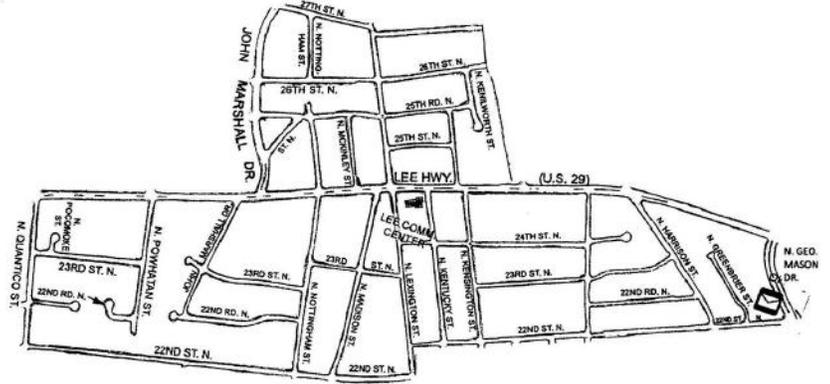


The Leeway Overlee Leader

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



VOLUME 41, NUMBER 2

MARCH 2019

General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, March 13, 2019 -- 7:30 p.m.
Meeting Room, Westover Library
1644 N. McKinley Road

Balancing Arlington's Revenue and its Program Costs in 2019

Featured speaker

Katie Cristol, Member
Arlington County Board

Refreshments provided

County Services and their Costs

Over recent years Arlington County's leaders have had a challenging time in reconciling local taxes received with the demands of many worthwhile programs in the County supported by local residents. A multiyear reduction in the annual revenue from commercial property values has put a strain on residential properties in Arlington to bear a greater proportion of the tax burden.



On February 21 the County Manager recommended to the County Board a 1.5 percent increase in the real property tax rate for the 2020 fiscal year, which begins July 1 of this year.

Katie Cristol, a several-year member of the County Board, will be at the association's March 13 meeting to solicit feedback from local residents on a wide range of issues affecting Arlington. The County's prospective tax rate and the level of services our local government provides to citizens are expected to be high on people's agendas.

How does Amazon's recent decision to build a headquarters in the Crystal City/Pentagon City area of Arlington influence these fiscal issues? And what is the County planning to do to ensure that Amazon's arrival does not negatively affect the quality of life for current residents?

What about the percentage of County revenues that are transferred each year to Arlington Public Schools? Is this amount appropriate, or should it be either increased or decreased? What about Metro funding? What about the quality and quantity of recreational facilities in Arlington? Bird and Lime electric scooters?

We encourage local residents to use Ms. Cristol's visit as an opportunity to share with her a range of views on the state of Arlington County.

Meeting Highlights

The March 13rd meeting of the civic association will focus on several matters. First is the question of what residential real estate tax rate should be set by the County Board this year due to heightened pressure for new funds for numerous programs within the County. Second, the new Little Ambassadors' Academy facility on Lee Highway at N. Lexington Street is scheduled to open on March 18th. Have all questions regarding this day care center been resolved? Subdivision and redevelopment of some residential lots on N. 23rd Street is still an issue of concern. Finally, the County's Plan Lee Highway process was formally launched on February 12th. What will this mean for Leeway Overlee in the decades to come?

*
*  *
* **41st Annual Yard** *
* **Sale and Community** *
* **Day is June 1st. See** *
* **page 3 for more info.** *
*

Nominating Committee Seeks Officer Candidates and Key Worker Bees

Jenny Michener, Stuart Nagurka, and Mike Weinstein will serve as this year's Nominating Committee to recommend individuals to serve as Leeway Overlee Civic Association officers and to fill other key positions. If you are new to the community—or a long-time resident—and interested in maintaining the quality of life in our neighborhood, consider serving. This means YOU!

The election of officers will be held at the May/June meeting of the association. A list of officer positions is on this page of the newsletter. At that meeting the community will also select its representatives to the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee and delegates to the Arlington County Civic Federation. The association is also seeking residents to help with other tasks, such as managing our social media accounts and helping execute our annual June Community Day and other neighborhood gatherings. If interested in any of these positions, please contact Jenny (703-237-1143), Stu (703-538-3808), or Mike (703-527-3665).





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LEEWAY OVERLEE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Officers

President:	Jack Grimaldi	703-967-3519
	email: president@leewayoverlee.org	
Vice-President:	Vanessa Guest	202-510-1105
Secretary:	Ladd Connell	703-241-2422
Treasurer:	Jennifer Michener	703-533-0754

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee

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

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, Nextdoor, discussion listserv, and now our Facebook group. To request permission to join the latter 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.

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



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Lee Highway Planning Initiative Began In December; Four Phase Timeline for Study will take 2-3 Years

The Lee Highway Planning Initiative formally began in December. The county awarded a contract to AECOM, a global consulting company, to manage the study process. The four-phase timeline for the study will take 2-3 years to complete.

