



Williamsburg Civic Association Newsletter

OCTOBER 2013

WWW.WCA-ARLINGTON.ORG

WCA President's Message

Hi Neighbors,

I hope that you and your families have enjoyed the summer. It is hard to believe that it is autumn already! For the past few months, representatives of the WCA have worked extensively with the County staff on several key initiatives that affect our community. The most visible of these initiatives is the design of the new Williamsburg Elementary School. I appreciate the work of Katherine Schroder and the other neighbors who participated in the initial phases, and look forward to the continued involvement of the civic association in the future phases of construction. Several weeks ago the County Board approved the plans for the school; construction is expected to begin in 2014.

The Sycamore Street median is also an important project, not only for our community, but also for the Rock Spring and Arlington-East Falls Church Civic Associations. This neighborhood capital improvement project was approved last year by the Arlington County Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC), and both phases were funded by the Arlington County Neighborhood Conservation Program. Please plan to attend our November 7th WCA meeting to hear from Tim McIntosh, coordinator of the program, who will provide us with the updated design and planning status.

Maintaining the beauty and appeal of our community and continuing to positively influence its future development has always been a top priority for our civic association. To that end, we will update the WCA Neighborhood Conservation Plan. The plan, last revised in 2001, is credited with numerous successful improvement initiatives. We cannot do this without volunteers, so please consider participating in the WCA Neighborhood Conservation Plan Committee. A small amount of your time will ensure that our community continues to be a beautiful and safe place for our families.

General Membership Meeting

**Thursday, November 7
7:30-9:00 PM**

**Nottingham Elementary School
Multi-Purpose Room
5900 Little Falls Road
Arlington, VA 22207**

Topics:

**Sycamore Street Median Project
Tim McIntosh
Coordinator
Arlington County Neighborhood
Conservation Advisory Committee**

WCA Vote on Backyard Hens & Livestock

Speaking of neighborhood conservation, I'd like to thank Paul Cullen for the past few years he has spent serving as our representative to the NCAC. Paul is stepping down from that role after the tragic passing of his wife Rachel. Please join me in expressing your condolences to Paul and his family, and also thanking him for his dedication to the WCA. Jon Levine, who played a major role in the Sycamore Street project, has graciously offered to step into the NC representative position.

As I have in the past, I'd like to remind and encourage everyone to subscribe to the WCA listserv. It is the primary way that we are keeping each other aware of breaking news and important information about our community. Visit our website, www.wca-arlington.org, to learn how to subscribe to the Yahoo group and stay informed.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you at the WCA meeting on November 7th!

--Ruth

Update on the new elementary school on the Williamsburg Campus

On September 24, 2013, the Arlington County Board voted 5-0 to approve plans for a new \$35 million elementary school located on the Williamsburg Middle School campus. Plans for the new elementary school include energy efficient buildings, synthetic turf fields, an on-campus parking lot, and traffic mitigation measures. Construction is slated to begin in early 2014 with completion and opening of the school in September 2015.

PARKING & TRAFFIC MITIGATION

As part of the plans for the new elementary school, the Board approved construction of an on-campus parking lot on the western side of the school, but reduced the total required number of parking spaces from 258 to 209. The Board based its decision on the availability of on-street parking and the goal of preserving recreational facilities and "green space" on the campus.

As part of the use permit process, the County Board also approved additional traffic management strategies, which included requiring at least a 45-minute delay between arrival and dismissal times of the middle school and the elementary school, and limiting the schools from scheduling major functions on the same day or night.

The County traffic department is still considering separate proposals to modify the intersection of Kensington Street and Williamsburg Boulevard to improve pedestrian safety in light of increased traffic caused by the new elementary school. Specifically, the County is recommending a "No Left Turn" requirement from N. Harrison Street on to 36th Street during school drop-off and dismissal periods. This effectively routes the elementary school traffic through the Williamsburg/Kensington intersection to gain eastbound access to 36th Street and the entrance of the school. Arlington County representatives met with interested citizens in June to review this matter. The County is considering several possible options, including continuing with the approved design of the intersection, modifying it, adding a traffic light at the intersection, or even providing a pedestrian-activated light to allow students to safely cross. This issue is being reviewed separately and may not be decided until after the new school opens and new traffic patterns can be observed.

INSTALLATION & LIGHTING OF SYNTHETIC TURF FIELDS

As part of construction of the new elementary school, the County Board approved installation of synthetic turf for the two soccer fields. These athletic fields are to be shared by both the middle school and the elementary school, as well as available for County Parks and Recreation use after school hours and on weekends. Cost of the synthetic turf will be shared by the County and APS.

