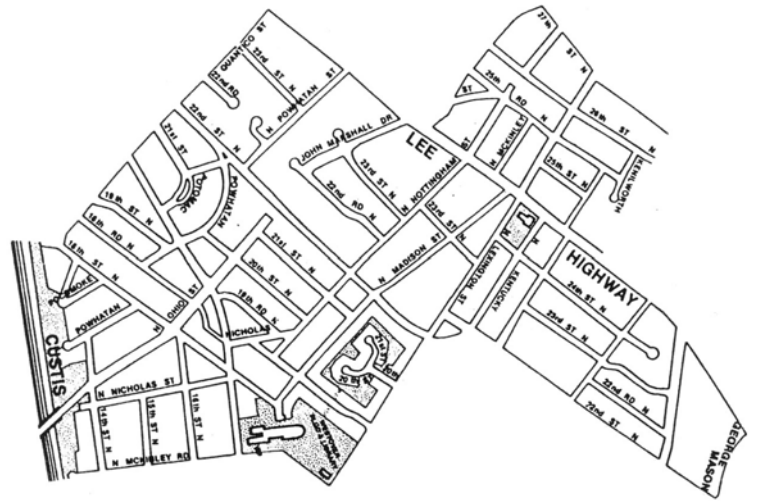


The Leeway Overlee Leader

Published by the Leeway Overlee
Civic Association
<http://www.leewayoverlee.org/>



VOLUME 25, NUMBER 3

SEPTEMBER 2003

General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, October 7
7:30 p.m. -- Lee Center, Room 202
5722 Lee Highway

The Variance Process: Seeking Building Permits that Exceed the Zoning Rules

Featured Speakers:

Conchita Mitchell, Board of Zoning Appeals
Tony Burnette, Deputy Zoning Administrator

Refreshments provided



Candidates Night Set for October 29

The civic association is once again joining with other civic groups in northwest Arlington to sponsor a Candidates Night for all the local political races due to be decided in the November 4 election. This year the event will be held in the multipurpose room at Reed School on Wednesday, October 29 and will begin promptly at 7 p.m. The multipurpose room is located at the "back" of Reed at the intersection of N. Madison Street & N. 18th Street. There is a parking lot adjacent to the room.

The order of the races to be covered is as follows:

Arlington School Board
Arlington County Board
Commissioner of Revenue
State Senate
House of Delegates.

Refreshments at the Candidates Night will be provided by the sponsoring civic associations.

Come and engage your current elected officials and their challengers in this fall's election!

See list of invited candidates on page 4.

Zoning Variances-- Opportunity or Threat?

Homeowners who wish to enlarge or reconfigure their homes often learn that something they plan would be in violation of Arlington's Zoning Code. They either must adjust their plans or seek a zoning variance through the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Variance requests account for most of the public notices posted on telephone poles in the neighborhood. The variance sought may be minor, or it could have a major impact on the neighborhood. It is important for property owners to know how to seek a variance—and how to respond if one you consider unreasonable is sought by someone else. Those who do not act promptly when an intrusive variance is sought risk long-term emotional distress and a reduced quality of neighborhood life. The evening's speakers are experts on the variance process and look forward to addressing your questions.

Agenda Action Items for the Meeting

- *Prioritization of Leeway Neighborhood Conservation Projects, page 3*
- *Proposal for Increased Parking at the Lee Center, page 5*

Construction Start Dates Set For Westover Library and Swanson Middle School

Construction plans for the new Westover Branch Library are at the 65% stage with construction planned for next fall. The Program Planning Team, which is made up of county staff, neighborhood civic association representatives and others, will be tracking the progress of the plans and schedules to ensure that construction of the joint library-public schools facility is started at the earliest opportunity. Gregory Gomez was selected as the artist for the public art project that will be integrated into the building project. He was selected through a competitive process. The process for selecting the nature and location of the public art has not been announced. Additional information on the Library project can be found at www.co.arlington.va.us/forums/westover/.

