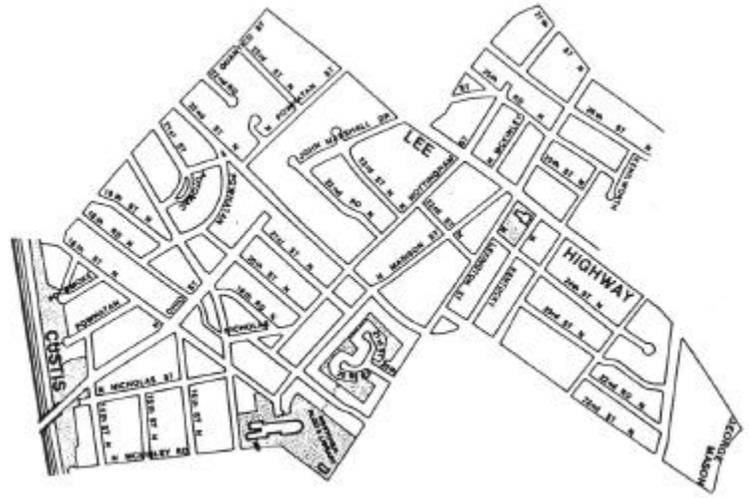


The Leeway Overlee Leader

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



VOLUME 25, NUMBER 1

MARCH 2003

General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, March 26, 2003
7:30 p.m. - Rivendell School
5700 Lee Highway
(enter from Kensington St.)

Arlington Initiatives in the Virginia General Assembly

Featured Speaker:

State Senator Mary Margaret Whipple

Refreshments provided

What Happened in the 2003 Virginia General Assembly?

State Senator Mary Margaret Whipple, who represents most of Arlington in the Virginia General Assembly, will give a recap of the achievements and disappointments in the recently concluded legislative session in Richmond. She will explain the initiatives that the County wishes to pursue in the state body.

Senator Whipple knows the factors that impact whether she and other members of the General Assembly from Northern Virginia are successful in their legislative efforts. Plenty of time will be allotted to questions from those attending.

Agenda Action Items for the Meeting

- ? Prioritization of Neighborhood Conservation Projects, p. 4
- ? Leeway Overlee's view on the final design for the new Westover Library

Civic Association Asked to Endorse Westover/Reed Facility

The Leeway Overlee Community at the March 26 civic association meeting will have an opportunity to vote on a recommendation from the Executive Committee to endorse the proposed library/education facility that will be built on the Reed property. (See separate article on page 3.) Members representing the association have participated throughout the planning stage for the new facility, and now it is time for the Leeway Overlee Civic Association to formally advise the Arlington County Board and the School Board of its position on the proposed design.

In 1998, the Leeway Overlee Civic Association prepared and issued a 20-point guidance and planning principles document for the redevelopment of the Westover Library and Reed School site. The County and Arlington Public Schools embraced these points, and they are reflected in the proposed facility. The outcome of the public process from which the present plans have evolved is testimony to the careful attention and joint efforts of the two boards and the dedication of their staffs. The proposed facility reflects in many details the high level of community interest, local ideas and neighborhood participation.

The Leeway Overlee Civic Association Executive Board recommends support of the project and encourages local residents to attend the general membership meeting to vote on the issue.

**New Officers for the Civic Association
will be elected at the May meeting. Please
see page 2 for further information.**

Nominating Committee Seeks 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. The election of officers will be held at the late May general membership meeting. A list of the officer positions is on this page of the newsletter.

At the May meeting the community will also select representatives to the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee and delegates to the Arlington County Civic Federation. If interested in any of those positions, please contact Amy at 703-241-8446 or Bill at 703-237-0357.

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

Officers

President:	Steve Compton	703-533-2857
Vice-President:	Kristin Kelly	703-532-4274
Secretary:	Vicki Howard	703-304-4487
Treasurer:	Karen Norrell	703-533-1538

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee

Leeway

Representative:	Rob Swennes	703-532-6101
Alternate:	vacant	

Highland Park/Overlee Knolls*

Representative:	Theresa DeFore	703-536-7611
Alternate:	Cliff McCreedy	703-538-4568

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

Arlington County Civic Federation

Delegates:	Steve Compton, Jerry Auten, Kristin Kelly, Ed Robinson
Alternates:	Amy Appelbaum, Rob Swennes, Christie Compton

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



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Library, Education Center Nears Final Approval

