



Civic Pride

Newsletter of the Yorktown Civic Association

<http://YorktownCivic.Org>

Fall 2013

Letter from the President

Please join us on November 20th for the next Yorktown Civic Association (YCA) general meeting at 7:30 PM at Yorktown High School. The topics for this meeting will include an update on the new elementary school and progress on the Lee Highway improvement committee. We will also have updates on the Chestnut Hills (Harrison Street Park) renovation.

Since our last newsletter, summer has come and gone, and children are all ensconced back in school. I encourage all neighbors to be mindful of children and parents as they make their way to and from school every day. It is the law to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks (and a good idea to stop for them in general!) Construction will begin soon on the recently approved new elementary school on the grounds of Williamsburg Middle School. There was significant debate as to where on the property the elementary school would be placed and the overall design of the school. The placement, towards the front of the property (near the Harrison street and Williamsburg intersection) will benefit our neighbors who will be transferring from Nottingham to the new, yet to be named, school.

Progress continues on the Lee Highway redevelopment study that I have been participating in. The Civic Association continues to be engaged with other civic association presi-

dents, led by the Waverly Hills neighborhood, on creating a coherent vision for Lee Highway. We have been meeting regularly, supported by County Staff, to learn about the development process in Arlington and to educate ourselves on a variety of topics including traffic, smart growth and economic development. We've briefed the County's Planning Commission and are working towards larger community meetings in 2014. If you would like to get involved with the YCA Lee Highway Task Force then please let me know—we need your help. We'd love to have the participation of real estate professionals, urban planners and architects.

As always, the neighborhood depends on the active engagement and participation of our citizens. Please stay informed and active by joining our facebook group, reaching out to members of the executive committee or contacting me directly. I wish you and yours a wonderful Holiday season and look forward to seeing you on the 20th of November.

Best,

Andrew Schneider
President
Yorktown Civic Association



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Next Meeting: November 20th

Please attend the upcoming Yorktown Civic Association General Meeting on Wednesday, November 20th at 7:30 pm at Yorktown High School, **room XXXXXA173**.

Stay in Touch: We need your email address! Even if we have your email address from past newsletters, please send your email address to yorktowncivicasociation@gmail.com as we are updating the Civic Association Email List. We need your help in reaching all Yorktown residents as we slowly shift more of our communication to email and facebook.

Also, join our **facebook group:** [YorktownCivic@groups.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/YorktownCivic/groups).
The password is yorktown



The YCA is seeking a volunteer 'facebook administrator' who can update our facebook page with regularity. To learn more about this position please contact Andrew Schneider at andrew_schneider@hotmail.com.

Focus on Lee Highway Development Continues

Progress continues to be made on plans for a major effort to look at the future of Lee Highway, especially in the areas that abut our neighborhood. Our Civic Association President has been actively participating in a consortium of other Civic Associations that also border Lee Highway as we educate ourselves on the overall planning process in Arlington and become familiar with the challenges and opportunities of future redevelopment options along Lee Highway.

This summer there were three Walking Tours of Lee

Highway led by staff from the County's Office of Planning. They covered the Waverly Hills, East Falls Church and Yorktown portions of Lee Highway and were focused on specific facets of planning including transportation, commercial and zoning regulations, and what constitutes good (and bad) design and planning.

Each month the group meets and learns about a specific topic – from transportation, to housing, to the zoning process – and this process will continue through early 2014. Representa-

tatives from the Civic Association are active participants in this process and have been very pleased with this opportunity for gaining a better understanding of what improvements are feasible and what specific challenges might lie ahead. Regardless of one's personal thoughts on what Lee Highway (or Arlington) redevelopment means, redevelopment is happening – the Bergman's cleaners will soon be a 10-story building and Colony House furniture will soon be a hotel, and closer to home in the Garden City Shopping Center there has been a steady stream

Arlington County Phone #'s:
Code Enforcement: **703-228-3232**
Sanitation: **703-228-6570**
Street Light/ Traffic Signal outages:
703-228-6511
Non-Emergency Police Line:
703-558-2222

of new tenants and modest improvements.

Please contact Andrew Schneider, YCA President, if you are interested in being a part of this exciting initiative. We look forward to sharing additional updates and notifying you of other opportunities to learn more and get involved.

