

CIVIC PRIDE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
YORKTOWN
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbors,

Happy Spring! As the weather warms up and the last of the snowcrete has melted away, we are thrilled to bring neighbors together for a **Neighborhood Day on Sunday, June 7 from 4 PM to 7 PM at N. Greenbrier St. & 25th Road N.** (behind the Lee Harrison Shopping Center). A huge thanks to the Arlington Neighborhood Services Division's for their mini grant to support community events. There will be something for everyone! Kids can enjoy a bounce house, face painting, arts and drafts. Neighbors can connect over local vendors, music, food, drinks, and a raffle with prizes to benefit our association's programming and the Arlington Food Assistance Center.

We'd love to see you there—consider RSVP'ing at the Facebook event and/or signing up to bring a potluck item at the QR code links on page 3.

Consider walking or parking a couple blocks away, as street parking nearby may be limited and crossing your fingers for great weather that day!

Neighborhood Day details on page 3.

ARLINGTON KABOB



Celebrating a decade in the Arlington Community!

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Please also join us at our **next general membership meeting on Wednesday, June 10 at 7:30 PM at the Yorktown High School library.** We're especially excited to welcome our guest speaker, Dr. Carylynn Kemp Larson. She is the founder of Rock Recovery, a mental health nonprofit headquartered in Arlington and serving our community for the past 17 years. Rock Recovery bridges gaps and breaks barriers specific to the complexities of disordered eating (e.g., struggles with food, eating, and body image) and provides individual and group therapy, including meal support. In addition, and relevant to their time with us, Rock works hard to destigmatize mental health and to empower members of the community to show up for those who are struggling around them.

Since our last newsletter and meeting, the civic association has drafted two letters to the county board to express our views on community projects. First, we offered our view on the Leckey Gardens redevelopment, an affordable housing complex behind the Lee Heights Shops. Specifically, we opined on issues that are most relevant to our neighborhood if and when the Safeway, Garden City, and Lee Harrison Shopping Centers are redeveloped. These include appropriate transitions from taller structures to lower-density residential areas and issues related to parking.

Second, we drafted a letter supporting bond funds for the Arlington Neighborhoods Program (ANP) projects in the 2027 Capital Improvement Plan. ANP projects have benefited our neighborhoods for decades and we hope will continue to do so in the years to come. The civic association's past letters on various issues are now available on our website at yorktowncivic.org.

The civic association will be updating its bylaws, which have not been updated since 2003. Amendments will be presented at our next general meeting and revisions posted online. The general membership will vote on the proposed revisions at our fall meeting and we will require a two-thirds majority for passage. Since voting is limited to dues-paying members, please consider renewing your membership if you have not already for this year.

Similarly, the civic association's current leaders will be presenting a revised neighborhood plan at the fall meeting for the general membership's approval at our winter meeting. This will require a simple majority for passage. As always, your input helps shape the future of our neighborhood! Please reach out, as we welcome your assistance, views, and opinions on drafting the neighborhood plan, which has not been updated since 2006.

See you at the Neighborhood Day, the June 10 general meeting, and around the neighborhood this summer!

Zach Newkirk
President, Yorktown Civic Association

Yorktown Civic Association Membership

Register by Mail

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

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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 yorktowncivic@gmail.com.

Be sure to include:

- Your Name
- Address
- Phone Number
- Email

Thank you!



OUR FIRST NEIGHBORHOOD DAY SINCE 2021!

Sunday June 7, 2026 - 4 pm to 7 pm
N. Greenbrier St. & 25th Road N.
(behind the Lee Harrison Shopping Center)

Join neighbors for a potluck-style block party complete with local vendors, kids' DJ, raffle & prizes, bounce house, face painting, arts/crafts, fun, and more!

We'd love to see you there!