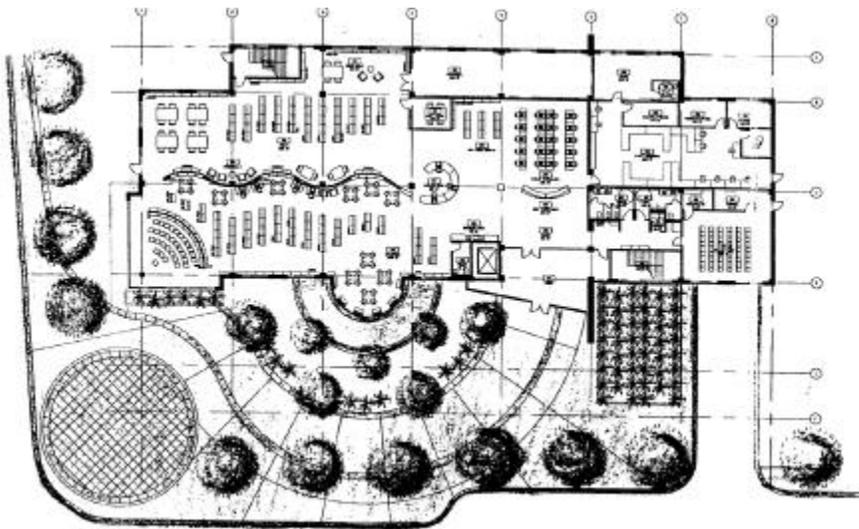
Interest in improving the Westover branch library began as community use of the aging, awkwardly designed facility continued to increase. A broadly supported 1998 capital bond issue provided the opportunity to create a new facility. Cooperation between the county boards and their staffs merged with extensive civic support and participation. Now, after several years of meetings and hard work, plans for the proposed Westover Branch Library and Arlington Public School education center are nearing completion. The County and School Boards will soon be voting on the final go-ahead for the project.

The proposed facility has evolved into a structure roughly similar in size, shape and location to the two-story Reed building that will be demolished to make room for the project. The new building will include a modern library on the first floor. There will be reading and meeting rooms, greatly improved facilities for children, more efficient staff offices, additional publicly available computers, and more. The second-floor education center will include flexible office-classroom space for teacher training. For the convenience of library patrons and school staff, the facility will include 60 underground parking spaces. The underground parking will help to protect Reed's open space.

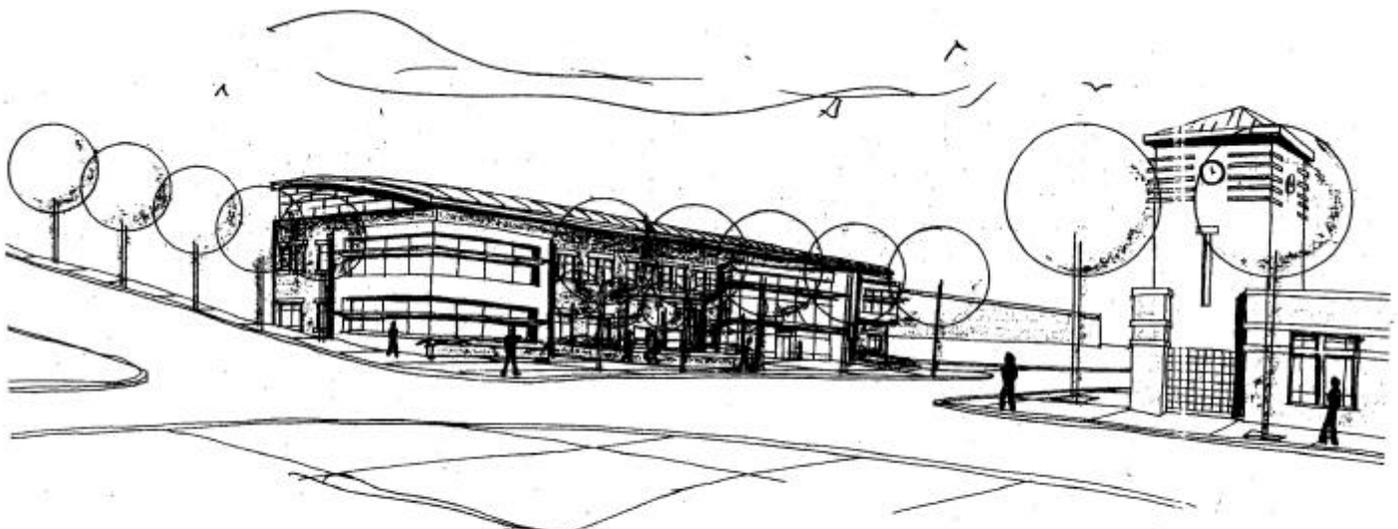
The striking landmark exterior design consists of extensive brick and glass and a sweeping gray steel roof. Drawing of the exterior and preliminary interior floor plans are on display at the Westover Library and may be view on the County website: <http://www.co.arlington.va.us/forums/westover/>.

