



# Tara-Leeway Heights Community News

*A Quarterly Newsletter for Tara-Leeway Heights Civic Association Members*

Spring 2000

Volume 6, Issue 2

## TLHCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Where:** Hazel Conference Center  
Conference Room A/B  
The Arlington Hospital

**Date:** Thursday, May 17

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**Guest speaker:**  
Mary Margaret Whipple

### **Election for Slate of Officers:**

(one-year term: 2000-2001)

President: John Vihstadt  
Vice President: Frank Foote  
Treasurer: Ted Stump  
Secretary: Laurie Hayden

### **Board of Directors Up for Election:**

(two-year term: 2001-2003):

Willis Braswell  
Jonathon Newman  
Richard Strasser  
Frank Thibodaux  
John Vihstadt

### **Board of Directors** (expires 2002):

Willis Braswell  
Jonathon Newman  
Richard Strasser

## Arlington Hospital Expansion Plans

As we reported in earlier newsletters, the Arlington Hospital is proposing a \$120 million capital expansion project at the George Mason site.

The planning process began with members of the three neighboring civic associations (Tara-Leeway Heights, Waycroft Woodlawn and Langston Brown) meeting with hospital planners and has progressed into and through the site plan reviews. Next, the members of the site plan review committee will prepare a recommendation to the County Planning Commission who, in turn, makes a recommendation to the County Board who will approve or disapprove the plan.

The Planning Commission is scheduled to take this matter up at its May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting and the County Board on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The 2000 TLHCA annual general membership meeting will have a presentation by the hospital on its expansion plans. Interested members of the Civic Association are encouraged to all of these meetings.

While some progress has been negotiated with the hospital regarding the impact of the expansion on the residential neighborhoods surrounding the site, significant issues remain unresolved. The proposed hospital expansion will have a substantial impact on traffic congestion and parking surrounding the hospital site. Additionally, the demolition and construction onsite will continue for 2-3 years generating noise, dirt and dust plus frequent truck traffic in the neighborhoods.

Key issues remaining unresolved include:

*Hospital expansion continued on page 3*

*Tara-Leeway Heights  
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## Neighborhood Spotlight



### The Women's Home Annual Yard Sale

The Women's Home, Inc., located right in our neighborhood, is a non-profit residential treatment facility that provides low-cost, quality treatment and rehabilitation for women recovering from the devastating effects of alcoholism and/or drug dependency. The Home facilitates recovery from addiction and serves as a substitute home and family for the recovering women, aged 18-65. The Home is across from Arlington Hospital and it houses up to twelve women, with a length of stay from three months to one year. It has been in existence since 1963 and has helped many hundreds of women become productive members of society.

The Home is not funded by any federal, state or local agency and, like many other small nonprofit organizations, it struggles to keep ahead financially. Its revenue comes from the minimal fees the women pay, donations, occasional grants and our annual yard sale fundraiser. This year's yard sale fundraiser is on Saturday and Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> and the Home is seeking donations of any kind for the sale (kitchenware, toys, books, appliances, furniture, clothing, etc.). Donations are tax deductible as the Home is a 501(c)(3) organization. Feel free to call the Home at 237-2822 to arrange for a drop off, or call Tanya Harvey at 534-4543 for more information. Thank you for your support for this very worthwhile local organization!

## Volunteer Opportunities

Be a volunteer! For more information, call (703) 228-5811.

- Davis Memorial Goodwill Industries needs volunteers to help sort thousands of record albums donated to Goodwill in preparation for the annual record sale. Volunteers work Saturdays 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or Wednesdays 6-9 pm.
- "A Taste of Arlington," benefiting Community Residences, Inc. and AHC, Inc. (Arlington Housing Corporation) will be held on Sunday, May 21. This springtime street festival features bands, magicians, the Yo Yo Man, and more than 30 local restaurants, caterers and beverage providers. Volunteers are needed to assist with table and chair set up, balloon blow up and tie, sign set up, trash monitor, coupon puncher, ice runner, paper product distributor, soda server, beer server, restaurant runner, information aides, snow cone server. There will be five shifts during the day between 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- Meals on Wheels needs volunteers to take meals to elderly and homebound individuals living in Arlington. Teams of volunteers (driver and navigator) are needed to pick up meals near the Ballston area at 11 a.m. weekdays and deliver meals to between 8 and 12 individuals on a predetermined route. You can volunteer once a month, every two weeks, weekly, or more often depending on your schedule. Help our older residents remain in their own homes by volunteering for this vital program.

