



Williamsburg Civic Association Newsletter

JANUARY 2018

WWW.WCA-ARLINGTON.ORG

WCA President's Message

Hi Neighbors,

We enter the New Year with many wonderful opportunities for our community, and our civic association continues to work directly with the members of the Board and Arlington County officials to address important issues that directly affect our community now and well into the future.

Our WCA representatives continue to work very hard to ensure the design and planning efforts consider the many concerns raised by our members. An example of this dedication is the WCA Neighborhood Conservation Plan, which was unanimously approved by the Arlington County Board on June 20, 2017. We have included the news release from the County on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter. I would like to extend my gratitude to the members that were involved in this marathon effort: Jonathan Levine, John Seymour, Paul Douthit, Colleen Ryan, Angela Dickey, Kit Norland, and Elaine Tucker. Thank you to all!

Continuing our tradition of engagement with the County Board members, the Honorable Christian Dorsey, Arlington County Board Vice-Chairman, will join us at our February membership meeting. He was elected to the Arlington County Board in 2015, and represents Arlington on the board of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and is Vice-Chair of its Finance and Budget Committee.

Additionally, Mr. Dorsey serves as one of three Arlington commissioners on The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC). Christian is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), and a member of the Transportation Planning Board (TPB).

General Membership Meeting

**Thursday, February 1, 2018
7:30-9:00 PM**

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

Topics:

County Update

Honorable Christian Dorsey
Vice Chairman, Arlington County Board

Sycamore Street Project
Williamsburg Civic Association NC Plan
Jonathan Levine
WCA Rep to Arlington County Neighborhood
Conservation Advisory Committee

Neighborhood Safety
Captain David W. Giroux
First District Commander
Arlington County Police Department

Finally, I would like to encourage each of you 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 February 1st!

--Ruth

Arlington County Board Approves Updated Williamsburg Civic Association Neighborhood Conservation Plan

Below is the news release Arlington County issued June 20, 2017:

ARLINGTON, Va., June 20, 2017 -- The Arlington County Board today accepted the updated Williamsburg Neighborhood Conservation Plan, paving the way for the Williamsburg Civic Association to pursue funding to create a safer, more peaceful and walkable neighborhood.

Residents made recommendations for improving traffic and pedestrian safety, maintaining the neighborhood's character, protecting the tree canopy and improving neighborhood parks in this first update to the neighborhood's Conservation Plan since the Williamsburg Civic Association completed an initial plan in 2000.

"This plan – and all the County's Neighborhood Conservation plans – are inspiring examples of neighbors coming together to identify projects that will make their neighborhoods safer, stronger and more beautiful," said Arlington County Board Chair Jay Fissette. "This updated Williamsburg plan will help ensure this neighborhood remains a great place to live."

The Board voted 5-0 to accept the plan. To read the staff report on this item, visit the County website. [Scroll down to Item #41](#) on the Agenda for the June 20 Arlington County Board ReCessed Meeting.

Key recommendations from the neighborhood include:

- **Traffic and Pedestrian Safety:** Continuing work on improvements in neighborhood traffic and pedestrian safety, directed at improving walkability and reducing local traffic risks, particularly near and around schools
- **Land Use and Zoning:** Maintaining the housing character of the neighborhood and managing building that is harmonious with its residential setting
- **Urban Forestry and Parks:** Strengthening efforts to protect tree canopy and to make improvements to Sharp Park and Minor Hill Park
- **Commercial Areas:** Working with commercial landlords to attract uses desired by residents
- **Aging in Place:** Establishing assistance resources to help aging residents continue to live in their homes

Resident-led planning process

The Williamsburg Civic Association was established in 1951. Members began their efforts to update their 2000 [Neighborhood Conservation Plan](#) in 2014. In September 2015, the civic association launched a neighborhood survey and had a 17 percent response rate. The plan was drafted, reviewed and unanimously approved by the civic association in February 2016.

The [Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee](#) reviewed the plan on May 11, 2017 and approved forwarding the plan to the Planning Commission. The plan will be posted to the County's website in the coming months.

