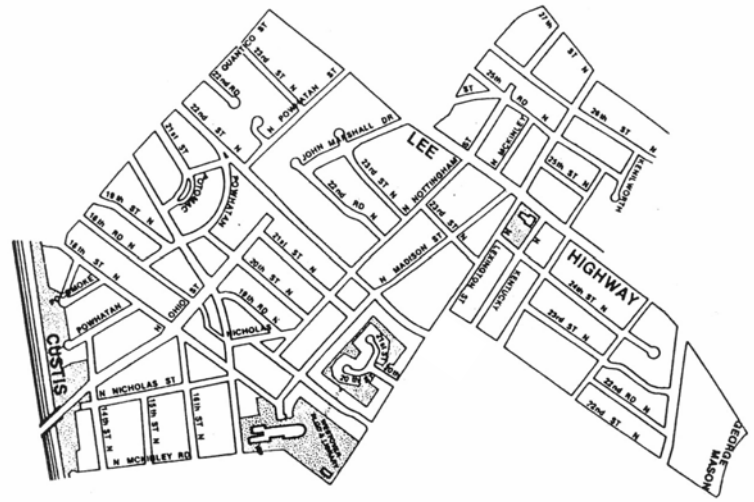


The Leeway Overlee Leader

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



VOLUME 28, NUMBER 3

SEPTEMBER 2006

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, October 12, 2006
7:30 p.m. - - Reed School Multipurpose Room
N. 18th St. & N. Madison St.

New Westover Library and Reed School

Featured Speakers:

Susan McCarthy, Libraries
Vaughn Olbrys, Public Schools

Refreshments provided

Final Design for Long-Awaited New Library/School Facility Nears Completion

Plans are near completion for the new branch library and school facility at Washington Boulevard and N. McKinley Road. Construction is to begin next year. At our meeting on October 12, representatives from both the schools and library sides of the project will outline the final design for this joint facility.

Ms. Susan McCarthy has been overseeing the building of the new Shirlington Library and will be doing much the same for the Westover branch. Ms. Vaughn Olbrys is the Design and Construction Project Manager for the public schools. They will explain what programs will be hosted in the proposed shared facility and what special design features will make the Westover/Reed complex an exciting community focus spot for decades to come!

Please see related article on page 3.

Candidates Night Set For October 26

The civic association will be joining with other northwest Arlington civic groups to sponsor a Candidates Night for all of the local political races due to be decided in the November 7th election. The event will be held on Thursday, October 26th in the multipurpose room at Reed School. The forum will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. The multipurpose room at Reed is located at the back of the school near the intersection of N. 18th Street and N. Madison Street.

The order and starting time for the coverage of each political race are as follows:

School Board – 7:00 pm

County Board – 7:45 pm

Congress (Va. 8th Dist.) – 8:30 pm

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

The candidates who have filed for the races are as follows:

School Board

Sally Baird (Ind.)

Cecelia Espenosa (Ind.)

County Board

Mike McMenamin (Rep.)

Josh Ruebner (Green)

Chris Zimmerman (Dem.)*

Congress (Va. 8th District)

Jim Hurysz (Ind.)

Jim Moran (Dem.)*

Tom O'Donoughue (Rep.)

* denotes incumbent



Master Gardener Training Offered

Gardeners in Arlington who want to improve their skills and share what they have learned with others through volunteer work should reserve their place in the 2007 Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program before the registration deadline of October 15, 2006. Applicants will be invited to an Open House in early November to become better acquainted with the program. The Master Gardener program trains participants in practical gardening and landscaping techniques that preserve and protect, as well as beautify, the environment.

Classes through the Virginia Conservation Extension Service (VCES) will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at the Walter Reed Community Center beginning January 8 and ending April 11. After classroom training, candidate Master Gardeners must complete an internship focusing on community service gardening activities.

Enrollment is limited to 40. Tuition, which covers study materials and instructor fees, is \$185 for residents of Arlington County. Some need-based scholarships are available. Graduates become certified Master Gardeners. For more information, call 703-228-6426.



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:	Ed Weiler	703-241-8798
Alternate:	Cliff McCreedy	703-538-4568

*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

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).

LEEWAY OVERLEE CIVIC ASSOCIATION 2006 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please complete this form and mail it with a check for \$2.00 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.

Check if you are willing to help with the distribution of **THE LEEWAY OVERLEE LEADER**.

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Thanks for your support!



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County and Arlington Public Schools Reach Agreement for New Library and Schools Facility

The County and the Arlington Public Schools (APS) have reached broad agreement on plans for a new branch library and schools facility on the Westover/Reed site. This long-awaited local project has gone through many designs and working group meetings. A recent positive development was the signing of a memorandum of agreement last May between the County and Schools. The agreement covers not only the construction of a new joint facility on the site but also long-term sharing of operational responsibility.

APS will lead the joint project team. The Reed School portion of the joint facility is expected to be about 75% of the total square footage. The Westover Branch Library will exchange its current constrained 5800 sq. ft. building for a new structure with about 16,700 sq. ft. of usable space.

