



Williamsburg Civic Association Newsletter

March 2007 • www.wca-arlington.org

The next General Meeting of the Williamsburg Civic Association will be Tuesday, March 20, from 7:30 to 9:00 PM at Nottingham Elementary School (in the library), 5900 Little Falls Road. The agenda will be available on the WCA website & will be distributed via email to those who have subscribed to the WCA Listserv/email group.

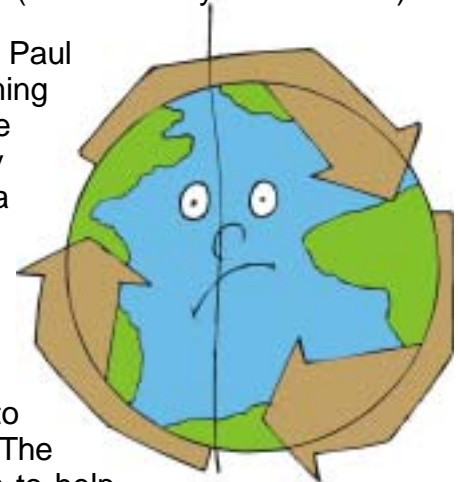
Bob Brink, Delegate for Arlington's 48th District in the Virginia General Assembly since 1998, will be speaking at the WCA meeting on March 20.

For more information about this and other issues within our community, visit our new website: www.wca-arlington.org.

Additionally, there is now a WCA Listserv/email group that is hosted for free on Yahoo! groups. This is a forum for discussing issues of interest to the members of the Williamsburg Civic Association. Some recent items dealt with topics as wide ranging as the Public forum for the Master transportation Plan to an unpleasant smell in tap water. Join the Listserv to be completely up to date on what's happening in your community. Follow the link on the WCA website to sign up.

ARLINGTON'S GREEN LIVING CHALLENGE (submitted by Mike Murtha)

On January 1, 2007, Paul Ferguson, the incoming chairman of the Arlington County Board, announced a new environmental initiative for the county, which he termed, "Fresh AIRE," standing for Arlington Initiative to Reduce Emissions. The goal of this effort is to help



reduce the impacts of global warming by reducing energy use and the associated emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to an increase in the earth's temperature. Descriptions of this initiative, available through the country's website, www.arlingtonva.us or directly via www.arlingtonva.us/climate emphasize positive roles that can be played by the country government, local businesses, & individual residents & families.

As one part of this effort, Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE) has issued a Green Living Challenge, where individual households can earn points by making their own efforts to protect the environment. This challenge is available on the ACE website at www.arlingtonenvironment.org. Some of the items in the challenge include: changing household light bulbs to compact fluorescent bulbs, signing up with a carshare company, conducting a home energy audit, and buying renewable energy credits. Additional items include: using refillable cups when purchasing coffee or tea outside the home, composting lawn clippings and yard waste, and eating locally grown, organic, or meatless meals twice a week.

People interested in participating in the Green Living Challenge should contact ACE and register their interest. Points in the challenge are awarded for actions taken in calendar year 2007. (cont. on p3)



Your Williamsburg Civic Association Officers

President	Howard McGowan	pres@wca-arlington.org
Vice Pres	Coral Gundlach	vp@wca-arlington.org
Treasurer	Jim Toronto	treas@wca-arlington.org
Recording Secretary	Alex Lee	recsec@wca-arlington.org
Corresponding Secretary	Jim Finley	corsec@wca-arlington.org
Newsletter	Karen Haines	newslet@wca-arlington.org
Webmaster	Kate Pemberton	webmast1@wca-arlington.org
Webmaster	Mark Moran	webmast2@wca-arlington.org

I-66 Widening Update submitted by Herschel Kanter

Since 1999, Congressman Frank Wolf has been attempting to undermine the landmark 1977 USDOT Record of Decision (Coleman Decision) that established I-66 inside I-495 as a multimodal urban corridor limited to four managed auto lanes, balanced with Metrorail's Orange Line and the Custis Trail. Rep. Wolf has been pushing to add one westbound auto lane and has earmarked approximately \$50 million for this project.

Following the March 2005 Idea-66 report (<http://www.idea66.com/>), VDOT revamped the third westbound lane proposal into a project to build three discontinuous segments of this lane as interim spot improvements, totaling 4.1 miles in length. Two intervening segments of westbound I-66 would remain only two lanes wide, creating two new bottlenecks. To minimize environmental documentation and community opposition, the current widening project would be limited to existing VDOT right-of-way, which includes the Custis Trail and parklike buffers along the north side of the roadway. VDOT has pledged to maintain the Custis Trail's continuity, but some adverse impacts to the Custis Trail are likely, and subsequent widening of eastbound I-66 would obliterate a key segment of the combined W&OD/Custis Trail immediately beside the current eastbound noise wall. Indeed the interim spot improvements appear to be the first step to widening I-66 to three lanes in both directions.

