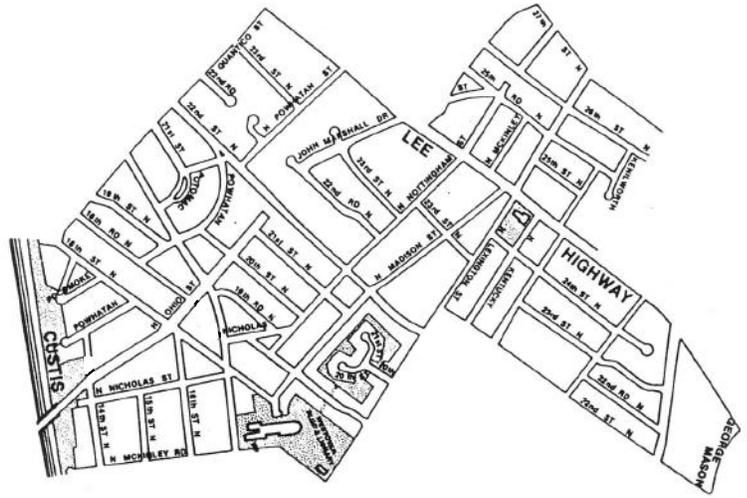


The Leeway Overlee Leader

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



VOLUME 38, NUMBER 1

NOVEMBER 2015

General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, December 1, 2015 --7:30 p.m.
Meeting Room, Westover Library
1644 N. McKinley Rd.

Civic Association Renewal

Featured Speakers:

Attending Leeway Overlee Residents

Refreshments provided

Leeway Overlee Civic Association What's Next?

The December 1st meeting of the civic association will focus on the Leeway Overlee Civic Association itself, its past, its current services, and its desired future. Individuals and organizations alike can profit from a periodic reexamination of who they are and what roles they should play in the years to come. What a civic association should be in the 21st century is also impacted by changes in technology and new challenges within the community, in our case Arlington County. **If you value your civic association, join us for this discussion.**

Many of the benefits of our neighborhood can be lost much more easily than the community efforts undertaken to secure them in the first place – efforts often led by the civic association. Our separate article on page 4 of this issue outlines some of the local issues that Leeway Overlee has faced over the years – and may again have to face in the future.

Leeway Overlee Civic Assn. Past, Present, and Future

Thirty-eight years! Look at the issue number of this newsletter. We are into the thirty-eighth year of service since the civic association's revival in the mid-1970s. For those of you who have lived in your current homes since that time period, a lot has happened within the community. The greater Westover area has faced many challenges but has also enjoyed a broad level of success in ensuring that this area remains a highly desirable place to live in Northern Virginia.



Annual Community Yard Sale on the Greenway

Demographics

We face new challenges today as a civic association. Chief among these is the aging of the local neighborhood volunteers who have made Leeway Overlee one of the County's most respected civic groups. Many of the young homeowners who rallied to reactivate Leeway Overlee in the 1970s are now in their 60s and 70s and slowing down. Most current local residents have moved to this area within the past 30 years and tend to think of the benefits of our neighborhood as a given. They are not. Many of them were gained by the hard work of local

See Leeway Overlee , page 3

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@yahoogroups.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.

LEEWAY OVERLEE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Officers

President:	Chips Johnson	703-532-5831
	email: president@leewayoverlee.org	
Vice-President:	Emily Costin	703-342-8805
Secretary:	Ladd Connell	703-241-2422
Treasurer:	Jennifer Michener	703-533-0754

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee

Leeway

Representative:	Rob Swennes	703-532-6101
Alternate:	Jennifer Michener	703-533-0754

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, Chips Johnson, Emily Costin
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. Articles and other news items can be mailed to the editors (6101 N. 22nd St. 22205) or sent by email (khswnennes@gmail.com).

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Leeway Overlee from page 1

volunteers who had a different vision of what was best for the neighborhood than either (1) Arlington County staff at the time or (2) residential builders with plans to tear down and rebuild the neighborhood's original housing stock which dates from the 1940s and 1950s.

So how should the civic association model itself in the second decade of the 21st century to be more relevant to the community and effective in representing its interests to the County? A primary need is to bring in a new generation of owners and residents willing to assume association tasks from those who have done them for decades. Wait too long to do this handoff, and the effectiveness of the association could fall precipitously.

Public Outreach

Another need is to reexamine how the association interacts with local residents. Is this quarterly hard copy newsletter still an effective way to get the word out to the almost 1600 homes within Leeway Overlee? Is our corps of neighborhood volunteers still the best method of distributing the newsletter, or should it be mailed? And how would we pay for the mailing? Many local civic groups have abandoned their paper newsletters entirely and have opted instead for an electronic newsletter sent out to all residents within the neighborhood who request it. What percentage of local residents would really receive word this way? Would this effectively cut off and isolate senior residents in the community who are not tech savvy? Other civic associations have dropped a newsletter entirely and survive with only a Facebook page and perhaps a listserv. Is this an effective way to inform the community, or is it simply a lazy approach? Again, what segments of the local community are effectively shut out of the discussion of issues if they don't do Facebook or access other social media? When a major issue arises locally, do electronically based social media help to rally folks to respond, or do they do little more than create a short-lived flash mob that lacks the organization and tenacity to effectively address the issue in question?

