



# Civic Pride

## Newsletter of the Yorktown Civic Association

April 2013

### Letter from the President

Please join us on April 24<sup>th</sup> for our Civic Association's next General Meeting at 7:30 PM at Yorktown High School, classroom A173. The topics for the meeting will include elections for the Yorktown Civic Association. These elections include the reelection of our Executive Officers and the members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee currently has two openings on it so please contact me if you are interested in running for office.

The Civic Association continues to be engaged in the imminent improvement to the Harrison Street/ Chestnut Hills Park. The improvements will be in two phases- first, improvements will be made to the part of the park dedicated to young children. County landscape architect Josh Serck is leading the redesign effort. You can provide feedback or inputs about this part of the plan to Josh directly at [jserck@arlingtonva.us](mailto:jserck@arlingtonva.us).

The second part of the plan - the improvements to the fencing and landscaping of the overall park will begin later in 2013. The goal of this phase is to unify the different parts of the park, to improve park safety, and to maintain the existing character of the park. Feedback on this part of the project can be sent directly to be.

Although not directly a Yorktown Civic Association issue, the impending decisions on the new elementary school on the grounds of the existing Williamsburg Middle School will affect many of our families with school-age children. Many students who currently attend Nottingham will transfer to the yet to be named school in the Fall of 2015. There is additional information about the design and process of the new school elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Finally, I have recently started to meet on a regular basis with the other Presidents of Civic Associations who border Lee Highway. We are beginning the process of a long-term development vision for Lee Highway and engaging with members of the County Staff, outside experts and business owners to learn about how development has taken place in Arlington and how we can provide input and influence to develop. Many residents may not know this, but the old Bergman's dry cleaning store on Lee

Highway is being redeveloped as a 10-story mixed use property in the coming months. The goal of the Presidents' meetings are to educate ourselves about how development could and/or should happen along Lee Highway.

Our Civic Association, which stretches along Lee Highway from Jefferson Street/Joe's Pizza to Dinwiddie Street/Taco Bell contains some very vibrant commercial areas including Harris Teeter, Safeway, and great restaurants but also some very established and small businesses like those found in the Garden City Shopping Center. Parking, traffic, and impact on our residents from existing conditions and any potential development are all central concerns to me and the other Civic Association Presidents. To that end, our Civic Association has a small group doing research and outreach; if you want to get involved with the Yorktown Civic Association 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.

I look forward to seeing you on April 24<sup>th</sup> at Yorktown High School for our next general meeting.

Best,

Andrew Schneider

President,  
Yorktown Civic  
Association



#### Stay in Touch:

To be added to our **Civic Association Email list** please send your email address to [andrew\\_schneider@hotmail.com](mailto:andrew_schneider@hotmail.com). We send out roughly three to six emails a year.

Also, join our **facebook group**: [YorktownCivic@groups.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/YorktownCivic/groups). 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 the above email.



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#### Yorktown Civic Association Executive Committee

Position	Name / Phone
President	Andrew Schneider 703-532-0997 (h)
Neighborhood Conservation	David Haring 703-241-8111 (h)
Vice President	David Friedman 703-241-2091 (h)
Secretary	Frank White 703-241-9820 (h)
Treasurer	Bob Littell 703-534-3826 (h)
At large	Alice Harrington 703-533-5581 (h)
At large	Terry Costello 703-534-0408 (h)
At large	Dustin Anderson 703-534-0059 (h)
At large	Trent Sorensen 703-533-2999 (h)
At large	open
At large	open

### Next Civic Association Meeting: April 24th

Please attend the upcoming Yorktown Civic Association General Meeting on Wednesday, April 24th at 7:30 pm at Yorktown High School, classroom A173.

We will be holding elections including the reelection

of Officers as well as the Executive Committee members, of which there are two openings available.

All neighbors within the Civic Association are welcome and encouraged to attend, regardless of current membership status.

<http://YorktownCivic.Org>

## County Board Approves Additional Funding for Chestnut Hills Park

On March 19th, the County Board approved Neighborhood Conservation program funding for frontage improvements to Chestnut Hills Park which will complement previously approved plans to modernize the tot lot playground equipment at the park. Chestnut Hills Park, on North Harrison Street, is often cited as the county's most heavily used children's playground.

The play area renovation, was included by the County Board among a list of projects approved through the Parks and Recreation Maintenance Capital Program in the county's Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2013 - 2022. The county's planning and design efforts for the maintenance improvements are being led by Parks Department planner Josh Serck. Josh led discussions about his

efforts at the last two Civic Association meetings, and held another public meeting on April 10th. It is expected that the older sandbox tot lot play area will be fully replaced with new play equipment and with new surfacing and sand. The park's benches, picnic tables and trash receptacles will also be replaced or updated. The improvement work should be underway later this year. Park users should expect that the south portion of the park will be closed for a few weeks while the work is underway.

