



Williamsburg Civic Association Newsletter

JANUARY 2010

WWW.WCA-ARLINGTON.ORG

WCA President's Message

Dear Neighbors:

Happy New Year!

I'm happy to report that the Williamsburg Civic Association is up and running. Our meeting in October regarding the latest plans for the area around the East Falls Church Metro Station was extremely well attended. I'd like to thank Mark Moran, our representative to the EFC Planning Task Force, for making such an excellent presentation, posting his PowerPoint to the WCA website (www.wca-arlington.org), and writing an article in this edition on the status of the planning process.



Sonia McCormick

For those interested in home prices in our community, we've got a great agenda planned for our Tuesday, Feb. 9 meeting. Two experienced realtors who live in the Williamsburg neighborhood – Jim Toronto and Coral Gundlach – along with a banker, will bring us up to speed on what's selling, how home values are holding up, what we need to know in terms of refinancing, the April 30 tax credit deadline, and more. But before we get into that, we'll hear briefly from Arlington County Police Officer James O'Daniel, the officer assigned to our area, on what he's seeing in terms of local reports.

In other news, I'd like to thank everyone who so generously volunteered of their time to help us hand-deliver newsletters to their neighbors, thus saving us approximately \$450 on postage per issue. We still need a few additional volunteers. Please see the related article for streets missing a block captain. Finally, as we've been discussing on the ListServ, please be sure to suggest topics for upcoming meetings, story ideas for this newsletter, or anything else you'd like out of our civic association. We want to be sure we are meeting your needs.

General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, February 9

7:30 – 9:00 PM

Nottingham Elementary School

In the Library

5900 Little Falls Road

Arlington, VA 22207

Arlington County Safety Update

**The Latest on
Residential Real Estate in
North Arlington**

The East Falls Church Planning Study: History and Status

By Mark Moran

For many years, Arlington County has been known for its foresight in the way that it developed its portion of the Metrorail system, especially the segment from Rosslyn to Ballston. Arlington chose to pursue walkable, mixed-use development at relatively high densities around the stations, with the development density tapering off as one got farther from the stations. Beyond the areas immediately surrounding the Metrorail system, one typically found low- to medium-density residential areas. Because of the way the redevelopment was done (i.e., walkable, mixed-use development around rail stations), Arlington was able to increase development levels with little or no increase in vehicular traffic. The approach chosen by Arlington, also known as "transit oriented development," or TOD, was not always the approach used by other jurisdictions, such as Fairfax County.

Continued on Page 3

WCA Members Answer Call for Help with Newsletter Delivery

Kudos to the following individuals who, along with their significant other and/or children, volunteered to deliver the WCA quarterly newsletter to their neighbors:

- Sara Anderson
- Jim Ball
- Jim Breiling
- Carol Cohen
- Paul Cullen
- Allan Dosik
- Cathy Eckbreth
- Kevin Farrell
- Jim Finley
- Bruce Gilbert
- Coral Gundlach
- John Howell
- Ellen Jones
- Louis Kluger
- Jeremy Levy
- Susan Levy
- Charles Lundy
- Jim Lunson
- Marcia Novak
- Rob Shirey

We still have some streets that need a volunteer:

Zip code: 22207

5819 thru 6429 N. 27th Street

6011 thru 6408 N. 29th Street

6100 thru 6325 N. 31st Street

6324 thru 6325 N. 31st Street

5600 thru 6549 N. 35th Road

2701 thru 2949 N. Lexington Street

5626 thru 6201 N. Little Falls Road

2800 thru 3301 N. Nottingham Street

2416 thru 3409 N. Ohio Street

3300 thru 3317 N. Pocomoke Street

6107 thru 6408 N. Williamsburg Boulevard

Zip code: 22213

3000 thru 3230 N. Rochester Street

2906 thru 2939 N. Sycamore Street

3008 thru 3100 N. Tacoma Street

If you can help, please contact Sonia McCormick at sonia.b.mccormick@gmail.com.

FOR ALL YOUR LAWN SERVICE NEEDS

 **Lawn Doctor**

703-378-8000

Group4@LawnDoctor.com

- Fertilization and Weed Control
- Aeration and Power Seeding
- Perimeter Pest Control
- Ornamental Tree & Shrub Care
- Custom Weekly Mowing Service*
*(*Includes Mowing, Edging and String Trimming)*
- General Yard Clean-Up
- Mulching
- Shrub Pruning
- Leaf Removal & Vacuuming
- Snow Shoveling

Email or Call for a FREE Estimate!

new year, new goals?
how about joining us for
wow
work out wednesdays

6:30 AM BOOT CAMP
\$120 for 10 sessions
drop ins welcome



Oriental Martial Arts Academy
6408 Williamsburg Blvd
Arlington, VA 22207
703 536 9495
www.omaa-arl.com

(continued from Page 1)

For each station where new development was planned, Arlington County typically developed a “sector plan,” which served as a guide to future development. The East Falls Church (EFC) station, which lies outside the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor, never had a sector plan, in part because Arlington’s General Land Use Plan (GLUP) envisioned that the EFC area would remain a low-density suburban area with some industrial land uses. For the last several years, the Arlington East Falls Church Civic Association (AEFCCA), the civic association that contains the EFC Metro Station, has been pushing to have a sector plan or a “mini sector plan” developed for the area around EFC, with the idea that the AEFCCA citizens wanted to develop a vision for the EFC area before it was redeveloped by developers using what would be allowed “by right.”

