the office as soon as possible since places are expected to fill up quickly.

A PIECE OF THE PIE

OLLI receives a stimulus bill 'earmark' for a parking garage



By Elizabeth Crawford, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

UNBEKNOWNST TO MOST MEMBERS, OLLI was able to insert a \$6.5 million 'earmark' for a large, three-level parking garage into the recently signed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 through the good offices of Sen. Jim Webb (D-Va.). The Fairfax Swim Club agreed to cooperate in this endeavor by allowing its parking lot to be used because its members will enjoy unlimited parking in the new parking garage.

Construction of the parking garage will begin in the fall and complete during 2010. OLLI members taking classes at Tallwood will then have plenty of free parking space for the indefinite future. Many thanks go to Sen. Webb for his support and to our aggressive Planning Committee for securing this important improvement for the membership.



Half of the new parking garage will be a fully automated robotic parking garage (photo above). OLLI members can choose: they can go to the robotic entrance and have the robotic system safely park their cars (even Jaguars and Corvettes) and then later have the system quickly retrieve their cars, or they can drive into the regular entrance and park their own cars. [Click here \[http://tinyurl.com/cms8ssj\]](http://tinyurl.com/cms8ssj) to watch a short Popular Mechanics video that explains how a robotic garage works.

However, there is still much work to do if this parking garage is to become a reality. Keeping in mind that our legislators often do not know what is in the bills they sign, Planning Committee members did not want to waste their valuable retirement time writing a detailed proposal for the parking garage. However, now that the funds are forthcoming, OLLI needs to demonstrate to the Treasury Department that our project is indeed shovel-ready.

Retired OLLI architects, engineers, and county planners are urgently needed to prepare and complete blueprints for the parking garage not later than Jul 1, 2009. If you can assist in this effort, please contact the executive director as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, during the nine months while the parking garage is under

construction, members will not have access to the pool parking lot. Car pools will help but most members driving to Tallwood will have to park in the neighborhood and then walk or run carefully across Roberts Road.

OLLI SUPPORTS CLEAN ENERGY

OLLI goes green, purchases electric car



By [Rod Zumbro](#), Board member

IN A SPECIAL BOARD MEETING, the Board of Directors discussed possible actions that OLLI could take to do its part in supporting clean-energy initiatives while at the same time increasing membership. After much debate over various proposals, one action arose that won the support of a large majority of the Board in a formal vote: to "go green" by purchasing an all-electric car.



The car would be used primarily by the executive director, including for his personal use outside of regular business hours. The Board thought the chosen vehicle, a [Tesla](#) roadster in Mason Gold Metallic (photo above), would be much more suitable for the executive director to be seen in than his current vehicles – the hulking, black pickup truck or the menacing, black Harley Davidson motorcycle. The Tesla roadster goes more than 240 miles between charges and can be charged in under four hours by plugging it into any available 110v or 220v electrical outlet. OLLI's Tesla is expected to arrive before the beginning of the summer term, just in time for top-down traveling.

When not needed by the executive director, the Tesla would be available for use by any mature (over 50 years old) staff member, Board member, committee chair, resource-group chair, or editor when conducting official OLLI business. Since the vehicle is eye-catching and will have a prominent OLLI logo on each side, the car will be a wonderful advertisement for our institute; many prospective members will see it as it travels throughout the Northern Virginia area between our sites in Fairfax, Reston and Sterling.

The car costs only \$109,000 ... a real bargain. The OLLI treasurer assured the Board that the cost of the vehicle "can be covered with current funds" and

that there is absolutely no intention whatsoever of assessing the membership a pro-rata share of the cost, which in any case would not exceed \$130 per member.

DRIVER'S ED FOR SENIORS

A new training film will help improve your driving



By [Susanne Zumbro](#), Drivers Education Resource Group Chair

DO YOU DRIVE A CAR? Then you know from personal experience, as I do, how aging can slow one's reflexes and how the stress of driving in Northern Virginia among its rushing, discourteous drivers can be overwhelming. Fortunately, help is here!

OLLI has located a great training film that is guaranteed to help you improve your driving skills. Strongly endorsed by seniors who have watched it, this film is less than four minutes long but is extremely effective. The theory is this: you can learn by watching others' mistakes and striving to avoid them. So, make sure your speakers are turned on, then [click here \[http://tinyurl.com/dz9pfe\]](http://tinyurl.com/dz9pfe) to watch the new training film (when you click to watch, a YouTube page will open, and the film will start playing).



[Click here \[http://tinyurl.com/dz9pfe\]](http://tinyurl.com/dz9pfe) to watch the training film.

