

# Civic Pride

Newsletter of the Yorktown Civic Association

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## County Board Chairman Chris Zimmerman to Speak at Meeting on March 27

On March 27, Arlington County Board Chairman Chris Zimmerman will be the guest speaker at the Yorktown Civic Association's quarterly meeting at Yorktown High School. Mr. Zimmerman was elected to his third one-year term as chairman at the County Board's organization meeting in January. He was first elected to the Board in 1996.



A former civic association president and planning commissioner, Mr. Zimmerman has been an advocate of the County's legacy of transit-oriented development and managed growth. During his tenure on the Board, he has also emphasized traffic calming and neighborhood conservation, public schools and programs for youth, economic development and community policing. He is interested in improving transit service and making the County more "pedestrian-friendly," ensuring the availability of affordable housing, protecting open space, and enhancing recreational facilities. Regionally, he has worked to promote the concept of "smart growth" as the Washington area seeks to cope with the problems of traffic congestion and environmental pollution.

Mr. Zimmerman serves as one of Virginia's two members on the Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. For 2004, he was Chair of the Transportation Planning Board for the National Capital Region and is a member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission. He also serves as the Virginia Transit Association President and he is an alternate member of the Virginia Railway Express Operations Board.

Mr. Zimmerman was formerly Chief Economist and Committee Director for Federal Budget and Taxation at the National Conference of State Legislatures, where he worked from 1987-1998. He holds a Master of Arts in Economics from the University of Maryland. Chris and his wife Mary Beth live in the Douglas Park neighborhood of south Arlington. They have three children.

**2006 Neighborhood Day at Chestnut Hills Park**  
 Join us in celebrating Arlington's annual Neighborhood Day on Saturday, May 13, with a special event at Chestnut Hills Park on N. Harrison Street.  
 The event is scheduled from 10 a.m. until Noon and will feature a clown, a fire truck, snacks for the kids and lots of balloons.

## Marymount University Submits Plans for Additional Parking, Classrooms and Residence Hall

Marymount University has filed a use permit amendment with the County to accommodate additional parking, student residences, classrooms and performance space. The project would take place at the site of an existing surface parking lot bound by Old Dominion Drive to the west, 26th Street North to the south and Yorktown Boulevard to the north and east. Specifically, the proposal would include the following elements:

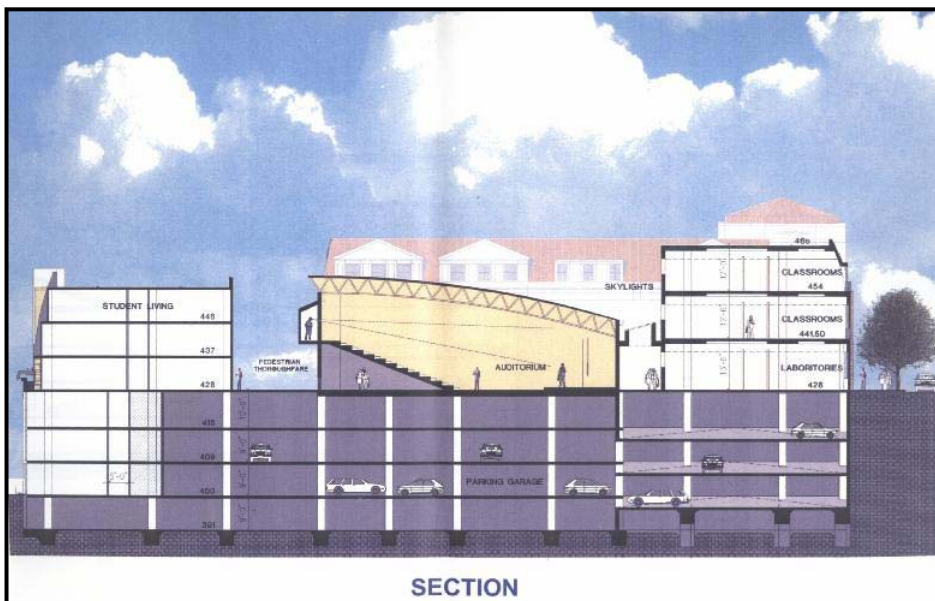
- Four levels of below-grade parking (approx. 437 spaces)
- 150 bedrooms in a modern suite arrangement
- Classrooms
- Laboratories
- Faculty offices
- 350-seat auditorium.

The dorm rooms and classrooms would be in distinct structures separated by a plaza. The main entrance to the classroom/auditorium building would be at the corner of Old Dominion and 26<sup>th</sup> Street. The sole entrance planned for the underground parking structure would be on Yorktown Boulevard, across from the entrance to the existing parking ramp.

The University's existing use permit caps the enrollment at the main campus. However, actual enrollment is below the existing caps and the existing enrollment caps appear to provide room for the proposed expansion.

The use permit amendment application describes the layout of the project as follows: "The classrooms and student housing surround a 350-seat theater/auditorium and are separated from it by internal passages reminiscent of narrow European streets. A campanile [freestanding bell tower] at the 26th Street North and Old Dominion Drive intersection creates an identity for the University while also serving as a community gathering landmark. A landscaped plaza at Old Dominion Drive provides a gathering space for students, and a pedestrian bridge over Yorktown Boulevard allows direct, safe access to the Main Campus."

