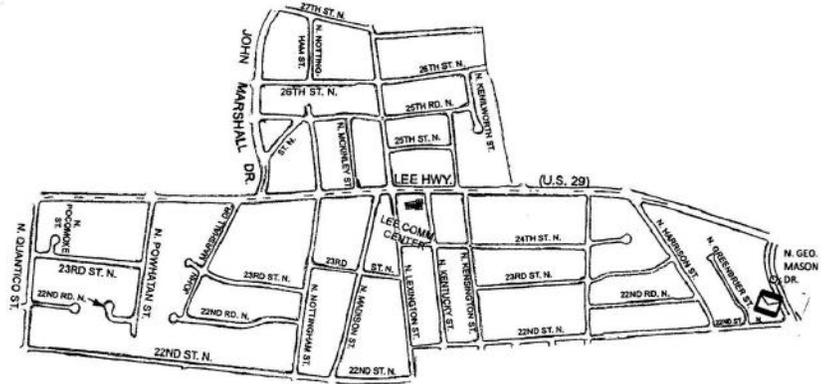


# The Leeway Overlee Leader

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



VOLUME 42, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2020

## General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, January 29, 2020 -- 7:30 p.m.  
Meeting Room, Westover Library  
1644 N. McKinley Rd.

### Arlington's Legislative Requests to the General Assembly

*Featured speaker*

Erik Gutshall, Member  
Arlington County Board

## What Legislative Changes Will Best Reflect Arlington's Needs?

Last November's election results shifted the balance of power in Richmond in both the House of Delegates and the Virginia Senate. What does this mean for Arlington County and its desire for legislative changes to reflect local values and our economic needs? Are our delegates and state senators receiving a warmer welcome in Richmond, and what legislative changes are they likely to achieve during the legislature's two-month session? Mr. Gutshall will comment on these questions and others at our winter quarterly meeting. Other local initiatives within the County are raising concerns within neighborhoods. What are Mr. Gutshall's views of these? Join us for a vigorous and informative meeting!

## County Board Sees Better Odds in 2020 for Legislation It Supports

Each year Arlington County and other jurisdictions within Virginia prepare a legislative package and urge their local elected representatives in Richmond to have it enacted as much as possible. For



the past two decades Arlington has not fared well as regards its legislative requests due to political differences between the County and the majority of delegates and senators in the

General Assembly. The two-month legislative session now underway is far different from those of past years. The odds of enactment of bills supported by the County Board are much improved this year. But they are by no means a certainty. Some of the bills advocated by the County Board are as follows:

- Renew without a sunset clause the .25 percent transient occupancy tax on hotel rooms that funds travel and tourism promotion in Arlington.
- Maintain sufficient, sustainable and dedicated funding sources for WMATA's long-term needs.
- Adopt a resolution ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution proposed by Congress in 1972.
- Enact several gun safety measures including Red Flag or Extreme Risk Protection Order Laws; universal background checks for all gun buyers; one-gun a month law limiting handgun purchases to one gun a month; ban on the sale of bump stocks, assault weapons and armor-piercing ammunition.
- Several initiatives related to energy efficiency, climate response and resiliency, environmental preservation, and local authority to develop incentives or regulations to decrease distribution, sale or offer of disposable plastic bags.

See: **Legislation...**page 2 column 2

LEEWAY OVERLEE CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
2020 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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**Legislation...from page 1, column 2**

For a more detailed list of the County's legislative priorities, visit the County website (<https://www.arlingtonva.us/>), click on Government – County Board—Meetings & Agendas, and scroll to Item No. 43 on the agenda for the Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019 Regular County Board Meeting.

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# Missing Middle Housing Study Will Begin in 2020

The County issued a news release on December 18<sup>th</sup> indicating that a Missing Middle Housing Study will commence in 2020. The study will explore if and how missing middle housing could help address Arlington's limited and inadequate housing choices. Missing middle



housing types—such as duplexes and triplexes—are currently restricted in many neighborhoods by Arlington's land use policy and Zoning Ordinance. Barriers to building them make it difficult to increase the County's housing

supply and provide more choices at a broader range of prices.