In response to neighborhood concerns about the impact of lighting those fields, the Board voted unanimously in a separate vote to delay consideration of field lighting until 2016. The Board directed the County Manager to initiate a public process in 2015 to evaluate whether the synthetic turf fields should be lighted. The County will form a working group to include representatives from the affected civic associations and residents to study the impact of field lighting on the surrounding neighborhood. The group's report will be considered by the County Board in September 2016.

The formal BLPC and the PFRC process for the new elementary school is now complete. Neighbors who wish to comment on remaining open issues that fall outside the scope of the BLPC and PFRC are encouraged to contact the County Manager or APS directly.

Doberman Assistance Rescue & Education [DAR&E]

Holiday Shopping & Bake Sale Bazaar

Get started on your holiday shopping,
support your local small businesses, help
homeless Dobermans & win prizes!

Saturday, November 2, 2013
1:00-5:00 p.m.

Falls Church Community Center
223 Little Falls St.
Falls Church, VA



ISO Neighborhood Improvement Ideas

November 15, 2013 is the deadline for Arlington County civic associations to submit neighborhood capital improvement project proposals to the Arlington County Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC). The NCAC, which is made up of representatives from each civic association, selects projects for funding through the County's Neighborhood Conservation Program (NCP). WCA NCAC rep Jon Levine is seeking your ideas for a project to propose.

The Sycamore Street median project that was recently approved is an example of an NCP project. Other examples are installation of sidewalks, curbs and gutters, streetlights, park improvements, neighborhood art, and beautification. Only the highest priority projects are funded during a funding round, and priority is determined based on a points system. Those projects with the most points generally take priority. It takes time and community interest to build up points, so it is important to get a project in to the NCP queue early and start earning points. It is our goal to gather project ideas and try to reach a consensus at our November 7, 2013, WCA meeting on a project to submit to the NCAC. Please contact Jon at jonathanlevine@verizon.net with your ideas, preferably in advance of the meeting.

Attend Nov. 7 WCA Meeting to Vote on Backyard Hens/Livestock

The Arlington County Civic Federation Planning and Zoning Committee is requesting the position from each civic association regarding potential revision of current ordinances that restrict livestock or poultry on Arlington properties. These potential revisions will enable residents to keep poultry and livestock on their property. The Civic Federation Planning and Zoning Committee will develop a position or resolution for consideration by the Civic Federation. To support the Civic Federation request, we will conduct a vote on the issue at our November 7 WCA meeting and provide the results to the Civic Federation Planning and Zoning Committee.

Please review the Urban Agriculture Task Force Report at the following link:

<http://news.arlingtonva.us/releases/urban-agriculture-task-force-recommendations-presented-to-arlington-county-board>.

Also, there are two petitions in circulation. Please see these links:

<http://www.backyardsnotbarnyards.org/>
<http://www.arlingtoneggproject.org/>



**Celebrating
20 wonderful
years in
business!**

**Thank you to
all who have
been a part
of this
exciting
journey!**

PAR HAIR DESIGN

Artistic Cuts • Color • Highlights & Perms • Sunlitz Highlighting

With Creative, Personal Attention

"This past May I celebrated 20 years in the Williamsburg Shopping Center, a milestone I reached thanks to my amazing clients. I can't begin to express how much I appreciate everyone's patronage and terrific reviews."

--Par

In the Williamsburg Shopping Center next to 7-11

(703) 533-0303 • (703) 533-0302

My goal: Your satisfaction.

If you are thinking of selling your home, but unsure of where to start, feel free to call me for a consultation. I work with all kinds of sellers in different life transitions, and will customize a plan to get you the best results for your needs. But don't take my word for it, see what one of our neighbors had to say about working with me to sell their house:



"Coral helped my wife and I sell our home in North Arlington. We were in a rush to sell because of a fast moving job relocation. Coral advised us on the right asking price. She also helped us de-clutter and arrange our furnishings to show our home in the best light. After she was done with the house, we really didn't want to leave it. We followed her advice to the letter and IT WORKED. Two bids and two days! After a short bidding contest - we sold our home above asking price. For my wife and I - Best experience with an agent to date!"