Construction of the Swanson Middle School addition is scheduled to begin in October.



neighborhood civic association representatives and others, will be tracking the progress of the plans and schedules to ensure that construction of the joint library-public schools facility is started at the earliest opportunity. Gregory Gomez was selected as the artist for the public art project that will be

LEEWAY OVERLEE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Officers

President:	Steve Compton	703-533-2857
Vice-President:	Missy Schukraft	703-534-7233
Secretary:	Vicki Howard	703-304-4487
Treasurer:	Karen Norrell	703-533-1538

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee

Leeway

Representative:	Rob Swennes	703-532-6101
Alternate:	Florence Jones	703-241-0334

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, Missy Schukraft, Ed Robinson
Alternates:	Amy Appelbaum, Rob Swennes, Kristin Kelly, 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).



Westover Village • Arlington
next to Ayers Hardware

36 flavors of gourmet ice cream
espresso • latte • cappuccino

• ICE CREAM & COFFEE •

Scoop Beaugard's



Ward Pest Control, Inc.

5547 Lee Highway
Arlington, VA 22207
703-532-3506

Serving the D.C. Metropolitan area for 30 years, we offer a full range of residential pest control services, including, termite treatments, warranties & wildlife management. Consumer groups rate us as one of the top firms for quality of service & pricing.



Westover Florist

5872 N. Washington Blvd.
Arlington, Virginia 22205

www.fld.com/westoverflorist

PHONE: 703-536-6887
FAX: 703-536-3033



Cello Lessons

John Kaboff

performing artist and teacher

Ages 5-18
Beginner-Advanced Level
Emphasis on Solo and Orchestral Skills
Students Perform Locally and Internationally
Students Performed with Yo-Yo Ma @ the WORLD CELLO CONGRESS III 2000
Email: CelloDoctor@aol.com 703-534-3940

Neighborhood Conservation Projects Must Be Prioritized

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 December meeting to do this for the fall, since the County program requires that project priorities be set by an earlier date. The popular neighborhood conservation (NC) program has a backlog of 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 projects in the HPOK NC area are managed by the Highland Park/Overlee Knolls Civic Association

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 project are a key determinate in what gets funded. The reality is that 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 June 2003 funding round no Leeway project received money. The Leeway community had voted in March to put forth the N. Nottingham Street sidewalk project as its first priority, and there were good prospects for funding of this work. But before the June meeting it was learned that the Nottingham street right of way was only 40 feet wide, rather than the 50 feet that many people had understood. This is a cardinal change that will require that project to be totally redesigned. New petition approval will be required from the property owners on the street, and the Leeway community as a

whole will have to endorse the revised project. The timetable for this new effort has not been set.

The bracketed point assessments below are based upon the currently adopted NCAC points criteria. Contact the Leeway NC representative (identified on page 2) for more information on the individual projects, the points system or any other aspect of the NC program.

Leeway NC area (N. 22nd Street northward)

N. 22nd Street (West Phase--N. Powhatan St. to N. Quantico St.) – install curb and gutter from west of 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. Install Carlyle-style pole street lights in the south-side planting strip. (\$245,000) (Dec. 13, 2000) Rob Swennes, 703-532-6101 [35 points]

N. 22nd Street (East Phase—west of 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 aprons, 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] [**Project requires redesign.**]

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) Ted Berner, 703-538-5238 [35 points] [**Requires owners' approval of a sidewalk element for the project.**]

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 large neighborhood conservation bond approved by Arlington voters last year is resulting in prompter funding of first priority projects.



Candidates Night Invitees

The following candidates have been invited to participate in the Candidates Night on October 29. The asterisk marks the incumbent.