The Williamsburg neighborhood

The Williamsburg Neighborhood, in the northwest corner of Arlington, is largely residential and lies close to the District of Columbia. The neighborhood is bounded by North Trinidad Street, North Kensington Street, 27th Street South and the Fairfax County line.

Most of its 1,100 households live in single-family homes. There are two small strip shopping centers containing a variety of retail businesses. Williamsburg is served well by arterial roads, public transportation and other community services.

The largest group of residents, according to the 2010 Census, are children and teenagers ages 5 to 17, who make up 21 percent of the neighborhood's population. Seventy-five percent of Williamsburg households are family households. Eighty-six percent of the occupied homes are owner-occupied.

About the Neighborhood Conservation program

Arlington created the Neighborhood Conservation Program in 1964 to improve residential areas by funding neighborhood projects suggested by residents. Project proposals are submitted to the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee for consideration. The committee meets monthly and is made up of representatives from 48 of Arlington's 57 civic associations. Twice each year, the group makes recommendations to the County Board for projects to fund.

The committee offers funding guidance based on rankings assigned through a point system. Projects receiving the highest point totals are passed on to the County Board. Visit the County's [Neighborhood Conservation Program](#) website for details on how points are awarded.

Arlington's Neighborhood Conservation program, with its grass roots engagement, has become a model for other communities across the country.

If you are interested in serving on this or other commissions, or are looking for other ways to get more involved in the civic life of Arlington, [visit the County website](#).

Categories: [County Board](#), [Media Alert](#), [News Releases](#), [Projects & Planning](#)



Construction Begins on Sycamore Street Median

The jackhammers you're hearing and the dump trucks you are seeing on Sycamore Street are evidence of the start of construction of the Sycamore Street Project! It's been a long wait, but the day has finally arrived. Initial utility work was completed in November and construction started in early December. Curb and gutter work is currently being done, with storm drain work to follow. You can expect daily lane closures and sidewalk detours for the near future. The entire project will take about a year to finish.

The Sycamore Street Project, which has been part of the vision of the WCA for more than a decade, calls for major street renovations along Sycamore Street between 26th Street North and the Williamsburg Circle (by the CVS), including reducing the lanes of traffic from two lanes each way to one lane each way and installing a grass median in the middle of the existing roadway. Each of the intersections will be "bumped out" at the corners to provide shorter crossing distance for pedestrians. The project also calls for the installation of marked crosswalks at the intersections and the construction of a pedestrian refuge in the median at Sycamore and Little Falls Street to facilitate safe street crossing. The new grass median will also be planted with trees appropriate for Northern Virginia (paperbark maples, Valley Forge elm, and Northern red oaks). ADA compliant pedestrian ramps will be installed within the entire project area. The goals of the Sycamore Street Project include slowing traffic speeds, increasing pedestrian safety, beautification, and improved storm water management. The Sycamore Street Project was a proposal by the WCA through Arlington County's Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee ("NCAC").

Construction was initially scheduled to begin in late 2014, but was delayed several times due to design issues and staffing issues in the County's engineering department. Also, the project was initially funded at \$1.2 million in 2013, but due to delays and increased construction costs, the costs increased to just over \$2 million. This cost overrun was approved by the County Board this past summer.

If WCA residents have questions about the construction, please contact the construction manager, Nick Taktak, Ktaktak@arlingtonva.us, (703) 228-7527. Periodic construction updates will be posted to the WCA list-serve. General information about the project can be found on the County's Web Site here: <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/north-svcamore-street/>

Thanks to all involved with the holiday tree lighting in the WCA traffic island

During prior decades, the Williamsburg Civic Association had installed holiday lighting on the American holly tree located in the traffic island near the Williamsburg Shopping Center. On Sunday, December 10th, the tradition was renewed when members of the Civic Association worked with fire personnel from the Arlington Fire Department (Fire Station 6) to light the tree. The Civic Association extends its thanks to Randall Higgins, Station Commander of Fire Station 6, and the other assisting firemen without whom the lighting would not have been possible. We also thank The Kalis Company (the owner of the Williamsburg Shopping Center), Jim Toronto, Associate Broker of McEneaney Associates, and McEneaney Associates for their generous contributions for the new holiday lights.



