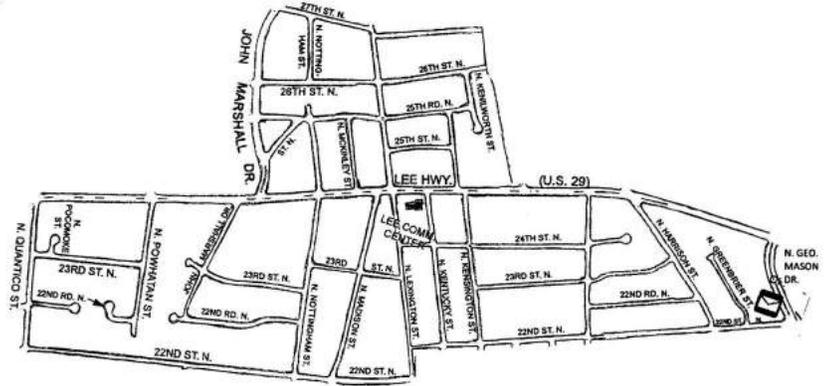


The Leeway Overlee Leader

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



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JANUARY 2019

General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, January 23, 2019, 7:30 p.m.
Meeting Room, Westover Library
1644 N. McKinley Road

End Gerrymandering in Virginia

Featured speaker

Brian Cannon
Executive Director
One Virginia 2021

Refreshments provided

OneVirginia2021

OneVirginia2021 <https://www.onevirginia2021.org/> is a leader in advocating for fair redistricting in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is organizing through local, regional, and statewide efforts and seeks broad community support and participation. OneVirginia2021 partners with individuals and organizations to raise awareness, provide information, and work with legislators to implement meaningful reform.

The goal of the organization and affiliated groups is to have the voters of Virginia pass a constitutional amendment to require the redistricting of Virginia voters each ten years to be

conducted in a nonpartisan manner, most likely through the empowerment of a nonpartisan commission. Polls have shown that 85% of voters nationally favor nonpartisan redistricting. A similar percentage holds true for Virginia voters. See <https://www.isidewith.com/poll/318942016>. In Virginia, the current rule is that the party in power at the time of redistricting draws the map.

However, a constitutional amendment cannot be placed before the voters unless both houses of the General Assembly, the Senate and the House of Delegates, by majority votes, so authorize. If approved in Richmond, the proposed amendment would be on the next statewide ballot. Legislative endorsement is the challenge that proponents face and why so much attention is being paid to the 2019 General Assembly that convened in Richmond on January 9th.

Senators Emmett Hanger (R - Augusta) and Mamie Locke (D - Hampton) are the co-sponsors of the amendment bill. The proposal has been referred to the Senate Privileges and Elections Committee. See <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SJ274>.

A one page chart describing how the nonpartisan commission could be selected will be available at the civic association meeting.



Meeting Highlights

The January 23rd meeting of the civic association will focus on a topic of broad concern around the country: the ability of legislatures in most states to entrench themselves in office for years by jiggling the voting districts to favor the dominant political party. Virginia is not exempt from this problem. Our speaker is the most visible spokesman for creating a nonpartisan commission in the Old Dominion to eliminate gerrymandering. This movement has gained substantial support around the state from citizens of all political persuasions. Making nonpartisan redistricting a reality requires an amendment to the Virginia Constitution. No small task. Come meet Mr. Cannon and see how you can help restore fairness and transparency to the state's redistricting process.

An update on the County's plans for the Neighborhood Conservation Program will also be provided at the meeting.

The Push for Nonpartisan Redistricting: An Opinion

The Founding Fathers of our nation cobbled together a confederation of states and later a United States under the mantra of "We, the People". Only later did formal political parties appear and begin wielding power. Political parties have held various parts of the country under their control for long periods of time. The Deep South in the decades following the Civil War is but one example. But political parties in the past have been somewhat ham handed in their abilities to maintain control over their fiefdoms over the years.

The internet age has changed that. The limitless collection of polling data over recent decades has allowed each major political party to refine its knowledge of how the citizens of each region in the state, each city and town, and even each block vote in local and national elections. This technological advance has given legislatures where one party dominates the power every ten years to adjust with surgical precision the voting districts in the state to favor the status quo and the retention of that party's control. As a result of 21st century gerrymandering, demographic changes in the state and the changing views of most voters are slow to be reflected in their elected officials. And thus progress as mandated by the people's will is deferred.

A nonpartisan commission mandated by the Virginia Constitution is the best way to handle the adjustment of voting districts each ten years following the latest national census.

by Robert Swennes

LEEWAY OVERLEE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee

Representative:	Rob Swennes	703-532-6101
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Arlington County Civic Federation

Delegates:	Jack Grimaldi, Vanessa Guest, Jerry Auten, Tom Wolfe
Alternates:	Joan Porte, Jon Desenberg, Rob Swennes, John Perry

The Leeway Overlee Leader is edited by Rob and Kathee Swennes (703-532-6101); distribution coordinators are Jennifer Nardacci (703-237-1143), 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).

