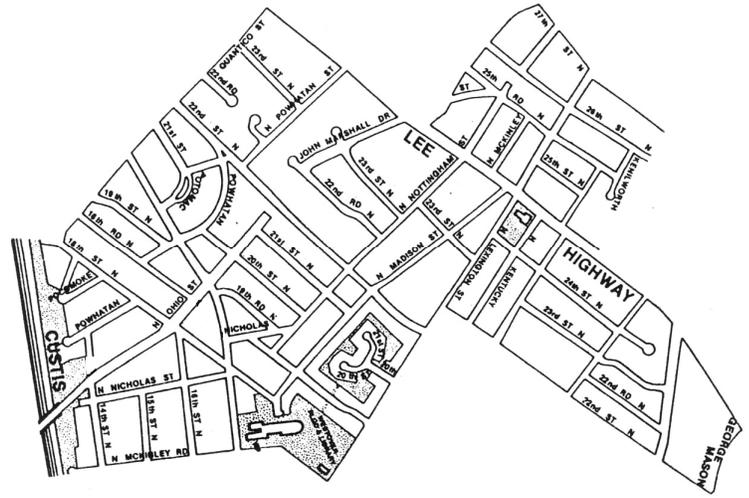


The Leeway Overlee Leader

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



VOLUME 35, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2013

General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, January 23, 2013 – 7:30 p.m.
Westover Library Meeting Room
1644 N. McKinley Rd.

Urban Agriculture in Arlington

Featured Speaker

John Vihstadt, Chairman
Urban Agriculture Task Force

Refreshments provided

Urban Agriculture Task Force Aims to Improve Community Nutrition

The County's Urban Agriculture Task Force has been working for almost a year on a wide range of issues affecting local food. The effort is not just about the proposal to allow backyard hens. The inquiry is in line with the County's established commitment to promote the values of personal

health, social equity and environmental sustainability. John Vihstadt, chairman of the task force, will outline issues the group has examined and some of the recommendations that may be made back to the County Board. See separate article on p. 3.



New Home Construction and Our Neighborhood

With the recession of the past several years now apparently behind us, an increase in new residential construction in our neighborhood is anticipated. The building of new homes did not stop during recent years, but signs abound that the pace will increase.



Children watch the demolition of the old home at 6061 N. 22nd Street

There are numerous reasons, including access to the Metro, that make this neighborhood attractive. Some of the more recent developments which might draw people here include: the new Westover Library, the major swimming pool and clubhouse upgrades at the Overlee Community Association, the Westover farmers market, and the Westover beer garden. The soon-to-open Metro Silver Line running from the East Falls Church station westward through Tysons Corner will add another plus to the area.

Property values will probably rise along with any new construction. So what can you do if a "New Home Coming" sign appears on a lot near your home?

See **Home Construction**, p. 2, col. 1

Home Construction, *from p. 1, col. 2...*

The answer depends upon what your expectations are. If your desire is to save the old house or at least the mature trees on the affected lot, you will likely be disappointed. The Commonwealth of Virginia gives broad legal rights to property owners to develop their land. Arlington County has established a network of ordinances and rules that govern new home construction, but they largely qualify what an owner can build, not his right to build. These local regulations help to make the bitter pill of a changing neighborhood more palatable to those already living there.

Some key pointers:

