



Williamsburg Civic Association Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2010

WWW.WCA-ARLINGTON.ORG

WCA President's Message

Dear Neighbors:

Now that fall is here, your WCA is back up and running and we have quite a bit on our plate.



Sonia McCormick

First, we have arranged to have **Dr. Patrick Murphy**, superintendent of Arlington County Public Schools, as our keynote speaker at our Tuesday, Oct. 12 meeting. It's an honor to have him visit our civic association and I hope that we'll have a good showing. Please note that there's no set agenda for the presentation. Dr. Murphy will make some opening remarks regarding back-to-school issues and then open up the floor to questions. If you have kids in the public school system, I urge you to attend.

Following Dr. Murphy's talk, we will have a presentation on a topic that has some in the neighborhood concerned. Bishop O'Connell High School is looking to renovate its athletic fields, and as part of that, has applied to Arlington Co. for a permit to install lights that stay on until 11 pm year round.

Some residents living near the school have raised concerns about more noise, traffic and possible safety issues. The good news is that Arlington County is currently reviewing the plan and is requesting community and neighborhood feedback – a key element of the review.

It behooves everyone in the WCA who has an interest in this issue to become informed. Please come to the meeting and hear what Bishop O'Connell President **Kathleen Ryan Prebble** has to say. While Arlington Co. Project Manager Marco Rivera is not available to attend, he is open to feedback and welcomes being contacted at mrivero@arlingtonva.us. The documents and plans that O'Connell submitted to the County are posted on the WCA website at www.wca-arlington.org.

General Membership Meeting

**Tuesday, October 12
7:30 – 9:00 PM**

**Nottingham Elementary School
In the Library
5900 Little Falls Road
Arlington, VA 22207**

Program:

**7:30-8:15
Open Dialogue with
Arlington County
Public Schools
Superintendent
Dr. Patrick Murphy**



**8:15-8:45
Presentation on
Proposed
Changes to
Bishop O'Connell
Athletic Fields**



**Kathleen Ryan Prebble
President**

**8:45-9:00
Business Meeting
WCA Officers**

Briefs:

ISO WCA VP: After serving 3 productive years as VP of the W'burg Civic Assn, Coral Gundlach has decided to step down. Her position is currently open. If you're interested in giving back to the community, we could definitely use your help. To inquire or express interest, email Sonia McCormick at sonia.b.mccormick@gmail.com

Arlington County Taxes: You have until October 15th (vs. the 5th) to pay your property tax this year thanks to a printing error that resulted in the property tax bills going out late.

Missing Links: If you have missing links (sidewalks that discontinue) that you'd like to suggest the County fill in, now is the time to apply. Applications are due to Neighborhood Conservation Planner Tim McIntosh on Oct. 22. If you have questions about what qualifies, contact Tim at tmcintosh@arlingtonva.us

Community Policing: The WCA has a community police officer assigned to us. If you have a non-emergency, please refrain from calling the main police line and instead call Officer James O'Daniel at 703.228.3600, x 9847 or email him at jodaniel@arlingtonva.us

WCA ListServ: This newsletter is published only quarterly. To keep up with breaking news affecting our community, please join the WCA listserv, where we all do our best to report on need-to-know matters. Access to the Yahoo group is available via www.wca-arlington.org.

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Update on East Falls Church Area Planning Process

By Mark Moran

WCA Rep to the EFC Planning Study Task Force

In 2007, the Arlington County Board set up a citizen task force, the East Falls Church Planning Study Task Force, whose mission was “to generate a vision for transit-oriented development in the East Falls Church area of Arlington County.”

There were two main motivations behind this planning effort. First, the local community around the Metrorail station, led principally by the Arlington East Falls Church Civic Association (AEFCCA), wanted to come up with a plan for future development in the area, so that as land was redeveloped, it would be guided by a plan developed with citizen input, and not simply be driven by the interests of the developers. Similar planning efforts, known as Sector Plans, had been conducted in the past around other Metrorail stations in Arlington.

Second, it was felt that development pressures on land around the station would be increasing in the near future, due to the upcoming Metrorail Silver Line, which would eventually connect Arlington with Dulles Airport.

