



# Civic Pride

Newsletter of the Yorktown Civic Association

## In This Issue ...

- Spring Meeting with Paul Ferguson
- Yorktown High School Renovation Plans
- Marymount Dorm, Classroom and Parking Garage Project
- Greenbrier Park Update
- Neighborhood Day at Chestnut Hills Park
- WAVA Radio Tower to Come Down
- Florida Street Triangle

## County Board Chairman Paul Ferguson to be Guest Speaker at May 7 Meeting

**O**n Monday, May 7, Arlington County Board Chairman Paul Ferguson will be the guest speaker at the quarterly meeting of the Yorktown Civic Association. Ferguson has served on the Arlington County Board since 1996, previously serving as Chairman in 1999 and 2003. However, later this year he will be seeking the seat of Clerk of the Circuit Court, a position vacated by the retirement of long-time clerk David Bell.



In addition to discussing his initiatives for the year, Ferguson will come to the meeting prepared to discuss the upcoming renovation of Yorktown High School, the expansion plans at Marymount University and other issues directly affecting the Yorktown neighborhood.

During his 10 years on the Board, he has focused on funding for education and public safety. In addition, he has worked to improve pedestrian safety and neighborhood conservation, and is known as a leader on environmental issues. Notably, he led the Board in adopting a pilot project designed to create incentives for "green technology" in building designs as defined by the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System, and he worked to form a partnership with the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, a private non-profit land trust to preserve open space in Arlington.

Mr. Ferguson is the immediate past Chairman of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and he serves as Second Vice President of the Virginia Association of Counties. He also actively represents Arlington interests on the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Air Quality Committee, the Virginia Municipal League's Environmental Quality Policy Committee, and the National Association of Counties' Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee.

Mr. Ferguson is an attorney in private practice. He is a graduate of George Mason Law School, James Madison University and Wakefield High School in Arlington. Mr. Ferguson is a former civic association president. He and his wife, Karen Keyes, have two sons and are residents of Fairlington.

The May 7 meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. in room 1B at Yorktown High School. A final agenda will be posted in advance of the meeting on the civic association website at <http://www.YorktownCivic.com>.

## School Board Fails to Make the Grade on Yorktown High School Parking

On February 1, the School Board voted to adopt the schematic design for a new Yorktown High School building, despite ongoing complaints from citizens about the serious shortage of off-street parking included in the project. While approving the project design, board members did order staff to work with Arlington County officials to review parking options and neighborhood traffic and safety concerns. The results of that study were presented to the School Board on April 12. However, on April 19, the board voted yet again to study the school's parking problem, with the latest study to be completed by June.



The school renovation is expected to cost \$100 million, with funding spread between the 2006 and 2008 school bond elections. Construction is expected to begin on the new 3-story structure in mid-2008, and will take four years or longer to complete. Only the 2004 classroom addition and the existing auditorium will be retained. The School Board also voted to include a new swimming pool in the project. Students are not expected to be moved off-site during construction.

At the civic association's January 16 meeting, a resolution was approved to formally oppose the parking element of the school design and instead seek at least 400 off-street spaces for the combined school/park facility in order to provide relief to the existing parking problems around the school and to provide adequate parking for the expanded Greenbrier Park fields that will be opening soon. The four fields at Greenbrier Park alone will include seating for over 2500 spectators. The resolution indicated that structured parking should be considered as part of the school project, with the preferred location the southwest corner of the building (where the existing swimming pool is located).

Civic association members have spoken in support of additional parking at each of the School Board meetings.

### 2007 Neighborhood Day at Chestnut Hills Park

Join us in celebrating Arlington's annual Neighborhood Day on Saturday, May 12, 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.

### 2007 Civic Association Executive Committee

| Position     | Name            | Phone                                |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| President    | David Haring    | 703/241-8111 (h)<br>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     | Terry Costello  | 703/534-0408 (h)                     |
| At large     | Dustin Anderson | 703/534-0059 (h)                     |

## Marymount University to Revise Expansion Plans

Marymount University has indicated that it will release revisions to its plans for the 26<sup>th</sup> Street/Old Dominion surface lot site at a May 1 meeting that is part of a county-sponsored facilitations process for the project. That facilitation process was requested by the County Board at a December 12 hearing on the project. At that hearing, Marymount requested county approval to construct a dormitory, classroom and auditorium building and an underground parking garage at that site.