- D. Mills, seller on 27th Street in Williamsburg Civic Association



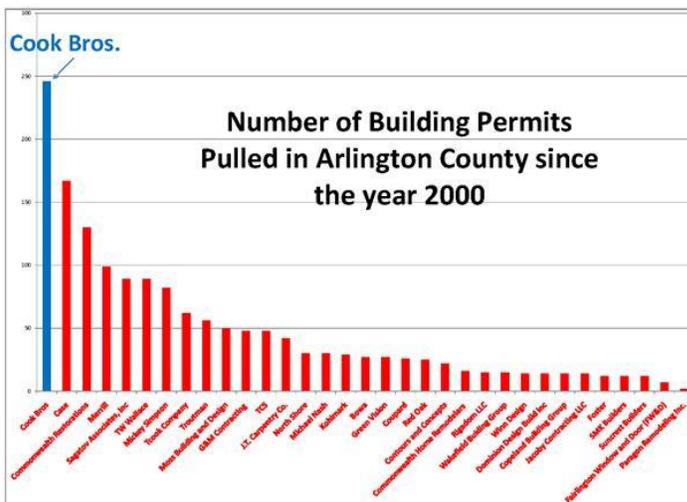
Coral Gundlach
Realtor,® NVAR Top Producer

www.coralgundlach.com
coral@coralgundlach.com
(703) 200-3631



You Don't Have to Interview the #1 Remodeler in Arlington... But...

Why Wouldn't You?



For a larger Graph image and more information about the Graph, visit our website at

www.CookBros.org/Williamsburg Graph



John Marshall Island Wins Restoration Funding

By Paul Gruber

The John Marshall Island Restoration project received nearly \$10,000 in funding from the Arlington County Park Enhancement Grant (PEG) program in 2012. The PEG grant will be used principally for removal of invasive species on the island aimed at improving its usability by the community, grading, turf improvement, and purchase of benches for residents to enjoy. Many thanks to all who supported the project: the residents of John Marshall Island, who attended several planning meetings; Elizabeth Gearin, Arlington County Parks Commission member, for providing guidance on our PEG application; and the Williamsburg Civic Association, for their letter of support to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

During the course of the PEG application development, environmental and historic preservation staff visited the John Marshall Island and identified what was determined to be the historic well cap for the island's spring and its use as a camp site during the Civil War. We also intend to apply for a historical marker that will be placed on the island. The process for developing a historical marker is the following: 1) complete historical

research by the County; 2) draft the text for the marker (County staff or community may write the text); 3) have text approved by the Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board and the Arlington Historical Society; 4) Sign layout and design; 5) Fabrication of the marker. A marker typically has 300 words or 5-6 sentences maximum. Arlington County has a budget for historical markers, provided the standard County marker is desired by the community.

The original timeline for completion of all project work on the island has been extended. Multiple projects are scheduled to take place over the next year and include: improved storm water drainage, as part of the County's Chesapeake Bay Storm Water Improvement Program; installation of two rain gardens; and lastly the island restoration. All of these projects are coordinated through County staff and to date, communication and cooperation has been excellent. In July, a group of the John Marshall Island residents met with County staff at the site to review updated plans and the revised timeline for project implementation.

Continued on Page 6



Cardinal Bank In Your Backyard

Williamsburg Blvd. Banking Office
6402 Williamsburg Blvd.
703.584.3850

CARDINAL
Bank


Member FDIC

www.cardinalbank.com

The updated timeline for project activities is as follows:

1. Summer 2013 (DPR) –
 - First invasive plant treatment by contractor.
 - Mark the stone well cap again after vegetation is cleared.
2. Late winter/early spring 2014 (DES) -
 - Begin construction of storm water improvements through the neighborhood and island.
 - Place tree protection fencing around the stone well cap before construction begins.
 - Install storm water improvements, construction will take about 6 months.
 - Construct two rain gardens - one in the island and one in the traffic median on the north end of the island - occurs near the end of the storm water construction activities.
3. Summer/early fall 2014 (DPR) –
 - Coordinate turf improvement effort with DES work.
 - Install benches after DES is off the site.
 - Determine extent of plantings needed for the site after rain garden is completed.
4. 2014 - 2015 (DPR)
 - The County will provide two additional invasive plant control treatments.
 - Maintenance of the site after projects are completed.
 - DES will have a contractor maintain the rain garden to keep it functional.
 - DPR will continue the mowing program for grass areas

We also intend to move forward with the development of an "Adopt a Park" application for long-term maintenance of the island.



The John Marshall Island was once a camp site during the Civil War. Thanks to the work of many residents, invasive plants soon will be removed and the island will be transformed into a park, complete with benches for neighbors to enjoy. Plans also are in the works for a historical marker to be placed on the island to mark the historic well cap, which was in place for the island's spring.

Do you need a reliable dog walker?