The County Board has named a task force to review the project plans. The Yorktown Civic Association is represented on the task force by Ted Weihe and David Haring.



## Planning Continues on Yorktown High School Renovations

The planning process for a major renovation of Yorktown High School has gained steam with the School Board's selection of the firm of Ehrenkranz Eckstut and Kuhn (EEK) as the architects for the project.

Representatives of the firm are meeting bi-weekly with a Building Level Planning Committee (BLPC) appointed by the Board for the project.

For each major capital construction/renewal project the School Board appoints a BLPC to assist the Facilities and Operations staff and advise the School Board. The BLPC is the principal group to provide communication with the various constituent groups to assure effective community engagement in the design and construction of the project. BLPC's consists of parents, school administrative staff, teachers, Facilities staff, neighbors, and local community associations. The neighborhood is represented by Cate Mueller, Asmita Bhat and Seth Verry. Yorktown resident Ted Weihe will also serve on the BLPC as a representative of the Planning Commission.

EEK is expected to present preliminary concept plans at the March meetings of the BLPC. The proposals are expected to include replacement of much of the older building, and possibly the existing swimming pool building. Decked parking may also be proposed.

Depending on the pace of the planning process, funding could be included in the fall 2006 school bond election with construction in early 2008.

## Construction Begins on Traffic Safety Projects

Long-awaited traffic safety projects are now underway at two major intersections in the neighborhood - at George Mason/Lee Highway and at Harrison Street/Little Falls Road. Funding has also been approved for a sidewalk project on 25<sup>th</sup> Street.

Work at the George Mason/Lee Highway intersection is expected to continue through late spring and includes:

- Improved traffic signals.
- New curb and gutters on all approaches.
- Improved pedestrian signals- Countdown signals on each approach (complete).
- Improved ADA accessible pedestrian crossings including new ramps.
- Implementation/construction of new left turn bays in all approaches.
- Improvement to medians on Lee Highway and George Mason.
- Improvement to transit stops with a new shelter in front of the new Chevy Chase Bank.
- Improvements for pedestrian safety at the intersection of George Mason with 24th Street North and Florida Street.

Because the project is being constructed in phases, it appears that a lane is being removed from George Mason going southbound, however, the median will be relocated to the east and there will be a left turn lane, and two through lanes going southbound with the curb lane serving right turns. You will see the lanes return as the construction continues.

At the Harrison/Little Falls intersection, "nubs" are being installed to reduce crossing distances for pedestrians and to slow traffic as part of a Neighborhood Traffic Calming project approved in 2004. The project also includes nubs at the Little Falls intersections with Greencastle Street and with Yorktown Boulevard (partial), as well as the installation of a speed hump.

### Over 200 Code Violations Recorded in Full Code Sweep of Garden City Shopping Center

Arlington Planning Director Susan Bell met with neighborhood residents on February 22 to present the findings of a "full code" enforcement sweep conducted at the Garden City Shopping Center in late January.

The agencies involved cited the 28 businesses in the strip mall with over 200 separate code violations. Roughly half of those were for health code violations. The remainder were for a variety of problems with the condition of the premises.

The businesses have been given 60 days to bring their establishments into compliance. Several residents spoke about the poor conditions at Garden City at the County Board's January 24 hearing on the renewal of the live music permit for the Palladium nightclub.

### 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	Terry Costello	703/534-0408 (h)

**Yorktown Civic Association  
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Arlington, VA 22207**

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**Please attend the YCA Quarterly Meeting on Monday, Mar. 27, 2006,  
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>.

**Major Renovation Project Begins at Greenbrier Park**

**A**fter five years of planning, construction began in January on a complete renovation of Greenbrier Park, which is adjacent to Yorktown High School. The County Board approved the award of a \$10.4 million contract for the park renovations to Corinthian Contractors at its November 16, 2005, meeting.

The project will include installation of a new synthetic turf football field and new concrete bleachers. A new track will be built around the football field, and the existing lower park tier will be replaced with 2 new tiers containing two dedicated softball diamonds and a new baseball diamond with its own seating. The project also involves the replacement of the press box, concession stand, and rest rooms. The lighting for the park facilities is proposed to be high-grade lighting with spill control.

The new facility will become available in phases. The synthetic turf football stadium is expected to be ready for the later part of the fall football season, while the remainder of the project is scheduled to be completed by June 2007.

One of the bigger impacts on the neighborhood will come this summer when the existing park parking lot will be closed. Off-street parking will not become available again at the facility until later in the project when a new, smaller lot opens for use.

Questions about the project can be directed to Robert Capper, Arlington County PRCR, at 703.228.3337 or by email at [Rcapper@arlingtonva.us](mailto:Rcapper@arlingtonva.us).

**March 27 Meeting Agenda**

The YCA quarterly meeting will be held on Monday, March 27, with County Board Chairman Chris Zimmerman as the guest speaker. Other topics to be covered at the meeting include:

- Marymount University expansion plans
- Yorktown High School renovation plans
- Update on Garden City zoning enforcement.

The civic association meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. and will be held in room 1B of Yorktown High School. All neighborhood residents are welcome! Check the website at <http://www.YorktownCivic.com> for the final agenda.