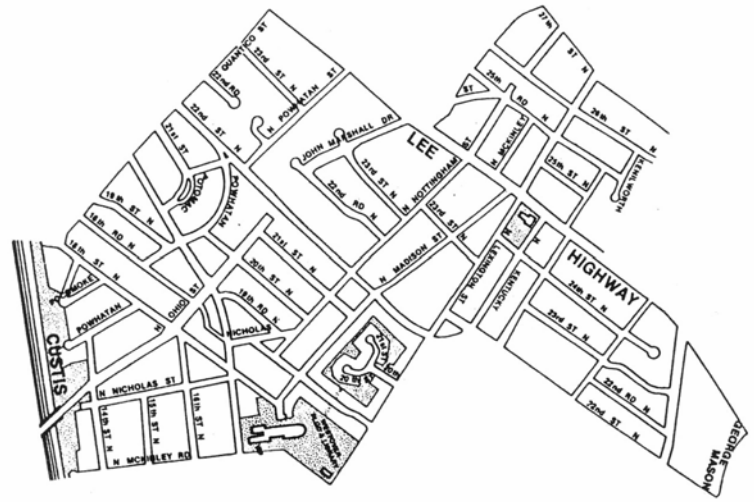


The Leeway Overlee Leader

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Civic Association
<http://www.leewayoverlee.org/>



VOLUME 26, NUMBER 4

DECEMBER 2004

General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, December 8, 2004
7:30 p.m. - - Lee Recreation Center
5722 Lee Highway

Historic Preservation in Leeway Overlee

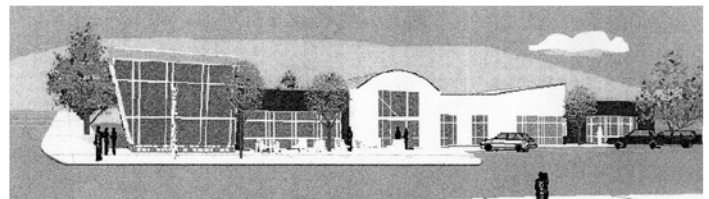
Featured Speaker

Mr. Michael Leventhal
Arlington County Historic Preservation
Coordinator

Refreshments provided

Westover Library Construction Should Begin in Fall 2005

The County's Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) examined the design for the new Westover Branch Library at its meeting in November. The Library construction project is expected to be bid in late spring of 2005 with construction beginning in the fall.



Front Elevation—N. McKinley Rd.

Representatives of local civic groups and the general community attended the November meeting and were able to express their concerns and opinions on the preliminary plan. Since this is a "by right" development, the SPRC had little leverage to pressure for changes in the design. However, several issues were raised by those in attendance.

Concern about the siting of the building included questions of whether such a large plaza makes sense or is wasted space, whether the placement of parking abutting the plaza presents an "automotive" face to the area, and how security at the back of the building will be handled.

Traffic issues were also brought up. Those in attendance would like the following issues to be considered as the development of the plan continues: placement of the bus stop, alignment of the library turn around and the bank exit, traffic flow into the neighborhoods, number of parking spaces, parking control, and creation of a true pedestrian friendly area.

Some concerns on design were also mentioned.

See **Westover Library**, p. 2, col. 2

Is Leeway Overlee Ready for Historic Preservation?

Michael Leventhal will talk about historic preservation issues of relevance to our civic association area. Our neighborhood has homes spanning a century or more. Arlington is undergoing rapid and sometimes sweeping changes in neighborhoods. Mr. Leventhal will address the County's efforts to document its housing variety and to ensure that its rich diversity in housing types continues.

Delegate Al Eisenberg to Attend Meeting

Al Eisenberg, our delegate to the Virginia General Assembly, is expected to attend the meeting and outline some of the bills he expects to introduce in the upcoming session. He will be soliciting the views of citizens regarding what other issues he should address while in Richmond.



Leeway Conservation Plan To be Updated

The Leeway Overlee Civic Association area contains two neighborhood conservation (NC) areas. North of N. 22nd Street is the Leeway NC area. South of N. 22nd Street is the Highland Park/Overlee Knolls (HPOK) NC area. Our civic association has historically overseen and prepared the Leeway NC Plan, whereas the Highland Park/Overlee Knolls Civic Association has been in charge of the HPOK NC Plan.

Citizens in the Leeway area expect to soon begin a major rewrite of the Leeway NC Plan, which was approved by the County Board in March 1993.

Cathy Mercil of N. 24th Street has volunteered to coordinate this effort. The Leeway NC representative, Rob Swennes, and the Leeway Alternate, Michael O'Connor, will assist. The volunteer help of other citizens in the community is needed.

One item to be focused on is the possibility of redevelopment along the Lee Highway corridor in the next 10 to 20 years and how it might impact the residential neighborhood. Various County staffers have encouraged the community to give serious attention to this prospect.

If you would like to help in this community building effort, please contact Cathy at cathymercil@comcast.net and Rob Swennes at robertswennes@hotmail.com.