Although the current widening proposal appears to be a done deal, Governor Kaine could direct VDOT to stop this wasteful and destructive project and instead spend the project funds to develop a much-needed comprehensive plan for the I-66 multimodal corridor, using a fair and transparent process that involves all stakeholders and adequately considers all reasonable alternatives to widening.

Meanwhile the County Board which has consistently opposed widening (<http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/CountyBoard/CountyBoardResolutionI-66.aspx>) has indicated it plans a hearing to give the public a chance to voice its views on the widening. The Arlington Coalition for Sensible Transportation (<http://www.acstnet.org/>) is the citizens group that is working to limit widening and to develop the I-66 corridor as a multimodal corridor.

AND SPEAKING OF TRANSPORTATION...

Ritch Viola, Project Manager of the Master Transportation Plan (MTP) for Arlington DES-Transportation sent notice of a public forum on the second draft of the MTP on March 19 at 7pm. The forum will be held in the Navy League's large conference room at 2300 Wilson Blvd, and all Arlington residents are invited to attend.

A list of issues to be discussed was developed from public comments received on the Nov '06 draft of the plan. Those issues are:

1. Should streets be rebuilt with narrower lanes to manage traffic speeds on arterial streets and to create local streets that operate as "Yield Streets"?

How prescriptive should the Master Transportation Plan (MTP) be in providing street design standards?

2. Should the County pursue the construction of new streets in redevelopment areas when

such streets would provide direct connections into residential areas? Should the County end the practice of eliminating street connections for non-safety related reasons?

3. What is the significance of the new street typologies in the draft MTP? How could they address community concerns about arterial and local streets design and operation?

4. Would establishing a Primary Transit Network be an equitable way to allocate transit resources? By what principles should we balance transit priorities against other modes?

5. How should the County provide travel options to private vehicles in the primarily lower-density, single-family residential areas?



Want to contact Governor Kaine about transportation issues?
Go to <http://www.governor.virginia.gov/AbouttheGovernor/contactGovernor.cfm>

(Arlington's Green Challenge, cont. from p. 1)

At the end of the year, the highest scoring households will be identified. Points can also be earned for actions that have already been taken in the household. Where the number of points earned, based on existing and new actions, as reported by each household, reaches a total of 100 points, ACE will award the household an official Green Living Certificate.

The challenge program also includes a friendly competition between Arlington neighborhoods. ACE will maintain a running list of the number of households who have registered to participate in the challenge and the number of points earned by the households in each civic association. At the end of the year, prizes will be awarded for the greenest neighborhoods in Arlington. Incidentally, this is a follow-up to a previous ACE program which identified the neighborhoods with the highest number of certified Backyard Wildlife Habitats, under a program that was conducted jointly with the National Wildlife Federation. The Green Living Challenge offers a great opportunity to get some very positive publicity for the Williamsburg neighborhood, and everyone is encouraged to register and participate in this program.

ARLINGTON HANDS ON GREEN WORKSHOP SERIES

GREEN OPEN HOUSE AT SHIRLINGTON LIBRARY

Sunday, March 18th, 1:00 – 5:00 PM Celebrate the opening of Arlington's first green library branch! Look for information on the building's green features, Arlington's broader green building program, and on how you can go green at home.

Green building lectures will held from 3:00 to 4:00 pm. For more information call 703-228-0322 or 703-228-4792. Shirlington Library, 2800 South Stafford Street, Arlington, VA. 28th and Quincy Street stop on Metro Bus 23A and 23C.



GROWING NATIVE TREE PLANTING

Saturday, March 24, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Join ACE and the Potomac Conservancy to plant 100 native trees at Potomac Overlook Regional Park, Arlington. For more information, contact Colleen Langan, Growing Native Project Director, olangan@potomac.org; 301.608.1188, x211; www.growingnative.org.

