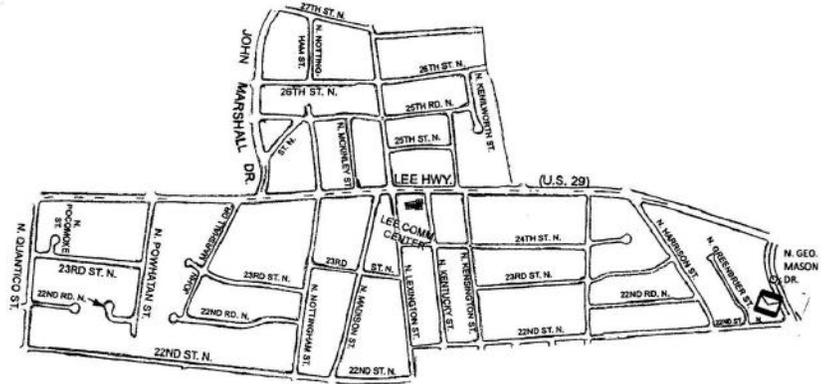


# The Leeway Overlee Leader

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



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OCTOBER 2019

## General Membership Meeting

Thursday, October 17 -- 7:00 p.m.  
Parish Hall, Resurrection Lutheran Church  
6201 Washington Blvd

### Addressing Arlington's Aging Storm Water System

*Featured speaker*

Christian Dorsey, Chairman  
Arlington County Board

*Refreshments provided*

## Civic Associations Plan Storm Water Network Forum

Leeway Overlee, along with three other adjacent civic associations, will be cosponsoring a special community forum on Arlington's storm water network.



Westover Beer Garden after the flood

County Board members have been invited, as have County employees knowledgeable about the storm water system and potential future upgrades. All in town on the morning of July 8<sup>th</sup> witnessed what a sudden heavy downpour can do to our neighborhoods. What can the County and local residents do to prevent similar water damage in the future? How will it be paid for? Come to the meeting to share your views and ensure that the County has a viable plan to remedy these risks in the coming years.

## Arlington County Must Address Its Ageing Storm Water Network

Most of Arlington County's suburban development took place in the 1940s and 1950s during the Second World War and the later Cold War. The remaining farms in the county were subdivided into lots suitable for single-family homes. When this land use changed, developers were required to build the infrastructure elements needed to sustain these subdivisions. This residential development cost in the public rights of way was imbedded in the purchase price of the new homes. Much of this original buried infrastructure is now 50 – 80 years old or older. In addition, twenty years ago developers began tearing down many of the original mid 20<sup>th</sup> century neighborhood homes in Arlington and replacing them with much larger homes. This has increased the amount of impervious surface in the county.

Have many the original storm water piping systems in the county deteriorated due to age? Yes. Are many of the storm water pipes buried underground too small in circumference to handle the increased runoff from residential properties that have big new homes or large additions built on original homes? Yes.

In light of these creeping changes, it should be no surprise that residents across the county experienced widespread flooding due to the heavy rainfall on July 8<sup>th</sup>.

It is clear to many that the County's efforts to date to upgrade the community's storm sewer network are

See **Storm Water**....page 3, column 1



Flood damage on N. 18th Street

**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. 23<sup>rd</sup> St., Arlington, VA 22205.  
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*Thanks for your support!*

**LEEWAY OVERLEE CIVIC  
ASSOCIATION**

**Officers**

President:	Mike Weinstein	703-527-3665
	email: <a href="mailto:president@leewayoverlee.org">president@leewayoverlee.org</a>	
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: Mike Weinstein, Vanessa Guest, Jerry Auten, Tom Wolfe  
Alternates: Rob Swennes, Chris Langello

*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. 22<sup>nd</sup> St. 22205) or sent by email ([khswnnes@gmail.com](mailto:khswnnes@gmail.com)).

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## Storm Water...*from page 1*

woefully behind Arlington's needs. What can be done to jump start a more robust program of stormwater infrastructure repair?

How many years/decades will it take to bring our existing stormwater system up to the county's current – and future – needs? How will this be paid for? What liability, if any, does the County have for stormwater damage to residents' homes and personal property? These are just some of the questions that residents are expected to raise at the community forum. Please come on October 17 and bring your questions.

## Rivendell Construction Progresses Quickly

The rebuild of this private, Christ-centered school at 5700 Lee Highway is moving along smartly. The north side of the property has been cleared to make way for redesigned classrooms, a basketball gym, school offices and assembly space. During construction, the school continues to operate in the 3-story classroom wing. Once the new classrooms are occupied, the 3-story wing will be taken down and converted to an outdoor courtyard and green space. Enrollment in this K-8 school averages 16 students per grade and is not expected to increase. Rivendell School began in Arlington 30 years ago. The school's motto is "Helping children explore God's world and discover their place in it."