The Site Plan Review Subcommittee of the Planning Commission is expected to examine the library/school plans within the next month or two. This is a public process, and members of the community are welcomed to participate. The best staff point of contact for the site plan review is Dave Alberts (703-228-4818). He has helped to shepherd the Westover Library project along from its earliest days.

Once this site plan review is completed, the project will be referred to the Planning Commission, the County Board, and the School Board for final approval. Construction is expected to begin within a year. The existing Westover Branch Library will remain in operation until the new building is completed.



The first level of the Westover/Reed design proposal



A view of the proposed complex from N. Washington Boulevard

Neighborhood Conservation Project Prioritization

Each spring and fall the community must prioritize its locally approved but not yet funded neighborhood conservation projects. This is so they can be considered by the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) in June and December for possible funding. The civic association cannot wait until its late May meeting to do this for the spring, since the County program requires that project priorities be set by an earlier date.

The popular NC program has a backlog of over 70 unfunded projects across the County. Several are in the Leeway Overlee area.

The Leeway Overlee Civic Association embraces two neighborhood conservation areas: The Leeway NC area and the Highland Park/Overlee Knolls (HPOK) NC area. N. 22nd Street is the dividing line between them. The residents of each area must vote separately on prioritizing the projects for the neighborhood in which they live.

The eligible projects for the Leeway NC area are listed below. Each includes a description of (1) the basic capital improvement involved, (2) the County's estimated cost of the work (if available), (3) when the project was first approved by the community, (4) the primary block captain (with phone number) for the project, and (5) the maximum probable "points" that the project can garner if it is named the first priority project by residents of the NC area.

The latter point requires some explanation. To help it decide which of the many neighborhood conservation projects to fund, the NCAC uses as a guideline a points system that assigns various amounts of points to a particular project based on several criteria. The NCAC is not obliged to fund projects based upon their point rankings, but in most funding sessions the point rankings of the projects are a key determinate as to what gets funded. No project gets funded unless it is the top priority for that conservation district, and only about half the top priority projects get funded each session.

At the December 2002 funding round the NCAC recommended funding for the sidewalk element on the north side of N. 22nd Street between the John Marshall/Ohio greenway and the N. Powhatan Street right of way. At the October 9, 2002 meeting of the civic association the Leeway NC community had adopted as its first priority project the larger list of capital improvements proposed for the north side of the street between the greenway and N. Quantico Street. But County staff balked at funding curb and gutter installation on the north side of N. 22nd Street since it was uncertain when the curb and gutter on the south side (the HPOK side) would be funded. Staff ultimately determined that the N. 22nd Street project should be funded on a block-by-block basis.

This means that the capital improvements for both sides of a block must be paid for at the same time. Thus the remaining elements of the N. 22nd Street project have been recast below to reflect this funding change.

The bracketed point assessments below are based upon the currently adopted points criteria. You can contact the Leeway NC representative (identified on page 2) for more detailed information about the points system or any other aspect of the program.

Leeway NC area (N. 22nd Street northward)

N. 22nd Street (West Phase--N. Powhatan St. to N. Quantico St.) – install curb and gutter Powhatan to Quantico. Replace substandard width sidewalk in the same area. Create uniform 32-foot street width N. Quantico Street to N. Powhatan Street & establish tree planting strip on the south side. Plant hardwood shade trees. (\$245,000) (Dec. 13, 2000) Rob Swennes, 703-532-6101 [40 points]

N. 22nd Street (East Phase--N. Powhatan St. to John Marshall/Ohio greenway) –reset curb and gutter on the south side of the block to create a uniform 32-foot street width N. Powhatan St. to the greenway & establish a tree planting strip on the south side. Replace south-side sidewalk and driveway apron, as needed. Plant hardwood shade trees. Install Carlyle-style pole street lights in the south-side planting strip. Design and install improvements to the "triangle area" at N. Powhatan St. (\$245,000) (Dec. 13, 2000) Rob Swennes, 703-532-6101 [35 points]