Bishop Denis O’Connell High School Renovation Planned for Later This Year

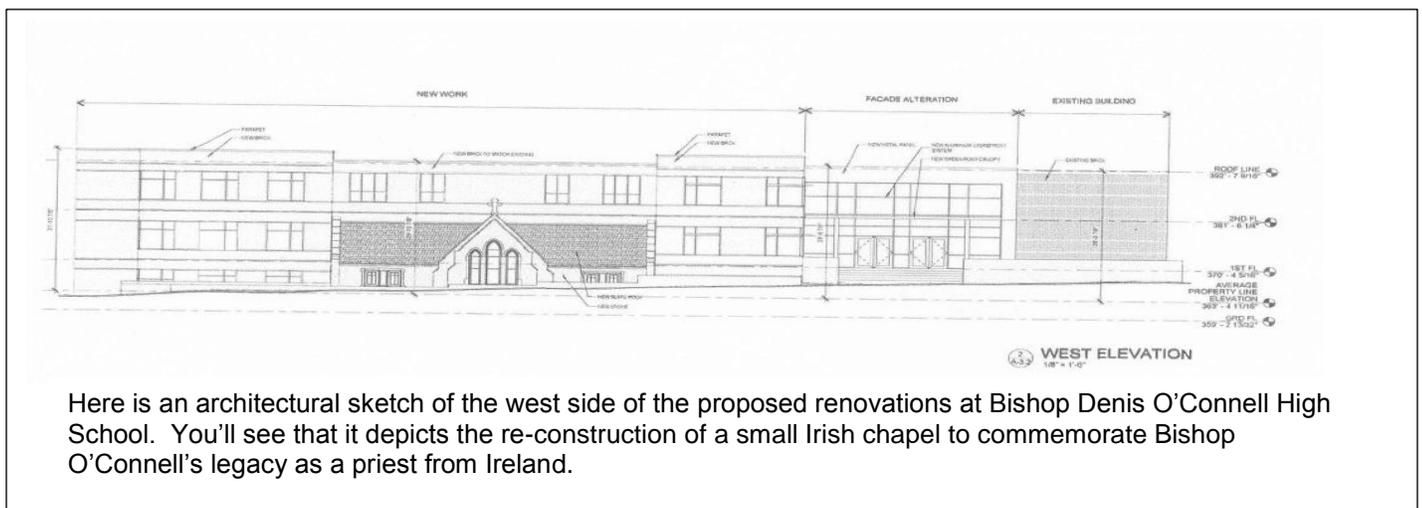
On October 6, 2017, Bishop Denis O’Connell High School applied to Arlington County for a special use permit to redevelop a portion of the existing high school building at 6600 Little Falls Road that is currently home to the Sisters’ residence — Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The School’s “comprehensive needs analysis” concluded that relocating the Sisters to a nearby location within the neighborhood will allow the School to redevelop the existing residence space and create additional educational and assembly facilities. The School proposes to demolish the residence facility and construct a new 3-story educational structure featuring classrooms, offices, a new chapel, student spaces and other academic support spaces. At the same time, the School proposes to modify the main building lobby to create a more prominent entry-way into the building and to improve internal building circulation and function. The proposed modifications will result in the addition of more than 25,000 gross foot area.

To complement the improved building entrance, the School proposes to construct a new landscaped courtyard area to enhance the main building frontage and add open space. The application is expected to displace approximately 12 parking spaces but is not expected to change the existing parking lot access points or circulation patterns. No change in the School’s student population is planned or expected.

The School’s permit application was originally scheduled to be heard by the County Board in January of 2018 with construction expected to begin (principally) during the summers of 2018-2019. Final completion is planned for the beginning of the School year in 2020.

In response to the School’s invitation, nearby residents submitted comments on the permit application. In general, residents wanted to ensure that the County imposed the kinds of permit conditions typical of large construction/renovation projects. Those permit conditions are intended to (1) ensure appropriate notice to and liaison with the neighborhood during all phases of the work; (2) ensure appropriate on-site worker parking, as well as safe temporary pedestrian and traffic safety during the course of work; and (3) ensure the best appropriate landscaping for the Northern Virginia climate and habitat. In late December, Arlington County advised the neighborhood that O’Connell’s work could be achieved “administratively” and that no special use permit will be required. No County Board hearing will be held.

