

CIVIC PRIDE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
YORKTOWN
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Yorktown Neighbors: After eight and a half years of serving as the President of the Yorktown Civic Association, I've decided to not run for re-election to "pass the torch" to a new generation of leaders. Elections for YCA Officers and At-large Executive Committee members will be held at the YCA General Membership meeting on Wednesday, February 12, 2025. Please come out and, for dues-paying members, cast your vote.

We've accomplished a lot over the years, but we still have a lot of unfinished work. We kept the community informed through the YCA website, YCA Newsletter, YCA Facebook page and Nextdoor. We represented community interests by writing letters to our elected leaders and county staff members and providing comments at Arlington County Board meetings.

Some of the issues we tackled included the Yorktown High School expansion, the 26th & Old Dominion Task Force, traffic and pedestrian safety, sidewalk projects, crime, Plan Langston Boulevard, and Missing Middle/Expanded Housing Options. Some of the work in progress includes organizing and executing an annual Neighborhood Day, updating the YCA Neighborhood Plan, revising the YCA by-laws, reducing crime, ensuring smart growth along Langston Boulevard, improving traffic and pedestrian safety, and completing neighborhood sidewalk projects.

It is up to YOU to ensure the Yorktown Civic Association remains a relevant and vital civic organization.

A few things you can do:

- Join the YCA: Your membership strengthens our voice and supports important initiatives.
- Pay your annual membership dues and regularly attend the YCA General Membership meetings. Only YCA members in good standing are allowed to participate in YCA elections and vote on resolutions.
- Join the YCA Facebook Group. Add relevant information and content.
- Start and lead a committee. Volunteer to support a committee.
- Represent the Yorktown community on an Arlington County Advisory Group or Commission. Just Google the phrase, Arlington County Commission or Advisory Group and find a commission or group that aligns with your passions and values. The time commitment is minimal and many of the meetings are conducted via Zoom.

Finally, I'd like to thank all current and former members of the YCA Executive Committee and everyone in our wonderful neighborhood. If you see me walking through the neighborhood, please stop me and say hello. I am always willing to listen to your issues and concerns.

CONTENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Letter from the President
- 2 Membership Form
- 4 Curry and Clay Oven Review
- 6 Yorktown's Stumbling Stones
- 7 Attention to Local Government

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See ya around the neighborhood!

Mike Cantwell
President
Yorktown Civic Association

Arlington Yorktown Civic Association

Membership Form

Name of Applicant (one form per person)

Address in the Civic Association

Mailing Address (Enter only if not the same as your property address above)

Phone Number(s)

E-Mail Address



Mail To: Dustin Anderson
YCA Treasurer
5104 23rd Road N
Arlington, VA 22207

Please include:
\$20 Membership Fee for an Annual Membership
Make check payable to: Yorktown Civic Association

LITTLE AMBASSADORS'
SUMMER CAMP

WEEKLY FULL DAY **SUMMER 2025** CAMPS K-6TH

SUMMER@LITTLEACADEMY.COM

The graphic features a vibrant yellow and red background. On the left, there are two circular images: one showing a group of children in green shirts standing in a field with an airplane in the sky, and another showing a Ferris wheel. A globe with a red ribbon is also visible. On the right, the text 'LITTLE AMBASSADORS' is written in a bold, black font, with a butterfly above it. Below this, the words 'SUMMER CAMP' are written in large, 3D block letters. 'SUMMER' is white with a grey shadow, 'CAMP' is red with a blue shadow, and a pair of blue sunglasses with a globe lens is positioned over the 'M' in 'SUMMER'. A yellow popsicle is also visible.

Life Lessons



For more than 40 years, we've led the industry in teaching children, helping them build self confidence, develop confidence, and learn life skills that last forever.



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THE YCA WOULD LOVE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!

If you have any ideas for articles, features, or interviews, please contact:

Zach Newkirk at ZJAnewkirk@gmail.com and/or
Caryn Wagner at carynnewagner@icloud.com

JOIN THE YORKTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION!

Your Annual Membership for \$20 supports the cost of the Civic Pride newsletter, management of the website, and other outreach. Formal membership in the Yorktown Civic Association is open to all adults (18 years old or older) that live within our neighborhood boundaries. If you own residential property within our boundaries, but rent your home to someone else, you also can be a member. Only members in good standing will be allowed to vote. Several adults in one household may become a member. Use one form per person, and pay dues for each applicant.