Advertise in this Newsletter and reach over 1,000 members!

New advertising opportunities are available for business owners and professionals in the next Yorktown Civic Association newsletter. Your business could be targeting over 1,000 community citizens.

For more information, please contact Trent Sorensen at: trent_so@hotmail.com

Status of Urban Chickens in Arlington

Arlington County's 18-person Urban Agriculture Task Force presented its recommendations in a 74-page report to the Arlington County Board on June 11. Chief among them: allow backyard hens for residential egg production, but only in larger yards and with prior approval of neighbors and county inspectors.



Backyard hens, the task force said, should be allowed under the following conditions:

- Maximum of 4 hens; No roosters
- Set back at least 20 feet from property lines
- Must file plans for coop and its placement
- Majority of adjacent property holders must consent (within 50 feet of the coop)
- Coop inspection required before occupancy

There was not complete agreement so a minority report was also given. Several task force members argued that 20 feet "would actually allow very few properties in Arlington to keep hens." The minority report suggested a 7-foot setback, and also suggested allowing residents to keep miniature goats on their properties. Yes, that is what they said: goats.

The Board tasked the county manager and staff with coming up with some recommendations so it may be a while before chickens are allowed on smaller lots in Arlington. According to news reports some people are not waiting for the County to take action and have already gotten their hens.

So in addition to conforming to County ordinances and regulations what other concerns might you need to think about if you want to be an egg-producing farmer? Here are a few:

Sex: Only hens will be allowed. Determining a chick's sex is not easy at early ages. From hatching until approximately 8 weeks of age, a baby chicken is referred to as a chick. In the next stage of growth the female chicken is called a pullet and the male is called a cockerel. When the pullet is 1 year old, it is called a hen. If you order your chicks on-line you might unwittingly end up with a rooster. What will you do with him?

Egg-laying: Hens only lay eggs for 2 to 3 years. They live 9 to 12 years. What will you do with your old girls?

Care: Farming is a 24-7, 365 days a year proposition. Is it possible to get bored with this adventure? If so, where will the hens go? Is our animal shelter ready for an influx of unwanted chickens?

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Whatever your thoughts are on this issue there are websites and supporters on all sides. For more information:

Backyards, Not Barnyards - opposes chickens
<http://www.backyardsnotbarnyards.org/>

The Arlington Egg Project - advocates for chickens
<http://arlingtoneggproject.org/>

The Urban Agriculture Task Force 74-page report
<http://www.arlingtonva.us/portals/topics/documents/UATFRRecommendations.pdf>

Final Approval Granted for New Elementary School on Williamsburg Campus

Majority of Neighborhood Children to Attend New School

On September 24, the Arlington County Board approved the plans for a new 630 seat elementary school adjacent to Williamsburg Middle School, allowing construction to begin in early 2014. The County Board's approval followed action on the project by the Transportation Commission on September 5, and Planning Commission approval on September 9.

Construction of the building is expected to take around 18 months, with the objective of having the school ready for the start of the 2015-16 school year. The project cost is expected to be in the \$35 to 40 million range.

The building will be constructed south of the existing middle school building, near the N. Harrison and 36th Street N. intersection. The main entrance will be on the southwest corner of the new building, with the parent drop off and parking entrance to be off of 36th Street, which includes off-street parking in a new lot to accommodate 92 vehicles. However, the County Board decided to require a combined total of just 209 off-street parking spaces for both the middle and elementary buildings

Despite the addition of the new building, none of the existing ball fields will be lost, although they will be rebuilt. The County Board decided to include synthetic turf on two of the soccer fields, but agreed to hold a separate public process after the building is completed to decide if lighting will be installed for those fields. Tennis and basketball courts will also be preserved. The building will have a full-sized gym, although without seating. Geothermal wells will be drilled as part of the field rebuilding. The building is also being designed to support the addition of solar panels, although at a later date.

At its May 16th, 2013 meeting, the School Board approved boundary changes to reallocate students to this and other new buildings. The elementary boundary changes will take effect starting September 2015 for Ashlawn, Jamestown, McKinley, new elementary at Williamsburg, Nottingham, Taylor and Tuckahoe elementary schools. Additional changes take effect starting September 2016 for those students reassigned from Glebe to McKinley elementary.

