

CIVIC PRIDE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
YORKTOWN
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbors,

I hope everyone has had a great summer and you're successfully getting back into the fall schedule!

Our next civic association meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October 14, at 7:30 p.m.** at the **Yorktown High School library**. Our guest speaker will be County Board Member J.D. Spain who will provide us with an update on the County Board's latest actions and priorities, as well as participating in some Q&A. We'll also be voting on some updated bylaws (friendly reminder that voting is eligible only for dues-paying members—thank you for the support for all neighbors who pay civic association dues!). A reminder that the proposed bylaws are available at yorktowncivic.org.

It feels like a million years ago, but we had our Neighborhood Day back in June and it was a tremendous success! Thank you to everyone who came out, participated, and enjoyed some neighborly fun, games, food, and beverages. Special thanks to the immediate neighbors on N. Greenbrier St. who came out and supported the block party on our street!

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SCAN ME

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We had around 250 people come through as well as several excellent local vendors set up. If your street or block would like to host a future Neighborhood Day, please reach out!

This summer, I've been hard at work updating our Neighborhood Plan. Yorktown's last Plan was passed in 2006 and ideally civic associations pass an updated version every ten years. Better late than never! Former YCA President David Haring and I are running down some final data points from the county, but a draft Plan should be available on our website and via email for your viewing and comment within the next several weeks.

Finally, all of our terms on the executive committee will be up in February 2027. If you're interested in joining the executive committee (or running for re-election) please reach out to yorktowncivic@gmail.com.

Thanks and see you around the neighborhood!

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:
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Offsetting Rising Energy Costs

PLUG-IN SOLAR IS COMING TO VIRGINIA

By Mehul Vora

Beginning January 1, 2027, Virginia homeowners will have a new option for producing their own electricity: plug-in solar. Unlike traditional rooftop solar installations that often cost tens of thousands of dollars and require permits, contractors, and utility interconnection agreements, plug-in solar systems are designed to be simple, portable, and affordable. Virginia's new law allows qualifying systems of up to 1,200 watts to connect to your home through a standard electrical outlet using certified equipment.

The heart of every plug-in solar system is not the solar panel. It's the microinverter.

Solar panels simply produce low-voltage DC electricity. The microinverter converts that power into standard 120-volt AC electricity that matches the utility grid exactly. Just as importantly, modern certified microinverters include a safety feature called anti-islanding. If utility power goes out, the inverter immediately stops producing electricity. This prevents power from being sent onto utility lines during an outage, protecting utility crews and ensuring the system operates safely.

Because the inverter provides the intelligence and safety, the solar panels themselves are remarkably simple devices. In fact, many homeowners can save substantial money by purchasing quality used solar panels removed from commercial or residential installations. Solar panels typically lose only a small amount of production each year and often remain highly productive for 25 to 30 years or more. A used panel producing 90 to 95 percent of its original output can still provide excellent value.

Installation is surprisingly straightforward. The panels connect to the microinverter, and the inverter plugs into a standard household outlet. During daylight hours, the electricity it produces is used first by your home, reducing the amount you purchase from the utility. Your refrigerator, air conditioner, computers, lights, and other appliances simply draw less power from the electric grid because some of that demand is being supplied by your solar panels instead.

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of plug-in solar is that the technology is no longer experimental. Germany has embraced these systems for roughly a decade.

Continued on page 6



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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!



A Word From Our Supporter Simply Sorted DECLUTTERING IDEAS FOR OUR YORKTOWN HOMES

By Rebecca Helm

Living in the Yorktown neighborhood is fantastic, but keeping up with our busy daily routines, changing seasons, and dynamic households can leave any home feeling a bit crowded. Whether you're making space in a classic Cape Cod or trying to streamline a bustling family home, keeping things organized doesn't have to be overwhelming. As a professional organizer who absolutely loves living right here in Yorktown, I know first hand the unique layout challenges and busy schedules we all navigate. Here are three simple, stress-free ideas to make your everyday flow a little smoother:

- Give everything a "Home Base": Grouping items by category rather than wherever they happen to land makes a world of difference. Clear, labeled bins for seasonal accessories, kids' gear, or pantry items mean everyone in the house knows exactly where things go - and where to put them back!
- Set Up a Quick Drop Zone: Our household entryways catch a lot of action every single day. A small landing spot near the door with a few hooks for bags, a basket for mail, and a tray for keys keeps daily clutter from wandering into the rest of your living space.
- Try "One-In, One-Out": When you pick up something new, try letting go of an item you aren't using anymore. It's a great habit for keeping closets manageable, and you can easily donate gently used items through local Arlington collection options.

A lighter, more organized space can free up more time for you to enjoy the things that matter most to you, like our wonderful community.

Neighbors are welcome to reach out with any organizing questions or just to chat about a tricky space! My dedicated team and I are always here to help bring order to even the busiest spaces.