Consider RSVP'ing on Facebook for this event




Consider signing up to bring a potluck item

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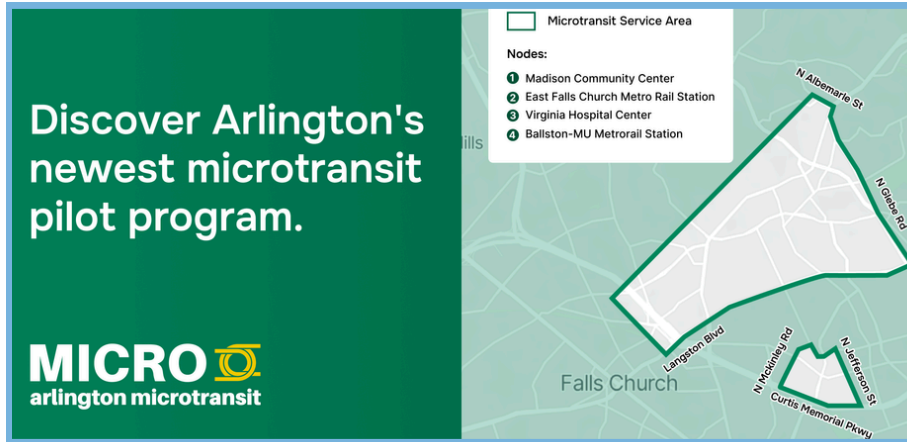


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NEW MICROTRANSIT PILOT BRINGS EASIER, ON-DEMAND RIDES TO NORTHWEST ARLINGTON



A new transportation option is arriving in our area this spring. Arlington County has launched a new microtransit pilot program, offering flexible, on-demand rides in areas where traditional bus service has been limited. The service officially began on April 13, 2026 and it's now up and running.

Instead of following fixed routes like a typical bus, the microtransit service works more like a shared ride you can call when you need it. Using the MICRO Transit app (or by phone), riders can request a trip in real time. The system then matches passengers heading in the same direction, creating efficient shared rides with shorter waits and more direct trips.

The pilot currently serves Westover Village and a broader section of northwest Arlington, including neighborhoods like Rock Spring, Yorktown, East Falls Church, and Williamsburg. From within the service zone, riders can connect to key destinations such as the East Falls Church and Ballston Metro stations, Virginia Hospital Center, Madison Community Center, local schools, libraries, and nearby shopping areas.

A big goal of the microtransit pilot is to improve those "first- and last-mile" trips. These trips help residents get to Metro stations and other essential destinations more easily. It's also meant to fill gaps where lower-ridership bus routes haven't been as effective, offering a more flexible option that adjusts to how people actually travel.

Continued on page 7

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YORKTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Zach Newkirk
President
zjanewkirk@gmail.com

Mike Cantwell
Vice President
Civic Federation Delegate
mtcantwell@msn.com

David Haring
Neighborhood Conservation
dharing@outlook.com

Brian Young
Secretary
brianyoung78@aol.com

Dustin Anderson
Treasurer
dustinanderson@mac.com

AT LARGE

Debi Cain
brandtdc@gmail.com

James Churbuck
churbuck@mac.com

Terry Costello
bgbtjc@verizon.net

David Friedman
jacmatt@verizon.net

Campbell Maloney
Webmaster
Newsletter Editor
campbell@blueunderground.com

Mehul Vora
mehulpvora@gmail.com

Courtney Weber
localfocusdmv@gmail.com

Frank White
fwhite04@comcast.net

WE HAVE A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS!

yorktowncivic@gmail.com

Community Announcements

NEW BUSINESSES OPENING IN OUR CIVIC ASSOCIATION'S BOUNDARIES

2026 is shaping up to be a vibrant year for businesses in our civic associatio, as new storefronts bring fresh flavors, new skills, and renewed energy to the Garden City and Lee-Harrison Shopping Centers. According to recent articles in ARLnow, here's a closer look at what's coming (or already here):

Cup of Bliss

- Set to open later this summer into early fall 2026 at 2439 N. Harrison Street in the Lee-Harrison Shopping Center, this Vietnamese-inspired café is poised to perk up the local coffee scene. The menu will spotlight distinctive drinks like cà phê sữa, bịch xỉu, egg coffee, and coconut coffee, along with espresso, pastries, and breakfast bites. With its cozy vibe and thoughtfully crafted menu, it aims to become a go-to spot for morning routines and afternoon catch-ups. (Hours not yet announced.)

Code Ninjas

- Opening June 2026 at 2449 N. Harrison Street (lower level), this “programming dojo” brings a high-tech twist to after-school activities. Kids will build their own video games, tackle creative challenges, and sharpen problem-solving skills along the way. With planned hours of Monday through Saturday, 3:00 to 8:00 p.m., it is set to be a lively hub of creativity for local families.