The adjoining Yorktown and Donaldson Run civic associations both voted to oppose the project if it included all of the proposed elements, citing concerns about the project density and impacts on surrounding residents. The Yorktown Civic Association recommended that only the dormitory and parking structure be approved for the site.

Information on the project can be found on the civic association website, as well as on a webpage set up by the county that lists documentation on the project at:

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/CPHD/Forums/Marymount/Marymountmain.aspx>

## WAVA Radio Tower Coming Down Over Land Dispute

The owner of the WAVA radio tower, WAVA Building Limited Partnership, will be taking down the tower near the corner of Lee Highway and George Mason. A court order has been issued for the removal of one of three of the tower's guy-wire supports that is located on the former AT&T property to the west of the tower. That 5-acre property has been purchased by Altus Realty Partners, LLC, with the intention of subdividing the parcel into 16 lots for single family homes. Most of those homes would be built to the west of the Post Office building, with access from N. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street. However, the much larger AT&T tower, itself, will remain in place.

While those companies were fighting it out in court over removal of the guy-wire anchor, WAVA BLP had also submitted a use permit request to the county for a possible replacement tower. However, when the four neighboring civic associations met with the company to review the terms of the requested use permit, it became apparent that the tower's radio transmissions were causing significant interference problems with radios, TVs, and other electrical equipment in all of the surrounding neighborhoods. The civic associations agreed to seek mitigation efforts for the interference from the company as a condition to replacement of the tower. Since the new tower would have been freestanding – without guy-wire support – it would have had a much larger base.

The tower is within the boundaries of the Leeway-Overlee Civic Association. The tower broadcasts the signals of WAVA AM and FM, as well as WBIG FM radio.

### Florida St. Triangle Needs Your Help

In 1998 the triangle at Florida St and 25th Rd was created by Arlington County as a traffic calming measure and landscaped with plantings through Neighborhood Conservation funding. In 1999 a memorial was dedicated to long time civic association treasurer Vernon Davis who lived on Florida St. In 2006 a significant effort (i.e. sweat and toil) led by Alexis Steen and Cate Mueller, along with assistance from the county, revitalized the landscaping with the removal of weeds, re-arrangements of plantings, and installation of a grass boarder around the perimeter.

Like any landscaping the Triangle is in need of ongoing maintenance and care (weeding, mulching, occasional watering) and the civic association is looking for volunteers to "adopt" the Triangle. Money has been allocated in the YCA budget to help defray expenses and pay for landscaping services to assist in maintaining the triangle; however, we are still in need of someone to manage and coordinate the upkeep and watering.

Please contact the civic association at [dHaring@YorktownCivic.com](mailto:dHaring@YorktownCivic.com) if you are willing to help.



**Yorktown Civic Association  
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Arlington, VA 22207**

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**Please attend the Civic Association Meeting on Monday, May 7, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. at Yorktown High School, Room 1B.**

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

## **Greenbrier Park Renovations to be Completed in June**

Three of the four new athletic fields are now in use at Greenbrier Park, next to Yorktown High School, and the final softball diamond is scheduled to be completed by the end of June. The sod is expected to be laid on that diamond in mid-May. However, teams will not be allowed on the field before the end of the school year in order to allow the new sod to properly root.

The new park has proven to be extremely popular, although there are several outstanding issues that are still being addressed. The new lighting system has resulted in more light spillage onto neighborhood properties and will be further adjusted. The away bleachers on the north side of the synthetic field will be elevated to provide better views of the field. And an effort is being made to add exercise stations similar to those available prior to park renovation.

Game schedules will be made available to the civic association and park users at the start of each month. Those schedules will be posted at:

<http://www.yorktowncivic.com/docs/GreenbrierCalendar.pdf>.

The fields are already heavily used, with games and practices occurring seven days a week. The first major event has been scheduled for Friday, May 18, when the park becomes the site for the district soccer and softball tournaments, which are expected to draw a crowd of 750.

During the spring and fall seasons, lights may be on until 10:30 p.m. no more than three times per week, with a 10:00 p.m. ending time on the other nights of the week during the prime seasons and during the off-peak seasons.