The additional funding recently approved by the County Board was requested by the Civic Association through the County's Neighborhood Conservation Advisory program. That funding will be used to replace the park's fencing and make other improve-

ments to the park's frontage along Harrison Street. Additionally, Carlyle lights will be installed along the sidewalk and a new enclosure will be constructed for the portable toilet.

Arlington's neighborhoods compete for funding made available by the County through the Neighborhood Conservation program. The last award for the Yorktown neighborhood through

that program was for the just-installed median on Yorktown Boulevard in front of the high school bus drop-off area.



## New Lee Highway Task Force to Expand on Garden City Focus

The state of the Garden City shopping center remains a primary focus for the Yorktown Civic Association Executive Committee. Our agenda always includes discussion on the on-going code enforcement efforts and the potential for long-term redevelopment of the shopping center. In the past year, our neighborhood has welcomed improvements in appearance (i.e., exterior paint and new awnings), expansion of popular tenants (i.e., Caribbean Grill interior) and new tenants that are catering to the surrounding community (i.e., Yorktown Nails).

However, the center as a whole continues to frustrate us with code enforcement requiring constant vigilance, tenants that do not fit the needs of the neighbor-

hood, and spaces that continue to sit empty (i.e., Johnny's). Until this year, the Executive Committee was focused on both short and long-term improvements to the center. While we have seen some success, a recent development will help facilitate a vision for long-term redevelopment of the Garden City shopping center area.

The Presidents of all Civic Associations along Lee Highway met in late February and on April 6th to begin the process of creating a long-term plan with the County for redeveloping Lee Highway. The group plans to meet every month and will offer a forum for various stakeholders (e.g., developers, members of the Arlington County Planning Commission) to present their ideas

and/or requirements for the future vision of Lee Highway.

Our Civic Association is participating in this effort and will require input from the surrounding neighborhood. Specifically, we seek your thoughts and requirements for not only development of the Garden City shopping center but for Lee Highway in general. To ensure that Yorktown Civic Association concerns and requirements are communicated to the larger, cross-Civic Association entity, we have set up a Lee Highway Task Force. The initial focus will remain on the Garden City Shopping Center but we welcome comments on Lee Highway redevelopment as well.

As we have noted previously, the Garden City Shopping Center does not have a single property owner, nor is it large enough or zoned appropriately to be an area of immediate redevelopment interest to businesses. It is the Executive Committee's position that nothing significant can happen at the Garden City Shopping Center unless there is a real partnership among 1) Citizens/Civic Associations, 2) Arlington County, and

3) Private Businesses/Developers. We feel this new entity that spans the Civic Associations along Lee Highway can help facilitate these partnerships.

Mike Cantwell, a Garden City resident, has agreed to take a leadership role for the Lee Highway Task Force. Andrew Schneider, our Civic Association President, will maintain overall leadership and direction of our efforts as well as the coordination with the other Presidents' efforts.

The Executive Committee hopes you share our excitement for the recent developments. We feel good about the level of energy and commitment that has arisen not only within our community but along Lee Highway as well.

As usual, if residents observe unsafe health practices or have safety concerns, please report them to Arlington County Code Enforcement (703-228-3232), DES-Sanitation (703-228-6570), DES-Environmental Health (703-228-7400) or the Arlington Co. Police Dept. non-emergency line (703-558-2222).



## Plans Advance for New Elementary School on Williamsburg Middle School Campus

While plans are far from final, it has become a pretty safe bet that most Yorktown neighborhood families will be sending their grade-school aged children to a new elementary school that will be built next to Williamsburg Middle School starting in the 2015-16 school year.

The elementary school, which will have seats for just over 600 students, will be built just south of the existing middle school building at the corner of North Harrison and 36<sup>th</sup> Streets, with its main entrance facing 36<sup>th</sup> Street.

VMDO Architects, P.C., of Charlottesville, is performing the Williamsburg design work for the school system. The schematic design for the school is expected to be completed by the end of April, and the final design and use permit application is expected to go to the County Board for final approval in September. The projected price tag for the project is \$35 to 40 million.

In addition, Arlington Public Schools (APS) is also completing plans for a 225-seat expansion of Ashlawn Elementary on North 8th Road, just west of Bluemont Park. Meanwhile, APS has been actively planning for boundary changes to match up with the additional capacity, and hoping to wrap up its public meetings on the boundary alternatives by the end of April.

Formal adoption of the final boundary plan by the School Board is expected in late spring of this year.

The new boundaries would become effective starting with the 2015-16 school year.