Zesto Pizza

- Now open with a soft launch at 5127 Langston Blvd, this newly reimagined pizzeria is already turning heads and taste buds. Alongside classic New York-style pies, Zesto is serving globally inspired creations like Korean bulgogi, Mexican-style, and butter chicken pizzas, adding international flair and a hint of spice to the neighborhood pizza rotation. Currently focused on pickup and delivery, hours are 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. on weekdays and until 11:00 p.m. on weekends, with more to come as the business ramps up.

Dance Factory

- Coming soon: a new outpost for a long-running studio brings expert instruction in ballroom, Latin, and swing, with welcoming classes for beginners, couples, and seasoned dancers alike. Whether you're prepping for a wedding or just looking for a fun new hobby, it's a great chance to step onto the dance floor close to home.

Meanwhile, be on the lookout for what businesses will replace lucrative storefronts at the old Wag & Wash and ABC liquor.



Manoukian Brothers Oriental Rugs
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manoukianbrothers.com
202-882-7847 (RUGS)

Elsewhere along the corridor are planned, or have recently opened:

Sprouts Farmers Market

- Targeting a September 2026 opening at 3115 Langston Blvd (former Giant site in Lyon Village), this national grocery chain will bring a large-format market focused on fresh produce, natural foods, and organic options. The store is part of Sprouts' broader expansion in Northern Virginia and aims to offer a “wellness-oriented” shopping experience centered on healthy, curated products.

Tio Pelé

- Now open at 3110 Langston Blvd, this Brazilian- and Lebanese-inspired charcoal chicken restaurant has already drawn strong crowds following its late March 2026 grand opening. The family-run spot serves marinated, open-flame grilled chicken in sandwiches, bowls, and platters, along with fresh juices and globally inspired sides. Initial hours are Tuesday–Friday, 5:00–9:00 p.m., with plans to expand to full daytime service in the future.

Habibi's Kitchen and Market

- Planned to open spring 2026 (likely May–June) at 3907 Langston Blvd in Cherrydale, this Middle Eastern bakery, restaurant, and market will replace Billy's Deli/Cafe. The concept will feature fresh-baked pita and pastries like baklava and kunafa, along with shawarma, meat pies, and specialty grocery items such as honey, jams, and farm-sourced goods. The shop will also highlight the owner's Jordanian roots and family farm connections.

Lee Highway and Harrison Street in the 1960s

A NEIGHBORHOOD FLASHPOINT

In the mid-1960s, the intersection of Lee Highway and Harrison Street in Arlington, Virginia looked ordinary enough on the surface. A suburban crossroads. A shopping center. A place to grab groceries, gas, or a quick bite. But beneath that everyday calm, it briefly became one of Northern Virginia's most volatile gathering points for youth rivalry, motorcycle clubs, and street reputation culture.

This was an era when Arlington's edges were still rough in places, and teenage identity often formed in parking lots, drive-ins, and pool halls rather than schools or sports fields. Groups of young men, often called "greasers" or locally known as Ducktails, built their image on slicked-back hair, denim jackets, leather boots, and a deliberate air of defiance. They were not organized in any formal way, but they were deeply territorial, and they knew exactly who belonged where.

One of the most active social hubs was the Tops Drive-In near then-Lee Highway and George Mason Drive (today is a vacant bank). On weekend nights, it could feel like half the county had shown up. Cars lined up, engines idled, music spilled out, and conversations turned into challenges, then into grudges. Pool halls, roadside diners, and music spots across Arlington and Shirlington completed a loose circuit where reputation was currency and respect was never given freely.

By the late 1950s and into the 1960s, these local street cultures began colliding with organized motorcycle clubs spreading across the region. Among the most prominent were the Pagans Motorcycle Club, founded in 1959 in Prince George's County, Maryland. The Pagans were known for strict internal rules, aggressive territorial behavior, and a willingness to back up their reputation with force. Their influence expanded quickly through the Washington metropolitan area, and friction with local groups followed close behind.