- Check for variance notices on nearby telephone poles. If the developer is planning to build in accordance with all existing regulations (e.g., setback requirements), you have no legal leverage to influence construction on that lot. But if the developer is seeking a variance from an existing regulation, you do. All variance requests are posted on telephone poles near the property. So whenever you see such a notice posted near your home, READ IT. Do so promptly. If it proposes something you are concerned about, talk to your neighbors. And if needed, contact the civic association for information and support. Some variance requests are reasonable; some are not.
- Review the tree removal plans for the lot. Abutting homeowners should receive from the developer under County regs. a written plan for proposed removal of trees on the property. This can include some on the property line between homes. The trees to go are Xed on the property plat provided. If you own the adjacent home, you can object to the removal of a property line tree if you act in a timely manner. But the developer can still remove the roots of the tree that extend into his building area. If the tree survives, it may be much more at risk of falling onto your side of the property line in the future. So consider your options carefully. A chat with the County's Urban Forester is recommended.
- Consider the impact that construction may have on your property, especially your basement. If the construction site has a higher elevation than your property, your yard is likely to receive more storm water once the new larger home is built. If you have a basement, this may be the time for you to add ground tiling around your home and a sump pump to reduce the hydrostatic pressure on basement walls.
- Rats. Land disturbance always causes local wildlife to flee to find a home elsewhere. And in an urban environment, this often includes rats. The home developer has an obligation to place rat traps around the

LEEWAY OVERLEE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Officers

President:	Kim Klingler	703-489-7408
	Email:	contactkimk@gmail.com
Vice-President:	Brian Pandya	703-831-7366
Secretary:	Ladd Connell	703-241-2422
Treasurer:	Jennifer Michener	703-533-0754

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee

Leeway

Representative:	Rob Swennes	703-532-6101
Alternate:	Michael O'Connor	703-237-5432

Highland Park/Overlee Knolls*

Representative:	Dennis McGarry	703-533-3698
Alternate:		

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

Arlington County Civic Federation

Delegates:	Jerry Auten, Pierre Boyer, Kim Klingler, Brian Pandya
Alternates:	Ladd 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 (khswnnes@gmail.com).

property he is developing, but you may wish to be proactive and arrange for your own rodent protection during the construction period.

- Embrace the change. Since you have only minor ways in which you may influence what is built on other neighborhood lots, do what you can and simply accept the rest. In all likelihood within a year after construction is completed, you will have mentally and emotionally accepted the nearby change that has occurred. Don't let yourself become a collateral casualty of the physical changes in our neighborhood.

COMMONWEALTH RESTORATIONS

Construction and Renovation • Since 1971

2430 SOUTH KENMORE STREET ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22206

COMMREST@AOL.COM

(703) 525-5255

Fresh, Healthy Food in an Urban Environment

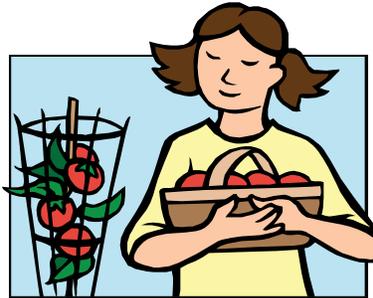
Until well into the 20th century, Arlington was in large part a rural, farming community that provided food both for its own residents and markets in the District of Columbia. Flash forward a hundred years to a county (indeed, a nation) dependent for most of its food on elaborate collection and distribution systems that gather produce from around the world, process it, package it, and sell it to consumers in stores that offer thousands of brands and processed items. On top of this is the world of fast food operations that takes food delivery a step further by offering us meals ready to eat—the acme of convenience for all. And the growing risk of both personal and community-wide diminished health.

This is a complex issue with many facets, many of which are not fully understood. But it is clear that there are downsides as well as advantages arising from the mega-agriculture system that has been created. Epidemic levels of obesity and diabetes in the U.S. are just two of the most newsworthy negatives. But others are more subtle and no less telling. In Arlington, some County employees who work with lower income residents spend much of their time teaching their clients how to cook. After a generation or two of families relying on the burgers and fries available quickly down the street, their skills to prepare food for themselves are largely nonexistent. And this is not a problem limited to poorer communities. What percentage of the young professionals who live and work

in the Washington area know how to select ingredients and prepare their own meals?

All of this is part of the background for the County's urban agriculture initiative. The work of the task force is framed by the following goals:

- Promote Community Wellness** - by expanding the availability of low cost, nutritious food and nutrition awareness, thereby reducing hunger and obesity in the community;
- Promote Environmental Sustainability** - by increasing locally grown food, reducing transportation costs, promoting composting, and exploring other food-related environmental sustainability strategies; and
- Enhance Education and Learning** - by exposing people to the origins of food and better connecting them to the land.