For the Yorktown Civic

Association neighborhood, the boundary changes mean that families living on the west side of N. Harrison Street will continue to send their children to Nottingham Elementary, but all other neighborhood children will be going to the new school.

The School Board has also approved an expansion of Ashlawn Elementary, which should be completed by December 2014. And planning is well underway for an expansion of McKinley Elementary, and just beginning for a probable expansion

of Arlington Traditional School. The target is to have a 12 classroom addition completed at McKinley in time for the 2016-17 school year.

The School Board is also expected to pick a location for another completely new elementary building in the next few months, with construction of that building targeted to begin in late 2015. Current discussions appear to be focusing on placement of that building on the Thomas Jefferson Middle School campus.

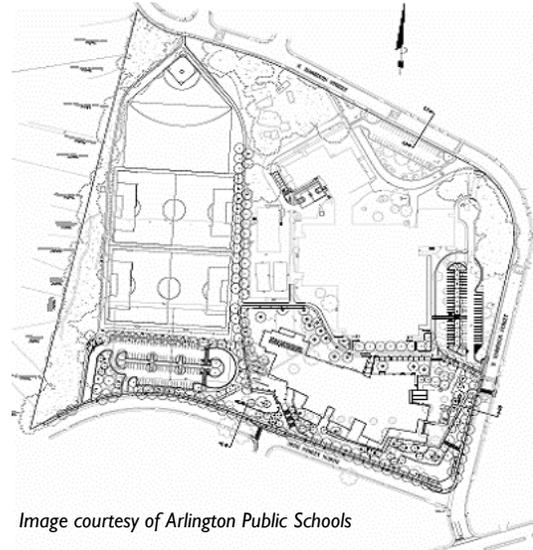


Image courtesy of Arlington Public Schools

Please 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 2013 Annual Membership (\$10) and/or _____ YCA 2014 Annual Membership (\$10)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email(s): _____

Comments: _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____

**Please attend the next Yorktown Civic Association Meeting on
Wednesday, November 20th at 7:30 pm at Yorktown High School.**

For more information on our community civic association, visit our website at: <http://YorktownCivic.org>



Decade of Construction Comes to an End at Yorktown High School

While it has taken more than 10 years of planning and construction, the era of construction and renewal at Yorktown High School and the adjoining Greenbrier Park athletic fields is finally coming to an end. It has by most accounts been the most challenging of school renovation or expansion projects ever undertaken in Arlington County, primarily because the work has had to be done while classes continued at the site.

The overall effort actually consisted of 3 separately planned and contracted projects. First, a large 31-classroom addition was approved by the School Board in May 2002 and constructed in 2004 at the northwest corner of the site. The

cost of that addition was \$10 million.

Next, in 2006 a complete redesign and renovation of the athletic fields was undertaken at a cost of \$9 million. While Greenbrier Park hosts the Yorktown High athletic program, it is actually owned by the Arlington Department of Parks and Recreation, which oversaw that project.

And finally, in October 2007, the School Board approved the final design plan to renovate the rest of the high school building, keeping only the 2004 addition and the shell of the auditorium. It took another year to complete the necessary reviews and approvals, and the contract was awarded to Hess Construction

on January 22, 2009, with the total cost for this project budgeted at \$83.4 million, and overall completion scheduled for the start of the 2013-14 school year.

While the contractor is not expected to have all of the exterior work completed – notably completion of the tennis courts and outdoor basketball court – and is about 1% over budget, this very long and complex project is coming in very close to schedule and budget.

All along, the renovated high school was intended to house 1600 students, which was just slightly higher than the actual enrollment during the initial planning process leading to the 2004 classroom addition. The School Board has since made

modifications to the classroom usage formulas that increase the building's capacity – at least on paper -- to 1862 students. However, the official enrollment forecast for the 2013-14 school year is 1815, and is expected to increase in each of the next five years reaching 2280 students by the 2018-19 school year.

The Yorktown Civic Association actively represented the neighborhood during the dozens of planning meetings for each of these separate but connected projects, testifying before the County Board and School Board on many occasions, and is happy that the project has come to an end.

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