



Civic Pride

Newsletter of the Yorktown Civic Association

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County Board Chairman Jay Fisetto to Speak at Spring Meeting

On Wednesday, May 18, the Yorktown Civic Association will hold its spring meeting at Yorktown High School, with Arlington County Board Chairman Jay Fisetto as the guest speaker. Mr. Fisetto has served on the County Board for seven years and served previously as chairman in 2001. On March 2, he announced his candidacy for re-election to the Arlington County Board in this year's election.

Mr. Fisetto will plan to discuss upcoming renovations at Greenbrier Park and other neighborhood-specific issues. He will also answer questions about residential in-fill zoning changes currently under consideration by the county, as well as initiatives he is pursuing this year while he serves as board chairman.

During his tenure on the Board, Mr. Fisetto has been a leader in expanding Arlington's e-government capabilities. Mr. Fisetto has also focused on refining the vision of Arlington as an urban village by promoting smart growth principles, such as the importance of linking land use and transportation, sound urban design and open spaces, and pedestrian safety.



Harrison Street to Receive Bike Lanes and Crosswalks

On March 9th, Arlington County Traffic Engineering staff presented Harrison Street residents with final plans for traffic and pedestrian safety improvements from Lee Highway to Little Falls Road. This summer, the county plans to install bicycle lanes, two mid-block crosswalks (near the north Safeway entrance and at the north gate of Chestnut Hills Park), and an automatic traffic speed signal (located at the south end of Chestnut Hills Park).

Mr. Fisetto is a member of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Board of Directors, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, and the Executive Committee of the Virginia Municipal League.

Mr. Fisetto also represents Arlington on the Greater Washington Initiative of the Board of Trade and is the Vice Chair of the Virginia Housing Development Authority. He is a member of the Ashton Heights Civic Association.

The meeting on May 18 begins at 7:30 p.m. in Room 1B at Yorktown High School. An agenda for the meeting will also be posted prior to the meeting at www.YorktownCivic.com.

Neighborhood Opposes Expansion of Live Entertainment at Garden City Strip Mall

At its May 7 meeting, the County Board is scheduled to hold a hearing on two live entertainment use permit requests from two establishments at the Garden City shopping area at the intersection of Lee Highway and George Mason Drive. The Board will be considering the renewal of a permit held by the Palladium night club, along with a new permit that has been requested by the Tacos Dona Mary restaurant.

The Yorktown Civic Association has informed the county of its opposition to the permits, and dozens of nearby residents have signed petitions asking that the permits not be approved. Owners of other businesses in Garden City have also signed petitions opposing the entertainment activity due to the negative impacts on other businesses in the shopping center.

On April 20, several residents adjacent to Garden City met with Planning Department staff and representatives of the Police Department to discuss problems associated with these businesses.

The new permit is being requested only after repeated contacts to police by residents about live music at the taco restaurant that was occurring without a permit.

Residents cited numerous incidents where patrons of the Palladium have been found passed out or urinating in nearby yards. A police chase resulting from a knifing incident recently ended on a resident's front steps. Several residents also reported that they have been denied service at the Palladium on repeated occasions.

For years, the neighborhood has sought county assistance in promoting improvements at Garden City. And last summer, the civic association submitted an application for county funding under the county's new Commercial Revitalization Program.

The civic association has also requested that the county require that the landlords and businesses within Garden City form a business association to perform joint facility management functions as a prior condition to consideration of any concession from the county on zoning or use limitations.

Please attend the spring meeting on May 18 for an update on the use permit requests.

YCA Executive Committee		
Position	Name	Phone
President	David Haring	703/241-8111 (h) 703/208-5660 (o)
V.President	David Friedman	703/241-2091 (h)
Secretary	Cate Mueller	703/237-4706 (h)
Treasurer	Bob Littell	703/534-3826 (h)
At large	Ted Weihe	703/533-2815 (h)
At large	Sally Lopez	703/534-0530 (h)
At large	Bill Nary	703/538-6132 (h)
At large	Bob Gatewood	703/533-8906 (h)
At large	Eileen Colton	703/534-7445 (h)
At large	Claudia Volk	703/536-3305 (h)
At large	<open>	



Rear View of Tacos Dona Mary
With recent addition of large satellite dish

Zoning Changes Proposed to Limit Lot Coverage by New Homes

In an effort to better manage the size of new homes being built in Arlington, the County Board has advertised changes to zoning rules governing the percentage of a lot that can be occupied by the house and driveway during new home construction. The current coverage limit of 56% would be replaced with a sliding scale based on the zoning and lot size.

The changes were scheduled to be considered at the County Board's May 7th meeting, but are now expected to be taken up at the June meeting instead. Additional information, including individual property impacts, can be found on the county's lot coverage web page at: <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/CPHD/forums/lotcoverage/CPHDForumsLotcoverageLotCoverageMain.aspx>

Late Night Sports Events Planned at Greenbrier Park Civic Association Fighting Plans to Allow Games to 11 p.m. after Renovations

Greenbrier Park renovation planning meetings took a negative turn on February 17 when the Sports Division of the Arlington County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources presented plans to drastically expand the number of adult league sporting events planned for the park after synthetic turf is installed later this year. The Sports Division released plans to schedule late games with start times after 9 p.m. Adult league games are being planned for the park year-around, and often 7 days per week.

The civic association's Greenbrier Park Committee has met twice with the Sports Division staff since that meeting, but Division Director Jeff Marin has held firm in his intentions to go forward with the late night plan.