And yet it may not be a new structure. After years of talk about razing the 1930's Reed School and building anew on the site, the architects now seem willing to consider preserving the two-story brick facade of the

historic Reed School and incorporating it into the new library complex. This mixture of old and new would help to meet the concerns of long-time residents who regret the loss of landmark structures in our community. Some

major trees on the site may also be preserved.

Several new alternative designs for the joint facility can be viewed on line at <http://www.arlington.k12.va.us/facilities/design/Reed/work%20session%20%20slides.pdf>. The MOA between County and Schools is available at <http://www.arlington.k12.va.us/facilities/design/Reed/>



Scheme E is one design being considered for the complex.

[MOUfinal.pdf](#).

The critical design documents are to be completed this fall with construction to begin next year. Funds to complete the library construction are contained in the

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Snow is Coming: Volunteers Needed

Despite the balmy weather of September, 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.

November Ballot Includes Vote On Amendment Defining Marriage

Voters on November 7 will be asked to approve—or not—an amendment to the Bill of Rights in the Virginia Constitution that would define a valid marriage as “only a union between one man and one woman”. The proposed amendment would further prohibit the General Assembly or any other political subdivision within the state from creating “a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance or effects of marriage.”

The General Assembly in the past has passed laws limiting the legal rights of persons of the same sex who are in civil unions or domestic partnerships. The proposed constitutional amendment appears to some to put similar restrictions on the legal rights of unmarried heterosexual couples.

The amendment language and the formal explanation provided by the General Assembly can be found at:

http://www.sbe.state.va.us/cms/documents/2006_Constitutional_Amendments/2006ques_marriage_APPROVED.pdf#search=%22%22Marriage%20Amendment%22%20Virginia%22.

The Arlington County Board on September 20, 2006 approved a resolution opposing the proposed constitutional amendment. The resolution encourages Arlington citizens to vote “NO” on Ballot Question #1 on November 7th. The resolution and the Board’s reasoning for opposing the ballot question can be found at: http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/CountyBoard/meetings/2006/sept/VA_Bill_Rights_Amend_Resolution.pdf.

Register and Vote!



Residents wishing to vote in the November 7, 2005 general election must register by October 12, 2005. To check on your registration or to ask for a registration form, call 703-228-3456 or get information online at:

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationRegistertoVote.aspx>. 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 to: <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationAbsenteeVoting.aspx> or call the number listed above.

Bond Proposals to Be Decided by Arlington Voters

Five local bond proposals will be on the November ballot for consideration by the voters. The County Board set the scope of the bonds over the summer. Bond funds cover most of the public capital improvements within the county. This year the County Manager has recommended against funding almost any new capital projects due to the backlog of unbuilt, funded projects.

A large portion of the proposed bonds would provide the money needed to complete earlier approved projects that have suffered due to steep increases in construction costs. Locally the bonds would support the reconstruction of the Westover Branch Library and the Reed School. These funds would also cover landscaping improvements at the Lee Center, expansion of the future new Yorktown swimming pool, and facility improvements at Yorktown High School.

Unfunded Neighborhood Projects Must Wait For Approval

Prioritization of unfunded local projects will not take place this fall. The County Manager has determined that the emphasis over the next year or two should be on building those capital projects in the neighborhood that have previously been funded. This covers several projects in the Leeway Overlee area.

Construction may take place this fall to install curb, gutter and sidewalk on N. Kensington Street north of Lee Highway. The project is awaiting the relocation of some utility poles. Design work is continuing on the N. 22nd Street improvements between the Ohio Street greenway and N. Powhatan Street. A neighborhood design review meeting will take place late this year or in 2007.

Construction is underway to install curb, gutter and sidewalk on N. 18th Street between Washington Boulevard and Reed School. A similar project on N. Quantico Street south of Washington Boulevard is completing the design phase. Design work is continuing on the first phase of the N. Ohio Street beautification project between Washington Boulevard and I-66.

High Rise Apartment Building Proposed for Westover

AHC, Inc., a developer and manager of affordable housing in the mid-Atlantic region, has begun discussions with County staff and neighborhoods about redevelopment in Westover. The company is proposing major rehabilitation and new construction on the roughly triangular block of apartments bordered by Patrick Henry Drive, N.16th Street, N. Longfellow Street, and Washington Boulevard.

Representative from four local civic groups met on September 21st to discuss what is known about the proposal and what specific concerns nearby residents would have. AHC owns most of the existing housing on that block. The current composition of apartments there seems to be 74 one-bedroom units and 78 two-bedroom units. The company is proposing the demolition of one or more buildings toward the center of the block and construction of a building possibly 5 stories tall with underground parking. The envisioned project, when completed, would increase the apartment complex to 74 one-bedroom units, 104 two-bedroom units, and 34 three-bedroom units.