Feel free to drop us a line at hello@simplysortedllc.com, give us a call at 1-866-2-SORT-ME (1-866-276-7863) or swing by www.simplysortedllc.com.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

7:30 pm, Yorktown High School Library

Enter through the Main Entrance
off of Yorktown Boulevard

AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

- Guest Speaker County Board Member J.D. Spain
- Update Bylaws

A Word From Our Supporter

MANOUKIAN BROTHERS - A HUNDRED-YEAR-AND-MORE RUG STORY

Manoukian Brothers has been part of the Washington-area community since 1922. What has kept the family business going for more than a century, and what has changed the most along the way?

Perseverance. Successfully navigating the vagaries of (consumer) demand across a hundred years and multiple generations of single-family ownership requires significant focus and care. During times of difficulty, confidence that the situation will change has been important. Also, it is essential in having someone in the succeeding generation willing and able to take over the business. Many things change; for example, consumer demand for rug styles is ever evolving based on current fashion. More recently, the technology supporting all businesses is accelerating at a breakneck pace; AI is the example du jour.

For readers who may not know much about rugs, what makes a hand-knotted rug special—and what should someone look for when choosing one for their home?

A hand-knotted wool rug is special because it embodies both individual artistry and sustainability. It can be both art on the floor and a functional object that will provide enjoyment for many decades, assuming it is well cared for through cleanings and repairs. A wool pile rug on a cotton warp and weft has a proven track record which is not true of many rugs today made with other materials or a mix of other materials. Many rugs on the market today are shiny and pretty initially but have little resilience to daily wear and tear. They are inherently less apt to be restored to health through professional cleanings and servicing.

You're now in your third generation of family ownership. What have you learned from the previous generations that still influences how you run the business today?

Every generation has faced challenges, many of which have been lost to the sands of time. When we have difficulties today, it is important to remember they likely pale in comparison to the challenges that our past generations navigated. The first generation, the immigrants, survived the Turkish genocide and expulsion so they were familiar with life-threatening adversity. Having lived for many generations in Anatolia which was a commercial crossroads, they were already experienced in commerce and familiar with their product.

People might think of a rug as something you buy and forget about. What are some simple things homeowners can do to keep their rugs looking good and lasting for decades?

First, if you want a rug to stand the test of time, consider acquiring the best quality wool rug you can afford over those

made with poor-quality fibers, such as viscose (rayon). The semi-synthetic fibers on the market today, and there are many, look pretty initially but lack the durability and cleanability of wool. In five or ten years, these non-wool or mixed-wool rugs, won't hold up or clean as well, and cleaning them is frequently both more expensive and less effective than cleaning their wool counterparts. The simplest action one can take to preserve the life of a hardy wool rug is to vacuum it regularly and have it professionally cleaned every few years depending upon the usage it receives. If possible, turn the rug over and vacuum it from the back side. One may need to do this more than once to remove the dirt which falls into the pile of the rug. Also remember to rotate the rug about once a year due to traffic patterns and sun exposure. One more caution regarding proper care of an oriental rug is to never put a wool rug through a dry-cleaning process. Wool has lanolin and dry-cleaning materials are deleterious to it, drying it out.

You also specialize in cleaning, repairing, and restoring rugs. What's one rug problem that looks hopeless to a homeowner but is actually very fixable?

The most common issue with a typically rectangular hand-knotted rug is edge wear, whether on the fringe (narrow side) or the long sides. These edges always suffer the most wear and tear from foot traffic. Hand repairing the side(s) of a rug is straightforward and is the most common repair we do after properly cleaning it.

After serving customers throughout the Washington area for generations, do you have a favorite customer story, unusual rug, or restoration project that has stayed with you?

Continued on page 6

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Plug-in Solar

Continued from page 3

There they are commonly known as “balcony solar” (“Balkonkraftwerke”) because they are often mounted on apartment balconies, allowing renters and condominium residents to generate their own electricity without owning a roof. Today, Germany has more than one million registered balcony solar systems, making them an everyday sight in neighborhoods across the country.

Plug-in solar won't replace a full rooftop solar system for households seeking maximum energy production. However, it offers an affordable entry point for homeowners who want to lower their electric bills without making a major investment. It also opens the door for many people who previously found traditional solar too expensive or too complicated.

Several neighbors, including the author, are already experimenting with plug-in solar systems in anticipation of Virginia's new law taking effect. If you're curious about how these systems work, what they cost, or how much electricity they actually produce in our area, we'd be happy to demonstrate our installations and share what we've learned. Sometimes seeing a system in operation is the best way to understand just how simple this new technology has become.