WCA resident offering trusted, dependable pet care services 365 days a year:

- Mid-day dog walks/feeding
- Vacation dog and cat sitting
- Pet Taxi (to vet, doggie day care, etc.)
- Flexible morning, evening & weekend visits

Great rates!

\$16 for 20-minute walk

\$45 per day for pet sitting (3 visits/day)

For more info, visit arlingtonpetpals.com

Or call 703-241-2177

20% OFF
Pick 'n' Paint Pottery



Jimmy Potters Studio
6504 R Williamsburg Blvd
Arlington, VA 22213
Phone: 703.241.1120
(Offer excludes wheel-thrown pottery)



Williamsburg Shopping Center News

Jimmy Potters Studio Opens

Welcome to Jimmy Potters Studio, which opened in July in the former space of Your World Pottery. Started by Jimmy Bañia eight years ago, the company has grown to provide afterschool enrichment programs at area schools and at both its Arlington and Fairfax sites. Jimmy and his instructors (all of whom have fine arts degrees) teach children to use clay to hand-build projects. "Our motto of having 'no mistakes in pottery' creates an environment of fun and flexibility, and in the end, kids leave with unique projects and a sense of accomplishment and pride," says Jimmy. The Arlington shop is managed by Whitney Wood. She says the instructors have been very busy with birthday parties thus far. Customers have one of two options: They can sculpt their own project (i.e., mug, plate, piggy bank, etc.) and then glaze it, or they can "pick 'n' paint," which essentially means they can select a piece already sculpted, and glaze it themselves. Learn more at www.jimtypotters.com.

Barber Shop Celebrates 30 Years

Congratulations to the Williamsburg Barber Shop on celebrating 30 years in the Williamsburg Shopping Center! The barber shop first opened its doors on July 5, 1956, and it still offers good old-fashioned haircuts and shaves, along with a hot towel and a soda. What's not to like? Williamsburg Shopping Center property manager Nicholas Kalis reports that Khoa Dang Nguyen, the owner, recently renewed his lease.

Jin's Cleaners & Tailoring Renews Lease

More great leasing news: Jin's Cleaners & Tailoring also has renewed its lease of 2,104 square feet in the Williamsburg Shopping Center. The shop, owned by Jin and Brian Ha, moved into its current location in September 2003 after relocating from a smaller space around the corner. Not only does Jin's provide friendly service and expert tailoring, they also clean clothes with an environmentally friendly chemical called hydrocarbon.

Are you on Backyard BBQ's email list?

Did you know that Backyard Barbeque & Catering offers family meal specials that are some of the best bargains in town? Get on their email list so you'll know when you can save yourself a night of cooking! Send an email to: mail@backyardbbqcompany.com.

WCA Officers

President: **Ruth Shearer**
Vice President: **Eleanor Smith**
Secretary: **Jim Lunson**
Treasurer: **Jim Toronto**
Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee Rep: **Jon Levine**
Newsletter Editor: **Sonia McCormick**
At-Large Rep: **Ellen Jones**
WCA Webmaster: **Mark Moran**
Delegates to Arlington County Civic Federation:
Rick Barry, Herschel Kanter, Anne Rudd & Eleanor Smith

PHANTASTIQUE BEAUTY SALON

In the Williamsburg Shopping Center -- 2920 N. Sycamore Street
(703) 534-0077

Are you looking for a beauty salon that offers professional, high-quality hair and nail salon services at low prices you won't believe? **Phantastique / Beauty Salon** is a locally owned and operated, full-service hair and nail salon that has been serving the Arlington County area for more than 10 years with professional cuts, styles, color, highlights, perms, manicures, pedicures and waxing services that keep clients coming back for more. Don't wait any longer to take advantage of our hair and nail salon services - stop by today.

JIM TORONTO, CRS, ABR
ASSOCIATE BROKER
703.447.7481



Williamsburg neighbor and Realtor® for over 25 years!

Proven listing plans for maximum property exposure and minimum marketing time.

"Pricing is not just checking comparables... but location, condition, and sellers' needs..." J. Toronto

Call me and let's get together to discuss your home, marketing, and current sales... it's never too early to evaluate and prepare.

www.jimtoronto.com | jtoronto@mcenearney.com



4720 Lee Highway
Arlington, VA 22207
703.525.1900

Please pay your membership dues (and consider a little extra)!

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. **Please consider adding a donation to your dues, as we rely on dues and limited ad sales to pay for the printing of this newsletter and various other expenses, such as our website hosting fee and our dues to the Arlington County Civic Federation. Thank you for demonstrating your appreciation for our work by adding a small donation!**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

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