MASON'S NEW EXPERIMENT AT TALLWOOD

Facilities Department to employ workers from shelter



By Karen Hamilton, Associate Editor of OLLI E-News

MASON'S FACILITIES DEPARTMENT, whose full-time employees regularly perform the cleaning and maintenance of Tallwood facilities, announced a new experimental program that will help employ the homeless now living in University shelters.

The plan is to use automated robotic cleaning devices that can be operated by the homeless without special training. According to the Mason Facilities Director, the University would not pay these homeless workers but they would be fed at a cost of "peanuts ... or not more than cat food, in any case."

Not all of Tallwood could be cleaned this way, but the three classrooms, the social room, and the annex are susceptible. [Click here \[http://tinyurl.com/58jmtol\]](http://tinyurl.com/58jmtol) to watch a 47 sec. video on how this experiment works (when you click to watch, a YouTube page will open, and the film will start playing).

"WEARING" THE OLLI SPIRIT

A new option: couples underwear



By [John West](#), Deputy Editor of OLLI E-News

WE ALL KNOW HOW MUCH PRIDE WE HAVE in the quality of programs at OLLI and the tremendous spirit of learning in our relaxed academic atmosphere. Now OLLI couples, or individual members, can share this pride in a new way – wearing underwear with an OLLI logo. You can see samples of each item at the right (regretfully, we were unable to find any OLLI members who were willing to model this new OLLI "spirit wear"). Price is only \$19.95 each, delivered to OLLI for pickup.

We will be collecting orders in the Tallwood office beginning today, Apr 1, and continuing through Mon, Apr 6. We expect the items to be delivered to OLLI by the first



week of May. In addition to the practical addition to your attire, the new OLLI "spirit wear" items will provide you with another way to share your OLLI experience with others when you undress in the gym locker room for a workout or in the bedroom for your special someone.

GOURMET COFFEE COMING TO TALLWOOD

Satisfying the membership



By Kathie West, Entertainment & Refreshments Resource Group Chair
TO HONOR ALL THE REQUESTS MADE BY THE MEMBERSHIP, especially from Reston members used to daily gourmet coffee from the adjacent Lake Anne Coffee Shop delivered to the OLLI-Reston social area, OLLI will soon offer gourmet coffee at Tallwood! Coffee drinks made-to-order will be available in the social room annex between 9:00 and 4:00 Monday through Thursday when classes are in session – but will not be available on Fridays. Whenever a class is being held in the annex, no gourmet coffee will be available during that time.



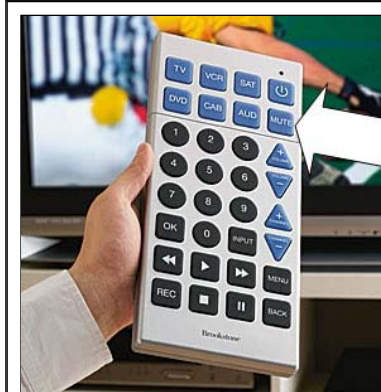
Left to right, future OLLI baristas Maria, Karen, Beth and Bill, eagerly anticipating serving the membership in a new way.

Staff employees are being trained as baristas by a local Starbucks store, and special automated brewing equipment has been ordered for installation in the annex. Members will be able to order all their favorite specialties, including lattes, cappuccinos, and espressos. To help defray the costs of this program, OLLI members will have to pay only \$2 per drink – about half the price of drinks at commercial gourmet coffee shops. Free coffee will continue to be available all day in the social room for budget-conscious members and those who do want to delay their caffeine fix while waiting for their individual drinks to be brewed and prepared.

DEPARTMENTS

SPECIAL TIPS FOR SENIORS

Use of the "Mute" button



IN THIS ARTICLE, we offer tips for seniors on the proper use of a key button – "Mute – on one of the most important devices associated with daily life in the 21st century, your television remote. Did you know that the typical OLLI household watches TV an average of four hours per day?

Now, about the Mute button. Here's all you need to know: **"Mute" switches all sound OFF; it does NOT turn down the volume.** Get it? Do you see the implications?

Let's think it through. Yes, you **COULD** turn down the volume while commercials are playing or to allow conversation without anyone having to try to 'talk over' the television. But ... since you are watching a program, your TV set is already at the desired volume level for that program. If you turned down the volume for a commercial, it is highly unlikely that you would be able to return the volume to the exact level previously set. Also, to attempt to do so would require you to keep pressing the volume control buttons up or down until you got it just right again. What a waste of effort!

The correct and obvious solution is simple: **CLICK THE MUTE BUTTON.** That turns the sound off. Then, when the commercials are over, just **CLICK MUTE AGAIN.** Voilà! You can now hear your TV program at the perfect sound level. How simple is that?