"This decision is extremely disappointing to the neighborhood," explained civic association president David Haring. "The neighborhood has worked constructively with the county to make the park renovation planning effort positive for everyone. We have been telling the county for months that residents were willing to support installation of synthetic turf to improve playing conditions for the school and youth sports teams, but that the addition of late-night adult events could not be supported. We have homes on all four sides of the park, and very little parking. The latest that residents will find acceptable, especially night after night, is 10 p.m."

The Yorktown neighborhood is not the only one upset about this policy. On Tuesday, April 19, the County Board considered the contract for installation of synthetic turf on the field at Washington-Lee High School this summer. While the Parks Department is paying for the turf at W-L, the field is actually located on school property so the final contract requires an operating agreement between the county and the School Board. So far, the School Board has been much more understanding of neighborhood concerns and has resisted the 11 p.m. plan. Final negotiations over the W-L field are expected to be concluded in May.

The Arlington County Sports Commission, chaired by Brian Hannigan, has been lobbying actively for 11 p.m. hours at all fields that receive synthetic turf. The Sports Commission advises the Parks Department on field use.

Natural turf can only be played on about 500 hours per year before it deteriorates, and the county covers the grass fields during winter months for their protection. Synthetic turf essentially has no limit on the hours of play, and the 3 synthetic fields already installed in Arlington are used rain or shine in all seasons.

"The capacity for additional hours of play goes up 8 to 10 fold with synthetic turf even without playing into the late-night hours," said Haring. "The policy of nightly events until 11 p.m. as is being promoted by the Sports Commission and implemented by the Parks Department is simply not necessary and will only serve to antagonize the neighborhoods hosting the fields. It is especially upsetting for families living near the school fields since many of them have young children that should be in bed by 9 p.m. for the early start of the school day."

After the county completes installation of synthetic turf at the high schools, it plans to begin installing it at the county middle schools. The Sports Commission is also lobbying for the installation of lights at the middle school fields.

"If the County were to accept the School Board's position on 10:00 p.m., that precedent would make it impossible to have an 11:00 p.m. closing at Yorktown H.S./Greenbrier Park, the next field to be converted using Park Bond funds. That is simply one more very important reason why we cannot accept the 10:00 p.m. time at Washington-Lee."

Brian Hannigan, Chairman, Arlington Sports Commission, April 15, 1005

Please contact the County Board to express your opposition to late night adult league sports events at Greenbrier Park:

E-mail: **CountyBoard@ArlingtonVA.US**
Phone: **(703) 228-3130**

Greenbrier Park contains the athletic fields for Yorktown High School, but the property itself is under county jurisdiction and not school system jurisdiction. \$8.6-million was included in the 2004 Park Bond for improvements at Greenbrier Park, and the Arlington County Parks Department is moving quickly to finalize construction plans. Major construction efforts will begin right after the end of the fall football season. Construction is expected to last about 18 months.

County to Accept "Missing Link" Sidewalk Installation Applications

After a lengthy hibernation, the county is once again accepting applications for sidewalk installation under the popular "Missing Link" sidewalk program. This program offers quicker sidewalk and curb and gutter installation than the regular Neighborhood Conservation process used for longer projects. However, only \$100,000 per year has been budgeted for all Arlington neighborhoods, so program rules are fairly restrictive. And anyone who has submitted a missing link request during the program hibernation must re-apply

Under the program's new rules, only sidewalks involving 3 or fewer properties will be considered. The project cannot involve tree removal, retaining walls or utility relocation. Preference will be given to locations near schools and bus stops. And each neighborhood will only be allowed one Missing Link project per year. Please contact the civic association at dHaring@YorktownCivic.com for an application and additional details.

**Yorktown Civic Association
2827 N. Harrison St.
Arlington, VA 22207**

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**Please attend the YCA Spring Meeting on Wednesday, May 18, 2005,
at 7:30 p.m. at Yorktown High School Room 1B.**

For additional information about the Civic Association and the issues covered in this newsletter,
check out our website at <http://www.YorktownCivic.com>.

2005 Neighborhood Day at Chestnut Hills Park on Saturday, May 14

Arlington holds Neighborhood Day 2005 on Saturday, May 14, and the Yorktown Civic Association joins in the fun by hosting its annual Neighborhood Day at Chestnut Hills Park event from 10 a.m. until noon. The event features a clown, a fire truck, snacks for the kids and lots of balloons.

The kids will have loads of fun. And adults are welcome too!

Additional volunteers are needed --please contact dHaring@YorktownCivic.com if you can help.

For a complete list of all Neighborhood Day events in Arlington see:
<http://www.arlingtonva.us/nd2005/NeighborhoodDayEvents.aspx>



Yorktown Neighborhood Plan Adopted at Winter Meeting

After 18 months of effort, the Yorktown Civic Association adopted a new neighborhood plan under the county's Neighborhood Conservation Program at the civic association's winter meeting on February 15. The plan is currently undergoing a formal review by county agencies prior to submission to the County Planning Commission and County Board for their adoption.

Once adopted, the neighborhood is granted a higher ranking for Neighborhood Conservation grants. The neighborhood is currently awaiting funding under that program for installation of a sidewalk on N. 25th Street from George Mason Drive to N. Columbus Street, and has begun a sidewalk design process for N. 27th Street between George Mason Drive and Greenbrier Street.