In Arlington, a loosely affiliated group of riders and associates began to form their own identity in response. They would become known as the Avengers. Many started out in informal schoolyard fights or arranged confrontations behind markets and in empty lots. What began as personal disputes slowly hardened into group loyalty, and group loyalty hardened into rivalry. By the mid-1960s, it was no longer about individual grudges. It was about pride, territory, and not backing down.

Through 1965 and into 1966, tensions escalated sharply. Incidents of vandalism, arson, and assaults were reported on both sides. Retaliation became routine.

A damaged car led to a firebombed home. A fistfight turned into a weapons threat. Each incident raised the stakes, and each response made the next confrontation more likely.

Law enforcement agencies across Arlington and neighboring jurisdictions monitored the situation closely but were often one step behind. Police reports from the period describe frequent arrests involving weapons at shopping centers and roadside gathering spots. Officers noted a troubling pattern. The gatherings were getting larger, the weapons more visible, and the confrontations more organized.

By June 1966, warnings began to point toward a major clash near the Lee-Harrison area. On the afternoon of June 14, police received multiple reports that rival groups were converging on the Safeway parking lot at Lee Highway and Harrison Street. Officers from Arlington and surrounding departments moved into position around the intersection. The atmosphere shifted from routine patrol to active anticipation.

As night fell, members of the Avengers arrived first, gathering near parked cars under the glow of streetlights. The tension built quietly at first, then all at once. Shortly after 11 p.m., gunfire broke out. The exchange lasted only minutes, but it was intense, chaotic, and loud enough to shatter any sense of normalcy in the surrounding neighborhood. Police units moved in immediately, trying to contain the scene and prevent the violence from spreading further.

When the shooting finally stopped, officers secured the area and began making arrests. Eighteen individuals were taken into custody. Charges included disorderly conduct, possession of concealed weapons, and incitement to riot. Most received fines or suspended sentences, with only one serving a short jail term.

Remarkably, no one was killed. Only one injury was officially recorded, a state trooper struck by a ricocheted bullet. In the aftermath, law enforcement described the incident as one of the most significant exchanges of gunfire Arlington had ever seen.

Local newspapers and public officials quickly turned their attention to what the confrontation revealed about youth violence, policing limitations, and the growing influence of motorcycle clubs in suburban communities. The debate was sharp and immediate, reflecting a region trying to understand how a seemingly ordinary intersection had become a flashpoint for such a concentrated burst of chaos.

Today, the intersection carries none of that weight in its daily appearance. But for those who remember, or have heard the stories passed down, Lee Highway and Harrison Street briefly held a different kind of history. One marked by loud engines, louder reputations, and a night in 1966 when a suburban corner suddenly became something far more explosive than anyone expected.

Drawn from these sources:

<https://arhist.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/2008-2-Night.pdf>

<https://arlingtonhistorical.com/items/show/112>

Microtransit

Continued from page 4

The service runs Monday through Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., and on Saturdays from 7:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., making it a convenient option for commuters, errands, and everything in between.

Fares are \$4.50 per trip, with discounted fares of \$2.25 for seniors, people with disabilities, and K-12 students. Trips that connect to Ballston or East Falls Church Metro stations may qualify for reduced fares, and children under five ride free with an adult. As a bonus, the County is offering a limited-time promotion of six free rides during the program's initial rollout. This makes it a great time to give it a try.

The microtransit pilot is funded through a partnership between Arlington County and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation and is expected to run through fiscal year 2027. During that time, the County will be tracking how the service is used and gathering community feedback to help decide what comes next.

For our civic association, this new microtransit service offers a more flexible, responsive way to get around—without the need to plan your day around a fixed schedule. If you're curious, it might be worth downloading the app and taking it for a spin.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

7:30 pm, Yorktown High School Library

Enter through the Main Entrance
off of Yorktown Boulevard

AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

- Bylaws Amendments
- Neighborhood Plan Update
- Guest Speaker: Dr. Carylynn Kemp Larson of Rock Recovery

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**

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Call Police non-emergency Number at 703-558-2222

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- Signs (traffic, stop, parking)
- Parking meters
- Trees & mowing
- Bus stops
- Public art conditions
- Graffiti



YORKTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Yorktown Civic Association

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

YorktownCivic.org

NEXT

GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday

June 10, 2026

See details on page 7

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