Find Leeway Overlee on Facebook!



Over the years, our communication methods have grown and changed. Today, we continue to maintain our: quarterly meetings, paper newsletter, website, electronic newsletter, announcement listserv, discussion listserv, and now our Facebook group. To request permission

to join our group, please go to Facebook and search for "Leeway Overlee Civic Association". As we continue to grow and change, our communication methods will also evolve. If you have any questions, concerns, or recommendations, please contact Rob Swennes via email at: robertswennes@hotmail.com.


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How to Handle Door-to-Door Solicitation in the Neighborhood

Recently a man knocked on doors in Leeway Overlee and surrounding neighborhoods soliciting contributions to support meals for U.S. Marines returning from their tours of duty in the Middle East. Many residents contributed to the cause, only to discover soon thereafter that it was a scam.



Unsolicited requests for funds at your front door are a fact of life in our community. It's important for each resident to determine in advance how to handle them going forward for many reasons, not the least of which is to avoid becoming the victim of a crime.

Most door-to-door solicitors are required to obtain a soliciting permit from Arlington County. Most residents are not aware of this. So if you are solicited by a person clearly not from within the neighborhood, one response would be to ask to see his/her Arlington County solicitation permit. If the caller does not have one, a good reply would be to ask the person to return only if the permit is in hand.

Some solicitors are not required to obtain a permit. To learn who these groups are, check out the information on the County website at <https://police.arlingtonva.us/vendor-permits/>.

Some solicitations many of us welcome. The offer to buy Girl Scout cookies each winter is one. If the Scout and/or an accompanying parent are known to you, you can engage in that front door commercial transaction with confidence.

Decide how to respond to various solicitations by nonprofits seeking funds, such as environmental groups.

Of greater concern is the number of young people from outside the neighborhood urging residents to buy magazine subscriptions or something similar. Unfortunately many of these individuals may be distributed around neighborhoods by shadowy organizations seeking only financial gain. Ask for their solicitation permit.

And for the fast-talking person who claims to be a neighbor and solicits you to contribute to a good cause, ask him his name. Then ask to see his drivers license to confirm the name and his local address. If he's legit, he should willingly provide that information. If he's not, he is probably a scammer and will turn and walk away. Then call the police non-emergency number (703-558-2222) and report the probable fraud incident and ask that the police investigate the matter. It's all part of neighborhood safety. Do your part.

LEEWAY OVERLEE CIVIC ASSOCIATION 2019 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please complete this form and mail it with a check for \$10.00 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 _____

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E-mail address _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Thanks for your support!



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Community Notes

Use Permit Approved for New Neighborhood School

The Arlington County Board on November 27th approved a use permit for construction of the new elementary school on the Reed School site beginning in the second half of 2019. Construction will take two years. The school is scheduled to open in time for the 2021-22 school year. School design capacity will be 732 students. The naming of the new school icy be considered later by the community. The County and Arlington Public Schools confirm that the Westover Farmers Market on Sunday mornings will operate during the school construction period.



School design viewed from McKinley Road



School design viewed from 18th Street

Alternatives to over-salting slippery surfaces

As we approach the onset of colder temperatures and slippery walkways, please think about alternatives to over-salting your sidewalk. The salt eventually washes into our streams, rivers and ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay. Arlington County has already switched to a more eco-friendly solution for our streets.

Here are some environmentally friendly (and paw-friendly) alternatives for our sidewalks:

- Sand
- Kitty litter (for traction, not melting)
- Magnesium chloride (IceMelt- home depot, amazon)
- Beet juice (Walmart or amazon)

Consumer Reports has a brief, informative article on ice melt, entitled "Ice Melt is Ice Melt. Here's How to Use It." See <https://www.consumerreports.org/exterior-maintenance-repairs/best-ice-melt-how-to-use-ice-melt/>. The article stresses ideas to reduce the environmental impact of the salt.

Hard to recycle items in Arlington

Some items, while recyclable, are not accepted in your blue recycling cart. These items include:

- ◆ **Wire Hangers** – Reuse or take back a local dry cleaner.
- ◆ **Small Bags of Shredded Paper** – Reuse as kindling or for your compost pile or take back to a local bank. The Solid Waste Bureau also provides monthly shredding for all residents.
- ◆ **Plastic Bags** – Plastic Bags cause damage to the recycling facility machines. If you are unable to reuse your plastic bags, the best way to ensure plastic bags are recycled is to take them to a local grocery store. Plastic bubble wrap/cushioning can also be deposited at the supermarket.

Needed! Newsletter Distributors

The civic association is seeking additional volunteers to help deliver hard copies of The Leeway Overlee Leader to area homes. To volunteer, call Jennifer Nardacci (703-237-1143). Please lend a hand and help keep the neighborhood informed on matters key to our quality of life.

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