MAKE YOUR OWN RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

Sat., March 24th and Sunday, March 25th Come to these workshops to make a rain barrel and take one home to keep! Rain barrels are used to collect rainwater from your roof, which you can use to irrigate your garden or yard. They also help reduce stormwater runoff, which damages local streams. The workshops will be held at Thomas Jefferson Middle School Cafeteria, 125 S. Old Glebe Rd. There are three workshops to choose from:

Sat, March 24th - 10:30 AM – 1 PM; Sat, March 24th - 2 PM – 4:30 PM; Sun, March 25th - 1 PM – 3:30 PM

Cost is \$35 per barrel. Register and pay for the workshop online at [Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment](http://ArlingtoniansforaCleanEnvironment.org) or call 703-228-6427. You can also mail payment to ACE, 2700 S. Taylor St, Arlington, VA 22206.

ENERGY STAR FOR YOUR HOME PROJECT

Wednesday, March 28th, 7:00 – 9:00 PM The range of energy efficient home products—from lighting to appliances, fixtures, and windows—and services such as weatherization and air sealing, and even home-building, has expanded greatly in recent years. One of the best ways to make sure you are getting real energy performance is to select Energy Star-certified products. Come find out about some of the newest and best Energy Star-labeled options out there and how they can serve your needs—whether you are changing a lightbulb or rebuilding a home. Residents, contractors, and homebuilders welcome. Generous time will be allotted at this program for questions. Shirlington Library, 2800 South Stafford Street, Arlington, VA. 28th and Quincy Street stop on Metro Bus 23A and 23C.

POTOMAC WATERSHED CLEANUP

Saturday March 31st and Sunday April 1st. Join volunteers throughout the Potomac River Watershed as they gather to clean their local streams. This event is organized by the Alice Ferguson Foundation, with local volunteers leading cleanup sites. To volunteer to lead a cleanup site, or find local cleanup sites, visit Potomac Watershed Cleanup web site.



SENIOR STUFF...

Seniors (ages 55 and up) may participate in all of the following activities by registering with the Office of Senior Adult Programs (\$10 annual fee). Applications available by calling 703-228-4744 or visiting a senior center. Additional senior information may be found on the following website: www.arlingtonva.us click on seniors.

Barbershop Harmony Show, featuring the Arlingtones Barbershop Chorus will be held Sat., Mar. 17, 2:15 p.m. and 8:15 p.m., Thomas Jefferson Community Center. Tickets at the door, \$15 or \$12 for seniors and students. Call 703-521-0331 or e-mail: bsbass@aol.com.

Four part series on women and famous couples in the arts begins Mon., Mar. 19, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills Senior Center. Guest speaker Joan Hart, Museum One, D.C. Cost is \$14 for the series. Call to register, 703-228-5722.

Lee Genealogical Research Support Group will meet Wed., Mar. 28, 10 a.m., Lee Senior Center. Group welcomes newcomers interested in tracing family roots. No fee. Call for details, 703-228-0555.

Do you want your backyard to attract more birds? Come to a discussion at Walter Reed Senior Center, Thurs., Mar. 29, 10:15 a.m. with ecologist Dr. Dexter Hinckley. No fee. Call to register, 703-228-0955.

Music appreciation group at Culpepper Garden Senior Center meets every Friday, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.. March subjects will include great operatic teams, river music, quartets and Vivaldi. No fee. Call for details, 703-228-4403.

All types of exercise classes and programs are offered at senior centers including aerobics, pilates, tai chi, yoga, strength training, flexibility, balance, walking clubs, water exercises, personal trainers and weight rooms. Call for information, 703-228-4745.

Among the excursions planned by Arlington County Senior Adult Travel for March are The Barns at Wolf Trap, New York City Ballet at The Kennedy Center, National Gallery of Art, Olney Theatre, King Tut exhibit in Philadelphia, Embassy of Poland, Atlantic City and the National Press Club. Call for information, 703-228-4749.