Business owners within the neighborhood can also serve as non-voting members in the Association. Businesses are asked to name a specific representative for membership.

The Yorktown Civic Association covers the area of north Arlington, bound by Langston Boulevard (formerly Lee Highway) / Route 29 on the south, Old Dominion Drive to the east, Little Falls Road and Rock Spring Road on the north, and North Jefferson Street to the west.

There are three ways to make your membership official. Apply:

- Online at yorktowncivic.org/membership
- By Mail
- By Email

Apply by Mail and Pay by Check

- Fill out our Membership form, available online and on page 2 here.
- Write a check of \$20 to the Yorktown Civic Association for your annual membership.
- Mail form and check to our treasurer:

Dustin Anderson
YCA Treasurer
5104 23rd Road N
Arlington, VA 22207

Apply by Email and Pay with PayPal
Email yorktowncivicassociation@gmail.com.

Be sure to include:

- Your Name
- Address
- Phone Number
- Email



Thank you!

New South Asian Flavors Near Yorktown

A REVIEW OF CURRY AND CLAY OVEN

By Caryn Wagner

Those of you who fondly remember the days when we had an excellent, inexpensive Indian restaurant right here in Yorktown — I refer to the sorely missed Saran in Garden City — will understand how excited I was when I read about a new Indian restaurant opening next to Maya Bistro on Langston Blvd. Located in the previous Pizza With A Twist location, I am happy to say Curry and Clay Oven has a lot going for it. The food is halal and the menu contains a wide range of South Asian favorites from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal, and also includes some fun fusion dishes. The Hakka noodles are a Chinese/Indian fusion dish popular in parts of South Asia, and then there are the American/Indian fusion items, like Chicken Tikka Pizza and Masala fries. I must take a moment to say the masala fries are awesome. Perhaps the masala (spice) could be more prominent, but the French fries are crunchy and delicious with a hint of Indian spices, and hold up well for takeout. The various Indian-influenced pizza options are holdovers from the previous location and are available on the takeout menu; they remain very popular. However, I was told that the pizza might be phased out in the future, so get it now if you are a fan!

My husband and I ate in the restaurant and ordered takeout to evaluate both experiences, and we tried a representative sampling of dishes. We tried the Malay chicken kebab, samosas, spring rolls, and samosa chaat as appetizers, and ordered the tandoori mixed grill, lamb saag, butter chicken, and Hakka shrimp noodles as entrees. We also ordered some onion kulcha bread and gobi mutter (cauliflower with peas in a curry sauce).

Here is the verdict on the food: overall, it is excellent! The spring rolls were pretty ordinary, but the samosas were solid, and the samosa chaat was really good—samosas cut open and drizzled with sauces/toppings to provide sweet, sour, spicy and salty elements. The onion kulcha was delicious—freshly baked, flaky, and full of caramelized onions. The tandoori meats were all moist and well-flavored and the chili/coriander chutney was excellent (we took home leftovers from that dish). The butter chicken, which I view as the mandatory test dish for an Indian restaurant, was very good—the balance between tomato-y and creamy in the sauce was good, and the chicken was tender. The gobi mutter was also excellent, this dish can change your mind about cauliflower if you're not a fan. My favorite entree, however, was the lamb saag.

The spinach (saag) was delicious, with some fresh whole spices, and the lamb was tender and well-seasoned. We also felt we had to try the Hakka noodles, since we had never had them—or even heard of them! The overall vibe is Chinese. Thin, well-seasoned noodles with egg and veggies and either shrimp or chicken, they are excellent comfort food. If you get them spiced hot, as we did, they will take the top of your head off, but without the heat, they would be a great dish for kids who might not otherwise warm to Indian food. Standard or fusion, all the dishes are freshly cooked, reasonably portioned and at good price points.

I ordered a salty mango lassi, a yogurt-based drink, to drink with my meal, and it was fantastic. This restaurant does not serve alcohol, so if you are dining in, I encourage you to try a sweet or salty lassi—they are refreshing and go well with spicy food! The spice level of the food overall seems moderate—we ordered most of our items medium and felt they could have been a bit spicier, but if you order them hot, they definitely deliver the heat. So, let's talk about the dining and takeout experiences.