Meanwhile, on November 8, 2017, the Catholic Diocese of Arlington also filed an application for a special use permit to relocate the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, from the Sisters’ residence at Bishop O’Connell to a residence at 2844 North Rochester Street. The special use application asks for permission to convert the existing single-family dwelling into a convent for up to seven Sisters, or occasionally Sisters from another Order who are permitted to reside at the convent. The application also proposes to convert a “small parlor” near the front entrance of the property into a small chapel for private prayer. By relocating the Sisters in a home near Bishop O’Connell High School, the Diocese seeks to maintain the Sisters’ presence in the community around the School. This permit is expected to be heard by the County Board in early 2018.



Here is an architectural sketch of the west side of the proposed renovations at Bishop Denis O’Connell High School. You’ll see that it depicts the re-construction of a small Irish chapel to commemorate Bishop O’Connell’s legacy as a priest from Ireland.

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- Michelle Caucutt, Arlington seller



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Shepherd's Center Seeks Volunteers to Drive Seniors to Appointments and to Run Errands

The Shepherd's Center of Arlington-McLean-Falls Church (SCMAFC) is a nonprofit, volunteer-based organization dedicated to assisting senior adults in maintaining an independent and safe lifestyle. The primary services offered include free transportation to and from medical and therapy appointments, the grocery store, the pharmacy, and miscellaneous errands.



SCMAFC has 278 clients/riders with an average age of 77. SCMAFC provided over 2,500 rides in 2017.

The organization expects the demand for rides to increase to approximately 3,000 in 2018 but will not be able to meet this demand without additional volunteers. In fact, in 2017, the organization had to turn down 280 requests for rides.

Are you able to help? There is no specific time commitment and you can select the rides you can fill based on your schedule. If one volunteer can give one ride per month, that is one more senior that is able to be helped. Please call The Shepherd's Center today at (703) 506-2199 to start volunteering, or complete an application on their website: www.scmafc.org.

Please share neighborhood conservation project ideas with us!

Do you have any ideas for capital improvement or beautification projects within the Williamsburg Civic Association? If so, please share your ideas! We are looking for ideas about ways to improve things like our parks and green spaces, sidewalks, streets, and street lighting. There are funds available from the County through the Neighborhood Conservation Program. The Sycamore Street project, which has just begun construction, is an example of a Neighborhood Conservation Program.

These types of projects start with proposals from each civic association. These proposals are called priority projects, which are submitted first to the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee ("NCAC"), where they are put in a queue and go through a process where the civic association seeks to obtain the NCAC's recommendation that the County Board approve the project. It is a fairly long process, often times taking several years to get from submitting the priority project to completion of an approved project. The Sycamore Street project is a very good example of how long the process can take.

The WCA currently does not have any priority projects in the NCAC queue. This is where you come in. We need to come to a consensus on a priority project and submit it to the NCAC by May 15, 2018. In order for a priority project to be eligible it has to have been contemplated in the WCA's Neighborhood Conservation Plan, which was recently updated and approved by the County Board. The WCA's current NC Plan is found here:

<https://projects.arlingtonva.us/neighborhood-conservation/nc-plan-program/nc-plans/>. There are numerous specific ideas in the NCP and broader goals that may spark an idea. Examples are beautification projects in Minor Hill Park, Sharp's Park and possibly the Birch-Payne Cemetery.

More information on NC projects and the NCAC is found here:

https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2014/02/NC_2014NCProgramGuide.pdf

Please join us at the WCA meeting on February 1, 2018 to discuss your ideas.

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Arlington Initiative to Rethink Energy Provides Info on Home Energy Rebates

Given the frigid cold temperatures we are experiencing, this may be a good time to take advantage of energy efficiency rebates, which are available for Arlington residents through Spring 2018. The Arlington Initiative to Rethink Energy (AIRE) reports that more than 500 Arlingtonians have used these rebates to cut their energy bills.