Since no formal site plan has yet been filed, the developer's plans remain fluid, and firm answers are hard

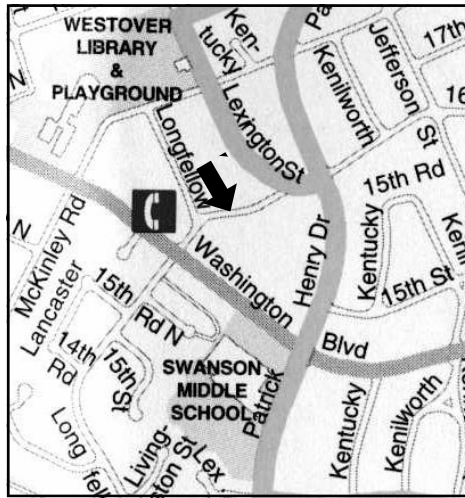
to come by. Some sort of historic designation might be offered for the remainder of the block's buildings in exchange for County approval of the proposed high rise. Historic designation may also be under discussion

because of certain proposed financing for the project.

Neighborhood discussions have identified a number of concerns. Some of these are: (1) the impact of a 5-story building on the appearance of that block of two-story garden-style apartments; (2) the adverse precedent that such a building might set for future redevelopment of the several other blocks of similar apartments in the Westover area stretching to I-66; (3) the amount of additional vehicular traffic that the additional apartments would create in the neighborhood; (4) the proposed vehicular access point to the high rise's garage; (5) possible parking overflow from the renters into

the adjoining single-family neighborhoods.

The Leeway Overlee Executive Committee will continue to monitor the situation. Citizens interested in participating more actively should contact the civic association president.



The arrow in the picture points out the site of the proposed redevelopment.

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:

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Community Notes

Key Rivendell School Dates

Rivendell School (on Lee Highway between N. Kensington & N. Kentucky Streets) has asked the civic association to list the times when there will be additional school-related parking in the neighborhood. On Oct. 27th (Friday) the Fall Festival and Pot Luck take place at 3 p.m. All other special events take place in the evening at 7 p.m. The dates for those are Oct. 17th, Dec. 19th, Jan. 18th, Feb. 6th, Mar. 15th, May 10th and June 8th. The school regrets any parking inconvenience those events may cause. For more information, contact Annmarie Lipold, neighborhood liaison, at 703-528-2915.

Report Graffiti for Prompt Correction

Graffiti on public signs in our neighborhood continues to be a problem. Some of the defacement is clearly gang tagging, which is not a good sign. Arlington County tries to clean or replace defaced public signs within 48 hours after they have been reported. But the reporting falls on your shoulders as the eyes and ears of the neighborhood. To report one or more signs needing cleaning or replacement, call 703-558-2222. This is the County's police and fire non-emergency response line. If the graffiti is not addressed within a couple of days, call it in again. If the problem remains, contact the County Manager's office at 703-228-3120 to complain.

Arlington Information Sources

Need more news about community happenings? Two electronic publications will keep you in the know. The Arlington government sends out the *Arlington Insider* every two weeks to subscribed citizens. Each issue highlights a wide range of activities and achievements in the County. All stories are synopsisized on the "front page", and hot links take the reader to whichever full stories he is interested in reading. Subscribing is free and easy. Go on the internet to <http://www.arlingtonva.us/subscriptions/subscribe.htm>. On that site you can also sign up to receive press releases issued by the County on breaking news events. Interested in taking special classes through the library, the Virginia Extension Service, or other providers and learning of upcoming local events? The Arlington County Civic Federation makes this information available through an announcement listserv called ANNE (Arlington Neighborhood News Exchange). To subscribe, send an email to anne@civfed.org and simply write "subscribe". You'll get several emails per week highlighting special activities in the community that you may be interested in. You'll be the most tuned-in person on your block!

Don't Forget to Vote Nov. 7!

Community Yard Sale a Great Success

The 27th annual Leeway Overlee Community Day event in early June brought out residents en masse to shop and chat. Several thousand people took part in the sale, and over 100 families and organizations set up tables or blankets to display their wares. The civic association arranged for live music along the John Marshall/Ohio bike path, which is the area where the annual event takes place. Start now to set aside household items for next year!

Replace Worn-Out Recycling Bins and Get Eagle Carts Repaired

Arlington has an active residential recycling program, particularly in its single-family neighborhoods. Each home is expected to have and utilize yellow recycling bins for recyclable items such as newspapers, flattened cardboard, cans, glass bottles and jars, and some plastic containers. But over time, the recycling bins wear out. To obtain a new bin, request one online at <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/swd/EnvironmentalServicesSwdNewRecycleBin.aspx>. Or you can request one through the Customer Service Center in the Solid Waste Division at (703) 228-6570. Once a new bin is received, you can dispose of the broken one as part of your regular trash. The large black Eagle carts for nonrecyclable garbage and refuse can break down too. Normally they are repaired rather than replaced. To request repair of a cart call 703-228-6570 or go online to <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/swd/EnvironmentalServicesSwdRefuseCartRepair.aspx>.

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