## More on Reed and Westover Library

On March 30, Westover Civic Association hosted an informational meeting about the future of Walter Reed School. Chris Zimmerman from the Arlington County Board and Libby Garvey from the Arlington School Board were on hand to discuss the property's future with concerned community members from the neighboring civic associations.

In 1998, Arlington voters approved a bond that would plan the renovation, expansion, or rebuild of the Westover Library. However, plans have been stalled until recently because the school board was not ready to commit to Reed's future use. The two properties are co-located (the school board has 10.8 acres and the county 2 acres).

Recently, the county and school boards have agreed to allow the county to move forward with feasibility studies to offer a number of alternatives. Chris Zimmerman said that community meetings will begin in May to share ideas as the master plan process progresses. Proposals for the properties will come to both the school and county board starting in September. Meanwhile, the school board does not have immediate plans for Reed in its six-year master plan, despite the NW Quadrant Study findings showing a need for more classroom space. Community members pointed out that as the school board debates Reed's role, the school building continues to show neglect. This is painfully obvious to all of our neighborhoods.

Look for meeting announcements to discuss the expansion/renovation of Westover Library. The community will have a chance to voice its opinions.

**Neighborhood Day 2000 is Saturday, May 13. The highlight will be a parade down Wilson Boulevard from Clarendon Metro to Courthouse Metro.**

## Civic Association Board Proposes to Raise Membership Fees

To meet the rising costs in printing and distributing the civic association newsletter, the Tara-Leeway Heights Civic Association Executive Board voted to raise the annual membership fee to \$10 per household. Though the board regrets having to raise membership fees, the annual fee for families has not changed in over a decade and is in line with other civic associations in Arlington.

A note from civic association President, Ted Stump, in the last newsletter was met with overwhelming responses. Several residents contributed money beyond annual membership fees. The board would like to express its deep appreciation for these generous donations. The additional funds have made a significant difference in our current accounts; however, in the long term, the board felt it was necessary to increase the membership fees so that we no longer have to depend on the generosity of a few residents.

The fee increase still has to be approved by the general membership and the board would like to invite you to the annual meeting to debate and vote on the proposal.

*Hospital expansion continued from page 1*

- The hospital proposal calls for the new building to exceed both the density and height currently allowed by the existing site plan and local planning and zoning regulations.
- The top two stories of the proposed new building would be doctors' office condominiums. These two floors would bring an additional 39 doctors onto the George Mason site. Removal of the doctors' office condominiums would bring the proposed new building within the existing density and height restrictions and reduce much of the new traffic that would be generated.
- While substantial increases in traffic are projected to occur over a period of years and a number on nearby intersections are seen as already unacceptably congested, the only improvement proposed is to add a stoplight on George Mason Drive in front of the hospital.
- The Waycroft Woodlawn Civic Association has requested the existing entrance to the hospital off Edison Street to be restricted to ambulances only. If approved, all public, staff, and truck traffic would be rerouted to the only hospital entrances off George Mason Drive.
- The hospital has proposed large signage to be located near the top of the proposed 10-story building.
- Construction traffic routing and worker parking remain to be addressed.

If you have additional questions regarding the hospital's proposed expansion or want information on how to contact the member of the Planning Commission or County Board, you may visit the Civic Association Website at [www.geocities.com/tlhca](http://www.geocities.com/tlhca) or call Jay Eiche at 703-534-4543.

This project will impact the surrounding neighborhoods for years to come, so get informed and make your opinion known to those who are the actual decision makers in this process, the Arlington County Board.



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### Civic Association Establishes Web Site

The Tara-Leeway Heights Civic Association has recently set up a web site for residents. The web site has electronic versions of past newsletters, civic association by-laws, meeting minutes, and important up-to-date information.

The web site will serve as a means of communicating important information between newsletters and will provide a two-way communication tool between residents and the board. The web site address is: <http://www.geocities.com/tlhca>.

Join TLHCA!

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(please include your email address if you would like to be informed of neighborhood issues between newsletters.)*

Elementary School Survey:

How many children do you have between the ages of 2-4? \_\_\_\_\_

Which elementary school will they be attending? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any interest in seeing Walter Reed School reopen as a neighborhood school? \_\_\_\_\_ (yes/no)

Help us serve you by becoming a member! Just \$10 for a household annually puts you on our roster and offsets some of our printing costs. Dues cover May 2000-May 2001 fiscal year.

Make your check payable to the Tara-Leeway Heights Civic Association. Complete and return this form today to the Treasurer, Tara-Leeway Heights Civic Association, Box 50022, Arlington, VA 22205.

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