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CIVIC PRIDE

September
2017

Newsletter of the Yorktown Civic Association

The Yorktown Civic Association (YCA) represents residents living in north Arlington, Virginia, bound by Lee Highway on the south, Old Dominion Dr./Columbus St. to the east, Little Falls Rd./Rock Spring Rd. on the north, and N. Jefferson St. to the west. <http://YorktownCivic.org>

Meeting, Planning and Advocating for You

by President Mike Cantwell
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It has been a busy summer! We are continuing to track issues related to school capacity, high water bills, traffic and pedestrian safety, the Lee Highway Alliance, and the Garden City Shopping Center.

I recently attended a meet-and-greet session with the new Yorktown High School Principal Bridget Loft. YHS parents expressed their concerns about teen drug use and their perception that the Yorktown High School staff was not doing enough to address it. I met with Ms. Loft privately and expressed the community's concerns about overcrowding at Yorktown High School, traffic and parking. We discussed how the common areas in Yorktown High School (gym, cafeteria, sports field, etc.) are significantly smaller than similar areas at Washington & Lee and Wakefield.

Throughout the summer months, local homeowners continued to

post replies on Nextdoor and Facebook related to unusually high water bills. Several homeowners wrote letters to *Sun-Gazette* editors, Arlington County Staff, and Board members. The Department of Environmental Services is refusing to conduct a thorough investigation into the unusually high water bills. Homeowners experiencing this should continue to contact DES and County Board Members and call for an independent audit of the water meters and water billing process.

The Lee Highway Alliance (LHA) continues to make steady progress. LHA has a budget, leased office space, and an updated website. Google "Lee Highway Alliance" for more information.



We have some improvements at the Garden City Shopping Center (GCSC), but we continue to see issues. The LHA, YCA Executive Committee, and the County Staff

are working together to encourage property owners and tenants to form a Merchants Association. Ideally, the merchants will work together to improve trash/garbage removal, paving, sidewalks, landscaping, parking, and snow removal.

The guest speaker for our next YCA general membership meeting will be Captain David Giroux. Captain Giroux was recently selected to be First District Police Captain. He will address teen drug use, traffic safety, and violence in our community.

We need your help! We can match your passions, skills, and time constraints to the right "job." Email me with "I want to help the YCA" in the subject line.

Please get involved with the political process. You can't move the ball forward if you are sitting on the sidelines. Stay engaged Arlington!

Next General Meeting: Wednesday, September 6 • 7:30 pm Yorktown HS Patriot Hall
Enter through Door #8 on 28th St. N. (near basketball courts). Agenda Items: Neighborhood Safety, Traffic Updates

County Manager Okays Lights for Soccer Fields

by David Friedman
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On June 30, Arlington County Manager Mark Schwartz announced that he had recommended allowing lights on the two soccer fields adjacent to Discovery Elementary and Williamsburg Middle Schools.

Schwartz said the decision "was not an easy call" particularly after the task force convened by the County Board could not reach consensus on the issue. The 14-member task force, formed in 2015, included several close neighbors, Civic Association representatives (including

YCA) and sports organizations. The group issued a final report in February 2017 that included two positions- one opposed to installing lights and one open to light installation-but offered no single recommendation

Under Schwartz's recommendation, the lights on the field will have to be shut off no later than 9:45 p.m. The neighbors in the Rock Spring Civic Association objected to lighting the field, raising light pollution, noise and traffic concerns.

Arlington soccer groups supported

lighting, arguing the need for additional fields as youth outdoor sports have seen a 65-percent increase in participation rates since 2011. Schwartz said his recommendation was based on the need for more playing time on Arlington sports fields.

The manager's recommendation calls for installing lights on 80-foot poles at the fields on N. Harrison St. and that the fields be lit with shielded LED lights that could be dimmed during evening play. Schwartz also proposed having the county government sign a memorandum of understanding with the Rock Spring Civic Association to ensure compliance with field use rules.



Join the Yorktown Civic Association!

Your Annual or Lifetime Membership supports the cost of the *Civic Pride* newsletter, management of the website, and other outreach. If you have already joined in 2017, you should see that on your address label. We accept payment via Paypal and personal check.

2017 Annual Membership: \$10
YCA Lifetime Membership: \$80

By PayPal, send with your name and address to yorktowncivicassociation@gmail.com. By check, make the payable to Yorktown Civic Association and mail to: Dustin An-

derson, YCA Treasurer, 5104 23rd Road N., Arlington, VA 22207.

Be sure to include your name, address, phone number, email and if you are buying an annual or lifetime membership when you renew. Thank you!