You can **receive up to \$575** to replace your water heater, heating or cooling system, seal air leaks, or add insulation. Duct sealing projects are now eligible too. To get paid, follow these simple steps:

Step 1. Make energy updates to your home. The following items are eligible for a rebate:

- **\$575 rebate for central air conditioners**, minimum 16 SEER.
- **\$575 for central furnaces and boilers**, minimum 95 AFUE.
- **\$575 for central heat pumps** including geothermal heat pumps, minimum 15 SEER.
- **\$250 for electric water heaters**, energy factor of at least 2.0, and gas/oil/propane water heaters, energy factor of at least 0.82.

- 30% of your costs for **duct sealing, air sealing, and insulation projects**. You must spend at least \$330, and you can receive up to \$575. Typical bulk insulation products qualify, such as batts, rolls, blow-in fibers, rigid boards, expanding spray, and pour-in-place. Projects that air seal (reduce air leaks) or duct seal also qualify, including weather stripping, spray foam, caulk, house wrap, etc.

Step 2: Download, complete, and submit the application. Once your project is completed you have 3 months to submit your application by sending it to energyrebate@arlingtonenvironment.org or mailing it to Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment, 3308 S. Stafford St., Arlington, VA 22206. Make sure you attach dated, itemized proof of payment, and you'll also need to include "before and after" photos for air sealing or insulation projects.

Step 3: Cash your rebate check and enjoy your lower energy bills! It's that easy.

To learn more, visit

<https://environment.arlingtonva.us/energy/rebates/>



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--Alexis Baker

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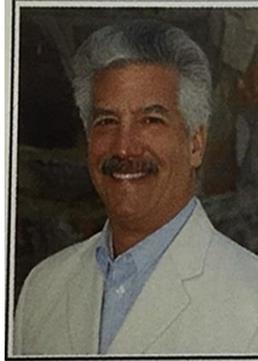
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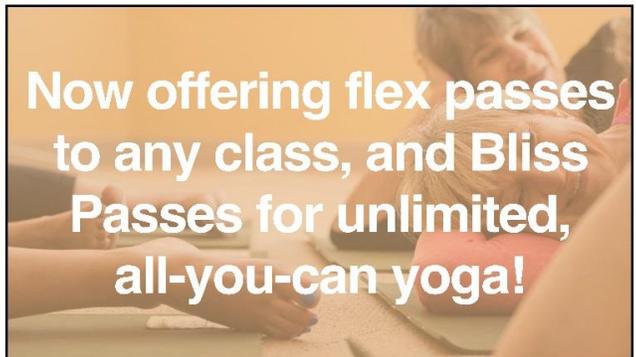
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In Brief...

SNOW REMOVAL: Winter is a good time to remind everyone of Arlington County's snow removal ordinance. Property owners are required to remove snow and ice from public sidewalks adjacent to their property. It must be removed from the entire **width of the sidewalk** up to 3 feet wide (to accommodate wheelchairs, strollers, and adults with children in hand) **within 24 hours** after the snow stops falling when accumulations are less than 6 inches, and **within 36 hours** when 6 or more inches of snow accumulate (as measured at National Airport, per National Weather Service). If another snow event occurs, the clock will reset to the end of the most recent snowfall.

NEXTDOOR SOCIAL NETWORK: More than 2,000 neighbors from the Williamsburg and Arlington-East Falls Church Civic Associations have joined NextDoor, a private social network used to ask each other for recommendations, post items for sale, and share other important information about the community. According to the website, this represents 38% of the total households of the two civic associations combined. The network is a nice complement to the WCA Yahoo listserv, whose membership is limited to those in the WCA community. If interested in signing up for NextDoor, visit www.nextdoor.com.

PAR HAIR SALON TO RELOCATE TO WESTOVER: After 25 years in the Williamsburg Shopping Center, Par Salehi, proprietor of Par Hair Design, will be moving to a smaller location in Westover. The move comes a year after Par's husband – her partner in life and in business – passed away. While she'd love to stay where she is, the smaller location will be easier to maintain. As she says in her ad, Par is thankful to the many neighbors who have patronized her salon for the last quarter century, and she looks forward to continuing to serve you in the new location. Her phone number will remain the same: (703) 533-0303. Good luck to you, Par! We will miss you!



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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. **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!**

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

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WCA NEIGHBOR