When it was clear that a planning study would be conducted, I and others in the WCA sought to have a seat at the table. In September 2007, a planning study was begun, known as the EFC Planning Study. Its purpose was to generate a land use and transportation vision for transit-oriented development in the EFC area of Arlington County and the City of Falls Church. The goal of the visioning exercise is to develop a concept plan that will set height, density, use mix, and urban design standards for Arlington County sites, such as the EFC Metrorail park-and-ride, kiss-and-ride lot, and other sites that are likely to redevelop in the study area. The City of Falls Church has its own plan, the 2005 Comprehensive Plan. The process could result in changes to the GLUP and/or zoning.

A citizen task force, known as the EFC Planning Study Task Force, was established to guide the study. The task force has 19 members, 15 of whom are appointed by the Arlington County Board. Three Arlington civic associations are represented on the task force: AEFCCA WCA, and Madison Manor. There also is representation from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), WMATA, and the City of Falls Church. The EFC station is owned by WMATA, and VDOT owns more than half of the park-and-ride lot, which lies within its right-of-way.

The study was to have taken about 18 months, but it has now been going on for about two years. This is not the only study or planning effort of this type that has gone on in the EFC area. Others include:

- East Falls Church Land Use Study (1986)
- Arlington-Falls Church Ad-Hoc Planning Committee: Final Report (1987)
- WMATA East Falls Church Station Access Study (2002)
- Virginia Tech Study, East Falls Church Metro Area Plan (2004)
- Arlington East Falls Church Civic Association Metro Survey (2005)

A number of potential future development proposals have been presented to the task force, both for land use and transportation.

The task force generally meets about once a month. Unfortunately, the progress of the study has been delayed recently, due to both the cancellation of several task force meetings and the economic recession, which is straining the county’s ability to carry out all of its mandates with its limited staff. The July and October meetings were cancelled due to an electrical problem in the building where the meetings had been held. A subsequent make-up meeting was also cancelled, again due to electrical problems. A meeting was held on October 28. A summary of that meeting was sent to the WCA e-mail distribution list on November 1. Unfortunately, Arlington County staff had to cancel both the November and December meetings of the task force, presumably because a preliminary plan was not yet ready to share with the task force.

The next scheduled meeting of the task force is Wednesday, Jan. 27. In advance of that meeting, Arlington County staff is expected to forward to the task force a draft of the EFC Area Plan. At the January meeting, Arlington County staff will provide a review of the document and will accept questions and comments; however, no formal task force action will be taken on the draft plan. A subsequent task force meeting, as well as broader community forums/meetings, will be scheduled thereafter for further public input on the proposed plan.

More information is available on the WCA website, www.arlington-wca.org, and on the County website, www.arlingtonva.us.

Help Create Arlington's Transit Development Plan

Arlington Transit (ART) with the assistance of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) has initiated a study that will result in a Transit Development Plan (TDP), which ultimately will be adopted by the County Board. The community is invited to join ART and DRPT staff and the TDP consultant team for an initial briefing and work session, which will be held on January 28, 2010 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Navy League Building - main floor conference room, 2800 Wilson Blvd.

The Transit Development Plan will be a comprehensive six-year plan that will guide the growth of transit and paratransit services provided by the County through ART and STAR and by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) through Metrorail, Metrobus and MetroAccess. The TDP will build upon the policies, goals and objectives adopted by the County Board in the Master Transportation Plan and in the Transit Element.

ART is now in the initial stage of the TDP study, collecting data and analyzing existing and programmed services. At this initial meeting the consultant team will provide an overview of existing services and program plans, setting the stage for Arlingtonians to discuss with other stakeholders, staff and consultants, their interests for the future of the County's transit and paratransit services.

Leaf Collection Program Extended Until January 29

Arlington County has extended its leaf collection program until January 29 in order to take a second pass through each civic association.



The Williamsburg Civic Association is in Zone 5 – the last on the schedule. A definitive date for collections cannot be provided, as some areas have heavier leaf piles than others, and the heavy leaf areas and cold weather play a factor in how quickly the work can get done. The County says it will work as quickly as possible to vacuum the leaves, while also continuing with its core services and other seasonal programs.

To recycle your leaves, place leaves in bio-degradable bags only. Do not use plastic bags! Leaf bags will be collected on the next business day after your regular trash collection day

If you have any questions, please call 703-228-6570.

Census Workers Wanted

Every 10 years, a census of our population is conducted. The results help determine how federal funds are spent in our community on things like roads, parks and other public services, as well as our representation in government.

The U.S. Department of Commerce seeks assistance with conducting the Census in 2010; in Arlington, the government needs Arlington residents to be "enumerators," or census takers.

A 2010 Census job offers a good pay, flexible hours, paid training, and the chance to work independently in your own community. Work can last a few days or a few weeks, or more.

