



Civic Pride

Newsletter of the Yorktown Civic Association

The Yorktown Civic Association (YCA) represents residents living in north Arlington, Virginia, bound by Lee Highway on the south, Old Dominion Dr. and Columbus St. to the east, Little Falls Rd. and Rock Spring Rd. on the north, and N. Jefferson St. to the west. <http://YorktownCivic.org>

Our Next Meeting: **April 9 @ 7:00 pm** at Yorktown High School

An APS staff representative will be there to discuss the Discovery Elementary School construction progress.

We need your email address! Even if we have your email address from the past, please send your email address to yorktowncivicassociation@gmail.com as we are updating the Civic Association Email List.

Letter from the President

I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying your spring – I am glad winter is behind us. The Civic Association has been active on several fronts and keeping track of several issues affecting our neighborhood. First and foremost, we are looking forward to the opening of Discovery Elementary School in September. Most of the kids in the Yorktown Civic Association who are currently going to Nottingham Elementary will be transferring to the new school which is located on the grounds of Williamsburg Middle School.

Additionally, the Civic Association is working with the County on the Garden City Shopping Center. New businesses have moved into the shopping center and others are continuing to find success. Having lived in the neighborhood for almost nine years, I am pleased with the new businesses that have joined our community. Equally important, representatives of the Civic Association are part of regular meetings between the neighborhood, County officials and business owners. We hope and expect that tenants will be good neighbors and care for their properties and be respectful of their neighbors. As always, if you have issues with businesses in Garden City not being good neighbors please call Code Enforcement at (703) 228-3232 or you can file online through the County website, www.arlingtonva.us.

Our neighborhood conservation team is working on new sidewalk projects- where requested by neighbors- throughout our neighborhood and hopefully we will also be seeing improvements to the Chestnut Hills Park fence in the next year as part of this program. The improvements to the Chestnut Hills Playground seem to have been well received; if you have thoughts or feedback please share it with me or other members of the Executive Committee.

The Lee Highway Task Force continues to meet and to collate the data from several meetings with various neighborhoods that took place in the Fall. The next step will be to analyze the information gathered and create a long-term vision of Lee Highway that meets the needs of our neighborhoods, businesses, and commuters. As I have mentioned in the past, the Lee Highway project is an opportunity to update and revitalize certain parts of Lee Highway while focusing on the needs of the neighbors and businesses that exist along Lee Highway today. If you are interested in getting more involved please let me know.

Our next General Meeting will be Thursday, April 9th at 7:30pm at Yorktown High School. We will have updates from the School System talking about school population growth and the new elementary school. We will also have members of the Arlington County Police Department brief us on efforts to tackle the slate of robberies that took place in the fall as well as an update on some traffic hot spots in our neighborhood.

As you may have seen, I am running for Arlington County Board. If I win, there will be an election for Yorktown Civic Association President. If you are interested in serving or would like to get involved in any capacity, I encourage you to contact me or other members of the Executive Team. I look forward to seeing you on April 9th.

Best,

Andrew Schneider
President
Yorktown Civic Association



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Join our **facebook group:**

www.facebook.com/groups/YorktownCivic/

for news, information and events and to connect with your neighbors!

Arlington County Facility Study

The County and School Boards have launched **The Arlington County Facility Study – a Plan for the Future**, a citizen-led process designed to “build a consensus regarding facility location principles and criteria that will inform the County and School Board decision making ... in the context of Arlington and the region’s projected 5, 10, and 20 year economic and demographic growth.” The full charge and the members of the resident Study Committee is on the Facilities Study website

As part of the Study Committee process, a **Resident Forum** has been established. The Study Committee will meet regularly with the Resident Forum to discuss issues and gather feedback and ideas. In addition, through the

course of 2015, a number of educational forums will be held at which the community at large will be welcome. Any resident is welcome to participate in the Resident Forum. The study’s process will be a collaboration between the Study Committee, the County, Arlington Public Schools (APS) and the community, including the Resident Forum.

Key questions this process will answer:

- What are our facility needs for schools, fire stations, recreation and transportation vehicle and other storage?
- How do we pay for these needs?
- What principles and criteria should we use to help us decide where to locate them?

- In the context of changing demographics and economics, what opportunities and challenges are there in our aging affordable and workforce multi-family housing stock?
- What do changes in the Federal government presence and the residential and private commercial marketplace mean for County revenues?

