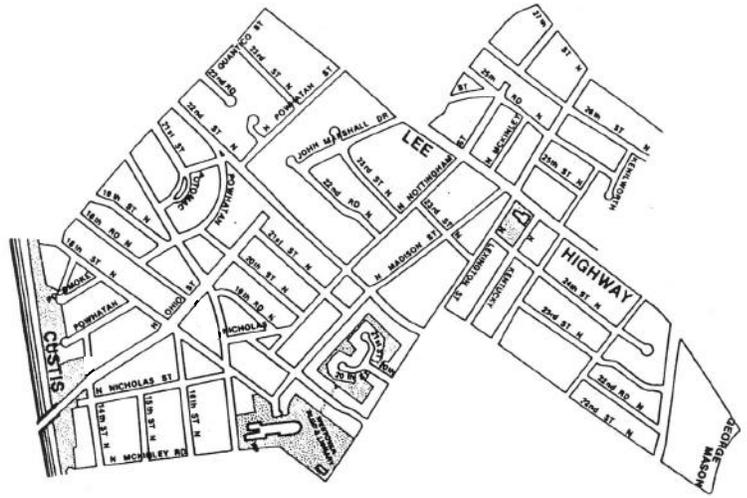


The Leeway Overlee Leader

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Civic Association
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JANUARY 2015

General Membership Meeting

Monday, January 26, 2015 -- 7:30 p.m.
Meeting Room, Westover Library
1644 N. McKinley Rd.

Arlington Economic Development

Featured Speaker

**Jay Fissette, Member
Arlington County Board**

Refreshments provided

How Can the County Balance the Residential/Commercial Tax Burden in Arlington?

For decades Arlington County has generated its annual revenue through an intricate system of taxes on businesses and residential owners. Home owners have, compared to their compatriots in surrounding jurisdictions, enjoyed favorable real estate tax burdens. Arlington was able to rely on commercial property owners, especially in its high rise corridors, for a larger percentage of its tax revenues. The recent increase in



Arlington's Ballston Sector

commercial property vacancy rates in the county may be undermining that tax allocation system. Does this portend higher residential real estate rates in the county in the future?

Professor Stephen Fuller of George Mason University recently commented on the need for the Washington metropolitan area to redefine its business mix. The era of

New Ideas Needed to Shore up County's Economy

The January 26th civic association meeting will focus on new economic development within the County. Vacancy levels in the Rosslyn-Ballston and Crystal City corridors have increased due in part to reductions in office space occupancy by federal agencies. Cutbacks in contractor support for the federal government, particularly the Department of Defense, have aggravated this problem. These commercial sector losses are putting a strain on County revenues. County Board member Jay Fissette will discuss this situation and the County's efforts to attract new business activity to Arlington. He will also address recent efforts undertaken by the Board to trim local government expenses and protect the County's premier bond rating.

See Tax Burden, pg. 3, col. 2

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: LO-CAAdmin@yahoo.com to share community items of interest and 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.

New Leeway Area Conservation Project Will be Selected at January Meeting

The hubbub surrounding Reed School last fall derailed the civic association's effort to select a backup neighborhood conservation project at its October 7th meeting. This selection is now on for the January 26th meeting.

NC projects normally involve street or park improvements within the neighborhood. Street projects often focus on the installation of curb, gutter, sidewalk and streetlight elements that may be missing from a block. It will take several years for whichever project is selected by the neighborhood to be funded, but the end results are well worth the wait.

Anyone interested in advocating for a project should contact the Leeway Neighborhood Conservation representative identified on this page as soon as possible prior to the civic association meeting.

Not that familiar with the neighborhood conservation program? The County has produced an excellent short video of the program and what it does for local neighborhoods. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6VILGRq6ZeE&feature=youtu.be>

LEEWAY OVERLEE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Officers

President:	Greg Rusk	703-752-5738
	email:	greg.rusk@gmail.com
Vice-President:	Lala Matties	703-869-2733
Secretary:	Ladd Connell	703-241-2422
Treasurer:	Jennifer Michener	703-533-0754

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee

Leeway

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

Highland Park/Overlee Knolls*

Representative:	Dennis McGarry	703-533-3698
Alternate:	Michael Cornfield	703-532-1743

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

Arlington County Civic Federation

Delegates:	Jerry Auten, Kim Klingler, Greg Rusk, Lala Matties
Alternates:	Julie Pandya, Rob Swennes, Ed Robinson, John Perry

The Leeway Overlee Leader is edited by Rob and Kathee Swennes (703-532-6101); distribution coordinators are Amy Appelbaum (703-241-8446) and Carolyn Connell (703-241-2422). The association webmaster is Greg Rusk (703-752-5738). Articles and other news items can be mailed to the editors (6101 N. 22nd St. 22205) or sent by email (khswnennes@gmail.com).