The East Falls Church station would serve as a transfer point between the Orange and Silver Lines, since it would be the point where the two lines come together. The first segment of the Silver Line, going from East Falls Church to Wiehle Avenue on the eastern edge of Reston, is to be completed by 2013. The second segment, going from Wiehle Avenue to Dulles Airport and beyond, is scheduled to be completed by 2016.

The task force included about 18 members: four from AEFCCA, one from Williamsburg Civic Association (WCA), one from Madison Manor Civic Association (MMCA), and representatives from the City of Falls Church, VDOT, WMATA and various Arlington County commissions, such as the Planning Commission.

On June 9, after over two and a half years developing a plan, the task force voted to adopt the

plan and sent it to the County Board. The vote was 14 for and 4 against the plan.

It should be noted that the plan is long-range in nature, not short range. So, various elements in the plan might not be realized for 20 or 30 years, or might never be realized. No one knows what redevelopment might occur or when it will occur, since this depends on decisions made by individual land owners and developers.

EAST FALLS CHURCH METRO FACTS

- Located in the median of Lee Hwy & I-66
- Service Began June 7, 1986
- Of the 6 stations on the Orange Line in Arlington, EFC has the least transit-oriented development
- In 2013, EFC will become a transfer point for the Silver Line, which eventually will run to Dulles Airport

The June 9 meeting of the task force was its last meeting, since it had fulfilled its mission. At the July 10th County Board meeting, the board voted unanimously to “accept” task force plan. The board also voted to “adopt” a set of “policy determinations” that were derived from the task force’s plan, and directed the County Manager to incorporate the policy determinations into a revised East Falls Church Area Plan that would be brought forward for adoption by the County Board within six months.

The plan identified several parcels of land around the EFC Metro station that might redevelop in the next 1-30 years, the most prominent of which was the 400-car park-and-ride (PNR) lot that is adjacent to and just north of the station. The plan envisions that this PNR lot might eventually become a low-to medium-density mixed used development. It also envisions that only a portion of the 400 parking spaces would be replaced.

Continued on Page 5

The plan envisions that the kiss-and-ride (KNR) parking lot to the south of the station would be left mostly as it is, but would be reconfigured to improve the existing operations that occur there. However, for any change to occur at the PNR lot, now or at any time in the future, the land owner must be interested in making such change. The PNR lot is two-thirds owned by VDOT and one-third owned by WMATA. VDOT owns the portion of the lot that abuts I-66 and is closest to the Metrorail station. WMATA owns the portion of the lot at the intersection of N. Sycamore Street and Washington Boulevard (See Map 15 on p. 100 of the plan, which can be found on the Arlington County Board website).

VDOT has no interest in giving up (selling) its ownership of the parcel, since it would like to keep this land, which was part of the original I-66 right of way, for possible expansion of I-66 in the future (See April 20, 2010 VDOT letter on p. 159 of the plan). As for WMATA, it earns parking revenue from the PNR lot, so it would not be interested in selling its parcel, unless it feels it can more than make up for the lost parking revenue, such as through increased ridership and/or other revenue streams.

Consequently, the current chance of the plan being implemented as written is very slim. It should be noted that the task force, when developing the plan, was told by the County Board not to focus on ownership issues related to the PNR lot, but instead to focus on describing its vision for the area, irrespective of ownership issues. So, the task force was aware of this hurdle when it developed its plan. Since the task force has been disbanded, the planning process is now up to the County Board.

More information can be found on the County's web site:
<http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/CPHD/forums/columbia/current/CPHDForumsEastFallsChurch.aspx>

Candidates Night Scheduled for Thursday, October 28 at 7:00 pm

As in years past, the Williamsburg Civic Association is proud to join our fellow civic associations in sponsoring a candidates night to give Arlingtonians a chance to ask questions of those running for elected office. The event will be held on Thursday, Oct. 28 from 7:00-9:15 pm in the parish hall of Resurrection Lutheran Church located at 6201 Washington Boulevard in Arlington. Refreshments will be served.