The Study Committee and Resident Forum began meeting in February 2015. The committee is anticipated to report to the two Boards in September and November 2015.

For more information, visit the Facilities Study website: commissions.arlingtonva.us/community-facilities-study

Arlington County #s:

- Street Flooding, Water, Sewer emergencies: 703-228-6555
- Traffic Signals/Street Light Outages: 703-228-6511
- Fallen Trees: 703-228-6525
- Signs, Potholes, Trash, Sidewalks: 703-228-6570
- Retail Code Enforcement: 703-228-3232
- Non-emergency Police #: 703-558-2222**

- Power Outages: Dominion Virginia Power 1-866-366-4357
- Natural Gas Emergencies: Washington Gas 703-750-1400 or 800-752-752. If you smell gas, leave immediately and call 911.

Arlington Alert: A great way to stay informed. Sign up at: <https://www.arlingtonalert.com/index.php?CCheck=1>

Police reports can be made online: <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/police/incident/new/start-report.html>

Spring Yard Waste Collection

Arlington County will collect spring yard waste from **March 16 to April 24**. Yard waste is collected on the next business day after your regular trash collection day. Grass clippings are not accepted. The following yard waste must be small enough to fit in paper lawn bags or your own 32-gallon trash container.

- Acorns
- Bamboo trimmings
- Dead plants
- Dethatching material
- Flower and vegetable bed debris (corn stalks, tomato plants, etc.)
- Flowers
- Hay/straw
- Ivy
- Leaves
- Ornamental grass
- Pine cones and needles
- Shrub trimmings
- Small tree limbs
- Twigs
- Vines
- Weeds
- Wood chips

Do not use plastic bags. Plastic bags will not be collected as yard waste and will be collected the following week on your scheduled trash day. Biodegradable paper bags are available at most hardware stores. Use any bags left over from the fall leaf collection. Free bags are also available beginning March 9, at the following locations (while supplies last): Courthouse Plaza Info Desk, Lee Community Center & Park, Solid Waste Bureau, Thomas Jefferson Community Center.

recycling.arlingtonva.us/residential/yard-waste/spring-yard-waste-collection/



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Garden City Shopping Center Progress

In late 2014, Arlington County's Neighborhood Revitalization Program Coordinator convened a meeting with Arlington County staff from the Zoning, Code Enforcement, Small Business Assistance, Public Health and Sanitation departments, Yorktown Civic Association Executive Committee members and Garden City shopping center tenants and owners. While only one property owner attended the discussion, 9 tenants were present. The tenants included four who have just opened a new business, or are in the process of opening a new business in the shopping center.

The Executive Committee's priority remains the constant governance necessary to facilitate short-term clean up of the center and a focus on tenants that serve the needs of the neighborhood. While the recent push to discuss the Lee Highway development plan may result in redevelopment in the future, some exciting things are happening in the present shopping center. The meeting was a first step in a renewed push to facilitate improvements at the shopping center as new, motivated businesses move in.

In the past year, a dance studio (Rhythm in Motion) and an animal rescue organization (Lucky Dog) have opened up in the shopping center. They followed a new pizza joint (Little Ceasars), barber shop (Lee Barber Shop), dog bakery (Dogma) and portrait studio (TellChronicles) as examples of new businesses that cater to our immediate community. A gas fireplace retailer (Aspen Green Gasworks) is still in the process of resolving some permitting issues and expects to open this summer.

The most important outcome of the meeting was a formal recommendation to form a Garden City Shopping Center business association. This association will include a representative from the Yorktown Civic Association, county staff, property owners and tenants. The meeting may be informal at first as County staff plans to follow the lessons learned on 23rd Street near Crystal City.

A number of recommendations were identified during the meeting and will be explored by the association when formed. They include:

- ◆ Consolidation of dumpsters/recycling bins in the alley and waste hauling contracts
- ◆ Mandating a location (alley) and schedule for deliveries to limit the blocking of the drive aisle and customer parking by delivery trucks during prime shopping center hours
- ◆ Installation of signage to identify the center as Garden City Shopping Center
- ◆ Scheduling of a Garden City Bazaar or event that promotes the Shopping Center in partnership with the Civic Association
- ◆ The placement of small trash bins in front of the businesses to encourage the appropriate disposal of litter
- ◆ A new Trash Corral behind Asia Halal Market to screen Dumpsters and HVAC unit (the owner has already committed to this investment if approved)
- ◆ Facilitating an atmosphere where Owners and Tenants work together to monitor the Center and encourage compliance when violations are present. When cooperation is not reached, the County Agency will be available for mediation
- ◆ Explore the cost to retain a company to clean the front and rear of the shopping center on a regular basis and charge the respective tenants/owners a fee based on a formula (ex. Linear frontage or flat rate) and share the proposal with tenants and owners