Boundaries

A third need is to reexamine the civic association's boundaries. Since the 1970s Leeway Overlee's geographic boundaries under its approved bylaws have stretched south all the way to I-66. The Highland Park Overlee Knolls Civic Association (HPOK) is also active in this area. Just as Leeway Overlee was an inactive

civic association in the early 1970s, so HPOK was also largely inactive in many of the years since then. During the past decade or two HPOK's presence has grown. Is civic representation of the residents in the southern half of Leeway Overlee by two groups a major problem, or is it a blessing in disguise for those living in the area? How many wonder or even worry about which civic association should represent them? Are they happy to have two civic voices able to raise complaint if a local problem arises? Is it an advantage to residents to have two civic groups hosting social and other events during the year to help the community to bond? Are



Annual HPOK Halloween Party on the Greenway

there models for collaboration between the two civic associations which could retain the benefits while reducing the confusion of the current boundary overlap? If Leeway Overlee should consider reducing the southern area of the community it represents on civic matters, where should the boundary line be drawn?

Your views on all of these subjects are important and what we want to hear at our December 1st meeting. Keep in mind that the Westover Library closes at 9 p.m., so we will have less than an hour and a half to hear people's views.

Be succinct in your comments. The civic association will not entertain any motions or resolutions at this meeting to settle any of the items discussed, but a committee may be established to help draft resolutions that may be presented at future Leeway Overlee meetings. Any such motions/resolutions will be advertised in advance in The Leeway Overlee Leader so that all have public notice of them. And if you are physically able and want to contribute back to the neighborhood, volunteer to help distribute the quarterly civic association newsletter. Call either Amy Appelbaum or Carolyn Connell at their phone numbers shown on page 2.

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Some Key Community Issues within Leeway Overlee

1. The John Marshall Drive/Ohio Street Greenway – the core issue for which the Leeway Overlee association was reactivated in the 1970s. County plans called for construction of a 4-lane arterial street on this right of way connecting Lee Highway and Washington Boulevard. Due to community efforts the County ultimately deleted the roadway from its building plans. But the right of way remains legally available for such a road in the future.
2. Redevelopment along Lee Highway – The County is currently engaged in revisioning what the land along this federal highway should look like and be used for in the decades to come. Most of the impetus for this effort came from local citizens concerned about various aspects of the current highway landscape. But redevelopment to add pedestrian improvements (for example) may require extending commercial and multi-family zoning further away from the highway. The community’s weighing of the pluses and minuses of changes like these is currently underway.
3. Traffic Levels along Washington Boulevard and Lee Highway – VDOT’s current plans for making I-66 within the Beltway function as HOT lanes has raised concerns over potential spill over traffic onto these parallel arterial roads that run through our community.
4. Redevelopment of the Reed School Property – a perennial issue for this community, most recently active last year. Would any construction on this school property to meet the growing student capacity needs of the County’s public schools create a facility oversized for the surrounding residential community? Would local traffic problems adjacent to this property rise to unacceptable levels?
5. Redevelopment of the old Garden-style Apartment Buildings east and south of Westover – discussed in the last issue of The Leeway Overlee Leader. A new concern is whether a developer could offer some of this RA 14-26 zoned land to the County in exchange for a much higher density allowance on the remainder, thus resulting in future 5 – 15 story apartment or condo buildings within Westover. Think this is fanciful? Read about a similar Arlington developer’s proposal in the Oct. 22 – 28 issue of the local Sun Gazette newspaper.
6. Preservation of diverse, local small businesses in Westover – Economic, traffic, and parking issues continually challenge the sustainability of Westover’s shops. Without attention, will, and cohesive local civic involvement, this icon of our community can change and be lost.

Community Notes

Lee Highway Revisioning Charrette

Arlington County hosted a major community gathering on November 6 – 9 to discuss possible future development along the Lee Highway corridor from east of Glebe Road westward to the Falls Church line. A large element of this presentation was gathering the views of local residents and businesses regarding what types of future growth would be acceptable. Pedestrian improvements along Lee Highway were desired by many. The transformation of some segments of the corridor may require changes in the County’s General Land Use Plan to make it economically feasible for redevelopment to occur. The charrette was the culmination of several years of work and meetings by a dozen local civic groups plus local businesses along the highway corridor. The initially informal meetings ultimately led to the creation of the Lee Highway Alliance (<http://www.leehighwayalliance.com/>). Changes in development goals will play out in the decades to come.



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LEEWAY OVERLEE CIVIC ASSOCIATION 2015 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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