7:00 p.m. — Arlington School Board
(nonpartisan)
Ms. Sally Baird
Ms. Miriam Gennari

7:45 p.m. — House of Representatives (VA. 8th Congressional District)
Mr. Ron Fisher (Independent Green)
Mr. Jim Moran (Democrat)
Mr. Patrick Murray (Republican)

8:30 p.m. — Arlington County Board
Mr. Kevin Chisholm (Green)
Mr. Mark Kelly (Republican)
Mr. Chris Zimmerman (Democrat)

9:15 p.m. — Conclusion

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Community Forum on Low-Flying Helicopters Held September 22

By Rick Barry

WCA Rep to the Arlington County Civic Federation

Most of us have had the experience of observing a helicopter (or two) overhead at some odd time of day or night, sometimes quite low and noisy, sometimes with high-intensity search lights on. You may have wondered who they belonged to and who you should call to inquire or complain about them.

The truth is that, as of now, there is no government agency playing or tasked to play that role; and the number of organizations operating helos in this region is more than you would likely wish to call. Independently, the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, DOD, White House, FAA, FBI, CIA and other national security agencies all operate helos in this region – the military constituting a bit over half of helo flights. They are all controlled in the air by the FAA, in a limited airspace around Washington National and Dulles airports, but otherwise the FAA has no particular coordinating mandate for all users of that airspace. In addition, state and local law enforcement agencies, MEDIVAC, media, executive taxis and corporate organizations all share the local airspace.

In most areas, these flights are required by FAA rules to remain at or below 1300' above mean sea level, or approximately 1000' above the ground, to remain safely underneath the intensive fixed-wing flights landing and taking off at regional and military airports. Standard routes for helos often use highways rather than electronic beacons. For this reason, it is not uncommon to see them turning overhead at major highway intersections such as routes 395 and 7.

Since they are at altitude, helos can easily be a few residential blocks to either side of designated highways, i.e., they cannot fly down the centerlines and may easily be over nearby residential areas. Standard routes obviously have more intensive traffic than otherwise, so efforts are made to have them away from dense population areas or over water.

We all want flights necessary for national security, medical, and law enforcement operations, which could save our lives, and appreciate the need for media operations to give us up-to-date news and traffic information. At the same time, there are many

helo flights that may not be in those categories. Thus, members of our civic association and others wish to know: *Who operates these flights? Where do they originate from and where are they going? Must they all fly over residential areas? So low? Must so many be at night time?*

These issues were raised September 22 during a public forum sponsored by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) and facilitated by Arlington County Board Member Mary Hynes. The meeting, which included reps from the FAA and various military groups, was held at the request of the ACCF, whose members last year studied the issue and passed a resolution that requires MWCOG to "require helicopter operators to find ways to reduce the noise impact on residential areas by following the existing main routes and flying towards the upper end of the allowable altitude window when they can safely do so for routine flights and without unduly affecting emergency situations or national security."

Hynes and the other speakers expressed sympathy with the community's concerns regarding the low-flying aircraft, reminding attendees that they, too, live in this area.

What became quite clear during the Forum was that military agencies could speak only for themselves; there was no mechanism in place for them to receive citizen inquiries or complaints and, if necessary, act upon them.

As next steps, Hynes called for the following:

- A cluster analysis of overflight info, identifying hot spots;
- Coordination by the FAA as the only agency with a full overview of all helo operations;
- Follow up as necessary to keep the dialogue going and up to date.

A senior FAA rep agreed to get the region's helo airways user organizations together to discuss helo operations issues, and to undertake some data analyses. He cautioned the group against unrealistic expectations because there was little that would likely change in terms of flights with mandated national security or public safety operations. He also urged the Forum's leaders to play their parts in educating the public regarding the importance and continued necessity of helo operations in this area. Hopefully, this article will contribute toward that in our WCA neighborhood. A mtg summary will be posted at www.mwco.org.

Midwesterner Follows Her Passion and Opens Your World Pottery

Create pottery yourself or order it custom made at new W'burg Shopping Center studio

Indiana native Lisa Aneiva could have continued in the financial services industry in which she had been working since graduating from Georgetown University as an undergrad and from GW with her MBA, but art was always her calling.

"I've come back to art because I realize life is short and it's important to take chances," says Lisa, owner of Your World Pottery, a studio that opened in June in the Williamsburg Shopping Center.

