

could connect to the already planned underground drainage piping. This should be done without any damage to the nearby trees.

- **Paving.** We recommend further reduction of the paving in the butterfly and senior garden area, which continues to resemble a traffic circle and is totally unrelated to the 1997 Small Parks Grant proposal for the plantings and design concept. We also want to ensure that the paving to the entrance on the Lee Highway side does no harm to the sourwood and hornbeam trees that the Civic Association asked to be planted several years ago.
- **Trees.** We recommend that native and wildlife-friendly small trees or shrubs be added to the remaining strip of land between the extended parking lot and North Lexington Street. That area will otherwise be denuded and present a sterile view of the property from the North Lexington side. The project engineer said on 15 September that the oak and ginkgo in that area would be moved; we encourage that. We note that the site renovation leaves the property with a net loss of trees – hardly desirable when many of the main remaining trees are elderly and frail. Those attending the September 15 meeting did not approve of the designer’s choice of willow oaks for four new major trees to be planted. Willow oaks are overly common in Arlington. A sweet gum tree and other major native shade trees less commonly planted in the County would be best.
- **Conduit.** We want to ensure the relocation of the conduit now scheduled to go directly under the yellowwood and evergreen trees on the west side of the parking lot to spare damage to the key screening greenery. Running the conduit under the parking lot surface beyond the drip line of those trees would work.

Sincerely,

Vicki Howard
President, Leeway Overlee Civic
Association

September 18, 2004

Nancy Roisum, CSI-CDT
Project Manager
Arlington County Office of Support Services
Facilities Planning Section
1400 N. Uhle Street, Suite 403
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Ms. Roisum,

The Leeway Overlee Civic Association met on 26 July and 15 September 2004 to consider the proposed site renovations for the Lee Community Center as depicted in the 95-percent plans. We have several concerns:

- **Combined entrance/exit.** We encourage a revalidation of potential traffic flow patterns within the substantially expanded parking lot. Elimination of some parking spots at the north end of the lot may be needed to ensure the safe and easy turnaround of vehicles that enter the lot when no parking space are available. We also recommend installing posts and a chain at the parking lot entrance that can be used when the Center is closed to minimize visitors on the property.
- **Rivendell School.** We believe representatives from the Parks and Recreation Department, the Leeway Overlee Civic Association, and Rivendell School should meet to forge a Memorandum of Agreement about the school's responsibilities and potential contributions toward maintenance of the renovated property, particularly the playfield. Daily use of the grounds is a privilege that must carry responsibilities.
- **Lighting.** We advise careful consideration of the after-hours lighting options for the property, noting the need to balance safety for the neighborhood with the immediate concerns of a few residential properties abutting the parking lot. The type and positioning of the lighting will minimize glare outward, according to what we have been told.
- **Drainage.** The Civic Association urges additional evaluation of measures to curb the drainage of the playfield on North 24th Street. This was not a problem until a regrading several years ago but now results in major outpourings onto North 24th Street and eastward. An additional drainage point