NEW SUMMER COURSE. If you still don't get this, please register in the summer term for a brand-new course to be taught at all three OLLI locations. It's course #945, "Common technology devices for dummies."

In this course, a specially trained "Swiftie" (member of the Tom Swift Squad, otherwise known as the Audiovisual Support Committee) will explain and demonstrate how to use such familiar devices as microwave ovens, computer mice, television remotes, 'staggered' shift levers on automatic-transmission cars, and portable GPS navigation units. Don't miss this valuable course if you have a technology phobia!

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Non-class events at OLLI for the next two weeks

THE FOLLOWING LIST covering the next two weeks is extracted for your convenience from the master calendar maintained by the office (see [Upcoming Non-Class Events](#) to view the real-time OLLI online calendar used by the office). All events are open to OLLI members. *Note: When appropriate, we have provided active hypertext links that you can click for additional information.*

Wed Apr 1 11:30am Special Event 955 - [MoMA](#) (Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City) - Meet at Museum
 1:30pm Bridge Club - TA-3 (Queens-native Gordon Canyock will lead today's discussion on the Queensboro Bridge, which celebrated its 100th Anniversary on Monday and was memorialized by Simon & Garfunkel under its common nickname, the 59th Street Bridge)
 1:30pm Special Events Resource Group Meeting - TA-2 (topic: special events in the lives of OLLI members, including second and third marriages, knee and hip replacements)
 Fri Apr 3 8am - Special Event R975 - Reston: Lake Anne Plaza - Bus Trip (meet in Tallwood parking lot; will return at sunset)
 10am Drama Club - TA-3 - try outs for the new OLLI Players' production, "Cat on a Hot TA-3 Roof"
 10am Recorder Club - TA-2 (today we will be recording the sound and fury coming from TA-3)
 11am Homer Group - Social Room Annex (today's Homer topic: Homer Simpson, main character in the animated television series "[The Simpsons](#)")
 Tue Apr 7 11am Fiction Writers Club - Kings Park Library - discussion of the new bestseller based on the popular docudrama, [The Story of OLLI](#)
 Wed Apr 8 1:30pm Bridge Club - TA-3 (Philadelphia-native Susanne Zumbro will lead today's discussion on the world-famous Ben Franklin Bridge that spans the Delaware River in center city Philadelphia)
 Fri Apr 10 10am Travel Club - TA-1 - tips on locating restrooms when traveling in foreign cities
 10am Recorder Club - TA-2 (today we will be remotely recording the Travel Club in TA-1)
 10am Drama Club - TA-3 - first rehearsals for "Cat on a Hot TA-3 Roof"
 11am Homer Group - Social Room Annex (today's Homer topic: "All you ever wanted to know about [Homer, Alaska](#)")

Editor's note. *I want to express my gratitude to the small group of colleagues who contributed to this issue – Gordon Canyock, Elizabeth Crawford, Karen*

Hamilton, John West and Susanne Zumbro. Their ideas, suggestions, critiques and reviews were invaluable. Thom Clement provided the idea of special "spirit wear." Blame for any errors or unintentional offense is mine. As editor, I am fully responsible for this special midweek issue.



Rod Zumbro
Editor



John West
Deputy Editor



Karen Hamilton
Associate Editor

About this newsletter. OLLI's weekly newsletter, *OLLI E-News*, is emailed to OLLI members with email addresses on Fridays. When classes are in session, printed copies of this newsletter are distributed in classrooms, primarily for members without email. Comments, suggestions or complaints? Please contact Editor [Rod Zumbro](#) or Communications Committee Chair [Gordon Canyock](#).

- **Submissions.** We encourage members to submit news items, articles and photos for this newsletter. **The deadline to the editor is 7:00 pm Wed** (7:00 pm Mon for letters to the editor for which an OLLI response is appropriate) for that week's issue; earlier submissions are greatly appreciated. Please limit articles to about 250 words. Submit material via email to Editor Rod Zumbro (email rzumbro@gmu.edu).

- **Read the Latest Issue Early.** The new weekly issue of *OLLI E-News* is posted to the OLLI Web site Thursday evening. Read it by visiting <http://www.olligmu.edu/pubs.htm#enews>, where you will find a list of the last 12 issues, and clicking the latest issue listed.

- **Viewing or searching past issues.** Your options for finding items in past issues of *OLLI E-News* include viewing the [last 12 issues](#); [searching](#) the content of ALL issues for any word or words; and [searching our archive](#) of all past issues by date or issue number.

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