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



Manoukian Brothers

Continued from page 5

Rug stories shared by and with our customers over the last 100 years are a very fun aspect of the trade. In the early '90s, we acquired, restored and installed an impressively large 20x40 antique Agra rug that beautified the Reception Room for Speaker of the House Thomas Foley located in the Rayburn Office Building near the Capitol. It took 6-8 people to move and lay the rug as it was so very heavy. The rug was originally made to order around WWI for use in the General Motors Corporate Board Room in Michigan. We sourced it from a New York rug dealer who acquired it from a storage company in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It had been owned by a recently deceased resident of Santa Fe. While its journey during its mid-life is not clear it was in overall decent condition when we received it. Our current research with the Architect of the US Capitol's office indicates it is in their storage awaiting a new home.

What do you love about having the business here in Arlington, and what would you like your neighbors to know about Manoukian Brothers that they might not realize?

Most of our legacy customers know us from our first 96 years in WDC. More specifically, from our time on Columbia Road NW in Adams Morgan from 1972 to 2007. Many of these legacy customers started as a single person or a newly married couple in that part of the city and then as time passed they started a family and moved out to the suburbs, like Arlington. It is especially fun to re-connect with them when they come into the store, as they frequently tell us anecdotes about when they first entered the magical rug store in Adams Morgan so many years ago.

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Arlington Turkey Trot Celebrates MORE THAN TWO DECADES

By Cort Weber

For 21 years, thousands of Arlington residents have started Thanksgiving morning the same way: bundled up, surrounded by neighbors, friends, kids, dogs, strollers, and more than a few turkey costumes, ready to take part in the Arlington Turkey Trot.

However, the Arlington Turkey Trot is so much more than a race.

I've had the privilege of serving as Race Director for the past four years, and during that time, I've watched this event grow into something truly magical. More than 4,000 people now gather in Lyon Park on Thanksgiving morning, making the Turkey Trot one of Arlington's most beloved community traditions.

There's nothing better than seeing thousands of people come together on Thanksgiving morning and watching more than 4,000 participants cross the finish line. But what makes me proudest is the tremendous impact we make right here in our own community through one event on one morning of the year. Last year alone, we donated \$15,000 to each of our ten nonprofit beneficiaries.

At its heart, the Arlington Turkey Trot is about giving back. The funds raised through registrations, sponsorships, and donations support local nonprofits serving our neighbors right here in Arlington. These organizations are addressing food insecurity, housing instability, homelessness, youth development, senior services, and many other needs throughout our community.

As the Trot has continued to grow, so has our ability to expand our impact. We now rotate our beneficiary roster each year, which allows us to support and amplify the work of even more Arlington nonprofits over time. Beyond providing financial support, we have the opportunity to introduce thousands of residents to organizations they may not have encountered before. I love knowing that someone might first learn about a nonprofit because they saw its name on our website or social media, then become a donor, volunteer, or longtime supporter.

That's when a Thanksgiving morning race turns into something much bigger.

Another remarkable part of the Turkey Trot is the army of volunteers who make it possible. This is a 4,000-person event, and I am the only paid employee. Everything else happens because members of this community step forward to help.

Volunteers stuff participant bags, assist with packet pickup, distribute shirts, help with course operations, hand out water, cheer for runners, and tackle countless other jobs behind the scenes.

It takes an extraordinary number of people to transform the streets of Arlington into a racecourse and then put everything back together a few hours later.

The fact that we accomplish it through the generosity of volunteers says so much about Arlington and the people who call it home.

There are plenty of ways to become part of the Trot, even if running a 5K is not your idea of a relaxing Thanksgiving morning.

Of course, we would love to have you join us at the start line in Lyon Park. If you're traveling for Thanksgiving, you can still support the Trot by making a donation. Local businesses can also join our flock as sponsors, and yes, sponsorship comes with the opportunity to have your logo featured on what I like to call the most popular shirt in Arlington.

And if you would rather be behind the scenes, we would love to have you volunteer. There are opportunities before race day and throughout Thanksgiving morning, so you don't need to be a runner to experience the energy of the Trot.

After four years as Race Director, I remain incredibly honored to help carry forward a tradition that Arlington has built over more than two decades. The Trot aligns beautifully with my own values and with the work I do through my business, Local Focus: connecting people, strengthening our community, supporting local organizations, and finding ways to make Arlington a little better.

Thanksgiving can be busy. There are turkeys to cook, tables to set, relatives to wrangle, and football games to watch.

But for a few hours that morning, thousands of us come together outside in Lyon Park and celebrate something we share: this community.

That's the magic of the Arlington Turkey Trot.

I hope we see plenty of our Yorktown Civic Association neighbors out there this Thanksgiving morning.

To register, donate, volunteer, become a sponsor, or learn more, visit arlingtonvaturkeytrot.org

Questions? Contact Race Director Cortney Weber at arlingtonturkeytrot@gmail.com



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NEXT

GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday

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See details on page 4

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