County Manager Mark Schwartz appointed a Community Forum of forty citizens led by a Working Group of eight. Paul Holland will chair and Sandi Chesrown will vice chair the group, which will work with the consultant and county staff to oversee the study process.

On February 12, a Community Kick-Off was held at Washington-Lee High School. A crowd of several hundred citizens gathered in the school auditorium. Natasha Alfonzo-Ahmed, the project leader for Arlington County, provided an overview. County Manager Mark Schwartz and Working Group Chair Paul Holland both made welcoming remarks. Attendees then provided their personal insights at designated stations of the key planning elements including: Land Use, Housing, Transportation, Public Spaces, Building Forum, Height and Urban Design, Historic Preservation and Cultural Resources, Economic Vitality, Sustainability and Public Facilities.

Every other Friday a Plan Lee Highway Design Studio will be held from 12-3:30 p.m. at the Lee Highway Alliance office located at 4620 Lee Highway, Suite 208. These meetings began February 22. They are an opportunity for interested citizens to visit to discuss the Plan Lee Highway process with the County's project manager, Natasha Alfonso-Ahmed.

For more information and details about the Planning Initiative, please go to the Arlington County Plan Lee Highway website: <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/plans-studies/land-use/lee-highway/#>

The Lee Highway Alliance website is <https://www.leehighwayalliance.com/>



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.

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Thanks for your support!

Community Day/Yard Sale June 1

On Saturday, June 1st, the neighborhood will celebrate its 41st annual yard sale and community day along the John Marshall Drive/Ohio Street greenway. The event begins formally at 9 a.m. and ends at 1 p.m. The community will be out in force to exchange information and greetings, sell unneeded household items, and pick up a few bargains.

New to the neighborhood and never been to this event before? Go to the civic association website -- <http://www.leewayoverlee.org/> -- and click on Photo Archives on the top bar. The first few photos are of this event in recent years. Click on the Newsletters link on the same top bar and open the May 2018 newsletter to get more detailed info on this event and how you can participate to sell unneeded items in your home. You're guaranteed a crowd! Rain date is Saturday, June 8th.



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Community Notes

Giant Hogweed Invasive Species nears Arlington

The giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), which is native to the western Caucus region of Eurasia, has found a home in Virginia. The sap of giant hogweed is phototoxic and can cause blisters and scarring in humans. It is considered to be a truly noxious weed – one that should not be touched. The plant can grow up to heights of 6 ft. – 16 ft. when mature. This is a perennial plant that dies back in the winter and sprouts anew in the spring. It flowers after several years and can produce thousands of seeds which spread. One of these plants was reportedly discovered last year in the Fairfax/Alexandria area. A flyer describing this plant is available at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1U1zyaYOECA_Dgy-uVJA-RpB6qL-4TuL7/view. If you see a plant that may fit this description, please contact Kirsten Ann Conrad, our local Agriculture Natural Resource Extension Agent, at 703-228-6423. Her email address is kirsten.conrad@vt.edu.

Repaving Washington Boulevard from McKinley Road Eastward

Arlington County is planning for the repaving of Washington Blvd. in Westover. As part of routine repaving in the summer of 2019, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will be repaving the segment of Washington Boulevard between North McKinley Road and North Frederick Street.

VDOT will remove the brick paver median and the brick paver crosswalks at Westover (between North McKinley Road and North Longfellow Street). Brick pavers at crosswalks and in medians are currently being phased out in Arlington County because the materials are costly to repair and require frequent maintenance. See <https://newsroom.arlingtonva.us/release/the-roads-of-arlington-now-paved-with-better-preventions/>

To use the space currently occupied by the brick pavers in the median, the County is considering several restriping options, including high visibility crosswalks, bike treatments, and a limited change option. The goal is to provide better access to the Westover Library, Post Office and retail areas.

The County held an open house on this repaving effort at the Westover Library on February 27th and will also brief residents at the Westover Farmers Market on March 3rd. Citizens can also provide comments via the following Arlington project page: <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/washington-boulevard-repave-at-westover-n-mckinley-rd-to-n-longfellow-st/>

Happy Spring

Little Ambassadors' Academy to Open March 18th

This preschool/day care organization will open its third Arlington facility this month at 5801 Lee Highway, at the corner of N. Lexington Street. Ms. Lauren Harris, the executive director of LAA, confirmed that the school for children ages 2 – 5 will be open 7:30 am – 6:30 pm Monday through Friday. The school's staff is looking forward to serving the many families in the civic association area and beyond. Ms. Harris is also the community liaison contact for the school. She can be reached at lharris@littleAAcademy.com. Some concern still exists in the neighborhood regarding the parking plan for this school. We will learn what that plan is only after the certificate of occupancy is issued by the County for this facility. The academy's website is <http://littleambassadorsacademy.com/>.

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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.