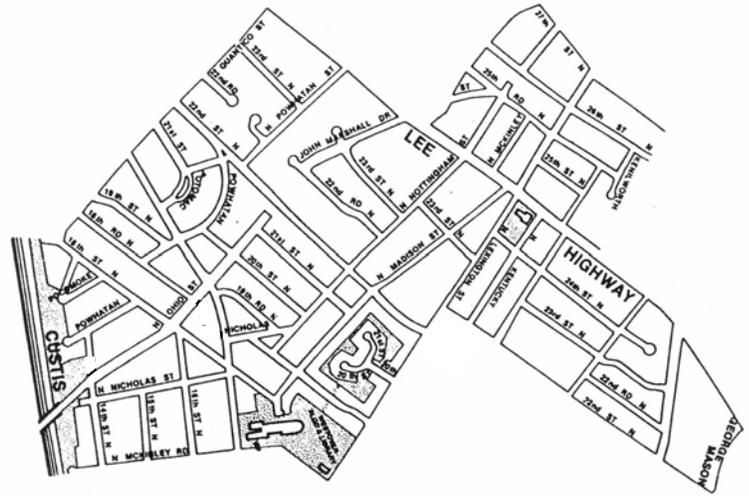


The Leeway Overlee Leader

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



VOLUME 29, NUMBER 3

OCTOBER 2007

General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, October 24
7:30 p.m. - - Lee Center, Room 201
5722 Lee Highway

Increased Wildlife in Arlington

Featured Speakers:

**Jennifer Newman, Arlington Animal Welfare
League**
Mariamalia Araya, Ecologist

Refreshments provided



Candidates Night Set For October 30

The civic association will be joining with other northwest Arlington civic groups to sponsor a Candidates Night for the four contested local political races due to be decided in the November 6th election. The event will be held on Tuesday, October 30th in the parish hall of Resurrection Lutheran Church, 6201 N. Washington Boulevard. Entrance will be off of Washington Boulevard. The forum begins promptly at 7:00 p.m. The races, candidates, and times for that evening are as follows:

Virginia Senate, District 31 – 7:00 p.m.
Samuel Burley – Mary Margaret Whipple
Clerk of Court – 7:25 p.m.
Paul Ferguson – Mark Kelly
County Sheriff – 7:50 p.m.
Beth Arthur – Steven Strasburg
County Board (two seats) – 8:15 p.m.
Mary Hynes – Michael McMenamin –
Josh Reubner – Walter Tejada –
Joseph Warren

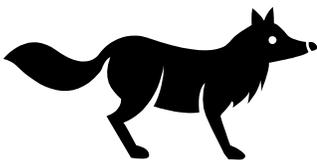
Come and engage your current elected officials and their challengers on the issues of importance to you! The questions asked of the candidates will come from the audience. Refreshments will be provided by the sponsoring civic associations.

How Does the Presence of Wild Animals Affect Us?

The diversity of wild animals in our neighborhood has increased in recent years. Foxes and coyotes are now seen on occasion, in addition to raccoons, opossums, and rabbits. Why has this occurred, and how should it affect our daily life? Are our pets at risk when outside? Are adults and children? Can (or should) the County come in to remove animal predators upon request? Ms. Newman and Ms. Araya will outline this new factor in our daily lives and how we should react to it.

Other business may include a review of plans for the reconstruction of Yorktown High School. See page 3, column 2 for more information.

Hope to see you there.



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

LEEWAY OVERLEE CIVIC ASSOCIATION 2007 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.

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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).

SIRI BAUER, CPA

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Snow is Coming: Volunteers Needed



Despite the balmy weather of early Fall, winter is not far away. If Arlington is hit by a snowstorm, the cleaning of local sidewalks must be done by local residents. The County concentrates on plowing to get streets reopened; it does not have the manpower to address sidewalks.

To fill this gap, the civic association has for some years sponsored neighborhood volunteers willing to use County-provided snow blowers to help open pedestrian routes to the Metro station and the Westover shopping area.

If you would like to join this group of volunteers and provide snow relief on your street, contact Rob Swennes (703-532-6101). Training will take place in November.