Arlington School Board

Mr. Larry Fishtahler, Independent
Mr. David Foster, Independent*

Arlington County Board (two seats to be filled)

Mr. Paul Ferguson, Democrat*
Mr. Richard Kelsey, Republican
Ms. Sarah Summerville, Independent
Mr. Walter Tejada, Democrat*

Commissioner of Revenue

Mrs. Ingrid Morroy, Democrat
Mr. Tim Russo, Republican

Virginia State Senate, 31st District

Mr. Kamal Nawash, Republican
Mrs. Mary Margaret Whipple, Democrat*

Virginia House of Delegates, 47th and 48th Districts

Mr. Christian Hoff, Republican (47th)
Mr. Albert Eisenberg, Democrat (47th)
Mr. Robert Brink, Democrat (48th)*
Mr. Steve Sass, Republican (48th)

North Arlington Mothers Form Independent Resource Group

Mothers of North Arlington (MONA) has recently formed as an independent local resource group for at-home mothers. Membership is now at more than 100 mothers and growing.

The organization's focus is on mothers who primarily stay at home with their children, including those who have home-based businesses or work part time but are home with their children during the day. Activities of the group include monthly meetings with parenting-related programs, outings geared to the children, and holiday socials. MONA also sponsors activity groups such as Moms Night Out and a book club.



For more information, check out the group's web site (<http://www.geocities.com/arlnmomsclub>), send an email to arlnmomsclub@onebox.com, or call 866-248-7670, ext. 1021.

LEEWAY OVERLEE CIVIC ASSOCIATION 2003 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please complete this form and mail it with a check for \$2.00 per adult to Karen Norrell, 6101 N. 20th 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.

Name (s) _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Thanks for your support!



Rene and Jhosie Soriano

5137 Lee Highway
Arlington, VA. 22207
Tel: (703) 841-0700
Fax: (703) 536-0452
Cel: (703) 568-1183
E-mail: IPRINT@AOL.COM

Hours:
M-F 10 - 7 SAT.: 10 - 4



BOK Custom Framing



Quality Framing Since 1970
Limited Edition Prints
Animation Art
5649 Lee Highway
Arlington, Virginia 22207



Hours: Mon-Fri. 10-6 Sat. 10-5

703-534-1866



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

Civic Association Will Vote on Lee Center Parking Proposal

At the civic association's June 5 meeting, attendees were advised that an increase in on-site car parking may be one of the changes made in the outside appearance of the Lee Center. This Civic Association will take a stand on this issue at the October meeting.

At times, the existing parking lot off of N. Lexington Street is not large enough to accommodate the vehicles of all visitors. Some patrons prefer not to park on the street, and some nearby residents are concerned about Center users parking in front of their homes. The increased parking proposal outlined in June calls for parking to be added to the left (north) of the parking lot entrance. This may require the removal of one or more significant trees near the building. It is possible that patrons parking in the new area will exit at the lot entrance rather than driving further south to the marked exit from the lot.

Some residents have asked that the civic association take a position on the matter of increased on-site parking. Is this an appropriate use of the limited green space on the lot? Do the benefits of increased parking on site outweigh various environmental and possibly safety negatives? Is this the right location for any increase in on-site parking?

Master's Service, Inc. Plumbing

Residential Service and Repair
Virginia Code Instructor
(703) 525-3399

Lyman D. Stutzman
Arlington, VA 22201

Licensed and Insured
Sr. Citizens Discounts

New Process Makes N. 26th St. Traffic Calming Possible

The efforts of residents on N. 26th Street to reduce the speed of vehicles are finally paying off. For several years homeowners on that neighborhood street between N. Lexington Street and John Marshall Drive have complained to various County officials about dangerous speeding in front of their homes. Traffic speed counts confirmed a speeding problem, but the street was not high enough on the County's list of problem neighborhood streets to trigger corrective treatment under the Neighborhood Traffic Calming program.

The Neighborhood Traffic Calming Committee (NTCC) has recently endorsed an "expedited process" for slowing vehicles on some residential streets, and N. 26th Street may qualify under that. **The expedited process permits only the installation of speed humps and not any other of the various traffic-calming features used in larger projects.**

The civic association and key advocates on the street received notice this month that the process could be applied to this street segment. This would be in place of the four-way stop treatment for N 26th Street and John Marshall Drive which residents had also advocated.