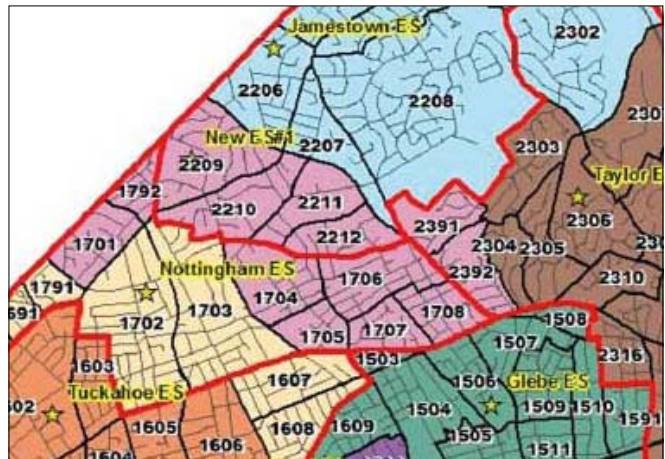
The superintendent has proposed a “grandfathering” provision as follows: “Rising 5th graders and concurrently enrolled younger siblings (grades K-4 as of June 2015) may choose to remain at their current school for the 2015-16 school year only. Transportation will continue for current bus riders for that year.”

The final plan submitted by Superintendent Patrick Murphy to the School Board on March 18 affects boundaries for the following schools: Ashlawn, Glebe, Jamestown, McKinley, Nottingham, Taylor, and Tuckahoe.

Under the plan, the only households within the Yorktown Civic Association neighborhood that will remain within the Nottingham boundary are those west of North Harrison Street (including those along the west side of Harrison). All remaining households in the neighborhood, including those currently within the Jamestown school boundary, will be moved to the new school on the Williamsburg campus.



Images courtesy of Arlington Public Schools



**The specific planning units labeled above (and accompanying # of Students) moved to the new school are as follows:**

- 164 Total Students from Jamestown: planning units 2209 (48), 2210 (59), 2211 (25) and 2212 (32).
- 347 Total Students from Nottingham: planning units 1701 (55), 1704 (76), 1705 (38), 1706 (71), 1707 (38), 1708 (39) and 1792 (30).
- 49 Total Students from Taylor: planning units 2391 (12) and 2392 (37).

In exchange, Nottingham would pick up 146 students from Tuckahoe, while Jamestown would pick up 71 students from Taylor.

Additional details on both the building design and the boundary changes can be found on the school system web site at: <http://www.apsva.us/>

## Yorktown Boulevard Median Completed

This winter, a block-long median was installed on Yorktown Boulevard between the Little Falls Road and 30<sup>th</sup> Street North inter-

sections, in front of Yorktown High School.

The median, funded by the county’s Neighborhood Conserva-

tion program, will stop u-turns in Yorktown Boulevard during the busy school drop-off period and will add to pedestrian safety.

Trees will also be planted in the median to help buffer houses on the north side of the street from the school.

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

## Coyote Sightings in Arlington



Is it a fox or a coyote? Look closely at the profile. A coyote walks with its nose pointed down at about a 45-degree angle and its tail down. A fox walks with its head up and its tail fairly straight out. Source: Fairfax County: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/coyote-update-2012.htm>

The Overlee Civic Association has sent out an alert about the likely presence of coyotes in the area: <http://www.wtop.com/41/3264158/Arlington-residents-on-alert-after-coyote-scare>

A resident of our Civic Association area said she recently

watched one walk down her driveway, in the afternoon.

Also, the Sun Gazette reported on April 4th, "County park naturalists two weeks ago "received a video from our colleagues at Potomac Overlook Regional Park – it finally provided photographic evidence of a coyote in the [Arlington] county," said Alonso Abugattas of the Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation.

So what are the dangers? Coyotes are skilled hunters but they are also opportunists and will take whatever they can get. Pets are vulnerable. The material below is drawn from the Somerset Homeowners Association in Marietta, GA: <http://www.somersetsubdivision.org/Coyotes.asp>

Coyotes are drawn to urban and suburban neighborhoods for two reasons: human encroachment into native habitat and the availability of food.

### **Take the following steps to prevent coyotes from being attracted to your home:**

- Secure garbage cans by fastening lids with rope, bungee cords, or chains and tying the handle to a stake driven into the ground.
- Dispose of especially attractive food wastes such as meat, cheese, and eggs by adding a small amount of ammonia to the bag to deter coyotes. If it will be several days before garbage pick-up, temporarily freeze these wastes until they can be properly disposed of.
- When composting, use enclosed bins rather than exposed piles. Avoid adding dog or cat waste, meat, milk or eggs, and any food containing these products, to compost.
- If you have fruit trees, pick the ripe fruit and keep fallen fruit off the ground. Coyotes are fond of ripe fruit.
- Outdoor lights triggered by motion sensors may keep coyotes from approaching your house at night.
- Clear away bushes and dense weeds near your home where coyotes find cover and critters to feed on.

#### Other Information:

*Living with the Coyote in Virginia*  
VA Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries  
[http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/habitat\\_partners/infosheets/coyote.pdf](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/habitat_partners/infosheets/coyote.pdf)