Residents Discuss Zoning Options For One Section of AT&T Property

Local resident meetings have been held to discuss the best use of the portion of the AT&T lot fronting on Lee Highway. The planned subdivision developer, Jimmy Audia, has expressed interest in having the property near Lee Highway used for higher density development. But he wants some level of civic association support before he would submit any formal request for rezoning. Residents living close to the property appear adverse to commercial rezoning for the frontage strip. But other options for development of the land are still under review.

Is New Yorktown High Design Ready for Approval?

Neighbors and various interest groups have been gathering for years to plan for a new Yorktown High School. Agreement has been reached on many aspects of the building, but other issues remain unresolved. The association has been asked by interested parties either to encourage prompt facility approval action by the County Board or to seek deferral of the project until remaining differences with the Yorktown neighborhood can be mitigated. Spokesmen for both viewpoints have been invited to the meeting to present their views on where we should go from here.

Discussion Listserv?

For some years the Leeway Overlee Civic Association has operated an announcement listserv to give subscribing local residents timely notice and reminders about upcoming events. It has been well received. Should the neighborhood operate a discussion listserv also? A discussion listserv permits postings to the group by all subscribers. Neighborhood news would pass more quickly from house to house, but the number of emails each subscriber received would increase as well.



A discussion listserv needs a monitor to ensure that the conversations on line remain civil and relevant to the needs of the neighborhood. Several neighborhood leaders think the concept is a good one but do not have the time to take on this project themselves. Are you interested and willing to take on this task? If so, please contact the association president.



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Community Notes

N. Kensington Street Improvements

North Kensington Street, between N. 27th Street and Lee Highway, has been beautifully rebuilt over the summer under the County's Neighborhood Conservation program. For decades the affected blocks have had no curb, gutter or sidewalk. While somewhat picturesque, the "rural" appearance of the street created real problems during rains, including basement floodings. The County work included dropping the street level by several inches to draw storm water. A storm drainage system was also installed, as well as new Carlyle street lights. The time from project conception to execution was long. Current and former residents deserve thanks for their work to see the project succeed.

I-66 Spot Improvements

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) hosted a public workshop on Wednesday, September 26th, at Washington-Lee High School to discuss the design work done to date on the "spot improvements" sought for the westbound lanes. While the vast majority of those who attended are still opposed to what they view as an interstate widening project, many acknowledged that VDOT did a better job in listening to speakers than at earlier public briefings. More VDOT officials, rather than consultants to the department, were in attendance, as were some senior County leaders.

Commerce Bank May Build on Lee Highway

Commerce Bank has been discussing with local residents on N. Illinois Street possible establishment of a branch bank on the corner of Lee Highway and Illinois. The site is currently occupied by a Pure gas station. The nearby neighbors have been plagued for years by unauthorized businesses operating from the gas station. Several years ago the then-tenant of the gas station cut down all the buffer trees screening that commercial business from the single-family neighborhood. Commerce Bank has thus far been very responsive to neighborhood sensitivities and concerns. The design of the proposed bank facility, particularly its drive up window feature, has been scrutinized carefully by nearby property owners. Several site design adjustments have been made.

New Westover Library and Reed School Facilities Awaited

All programs at Reed School transferred from the facility by early October. The building is now effectively closed, awaiting the demolition and construction crews that will transform the site into the new branch library and new school building. Ms. Vaughn Olbrys (703-228-6622), Project Manager, expects the initial work on site to begin in January 2008. Construction will take 14—16 months. Once the new library is ready, the books and other resources in the old branch library will be shifted in a matter of days.

Traffic Calming Slated for N. Kensington Street

Residents on that section of N. Kensington St. between Lee Highway and N. 22nd St. were notified in late September that future traffic slowing measures may be installed. The area was identified as a neighborhood roadway burdened with speeding vehicles. Interested residents attended a meeting on October 9th to examine the traffic data and review what measures the County might permit to bring speeds down to 25 MPH.

Vote November 6!

Election day is Tuesday, November 6. Registered voters are reminded to bring an ID to the polling place. You may be allowed to vote without an ID, but bringing one is the best plan.



If you will be out of town on election day or are unable to go to the polls due to illness or disability, you may vote absentee. To obtain further information,

go online to <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationAbsenteeVoting.aspx> or call the Voter Registration Office at 703-228-3456.

The Arlington County Voter Registration Main Page at <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationMain.aspx> has links to a variety of election related topics.

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