Jeff Sikes, the NTC Coordinator, confirmed that meetings will likely soon be held with residents on the street to explain the process. An "impact area" needs to be identified, and at least 60 percent of the residents in that area need to approve the speed humps for the project to go forward. If the approval petitioning is successfully completed this fall, the NTCC could recommend funding at its December meeting. This would mean that the speed humps could be installed as early as next spring. Civic association approval of such a NTC project is not required but is always desirable.

For more information, contact Mr. Sikes at 703-228-3696. Or call local advocates on N. 26th Street: Richard Zeichik (703-536-9844) or Peter Robertson (703-536-1690).

The Alexander School

www.alexanderschool.net

**MUSIC
LESSONS**

5852 Washington Boulevard

703-536-8200



Community Notes

Four-Way Stop Installed on N. Quantico Street

The four-way stop at the intersection of N. Quantico and N. 22nd Sts. which was approved by the Leeway Overlee community at its June 5 meeting was installed in early September. The proposed multi-way stop was also endorsed by two other neighboring civic associations. The County had earlier notified all three groups that the intersection met the County's warrants for all-stop treatment. However, the County required approval from all abutting civic groups before converting the intersection to a four-way stop.

New Voting Machines Coming

At the civic association meeting October 7, residents will get a demonstration of the County's new WINvote touch-screen voting machines. This electronic touch screen system is replacing all the County's earlier ballot equipment. It will be used at all polling places in the County for the November 4 elections. Avoid election day confusion by becoming familiar with the new voting equipment now!

Quarter Century Community Day Successful

Leeway Overlee's 25th annual Community Day and Yard Sale on the morning of June 14 was a great success. About 100 families set up tables and blankets to sell and exchange their unneeded household items. Several thousand people walked the length of the John Marshall/Ohio greenway shopping and greeting their neighbors. Live music was provided by local resident Mike O'Malley and his group The Pretensions. The civic association anticipates that this event will take place again next June on either the first or second Saturday of the month. Start storing up items for the sale!

Westover Farmers Market

The Westover community is discussing possible establishment of a small weekly farmers market. Two possible locations for the market are the parking lot adjacent to the 7-11 store and the Westover Baptist Church parking lot near Patrick Henry Drive. Westover leaders have discussed the idea with Nina Plank, the woman who brought the first modern farmers market to London, England. She now runs a business that helps facilitate the establishment of such local markets. The hope of proponents is to open a Westover farmers market by next spring if all goes well. For more information, contact Deirdre Mullaly, president of the Westover Village Civic Association (703-532-6866).

Sidewalk Project on N. Kensington St. Advances

The County is proposing to install sidewalk on N. Kensington Street at N. 24th Street. The new walkway would run northward on the east side of the street from the southeast corner of the intersection. It would connect with existing sidewalk on that side of the street up closer to Lee Highway. The civic association is uncertain what source of funds is being used for the project. The work will be done within the existing street right of way. For more information, contact Jim Mountain at 703-536-4082.

Kumon Learning Center Applies for Use Permit at Lee Harrison Shopping Center

The Kumon Learning Center has applied to the County for a special use permit to operate an after-school supplemental program on the lower level of the shopping center. The program would concentrate on improving math and reading skills primarily for students ages 4 to 14. It would be open till 8 p.m. most evenings. The applicant indicates that it operates in over 1300 locations across the country. The use permit application (# U-3067-03-1) is scheduled to be heard by the County Board on October 18. For more information, contact Ms. Marcia Smith of the Planning Division at 703-228-3525.

Graffiti Removal

Graffiti defaces our community; if left unchecked, it can have a negative impact on the quality of life in the neighborhood. Residents are reminded that they should call the County to report any graffiti that may be spray painted onto street signs or onto public buildings. The number to call is 703-558-2222. The County attempts to address any reported graffiti on public property within 24 hours. Graffiti removal on privately owned property is the responsibility of the owner. Bring any graffiti to the owner's attention so that he can take corrective action. Overall, Arlington is a remarkably graffiti-free community. This is due in large measure to the policy of quick response when a problem arises. Do your part to help.

Vote Nov. 4

**COMMONWEALTH
RESTORATIONS**

(703) 525-5255

RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

**RENOVATIONS AND ADDITIONS
SINCE 1971**