People are hired for census work based on veterans' status and on scores on a test administered by the Census. The test is a short, multiple choice test that tests math, clerical skills, map reading, reading skills and evaluating alternatives.

For more information, including a practice test, contact www.2010censusjobs.gov or call the toll-free jobs line (1-866-861-2010) to arrange a test to be eligible for a census job.

Environmentally Friendly and Just Plain Friendly, Too



Jin and Brian Ha, owners of Jin's Cleaners & Tailoring

Is there anything better than going to a business where everyone knows your name?

Those who frequent Jin's Cleaners & Tailoring in the Williamsburg Shopping Center undoubtedly have had that experience with Jin Ha, owner of the shop, along with her husband, Brian.

"He tells me that's my talent," said Jin, referring to her husband, who marvels at how well Jin can remember not only names, but also everyone's tastes. She knows how highly starched her clients like their shirts, whether they want creases in their pants, etc.

That friendly service has paid off for Jin and Brian, who moved into the shop during the summer of 2003 after having run a tailoring shop in a smaller space around the corner.

Jin, a native of Seoul, Korea, married Brian, a Korean-American, in 1990. She moved to the United States and learned how to sew from her mother-in-law, with whom she worked at the previous tailoring shop.

"Moving into this larger location has been a big adventure and transition for us," said Jin. "It's a job that involves a lot of hours, but we knew it would be a good opportunity for our whole family."

Not only did the couple learn the dry cleaning business quickly, they also were forward thinkers before "green" was really in style.

While many dry cleaners use solutions that contain toxic materials, Jin and Brian began using hydrocarbon – an environmentally friendly chemical – from the very beginning. That seems to be well received by their customers, they believe.

How is business? "Dry cleaning has slowed down in the past year; alterations are steady. We hope that it will get better when the economy improves," Jin said.

In the meantime, Jin is fortunate that Brian is a fix-it kind of guy. "My husband is very good with the machines. He fixes everything, so we don't need to call repairmen to come in and help us."

If you've owned your home for over 5 years and are looking to move, I can help you take advantage of the federal homebuyer tax credit.

Our low inventory of neighborhood homes for sale makes it a great time to make a move.

Contact me for an analysis of what your home is worth in this market and for more details on this limited-time tax credit.

**Coral Gundlach
Realtor, CRS**

Living in Williamsburg Community since 2001

Neighborhood Specialist

Direct: 703-200-2621

email: coralgundlach@yahoo.com



Keep Storm Drains Clear

While the storm of 2009 is now in our rear-view mirror, Arlington County reminds us of the importance of pitching in and helping to direct the water run off as the snow melts.

When the storm drains are blocked with accumulations of snow and slush, water is prevented from entering the storm drains, resulting in standing pools of water that refreeze when it gets colder. Significant flooding issues also are likely to occur when the rain has nowhere to go.



If you know the location of the storm drains near you, please remember to shovel them to alleviate some of the risk of flooding in our neighborhood and our homes.

Red Oak Builders, Inc.

A family owned business serving Northern Virginia since 1988

Remodeling & Additions

Kitchens – Baths – Basements

Interior & Exterior Repairs

Drywall – Painting – Flooring – Tile

Roofs – Windows – Doors – Siding

Handyman Services

Virginia Class A License

(703) 533-8426 * redoakbuilds@aol.com

6580 29th Street North, Arlington, Virginia 22213

Fax: (703) 534-8637



Do you need a reliable dog walker?



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!

\$15 for 20-minute walk

\$39 per day for pet sitting (3 visits/day)

For more info, visit arlingtonpetpals.com

Or call 703-241-2177

WCA "Classifieds"

Need a babysitter, your plants watered, snow shoveled, or your pet taken care of? The following teenagers would appreciate being hired for these and other similar jobs:

Ben deButts – Yorktown HS

Daniel deButts – Williamsburg MS

703-237-2698 or LisaOstroff4@gmail.com

Erik Cardillo – Yorktown HS

571-277-8674 or p.cardillo@verizon.net

Like ballroom dancing or organic gardening?

Jim Breiling and his wife are looking for neighbors with shared interests. Contact them at jamespbreiling@yahoo.com if you'd like to get together.

Classifieds are published free of charge. If you'd like to be listed in the next issue, email Sonia McCormick at sonia.b.mccormick@gmail.com

Have you paid your membership dues?

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: _____

Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

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: Coral Gundlach

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

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, perms, manicures, 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.



4720 Lee Highway
Arlington, VA 22207
www.mceneaney.com



**Jim Toronto, CRS, ABR
Associate Broker**

*Celebrating 28 years in
Arlington Real Estate*

**It's never too early to talk about
what needs to be done to put your
home on the market!**

Mobile: 703-447-7481

Direct: 703-717-6356

Office: 703-525-1900

Toronto@erols.com

www.JimToronto.com



General Membership Meeting: Tuesday, February 9 · 7:30-9:00 PM · Nottingham ES

Williamsburg Civic Association

3577 N. Powhatan Street

Arlington, VA 22213

www.wca-arlington.org