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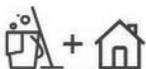


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Yorktown Neighborhood Plan Update

by David Haring,
dharing@outlook.com

The Yorktown Civic Association is starting the process of updating its Neighborhood Conservation plan.

The Neighborhood Conservation Program helps Arlington neighborhoods by empowering residents discuss share ideas for improving their own neighborhoods. The program provides funding for: sidewalks, curbs and gutters, streetlights, signs, park improvements, neighborhood art and beautification.

Arlington has 57 civic associations, and 48 participate in the Neighborhood Conservation Program.

Civic associations in the program are expected to prepare plans every 10 years or so. The planning process starts with a survey, which goes to every household, followed by planning meetings to review survey results and identify neighborhood priorities. Once a plan is drafted, it goes to County staff for review, then is presented by the neighborhood to the Conservation Advisory Committee, Planning Commission and County Board.

The last Yorktown plan was presented to the County Board in February 2006. A copy of that plan can be found at: <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/neighborhood-conservation/nc-plan-program/nc-plans/>

Yorktown has had several improvement projects funded through this program. Currently under construction are improvements at Chestnut Hills Park. Approved and funded, but awaiting construction, is a sidewalk on the west side of N. Greenbrier, just south of the YHS football field.

Since the last plan update, the neighborhood also used the program to install sidewalks on 25th Street N. (east of George Mason) and on 27th Street N. (west of George Mason), as well as to install the median and make other safety improvements on Yorktown Boulevard in front of Yorktown High School.

Yorktown Civic Association Executive Committee Members

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Traffic Control at Harrison/26 and Mason/Yorktown

by James Churbuck,
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Arlington County recently installed traffic control measures at two major intersections in the YCA. The committee tried an innovative approach in reaching out to county officials. The group met at the intersection of 26th and Harrison on a Friday at 3 p.m. just as YHS students

were coming out. This proved persuasive, convincing officials that something needed to be done.

The group also looked at the intersection of George Mason Drive and Yorktown. This site regularly sees minor accidents and close calls. This intersection also now has safety measures to protect pedestrians and realigned vehicle lanes.

One member of the committee noted that, on his own, he had raised issues about the intersection near his house to no avail. When he linked up with others and worked through YCA, something positive happened. Nobody can guarantee such results every time, but there's a lot of power in working together.



Saturdays, 9 AM - 1 PM
May - November

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Update on Chestnut Hills Park Frontage Improvements

by David Haring,
dharing@outlook.com

Chestnut Hills Park on Harrison has been going through a major expansion and improvement, which is should be completed by October.

The expansion involved the acquisition and demolition of two homes just to the north of the park. And now the expansion is being complemented by a frontage improvement project that was sponsored by the Yorktown Civic Association and funded through the County's Neighborhood Conservation program to install new entrances, fencing and pathways.

The frontage improvements, which started in mid-June, were actually funded in 2012. Construction was delayed twice, first in 2014, to allow for playground renovations, and then again in 2015, when the County had the opportunity to purchase the first of the adjacent homes.

The park frontage improvements will include a new solid steel fence recessed 1' behind the existing sidewalk; four recessed gates to provide stroller passing zones; a new enclosure and location for the portable restroom; pervious circulation pathways; and new benches and trash cans flanking the new walkways. The planned fencing and entrances will

now include those recently acquired adjacent properties.

It is expected that the Park will continue to stay open during the work. The County has a web page, including drawings, for the project at: <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/chestnut-hills-frontage-improvements/>.

Let's Stay in Touch ...

We are updating the Civic Association Email List, so even if we have had your email in the past, please send it once again to: yorktowncivicassociation@gmail.com.

Arlington County Numbers & Information

Street Flooding, Water, Sewer emergencies: 703-228-6555

Traffic Signals/Street Light Outages: 703-228-6511

Fallen Trees: 703-228-6525

Signs, Potholes, Trash, Sidewalks: 703-228-6570

Retail Code Enforcement: 703-228-3232

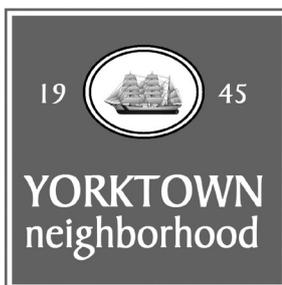
Non-emergency Police #: 703-558-2222

Power Outages: Dominion Va Power 1-866-366-4357

Natural Gas: Washington Gas 703-750-1400.

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Police reports can be made online: www.arlingtonva.us/departments/police/incident/new/start-report.html



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Arlington, VA 22207

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