This is a tall order. Fortunately Arlington already has experience in this area. Many food-related programs and activities have been developed over time, including farmers markets, community gardens, urban agriculture education and awareness, and a strong local food bank. As our community and the world around us face increasing challenges of hunger, obesity and climate change, our local leaders recognize that we need to expand our efforts and develop a more comprehensive, coordinated approach to growing, distributing and accessing healthy food.

Ward's
REMODELING
INCORPORATED

ESTABLISHED IN 1987,
CELEBRATING 26 YEARS!

CLASS A BUILDER: 2705 057273A

OFFICE: 703.533.2423
FAX: 1.866.399.4740
KENWARDHOMES@GMAIL.COM
WWW.WARDSREMODELING.COM

Keep in touch with the Community in Two Ways

Area residents can choose one or both of the options below to keep informed on community news.



- ◆ Sign up at leewayoverlee@hotmail.com and receive day-in-advance reminders of civic association meetings and prompt notice of other local community issues that arise between newsletters. Your address is not displayed to others when messages are sent.
- ◆ Join the association's discussion listserv by sending an email with your name and street address to the moderators at : LOCAAdmin@yahoogroups.com to share community items of interest, ask for and receive recommendations for service providers (plumbers, carpenters, etc.) from neighbors who have used them. You can unsubscribe from the listserv at any time. Commercial use of the listserv is not authorized.

Community Notes

Sewer Work to Impact Lee Highway Traffic

Traffic along Lee Highway will be impeded for weeks due to installation of a larger sewer pipe on John Marshall Drive between Lee Highway and 25th St. North. Construction is currently underway and should be completed by early spring. A sanitary line is also being upgraded. The work will cross Lee Highway, which means traffic flow will be affected. Lee Highway will be reduced to two lanes, one in each direction, during this part of the construction. County point of contact is Mr. Taktak at 703-228-7527. More information is available at the following website: <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/Sustainability/Stormwater%20Management/page86651.aspx>.

Washington Gas Line Upgrades

Washington Gas has notified the civic association that gas line replacements will take place in the neighborhood this winter. Each home to be affected by the work is to receive a letter from the gas company prior to work commencing. Work will not only be on the main lines in the roadways but may also require replacement of gas service lines running to houses. In some cases the homeowner may need to be home to allow the gas supply to be turned off and then later turned on. The contractor will then relight any home pilot lights that may have gone out. This work will be done without charge to the affected homeowners. The gas company point of contact will be identified in the letter received.



RESIDENTIAL SERVICE REPAIR
Virginia Code Instructor

Service, LLC.
Plumbing

Lyman D. Stutzman
Owner/Operator

703-525-3399

Licensed & Insured
Arlington, VA 22201 lymansplumbing@comcast.net

Sunday Mornings — N. McKinley Rd. at Washington Blvd.



From field to table in 125 miles or less!

www.westoverfarmersmarket.org

LEEWAY OVERLEE CIVIC ASSOCIATION
2013 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please complete this form and mail it with a check for \$5.00 per adult to Jennifer Michener, 5605 N. 23rd 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!

BeckysPetCare.com

VOTED BEST BY: *Washingtonian Magazine* AND *Northern Virginia Magazine*



Doggy Walks



Kitty Sits

BECKY'S PET CARE INC.
QUALITY SERVICE FROM A TRUSTED FRIEND
LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED

Professional Doggy Walks and Pet Sitting in Northern Virginia since 1998
Mention Code **20LEEWAY** to receive **\$20 OFF** your first service.

Call TODAY 703.822.0933



Ward Pest Control, Inc.
4625 Old Dominion Drive, Suite B1
Arlington, VA 22207
703-248-3631

Serving the D.C. Metropolitan area for over 35 years, we offer a full range of residential pest control services, including termite treatments & warranties, mosquito abatement, and wildlife management. Consumer groups rate us as one of the top firms for quality of service & pricing.