

Nominating Committee Seeks Officer Candidates

Amy Appelbaum and Chips Johnson will serve as this year's Nominating Committee to recommend individuals to serve as Leeway Overlee Civic Association officers for the summer through next spring. If you are new to the community—or a long-time resident—and interested in maintaining the quality of life in the neighborhood, consider serving. The election will occur at the late May/June general membership meeting. A list of officer positions is on this page of the newsletter. At that meeting the community will also select its representatives to the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee and delegates to the Arlington County Civic Federation. If interested in any of these positions, please contact Amy (703-241-8446) or Chips (703-532-5831).

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LEEWAY OVERLEE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Officers

President:	Suzanne Idziak	703-538-5288
Vice-President:	Jennifer Michener	703-533-0754
Secretary:	Ladd Connell	703-241-2422
Treasurer:	Carolyn Connell	703-241-2422

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee

Leeway

Representative:	Rob Swennes	703-532-6101
Alternate:	Michael O'Connor	703-237-5432

Highland Park/Overlee Knolls*

Representative:	Cliff McCreedy	703-538-4568
Alternate:		

*The HPOK NC representatives are elected by the HPOK Civic Association.

Arlington County Civic Federation

Delegates: Vicki Howard, Jerry Auten, Suzanne Idziak,
Jennifer Michener
Alternates: Amy Appelbaum, Carolyn Connell, Rob
Swennes, Ed Robinson

The Leeway Overlee Leader is edited by Rob and Kathee Swennes (703-532-6101); distribution coordinator is Amy Appelbaum (703-241-8446). The association webmaster is Jim Mountain (703-536-4082). Articles and other news items can be mailed to the editors (6101 N. 22nd St. 22205) or sent by email (kswen@juno.com).

LEEWAY OVERLEE CIVIC ASSOCIATION 2008 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please complete this form and mail it with a check for \$5.00 per adult to Carolyn Connell, 6113 N. 22nd St., Arlington, VA 22205.

Make check payable to:

LEEWAY OVERLEE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Check if you wish a receipt. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Check if you are willing to help with the distribution of THE LEEWAY OVERLEE LEADER.

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Address _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Thanks for your support!

How Might the Proposal on Accessory Dwelling Units Affect Our Homes and Our Neighborhood?

Arlington County at present has fairly tight rules regarding when a group of people other than a “traditional family” can live in a home in a single-family-zoned neighborhood. All of the Leeway Overlee area is single-family zoned except for the apartment and townhouse areas along Lee Highway. Currently a home in the County cannot be occupied by more than 4 unrelated persons and cannot have an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) which is a dwelling area with its own kitchen facilities. A narrow exception exists for in-law suites within or otherwise attached to an existing home, but that is about it. No exception exists for ADUs designed for live-in au pairs or for caregivers providing assistance to elderly homeowners.

The ADU proposal recommended to the County Board by the Housing Commission goes well beyond remedying these two deficiencies in the current housing rules. The proposal urges that ADUs be potentially allowed in any existing single-family home in Arlington. Thus an ADU could be installed even if the main motive of the property owner was to increase his income rather than to address a special need for child care or elder care. One of the most serious potential impacts of such ADUs would be on local parking.

The Housing Commission proposal also suggested

that ADUs be allowed not only within the four walls of an existing house, but that a home owner be allowed alternatively to build an accessory building on his lot that could serve as an ADU. Conversion of existing separate garages to ADUs might be one consequence.

Some people have expressed concern that allowing an ADU separate from the main home would undercut the historic concept of a single-family neighborhood.

Poor enforcement of the existing limits on separate dwelling units has also surfaced as a related issue that cannot be ignored in this discussion. The matter boils down to whether a home has more than one kitchen thus permitting two “families” to live in the house. The Zoning Office staff is reported to be unable (or unwilling) to secure search warrants even for some of the most egregious examples of housing overcrowding.

If the requirements to get approval for a “legal” ADU are high but enforcement of unapproved ADUs is lax, what is the incentive for a homeowner to bother getting approval for an ADU? In short, this is a complex subject with significant potential impact on us depending upon what parts of the current proposal are adopted by the County.

...an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)...a dwelling area with its own kitchen facilities.



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Community News Via E-Mail

Do you want a day-in-advance reminder of civic association meetings? How about prompt notice of other local community issues that arise between newsletters? Your address is not displayed to others when messages are sent. To be added to the addressee list, send your e-mail address to:



leewayoverlee@hotmail.com

Community Notes

West Nile Virus Season

Warm weather brings the return of West Nile virus. The virus, which is spread by mosquitos, can cause a fatal brain infection in a small percentage of people. It also has been responsible in recent years for significant mortality among many bird species, such as chickadees, blue jays and crows. Simple measure to prevent mosquito breeding are highly effective. The key is eliminating stagnant water in the neighborhood. Plugged gutters and drainpipes, pet water dishes, children's wading pools, and dishes under potted plants can all allow mosquitoes to breed if old water remains in them. Empty them out. Talk to your neighbors if they have visible sources of stagnant water on their property. It's your health as much as theirs that is at risk. Mosquito repellants and full-length shirts and pants are a big help to avoid getting bitten, but normal insecticides are ineffective against mosquitoes. Be safe.

Chestnut Hills Park Protected

As part of the upcoming reconstruction of Yorktown High School, the Arlington Public Schools (APS) recently proposed using part of Chestnut Hills Park on N. Harrison St. as a surface parking lot for construction workers for over a year. APS reasoned that using the parkland in this fashion could save the school system many dollars in transportation costs during construction. However, use of parkland in this fashion requires a County Board use permit. Strong opposition to the parking proposal quickly rose throughout northwest Arlington, especially from families with young children who use that park and from parkland supporters. On March 26th the Superintendent of Schools announced that use of Chestnut Hills Park was no longer being considered by APS. This quick about face was clearly due to the strong, negative public response to the proposal.

E-CARE Recycling Event April 19

Recycle your household hazardous wastes, electronics, TVs, and small metal at Thomas Jefferson Middle School between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. on April 19. The school is located at 125 S. Old Glebe Road. This event will go on rain or shine. You can recycle lawn and garden chemicals, household cleaners and solvents, auto fluids and motor oil, latex and oil paints, fluorescent light bulbs including compacts (CFLs), small metal items, TVs, computers and electronics. **Fees have been waived for monitors and TVs.** Other items will be collected for reuse including shoes, clothes for children and youths, linens, eyeglasses, operating portable sewing machines, bikes and accessories (\$10 per bike is requested). To learn more, go to www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/EnvironmentalServices/EnvironmentalServicesEnvex.aspx. For information on acceptable items for recycling go to www.arlingtonva.us/recycle or call 703-228-6832.

Commerce Bank to Arrive

Word has been received that Commerce Bank will build a branch at the corner of Lee Highway and N. Illinois St. The bank will replace the current Pure service station on that corner. Relations between the tenants on that site and abutting Leeway Overlee neighbors have been poor for many years. Local residents have worked closely with the bank on site details. The civic association and neighbors strongly supported the bank's application for a use permit before the County Board. Commerce Bank as part of its redevelopment plans will pay for several roadway improvements on N. Illinois St. and eliminate current storm water run-off problems on the site.

Thanks, Volunteer Snowmen!

Although snow totals were low this year, our Volunteer Snowmen were ready for any emergencies. Thanks for your willingness to help out. Hope we can

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