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



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Reed School Site Preserved as Potential Neighborhood Elementary School

The Arlington School Board voted on December 18 to repurpose the Stratford site near Vacation Lane to become a new middle school within the county. The HB Woodlawn alternative middle and high school program, located on that site for decades, will move by 2019 into a new urban building in western Rosslyn on the old Wilson School site. The Board's vote brought to a close a community debate raging through the fall regarding where the popular HB Woodlawn program should be placed. One option given serious consideration was to transfer that program to the Reed School site.



Reed School as seen from N. McKinley Rd.

The Walter Reed Elementary School opened in Arlington in the late 1930s. The neighborhood school on N. McKinley Road closed almost half a century later due to declining elementary school enrollment and an aging physical plant. Many in the neighborhood decried the loss of this community asset both at the time and in the years that followed.

In 2008 the County and the school system undertook a total renovation of the building. The upgrades included the transformation of the core of the old school into the new Westover Branch Library. The remainder of the building is used for various schools-related programs.

The search for a new middle school site last year drew Reed School into the discussion. The idea was that the site might be a suitable home for the HB Woodlawn program rather than relocating that program to Rosslyn. Many local residents had strong views on the matter. The local civic associations were instrumental in alerting their neighborhoods to the issue at hand. An on-line community poll generated hundreds of responses, with over 80 percent favoring future use of Reed as a new neighborhood elementary school.

Given the accelerating rise in the school-aged population in the county, the School Board may be forced in a few years to identify another elementary school site. Should that happen, the Reed School site would be high on the list.

Tax Burden...from page 1

the federal government as the engine driving the local economy appears to be over. A higher percentage of the business community is now focused on technology development, cyber security, and other business models only tangentially related to the federal government. Professor Fuller suggests that the metro area may be ideally suited for the growth of international businesses, given its heavy mix of populations from around the world and the high educational level in the area.

Can Arlington prosper in this new business environment? What advantages does the County have in competing for new business ventures, and what negatives may apply? Is the County proactively seeking new business investment, or is it passively waiting for the right businesses to find us?

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Community Notes

Lee Highway Revitalization Meeting on January 27

This meeting was originally scheduled for November. However, community discussion on the future of Reed School forced the new meeting date for this forum. The next step of the revitalization process is to inform and engage the neighboring civic associations prior to a formal charrette - a collaborative discussion and community-driven design forum. In preparation for the charrette, the Lee Highway Alliance (LHA) will meet with all adjacent civic associations for their input on the issue. The meeting will be held from 7-9 p.m. in the multipurpose room at Tuckahoe Elementsary, 6550 N. 26th St. Please come and share your views!

Conversations with County Board Members

Mary Hynes, the new County Board Chair, is reemphasizing the availability of the County Board to meet with local residents. Setting up an appointment during the week down at the Board's offices at Courthouse Plaza is always an option. But a more convenient approach may be meeting with a County Board member on a Monday evening from 7 – 9 p.m. on a topic of your choosing. The meetings will be on the first four Mondays of the month at the following locations: 1st Monday Madison Center: 3829 N. Stafford Street; 2nd Monday Arlington Mill Community Center: 909 S. Dinwiddie Street; 3rd Monday: Fire Station 3 – Cherrydale/Military Road: 4100 Old Dominion Drive; 4th Monday: Aurora Hills Library: 735 S. 18th Street. Meetings will be on a first come, first served basis. Such meetings will not take place on federal holidays or in the months of August and December. Call the County Board office (703-228-3130) to learn which board member will attend the next Monday evening event.

Village Sweet Coming to Westover!

Although Westover has lost its local florist shop, it is gaining a new neighborhood bakery. Village Sweet Bakery will be opening at 5872 Washington Boulevard as early as the end of February. It is located on the south side of the street “between the dog and the cat” for those familiar with the local lingo. Village Sweet’s owner is Dawn Hart, who has a passion for beautiful baked goods. This is evident from her excellent Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/VillageSweetBakery/>) and its many colorful images of baked treats.

The Italian Store to Open Soon

The civic association continues to monitor the construction of The Italian Store at the east end of the Westover commercial district along Washington Boulevard. Concrete has been poured in the parking lot adjacent to the building (the old 7-Eleven store) for the planned outdoor café. Robert Tramonte, owner of The Italian Store, says that this second storefront of his business will likely open its doors in mid to late February. The Italian Store will operate seven days a week in Westover. We can almost smell the pizza and see the subs being made at the deli counter!

LEEWAY OVERLEE CIVIC ASSOCIATION 2015 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:

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