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October 14, 2003

Dear Yorktown Neighbor,

Enclosed is a survey that is being conducted by the Yorktown Civic Association in conjunction with the Arlington County Planning Department's Neighborhood Conservation Program. **We are asking all households within the neighborhood to complete the survey and return it by October 31, 2003.**

This survey is the initial step in preparing an update to the Yorktown Neighborhood Conservation Plan. In Arlington County, each neighborhood's conservation plan serves as the primary planning document for the distribution of neighborhood project grants and other neighborhood improvements. To effectively compete for project funding, it is important to have an up-to-date plan that represents the current needs of Yorktown neighborhood residents.

The existing Yorktown Neighborhood Conservation Plan was adopted in 1995, and many of the projects identified by our community in that plan have been completed. More information about our existing plan and the planning process can be found on the reverse side of this letter and on our neighborhood web site at <http://www.YorktownCivic.com>.

Also, please plan on attending the Yorktown Civic Association's **Fall Meeting on Wednesday, November 12, 2003, at 7:30 p.m. in room 1B at Yorktown High School**. The preliminary results of the survey will be presented at that meeting, and we will discuss the process the association will follow in developing our neighborhood conservation plan update based on the survey results. **Your participation is important!**

Sincerely,

David Haring, YCA President

P.S. A return envelope has been included for your convenience, but feel free to drop the completed survey off at the home of one of the YCA executive committee members.

Did You Know?

The Yorktown Civic Association (YCA) prepared its existing Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Plan over a three year period with the volunteer effort of about 75 neighbors. That plan was accepted by the County Board in February 1995. It had 47 recommendations and was the first plan in 38 years to be fully implemented. Over \$1.5 million in neighborhood capital improvements resulted from this community-based initiative.

Some facts you should know about the Yorktown Neighborhood Conservation Plan:

- The improvements at Chestnut Hills Park were funded through an NC grant. Children helped design and pick the colors for the play equipment at the park and, despite initial concerns from the Parks Dept., that has become the model for other communities.
- All of the improvements at Rock Spring Park were funded through the plan including the first Japanese style bridge and water feature across the stream. The plan extended the park out to Yorktown Blvd. and resulted in new pathways.
- YCA had the first speed humps in Arlington County on 26th Street.
- The YCA plan pioneered new methods for addressing ways to control inappropriate in-fill development and the County Board has adopted several of those recommendations.
- The Coach and Carlyle Street Lights in Arlington have come about through the NC program.
- Beautification projects such as traffic islands and the small park by the 7-11 (at Lee and George Mason) were designed by the nearby neighbors as part of the plan.
- Jefferson Street (between Lee and 26th St.) was completely rebuilt including curbs, streetlights and trees through the plan. The plan also led to closing the entrance on Jefferson St. to Joe's Pizza to cut down traffic.
- The YCA initiated the beautification efforts at Lee-Harrison Shopping Center to plant trees in the right-of-way.
- YCA had the first neighborhood signs that have become the standard throughout the county. Civic associations must complete a NC plan in order to display neighborhood signs.
- Improvements at the dangerous turn at Brandywine and 29th Street were accomplished through the plan.
- The plan called for improvements to the Garden City shopping area. The County is finally implementing a new commercial revitalization program that may help the neighborhood work with local businesses to upgrade this shopping center.
- The plan saved a buffer zone of trees next to Safeway and the nearby condos.
- Crosswalks and stop signs at many intersections were advocated in the plan.
- When the civic association was first formed in 1945, it was known as the Northwest Arlington Civic Association and represented the entire northwest area of the county. It was formed because of neighbors' complaints about faulty furnaces installed by the developer of the neighborhood. The plan includes the YCA history.
- It is time to update the Yorktown Neighborhood Conservation Plan. Please complete and return the enclosed survey!