

**Leeway Overlee Civic Association
Minutes of General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, February 13, 2008 at Lee Community Center:
Arlington's Emergency Services**

1. Civic Association President Suzanne Kray-Idziak called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. The agenda was approved and the Treasurer's report, showing a balance of \$4,325.77 (an increase of \$835, reflecting \$852 in income, mostly from newsletter advertising, against \$17 in expenses), accepted. Minutes from the October 24, 2007, meeting were circulated and comments invited. Ms. Kray-Idziak then invited reports on old business.
2. Civic Association VP Jenni Michener reported that the County Board had approved at a meeting in late January Commerce Bank's application to construct a one-story red brick bank building to replace the Pure gas station at 5510 Lee Highway. The Board required one change, to an all brick façade. Commerce will need to do another cost analysis before proceeding.
3. Rob Bobowski spoke on behalf of neighbors of the former AT&T property north/east of 22nd & Harrison Streets. He presented a report/position paper opposing construction of any additional units, such as townhouses along Lee Highway, on the site. This would increase density and traffic. Neighbors prefer only single family houses to maintain the character/appearance of the neighborhood. The developer, Jimmy Audia, had so far been sensitive to neighbors' concerns. He had shared his landscaping plan, which includes providing an evergreen buffer between the new houses and existing ones. The major concern is the remaining tower. A motion to accept and support the report was seconded and approved with all who voted in favor.
4. Cathy Mercil briefed on elementary school district boundaries. The School Board was scheduled to vote February 14 on possible boundary changes to relieve overcrowding in north Arlington schools (Tuckahoe, Nottingham, McKinley in particular). One possible solution was to offer additional busing for magnet schools. The Board had heard from many residents—120 at a recent open session. .
5. On new business, Ms. Kray-Idziak noted the construction of new houses on Nottingham & 23rd Sts. by Sagatov, the same builder who is building two houses on the south side of Washington Blvd. at Quantico St. They are claimed to be built with "green" technology, but their size, lot density, and appearance is out of character with the neighborhood. With the possibility that the Nottingham homes may be similar, especially to the Sagatov home facing N. Quantico St. at Washington Blvd, members (neighbors) are invited to check out that home and contact the County or Leeway-Overlee officers with any comments or concerns.
6. Ms. Kray-Idziak introduced the first speaker, Lieutenant Anne Marsh of the Arlington County Fire Department Medic Unit. Lt. Marsh is assigned to Fire Station 6, which is located on the Falls Church side of Lee Highway, but nonetheless belongs to Arlington (official address is 6950 Little Falls Rd., 22213). It is one of 10 Arlington fire stations; others are: Station 1 - Glebe Road at S. 5th St.; Station 2 - Ballston (Wilson Blvd. & Buchanan St.); Station 3 - Cherrydale (Lee Hwy. & Pollard St.); Station 4 - Clarendon (N. 10th & Hudson Sts.); Station 5 - Jefferson District/Aurora Highlands; Station 7 - Fairlington; Station 8 - Lee Hwy. at Culpeper St. (*closest for Leeway-Overlee residents, if not Station 6*); Station 9 - Walter Reed; and Station 10 - Rosslyn (Wilson Blvd. & Pierce St.).

Lt. Marsh explained that the mission of the Fire Department is to provide essential fire, medical, and environmental emergency and non-emergency services. The latter include

education to prevent fires and minimize fire losses, e.g. through visits to schools and other institutions and groups. Lt. Marsh encouraged residents to prepare home escape plans and perform escape drills in the home (EDITH). The department will perform home safety checks, including for injury prevention, but does not provide electrical inspections or advice. Residents are also invited to take fire station tours during normal business hours. The department, which has 330 uniformed personnel (5% women), emphasizes teamwork, professionalism, and a commitment to answering the needs of the community. Lt. Marsh can be reached at: Arlington County Fire Department, Fire Station No. 6, 703-228-3600 x. 9378 (voicemail), 703-201-2758 (cell); or amarsh1@arlingtonva.us (e-mail).

7. The second speaker was Ms. Debbie Powers of Arlington's Office of Emergency Management (OEM). OEM was created in 2004. It has a Director, Deputy Director, and three Captains and one lieutenant from Arlington's uniformed services (fire, police) who rotate assignments to get experience in emergency planning. Arlington's 106-page emergency response plan, which was the first in the country to conform to national response plan guidelines and is viewable on the County website, is now being updated. OEM's programs include Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) and Medical Reserve Corps, to help dispense emergency medical treatment. OEM's emergency notification programs include:

- 1) 1700 AM radio—This broadcasts continual messages with emergency information in English and Spanish.
- 2) Arlington Alert—This sends text messages to people who either live or work in Arlington. Individuals choose how they want to receive messages -- on their mobile phones, pagers, and/or via e-mail. These messages advise people about (potential) emergency situations.
- 3) Outdoor Alert System—This combines a horn blast with a loudspeaker, which will broadcast a clear voice message, giving specific instructions, intended to reach people who might not receive emergency warnings from other sources.
- 4) Website and local media—Arlington will use its website (www.arlingtonva.us) and local media, including AVN (Arlington Virginia Network) programs, shown on Comcast channel 25 and Verizon 40 and AVN-2, on Comcast 74 and Verizon 39.

8. Turning to emergency preparation for residents, Ms. Powers recommended that everyone have

- 1) a "go" bag with emergency supplies in case of evacuation or being cut off from home—a standard one can be bought for \$30 at Target;
- 2) an out-of-area emergency contact;
- 3) emergency supplies for three days at home in case of loss of water and power services (this includes a gallon of water per person per day, flashlights, a battery-operated radio, spare batteries, non-perishable foods, and can openers); and
- 4) a family emergency plan, which all family members know.

A basic emergency rule of thumb: if it is safe where you are, stay where you are.

Answering questions, Ms. Powers noted that the most likely emergency, based on the county's hazards vulnerability analysis, is weather-related. The meeting concluded at approximately 9:30 p.m.

--Submitted by Ladd Connell, Secretary