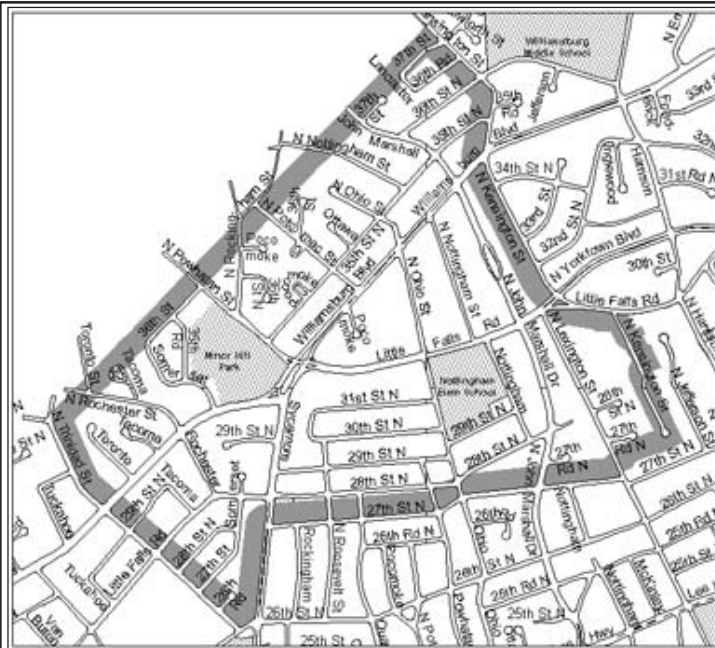
Pickleball is available for seniors in the mornings, Mon.-Fri., Thomas Jefferson Community Center. Sport is similar to tennis with a low net, plastic paddle and all. No fee except annual registration of \$10 with Office of Senior Adult Programs. More information, call 703-228-4745.

Volleyball for seniors every Tuesday, Langston-Brown Senior Center, 1:30 p.m. (practice), 2 p.m. (games). Great exercise; all level of players welcome. No fee. Call for information, 703-228-4745.

Are you interested in senior basketball? If so, call Jennifer Collins, Office of Senior Adult Programs, 703-228-4745.

Ping pong players of all abilities are invited to learn and play at Walter Reed Senior Center, Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 10a.m.-noon. No fee. Call for details, 703-228-0955.





WCA Dues are only \$5 per year!

Your WCA 2007 dues are \$5 per person (adults over 18). Please fill out and send the form below with your check (payable to Williamsburg Civic Association) to our Treasurer: Jim Toronto, 3577 Powhatan St. N, Arlington, Va 22213. You can also pay at meetings.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

I AM INTERESTED IN WORKING ON CONSERVATION PLAN PROJECTS

HELPING WITH THE NEWSLETTER ORGANIZING SOCIAL EVENTS/MEETINGS

Want to Know More About WCA?

The Williamsburg Civic Association (WCA) is a non-profit, non-partisan association of residents and property owners living in the western part of Arlington County, Virginia. The purpose of the civic association is to promote the general welfare of the community and its residents. The WCA represents about 1,100 households and interacts with the Arlington County Civic Federation, the Arlington County Board, and a variety of local and regional organizations.

History (Part 1)

The Williamsburg Civic Association was organized in 1951, when large-scale housing construction began in this part of north Arlington. The civic association was active over the next several decades, protecting community interests and campaigning for neighborhood improvements. During the late eighties and early nineties, the civic association became largely inactive.

In the late nineties, however, a cellular telephone company sought to install a monopole atop the Minor Hill water storage facility. This threat galvanized the neighborhood and the Williamsburg Civic Association was revitalized to deal with it. WCA leaders, recognizing the importance of the county's Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Program, focused much of their attention on developing a Neighborhood Conservation Plan, begun in March 1997 and approved by the Arlington County Board in 2000.

History (Part 2) will appear in a future edition of this newsletter.

A Note from your Newsletter Editor:

This is your community newsletter. If there is a topic you'd like to cover (or have me cover), please let me know. If there's information you'd like included, just say so. We can include school activity information, recipes, yard sale info, teens available for babysitting or yard work, whatever interests you. I can be reached by email at karen.haines@fallproperties.com, or by phone at 703-536-7001. Thanks for your interest. I look forward to your feedback.

Karen

Interested in forming a Neighborhood Watch? Talk to your neighbors and enlist their support. Select a Block Captain (maximum of 20 homes). Then notify the Police Department Crime Prevention Unit at 703-228-4092 and the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator will arrange an organizing meeting with you and your neighbors. Arlington Neighborhood Watch does not require citizen patrols. It does depend on citizens being vigilant & reporting suspicious activity to 703-558-2222.

The Arlington Community Foundation invites you to explore ways to improve or enhance Arlington. They are looking for innovative approaches of all kinds and sizes that could have a positive, lasting impact on Arlington. Bring your ideas to their next meeting on Thursday, April 12, at the Arlington Career Center at from 7-9PM at 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. The ACF wants to hear your ideas, and maybe fund them. If you want to make a difference, this is your chance! (email: conversations@arlc.org)

Don't Forget – General Meeting – Tuesday March 20 – 7:30-9PM – Nottingham ES

Williamsburg Civic Association
3577 N. Powhatan Street
Arlington, VA 22213
www.wca-arlington.org