LEEWAY OVERLEE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Officers

President:	Vicki Howard	703-304-4487
Vice-President:	Suzanne Idziak	703-538-5288
Secretary:	Ray Koch	703-536-4033
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:	Roger Morton	703-536-7233

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

Arlington County Civic Federation

Delegates:	Vicki Howard, Jerry Auten, Suzanne Idziak, Ed Robinson
Alternates:	Amy Appelbaum, Rob Swennes, Steve Compton, Ray Koch

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).

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

Westover Library...from p.1

Several attendees said the design breaks up the building's façade into "a bunch of boxes." Another remarked that it should be "a proud civic building."

The architects will take these comments into account in developing the final plans for the facility. No further community meetings are planned at this time. Any new drawings will be posted at the library and online.

More complete coverage of the SPRC review is available on line at <http://www.co.arlington.va.us/Departments/Libraries/forums/westover/LibrariesForumsWestoverWestoverReedMain.aspx>.



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The Holidays and Giving—A Personal Commentary

By Vicki Howard, Leeway Overlee Civic Association President

Arlington County's Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Resources (DPRCR) supports a wonderful Secret Santa program that enriches both the lives of recipient families and the sponsoring families. Contributors agree to provide food for a holiday meal, some needed clothing (sizes are specified), and some toys or other special need items for families in need in our community.




This will be my 12th year as a supporter of this Secret Santa program. I have found this opportunity an immensely rewarding part of the holiday season. The gifts these families receive are oftentimes the only new clothes or toys or blankets that they will have received. The holiday season should be about sharing and giving, and this program gives us all that chance.

If you are interested in sponsoring an Arlington family, please contact Janice Covert at jcover@arlingtonva.us, or call her at 703-228-6412. You can either be a completely Secret Santa in making your donation, or in some cases you can actually help to deliver the gifts directly to the needy family.

There are always more families needing adoption than there are volunteers. If you cannot adopt a family this year but would like to provide some help, please bring new items in any of the following categories to our December 8th meeting: toys, children's clothing, blankets, books, and gift certificates (esp. for grocery stores). I will ensure that donated items get to the Arlington staff people who work so hard to make this unique program a success.



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VDOT Study of Westbound I-66 Traffic

The Virginia Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration conducted two workshops and an open house in early November on the issue of westbound I-66 traffic. Neighborhood residents were well represented at all the events and presented their views on traffic problems and solutions. While adding a third westbound lane to I-66 was mentioned, many other approaches to the issue were also championed. No other public outreach meetings have been scheduled in connection with this feasibility study, which was federally funded though Congressmen Frank Wolf and Tom Davis of Virginia. To review the concepts and solutions recorded at the workshops and outlined at the open house, go on line to <http://www.idea66.com/> and click on What's New. The Arlington Coalition for Sensible Transportation (ACST) is continuing to monitor the study effort (<http://www.acstnet.org/>).

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Community Notes

Neighborhood Traffic Calming on N. Lexington Street & N. 27th Street

County crews have been working daily over the past two months to make traffic calming improvements on N. Lexington Street between N. 19th Street and Lee Highway. Most of the work to date has involved the installation of curb nubs at the intersections to narrow the pedestrian crossing distance. The nubs also help to protect parked vehicles. Some raised crosswalks and one set of "speed cushions" will also be installed, as well as some special pavement treatment up near Lee Highway. Speed humps are also scheduled to be installed on N. 27th Street between N. Harrison Street and N. Lexington Street sometime within the next year. Speed humps were earlier installed further west on N. 27th Street due to citizen complaints about speeding traffic.

Neighborhood Babysitting Co-op

The Leeway-Overlee Babysitting Co-op's mission is to share free quality childcare with our friends and neighbors. Parents exchange time spent sitting for each others' kids. The time (day or night) and place (your house or theirs) are arranged by mutual agreement. If you are interested, please join our meeting on Dec. 7 at 8:30 p.m., 2246 N. Madison Street. If you are unable to make the meeting, just give a call to express your interest. Jen McLain (703) 532-0485.

Long-range Planning Study for EFC Metro Station Area Published

The Department of Urban Affairs and Planning at Virginia Tech has issued a long-range planning study for the East Falls Church area of Arlington just to the west of the Leeway Overlee community. The study was done in conjunction with the Arlington East Falls Church Civic Association (AEFCCA). Some Arlington community planning funds also helped to support the study. The report envisions a future Metro-centered urban center with a mixture of neighborhood-focused retail and denser housing stock, including affordable housing. The full report is available on the AEFCCA web site (<http://www.aefcca.org>). It is unclear whether the study will lead to changes in the County's General Land Use Plan (GLUP) as regards this area. The GLUP for decades has called for low density residential development near this Metro station.

Volunteer Snowmen Trained and Equipped

Arlington County delivered snow blowers to trained volunteers in the community in mid November for use in the event of significant snowfall this coming winter. The civic association sponsors this self-help effort; the County supplies the motorized equipment. County crews are not available to help clean public sidewalks in the event of a snow storm due to their street-cleaning responsibilities. Thus local residents have been trained to operate smaller snow-blower equipment so that they can open pedestrian routes to the nearby Metro station and to the Westover shopping area. Be sure to thank your neighbors who provide this assistance!



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LEEWAY OVERLEE CIVIC ASSOCIATION 2004 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please complete this form and mail it with a check for \$2.00 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 _____

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Thanks for your support!

Happy Holidays