For takeout, the interface is pretty good, it's easy to order, they give you a time for pickup, and both our orders were complete and ready on time. We didn't try delivery, but there are multiple delivery options. My only quibble is some dishes on the ordering site have pictures and some don't. The food was still hot and traveled well. We were very happy with our takeout experience. However, our dining in experience was a bit mixed. There are three booths along one side of the restaurant and three tables along the other, so the dining space is limited. The decor is pretty minimal, it has a very strip-mall-eatery vibe, but there is table service in addition to the counter for takeout orders. The waitress was very pleasant and helpful about the menu, and our food came out in a reasonable amount of time. Our experience was somewhat marred by a table of 4 very loud patrons who bossed the waitress around and made it difficult to enjoy what was otherwise a good dining experience. While this may not be typical, the dining room is so small that other diners, for good or ill, will definitely impact your experience. However, the booths are deep and comfortable and offer some insulation, if you can get one!

A final issue for both take-out and dining in is parking. Parking in front of the restaurant is scarce, and serves Maya Bistro and several other businesses as well. However, there is usually available street parking right around the corner on N Kensington Street, and additional parking in the adjoining strip mall across N Kensington. While Curry and Clay Oven does not offer an upscale ambience, it serves excellent cooking at reasonable prices, has good dine-in service, and does takeout very well. If you are a fan of Indian food, I recommend giving Curry and Clay Oven a try, either in person or via takeout.

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Change your email?

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.

Civic News

Follow all the Yorktown Civic Association news on our own yorktowncivic.org website, facebook.com/groups/YorktownCivic, and Nextdoor.

Our Neighbors

Consider helping your elderly and disabled neighbors. Consider helping water their garden in the heat, and help shovel a driveway in the winter.

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YORKTOWN'S STUMBLING STONES TO REMEMBER THE NEIGHBORHOOD'S ENSLAVED

By Zach Newkirk



Some of the bronze plaques made by Arlington Tech High school students. Photo WTOP.

Coming within the next several weeks to the sidewalk at the intersection of Little Falls Road and North Harrison Street are three “stumbling stones.” The stones—which are six-inch, round bronze plaques—commemorate the lives of Charlotte, Margaret, and George Hyson. William Minor enslaved these two women and one man in the 1850s.

The stumbling stones are the result of meticulous research and advocacy from the Memorializing the Enslaved in Arlington project, which the Arlington Historical Society and Black Heritage Museum of Arlington have sponsored. The term comes from the German word *Stolpersteine*, literally stumbling stones, that are aimed to direct a viewer’s attention away from their thoughts and onto remembering an historical event. They are aimed to “stumble” a viewer’s mind—not be a tripping hazard for pedestrians. More than 100,000 *Stolpersteine* have been put across Europe to honor victims of the Holocaust. They are embedded in plazas and streets in Germany and other countries; many begin with the phrase “Here lived” and then more detail about the victim’s life, such as their name, birth date, and fate.

According to Jessica Kaplan, co-coordinator of the project, to date volunteer researchers have identified more than 1,400 individuals who were enslaved in present-day Arlington County. Between 1801 and 1846, Arlington County was part of the District of Columbia. Before 1801, it was part of Fairfax County and, even after 1846, was called Alexandria County. As a result, archival records were located in several locations across the area. Importantly, the thorough researchers have identified the names of about 800 enslaved men, women, and children from archival records who were held in bondage in more than 130 sites throughout the county.

They combed through Census records, wills, deeds, tax records, court documents, and newspapers, which not only advertised the sale of humans but also advertised notices when enslaved people fled and sought freedom, among other records. The research is ongoing.

The first stumbling stones in Arlington were installed in October 2023 at the Balls-Sellers House—the oldest house in Arlington County. Students at Arlington Tech High School created these first stumbling stones. Arlington Tech students in the CNC machine class will also create the next set of roughly thirty stumbling stones, including three in the Yorktown neighborhood.

Not too much is known about Charlotte, Margaret, and George Hyson. Thornton Hyson was a free Black man living near the Minor farm. When enslavement ended, the family lived on Hall’s Hill and helped found Calloway Church. Some of their descendants still live there today. Their daily lives were long, difficult, and they were denied virtually all of the legal protections and civil rights that we enjoy today in our civic association. The Minor family through the 1850s enslaved at least fifteen to twenty individuals in North Arlington. An historical marker on N. Powhatan Street notes that Minor Hill, named after William Minor’s father George, is the tallest point in the county. It was the site of a Confederate outpost and subsequent skirmish in the early months of the Civil War.