This renewed momentum is different from past experiences, in that there are new businesses present that are motivated to bring new customers to the center. These businesses, coupled with the few interested stakeholders that have called Garden City home for decades, are bringing the energy that has been missing in years past. The Executive Committee will do everything we can to foster this momentum in the weeks ahead. If there are items you would like us to introduce to the County and Tenants/Owners involved in this new business association, please don't hesitate to submit them.

Discovery Elementary Update and Upcoming Events

As of early March 2015, the Discovery Elementary School (DES) construction project is generally on schedule. As any project manager will tell you, large projects like this will have items that are ahead of schedule, with others a bit behind. Per the contractor's February 2015 update, they have no concerns with meeting the contract milestone dates and the opening of the building for the start of the 2015/2016 school year.

The DES building is split into north and south halves. The 'north half' encompasses the gym, administrative area, 2-story classroom wing housing grades 1-5, library, art/music rooms, and the kitchen. The 'south half' of the building is the one-story portion that includes the entry canopy, main vestibule, main street hallway, pre-K and K wings, and cafeteria.

The north structure is 75% complete, with the 2nd floor east and the gym being the last two areas that need to be completed. 2nd floor east insulated concrete formwork (ICF) walls are nearly complete and roof structure is following closely behind. The gym ICF walls are almost topped out which will allow gym roof structure work to soon commence. In the areas that are structurally complete, interior trades – fireproofing, mechanical, and electrical – have started working inside the building.

The building pad for the south half of the building is on final grade and footings are 50% complete. As footings are completed, the structural steel will begin to rise. Site retaining walls on the south side of the school are nearly complete and installation of veneer stone is ongoing. Site retaining wall installation is progressing on the east side of the building.

Finally, Davey Tree work at the woods on the western side of the property will recommence in spring (whenever that arrives) to continue bamboo removal for any shoots that reappear.

As we quickly approach the start of the next school year, Dr. Erin Russo, your new Principal, has published a list of upcoming events meant to ease the transition to the new school. They include open houses at DES family homes, an ice cream social and principal-led story times. Please refer to the DES website for more information: <http://www.apsva.us/discovery>. The list of events can be found under Community Updates on the menu bar.

Additional events, including grade level play dates when the weather gets warmer, are planned. Dr. Russo encourages parents/guardians to sign up for Discovery School Talk and the PTA in order to receive emails about events. See link to Discovery PTA: www.discoveryPTA.org



Neighborhood Conservation Program

The Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Program helps improve and enhance Arlington neighborhoods. When the program was created in 1964, the goal was to empower residents by having them come together to discuss and share ideas for improving their neighborhoods. Today, the program provides funding for a variety of improvements including: installation of sidewalks, curbs and gutters, streetlights, signs, park improvements, neighborhood art and beautification. This program empowers citizens to identify and plan projects in their own neighborhoods.

benefit from being involved in the process for improving their own neighborhoods and help get funds for important projects. It's also a great way for neighborhoods to directly engage with Arlington County.

If you know of a street within the confines of the Yorktown Civic Association that needs improvement, namely sidewalks, please contact our NC representative, David Haring, for more information about how we can use the Neighborhood Conservation Program to improve our streets!

Communities participating in the Neighborhood Conservation program David Haring, 703-241-8111, dharing@outlook.com

Support your neighborhood civic association and help us better communicate the latest community news...

Join the Yorktown Civic Association!

Just \$10 per year is all that is needed to support the costs of the neighborhood newsletter, website and outreach. Please complete this membership form and mail to: Bob Littell, YCA Treasurer, 2827 N. Harrison St., Arlington, VA 22207.

Make checks payable to: **Yorktown Civic Association**. Thank you for your support!

YCA Annual Membership (\$10) Applicable Year: 2015

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email(s): _____

Comments: _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Yorktown Civic Association

2827 N. Harrison St.

Arlington, VA 22207

<http://YorktownCivic.Org>