The news release noted that as the demand for housing increases across the region, the real estate market is not meeting the needs of residents. Many Arlington residents are reportedly frustrated by rising housing costs and lack of housing choices.

County staff's report to the County Board emphasized that neither an across-the-board rezoning, nor an elimination of single-family zoning, would be the right fit for Arlington.

Now is an ideal time for renters, homeowners, and other Arlington stakeholders to get involved. The news release is available at <https://newsroom.arlingtonva.us/release/arlington-county-missing-middle-housing-study/>. It includes a link that allow interested parties to sign up for study updates, process materials, and engagement opportunities as this study goes forward. Interested in / concerned about potential changes in the housing rules in Arlington? Get involved!

## 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 **313 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)



Arlington is pulling out all the stops to get an accurate count of **all people** living in the county this year. This is a once-in-a-decade effort to gather household data that will affect the local community for the next 10 years. The census count has a direct impact on the **more than \$675 billion of federal funds** distributed back to states and local



communities each year. Arlington's receipt of these funds totals about \$50 million annually. That money supports all local residents in many ways, from transportation infrastructure development to community cultural programs, to school lunch subsidies for needy children, to the building of new affordable housing in the community. The local census also helps to draw a picture of the changing community, including the residents in the various census tracts within Arlington. The 2020 census will **NOT** ask about the citizenship of those responding.

Census Count Day is April 1, 2020. But the request for census reporting will come in three waves: By filing an on-line report on those living in your household, by a written census form mailed to all residences, and finally by census employees who will go door to door in communities when the number of earlier census responses appears to be inadequate.

If you know of individuals in your neighborhood who are cut off from the general community, who speak little English, or who may have concerns about the effects of taking the census on their immigration status, please reach out to them and encourage them to participate. For more information on the local census effort, go to <https://topics.arlingtonva.us/census-2020/>. Or email [census2020@arlingtonva.us](mailto:census2020@arlingtonva.us). **"We are counting everyone!"**

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## Torreyson Run Task Force

The Leeway Overlee Civic Association's October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting was held in conjunction with three other neighboring civic associations. It was a broadly attended community gathering focused on the effects of the damaging flooding locally that took place on July 8<sup>th</sup>. County Board Chairman Christian Dorsey and local staff experts addressed a wide range of stormwater-related



issues at the meeting. The sense of many following that meeting was that more formal interaction should take place between the local civic associations and County staff. The goal is to seek implementation of stormwater mitigation measures that will reduce or eliminate the risk of future flooding in the Torreyson Run watershed area.

Earlier this month representatives from the four associations met and established a task force to achieve this end. A letter has been sent to the County Board Chairman and to the head of the Arlington School Board encouraging meetings with staff to determine what long-term and short-term measures can be implemented to abate future flooding. A possible option may be the installation of a large storm-water containment facility below ground on the Reed School property, ideally prior to the opening of the new elementary school there in 2021. For more information, contact Mark Greenwood at [mattix18@gmail.com](mailto:mattix18@gmail.com)

## 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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## Community Notes

### Starbucks opens on Lee Highway

The former BB&T bank branch at 5515 Lee Highway has gained a new life as the latest Starbucks coffee shop in the neighborhood. The new Starbucks opened last month. At the same time the long-standing Starbucks down the street in the Harrison Street shopping center closed. The new Starbucks has its own drive-thru window and its own parking lot. There is space in the coffee shop for those wanting to sit and enjoy their joe. But the real attraction for many is the drive-thru line. Judging by the lineup of car drivers waiting to order and pick up their hot or cold brews mid morning on a Saturday, the new business location looks like a winner. The move of Starbucks out of the Harrison Street shopping center should make more parking available for customers shopping at Harris-Teeter and other businesses in that center.



The Starbucks location inside the Safeway store on the west side of N. Harrison Street is also under renovation and scheduled to reopen with enlarged space on January 22. It may be a good alternative for people not fond of drive-up windows. Which location will give you your coffee faster? Something worth checking out. Let the Starbucks Wars continue!



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