For more information about the Memorializing the Enslaved in Arlington project, including stories of several enslaved men and women in the county, a map of major sites of slavery, and the database of Arlington’s enslaved population, check out <https://arlhist.org/enslavement/>.

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**For ad info, contact Dustin Anderson at:
dustinanderson@mac.com**

While the YCA EC enjoys frequenting the many wonderful businesses in our neighborhood, newsletter ads should not be considered an endorsement.

WHY LOCAL GOVERNMENT DESERVES YOUR ATTENTION

Originally printed in the Yorktown Sentry,
Yorktown High School's student-run newspaper.

By Maren Leonard and Charlie Schirmer

The media cycle now is dominated by the federal election results. Due to its prevalence, it can feel as though Donald Trump and those elected to the House of Representatives and Senate are the only politicians worth your attention. However, local government institutions like the county and school boards have a more direct impact on your everyday life. Therefore, it's important to keep up with news and find ways to provide input.

The school and county boards meet twice a month. In these meetings, they debate policy, hear from their constituents and adjust current guidelines. Often, these policies are aimed toward contentious local disputes, such as Missing Middle and the new school cell phone policy. Because of relevancy to your lifestyle, it is imperative to stay informed on updates on news.

Odds are that your media is inundated with ads reminding you to vote. While the interruptions to Sunday Night Football or TikTok scrolling are somewhat annoying, voting is a vital way that your voice can be heard. Alongside the presidential candidates, students at our school over 18 had the opportunity to vote on 2024 local bond referenda (money allocation).

These issues include public transportation, parks and changes to Arlington Public Schools (APS). Ever played sports on the patchy grass at Kenmore Middle School? The election was your chance to supply turf. Ever held an oven door closed with a chair in Gourmet foods? The budget proposed updating school kitchens and lunch rooms. While these policies may seem small in the grand scheme of the nation, they exemplify concrete change that your vote can bring.

Recently, a Missing Middle policy was rejected in court that would have prevented single-family homes from being built in certain parts of Arlington. This was due to a civil lawsuit, brought on by an Arlington citizen. Furthermore, the widespread protests against the ruling, such as in 2023, spurred reconsideration. The County Board plays a big role in advocating for policies like this so taking part in local elections can help put issues you are passionate about into the spotlight.

Arlington is especially lacking in election attention when it comes to smaller offices. The county reports over 160,000 registered voters, but attendance is egregiously low whenever a local election takes place. This is a failure of local government to not emphasize the importance of voter participation. More local ads, voting buses and public announcements should be made in order to maximize voter turnout. Democracy is founded on the idea of public voice, and you should understand the process to share yours.

YORKTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President
Mike Cantwell
mtcantwell @ msn.com

Neighborhood Conservation
David Haring
dharing @ outlook.com

Secretary
Brian Young
brianyoung78 @ aol.com

Treasurer
Dustin Anderson
dustinanderson @ mac.com

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YORKTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Yorktown Civic Association

Send Address changes to:
5104 23rd Road N
Arlington, VA 22207

YorktownCivic.org



NEXT GENERAL MEETING Wednesday, February 12, 2025

7:30 pm
Yorktown High School
Library

Enter through the Main Entrance
off of Yorktown Boulevard

AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

- Biannual Elections for YCA Officers
- Guest Speaker from the County
- Vision Zero Quiz
- Neighbors Share Issues and Priorities for the New Year

ARLINGTON COUNTY ONLINE TOOL: REQUEST SERVICE OR REPORT PROBLEMS

For many services or problems, you can use Arlington County's online Request Service / Report a Problem tool:

arlingtonva.us/Government/Topics/Report-Problem

Or download the app **My Arlington**

For Traffic Light Outages:
Call Police non-emergency Number at 703-558-2222
For Water and Sewer Emergencies, call 703-228-6555 (24 hrs)

What you can report or request online includes:

- Trash/recycling and Litter
- Street lights/park lights
- Streets (potholes, concrete, gutter)
- Parks (dog park, facility, field, playground, trails)
- Water repair (utility cover)
- Signs (traffic, stop, parking)
- Parking meters
- Trees & mowing
- Bus stops
- Public art conditions
- Graffiti