N. Nottingham Street (Lee Hwy. to N. 22nd Rd) – install sidewalk on the west side of the street. (conceptual estimate \$200,000). (Dec. 12, 2001) Ann Tierney, 703-534-1284 [35 points]

N. 22nd Road (N. Harrison St. to N. Illinois St.) – install curb and gutter on both sides of the street to make a finished curb-to-curb street width of 26 feet. (conceptual estimate \$225,000) (Dec. 12, 2001) Paul Sale, 703-527-5100 [35 points]

Two additional capital improvements for the streets of the Leeway neighborhood are being advocated by local residents. Work to get these new projects approved will begin once the present backlog of unfunded NC projects is reduced. The larger neighborhood conservation bond approved by the voters last fall is allowing for more timely funding of first priority projects.



Snowman clears a path on N. 22nd Street.

Volunteer Snowmen Labored Hard This Winter

The neighborhood volunteers trained to operate three County-provided snow blowers got plenty of opportunity to put their skills to use this winter. Sixteen men and women were certified by the County to use the equipment. Many of them put hours and days in cleaning local sidewalks. The equipment was also used to clear the walks leading up to the front doors of some elderly residents. Thanks to all the snowmen!

Unfortunately the current volunteers are not located on all streets in the neighborhood. Thus some requests for assistance went unanswered. Big snows like the ones this year in Arlington normally only come every three to five years. But when they do, they can mean a week or two of ice-covered sidewalks and the risk of falls and injury unless the snow is removed promptly.

The main goals of the volunteer snowmen are to keep the pedestrian routes open to the Westover shopping area and to the East Falls Church Metro station. If you would like to help in future years (especially if your neighborhood had inadequate sidewalk cleaning), call Rob Swennes, the project coordinator, at 703-532-6101. Training takes place in the fall.

Community Yard Sale Set for June 14

When winter is past, it is time to think of spring cleaning and the annual Leeway Overlee Community Day and Yard Sale sponsored by the civic association. The date this year is June 14.

For a quarter century the community has gathered along the John Marshall Drive/Ohio Street greenway to sell, exchange, and purchase furniture, tools, clothes, games, toys and other "treasures". Why hold an individual yard sale at home when you can join with your neighbors and friends to make it a truly awesome occasion?

Each year over 100 families take part in this community day event. Delicious food and music have become part of the tradition. Thousands of shoppers attend. This year, in a break with tradition, the Community Day will take place on the second Saturday in June...the 14th. The usual date of the first Saturday in June conflicts with the popular Komen National Race for the Cure sponsored by The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Mark your calendars now for this year's event on the morning of June 14!



Shoppers check out the values on display during last year's yard sale.



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Community Notes

Tuckahoe Elementary School Home and Garden Tour

Tuckahoe Elementary School will be hosting its third annual Home and Garden Tour on Saturday, April 26, 2003. The tour showcases 10 Arlington homes and gardens that have, through renovation and innovation, overcome the typical problems of Arlington homes, such as lack of space, small old kitchens, and poor soil conditions. The self-guided tour of the 10 homes is from noon until 4 p.m. Proceeds will benefit Tuckahoe's Discovery Schoolyard and the PTA. Tickets are \$15 each until Friday, April 11th. After that, the price will be \$20 a ticket. For information on the tour and on how to purchase tickets, call either Martha Chow Kopca at 703-534-1204 or Andrea Houck at 703-237-1630, event co-chairs.

Environmental Extravaganza Collection

The Department of Environmental Services is holding an Environmental Extravaganza collection event Saturday, May 3, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Middle School. The school is located at 125 S. Old Glebe Road.

The event includes the collection of household hazardous wastes like paint products, flammable solvents, garden chemicals. Computers and electronics will be collected for recycling by the firm Subtractions. The non-profit group Pedals for Progress will gather used bicycles for repair and donation to needy third-world communities.

There is a fee charged for monitor and television recycling. A \$10 donation per bike is requested by PFP to offset the costs of overseas shipping.



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Public Asked to Report Potholes

Arlington County's Pothole Patrol is out in full force, battling the fierce new post-storm crop of potholes. The coldest and wettest winter in recent history has severely impacted County roads. The cold combined with a lot of moisture created the perfect conditions for pothole formation. Arlington County is asking that residents call 703-228-6485 to report pothole problems on County streets. Such reports will help the Pothole Patrol target problem potholes for repair. Once the weather warms up, the County can make permanent repairs. Potholes on state roads can be reported by calling VDOT at 1-888-383-8368.

LEEWAY OVERLEE CIVIC ASSOCIATION 2003 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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