Prior to opening Your World Pottery, Lisa had been working full time and taking custom orders for pottery on the side. This worked well until the volume grew such that the studio where she was having her work fired in the kiln was having trouble keeping up with the demand. At that point, Lisa's husband Jaime encouraged her to go out and find her own space to open.



Your World Pottery is a little bit different than a traditional paint and pottery studio because it specializes in custom design. "Anyone looking for a birthday, anniversary or wedding gift puts in an order and we can custom hand paint almost anything," Lisa says. Many clients ask her to match a party invitation or a theme. Others ask that a photograph be put onto ceramic. For ideas, Lisa encourages clients to look through her portfolio to see some of her past work.

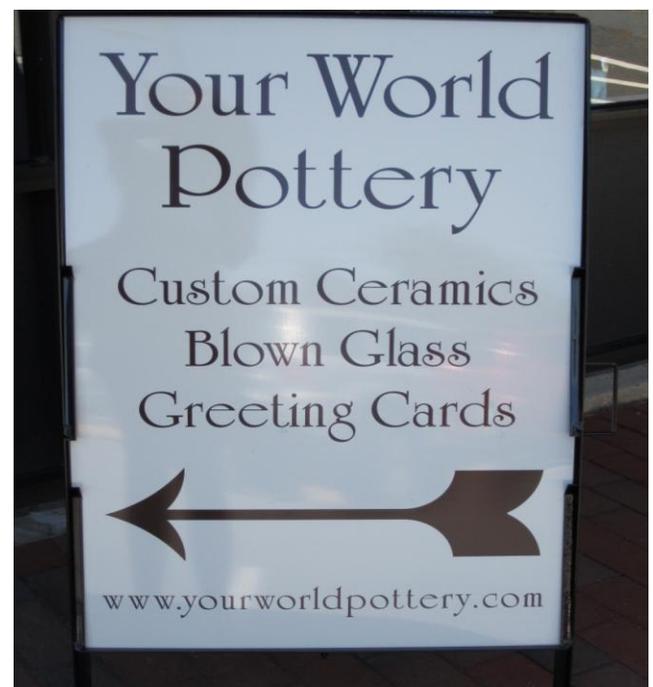
Individuals interested in experimenting with

pottery themselves have several options. The most popular is to choose bisque. That's a molded ceramic (i.e., a bowl or coffee mug) that has not been painted or glazed. Once you select your piece, you choose from over 92 design colors and 37 foundation colors. The most important part of the process is having your piece fired in the kiln, which gets to almost 2,000 degrees. "When we put it in the kiln, there's a chemical reaction that makes the final product shiny and the food surface safe," Lisa explains.

If you are someone who wants to start your pottery project from scratch, the studio also has a pottery wheel and you can mold a piece using clay sold at the store. (Lisa will help you!)

The third option is to paint your own pottery at home and drop it off at the store to have it fired. This works well for those interested in throwing pottery parties. Your World Pottery sells packages that include everything you need to decorate your pottery at home.

Your World Pottery has 2 work rooms and can take a max of 12 people at a time – 6 in each room. The studio is open Mon-Sat from 10 am to 9 pm. Call 7/241.2379 or visit website to learn more.



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR WILLIAMSBURG CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The purpose of the Williamsburg Civic Association is to promote the welfare of our community and its residents. We do this by holding meetings, issuing this newsletter, and interacting with the Arlington County Civic Federation, Arlington County Board, and a variety of local and regional organizations. You can support our efforts by paying your annual dues of only \$10 per household. Please tear off this sheet and mail it along with your check (made payable to Williamsburg Civic Association) to our treasurer, Jim Toronto, at 3577 Powhatan St., N., Arlington, VA 22213. You also can pay at the general membership meeting.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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I am interested in: Receiving this newsletter electronically vs. hard copy in the future

Working on conservation plan projects Organizing social events Helping with the newsletter

WCA Officers:

President: Sonia McCormick
Vice President: VACANT
Treasurer: Jim Toronto
Secretary: Jim Finley
Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) Representative: Paul Cullen
Immediate Past President, Webmaster and Representative to the EFC Planning Committee: Mark Moran

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