Construction site seen from Lee Hwy. and N. Kentucky St.



**Don't Forget to Vote on  
Tuesday, November 5**

## Sloppy Mama's Barbeque A Mixed Blessing?

A new restaurant opened mid summer at 5731 Lee Highway that offers a food line with broad appeal. Sloppy Mama's BBQ has been building a popular following in the DC area for several years, based on its original food truck. Now it has established a sit-down restaurant in Leeway Overlee at Lexington St. and Lee Highway.

Long-time residents can count on two hands the number of restaurants that have put down roots in this location, only to move on within a few years. But Sloppy Mama's looks like it has staying power. This new location will handle the preparation of barbecue that will be sold from its food truck (trucks?) in the Washington metro area and also from its outlets in the Ballston Quarter Market (Arlington) and Union Market (DC).



However, some residents close to the restaurant have concerns about the wafting of BBQ smoke over their properties on a daily basis. The smokers used in preparing the BBQ are located outside the restaurant and next to Lee Highway. A great advertising approach?

Some inquiry of County officials indicated that there may be a regulatory difference between cooking smoke generated inside a restaurant and that generated outside. Within-building smoky cooking may be mitigated by the use of "dampers" to lessen the smoke that escapes. Such rules may not apply to outside BBQ smokers. The affected residents may research this matter further with County staff.

## 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, Nextdoor, and now our Facebook group. To request permission to join the latter group, please go to Facebook and search for "Leeway Overlee Civic Association". Currently **299 residents** have joined.

As we continue to grow and change, our communication methods will also evolve. Questions or recommendations? Please contact Rob Swennes via email at:

[robertswennes@hotmail.com](mailto:robertswennes@hotmail.com)



# Community Notes

## Lee Highway or Children's Highway?

The Lee Highway Alliance is actively engaged in reviewing redevelopment proposals along Route 29 in Arlington. A high percentage of the proposals being reviewed have to do with early education. Rivendell School is engaged in a rebuild of its campus on Lee Highway between N. Kentucky and N. Kensington Streets. Little Ambassadors' Academy, which has had an



early childhood educational facility near the Lee Highway/N. George Mason Drive intersection, recently opened a new location at the corner of Lee Highway and N.

Lexington Street. Both of these are located within Leeway Overlee.

As reported in the last Leader issue, the Goddard School for Early Childhood Development is working to open two programs along Lee Highway: one on the southeast corner of N. Harrison Street (within Leeway Overlee) and one on the southeast corner of N. George Mason Drive. Both will be in former bank buildings. The Children's School, whose population is primarily the young children of Arlington Public School teachers, is in the planning stage for constructing a new multi-story building where the closed Alpine Restaurant is just west of N. Glebe Road.

A new Arlington middle school opened this fall on the location of the former H.B. Woodlawn School. A new roadway from this larger school to Route 29 was also added. And most recently plans for two additional private early education schools in the Cherrydale neighborhood were examined by the Alliance's architectural group. They will be on the southeast and southwest corners of N. Lincoln Street at Lee Highway.

This signals a transformation of a large portion of the commercial property abutting the federal highway in a way that few had foreseen. Should the name of Route 29 in Arlington be changed to reflect this coming reality?

## Remove Invasive Plants in the Autumn

The fall is a great time to check what is growing on your property to see if you have any uninvited invasive plants. Chief among these this season is porcelain berry (Ampelopsis), a major invasive plant species in parts of the Eastern United States that is in the grape Genus. It is invasive in urban settings as well as in more pastoral settings. It is widespread in the Washington metro area. Fruits are 4-8mm in diameter, circular, containing 2-4 seeds, and may be many colors including green, blue, purple, pink or yellow with black or brown speckles. Many different colors are present on the same plant. Birds consume the seeds of porcelain berry and act as a vector to transport it. Its attractive berries in the fall are what make it so easy to recognize. Carefully remove all of the plant before the birds distribute it unsolicited to your neighbors!

## Glass Drop-Off at the Lee Center

In the next few weeks Arlington will open a glass drop-off center on the side of the Lee Community Center facing N. Kentucky St. (not N. Lexington St.). The County stopped receiving glass several months ago through weekly door-to-door recyclables collection. Residents are encouraged to bring their cleaned glass bottles and jars to bins at a centralized collection point – in this case the Lee Center. Until that facility opens, the closest location for dropping off recyclable glass is at the corner of Washington Blvd. and N. Quincy St. (Quincy Park).



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