



Tara-Leeway Heights Community News

A Quarterly Newsletter for Tara-Leeway Heights Civic Association Members

Winter 2001

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Civic Association Needs Your Input for Neighborhood Projects

The County Board created the Neighborhood Conservation Program in 1964 to encourage neighborhoods to create neighborhood improvement plans and to provide dedicated funding to implement those plans. Through the Neighborhood Conservation Program, residents commit to conserve and improve their neighborhood through preparing and updating Neighborhood Conservation Plans that reflect community needs, participating in the deliberations of the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee, and nominating plan-based improvement projects for funding.

Neighborhood Conservation Plans, initiated and prepared by neighborhood residents, are used to:

- Build a neighborhood vision and consensus on issues affecting the neighborhood;
- Establish eligibility for Neighborhood Conservation Funding; and,
- Provide guidance to the County Board, Commissions, Department and staff concerning issues in the neighborhoods.

The TLHCA Neighborhood Conservation Plan was prepared and approved back in 1980 which subsequently qualifies the neighborhood to seek Neighborhood Conservation Program funds for specific projects such as curb, sidewalks, park and recreation facilities, traffic management, street lights, and beautification. Curb, gutter, sidewalk, and street light projects must be requested by a petition by a specified percentage of residents on a block.

Past TLHCA projects supported through neighborhood conversation funds include the Patrick Henry medium strip, renovations at Big Walnut Park, and reconstruction of the 16th Street / Patrick Henry intersection.

Your civic association is looking for new projects for the next NCAC funding cycle. If you have an idea for a project (curb, sidewalks, park and recreation facilities, traffic management, street lights, and beautification), please contact Bill Braswell, the civic association representative to NCAC, at (703) 241-5530

Arlington Hospital Update

As most residents of the civic association already know, the renovation and expansion of Arlington Hospital has begun. Syntex Rogers is the general contractor. Demolition of the 1944, 1953, and 1985 buildings is complete and excavation of the new building has started. Excavation should continue through about March of 2002. The task is about 50% complete at this point. Blasting may be necessary and will most likely be done in the next several months. Bovis Lend Lease Consulting, a firm hired to work with the community, has distributed a pre-blast survey to the neighbors who are within a 150 foot radius of the project. If it is necessary to conduct blasting, airhorns will sound prior to the blast. There will be signage posted around the sight to advise.

The TLHCA Executive Board has communicated resident frustration to Bovis Lend Lease Consulting representatives regarding employee parking in the surrounding neighborhood. Although Arlington Hospital has established temporary parking at nearby lots, there still is a significant amount of cars parked in civic association neighborhood streets. In order to help resolve the acute parking situation, Arlington Hospital will be petitioning Arlington County to allow temporary occupancy for the garage in fall 2002.

For further information or to voice concerns, residents are encouraged to visit Bovis Lend Lease Consulting's project house at 5118 N. 16th St., a white house opposite the construction site. Individuals can receive up-to-date information on the expansion and raise concerns as they arise. It is open M-F from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The telephone number is (703) 284-0540.

*Tara-Leeway Heights
Civic Association
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Civic Federation Establishes Scholarship Funds for Arlington County Public Safety Workers

- Jim Pebley, ACCF

On September 11, everyone of our fire stations (all of them) responded to the deliberate aircraft crash at the Pentagon. One whole side of the building was in flames, 24,000 odd workers were trying to escape, fire was burning beneath a slate roof that our firefighters had to climb on, and our police and sheriffs deputies had to take control of the scene. There was a fourth airliner still unaccounted for, traffic was completely snarled and yet Arlington's Public Safety men and women rose magnificently to this unimagined occasion. Eventually helped by the entire region, our public safety employees went to war that day. The front lines were on Washington Boulevard.

Last month, I was approached by Tim Reese, President of the Arlington-East Falls Church Civic Association, who wanted to start an effort with the Federation's sponsorship, to develop a college scholarship program to assist the children of public safety personnel. "The unimaginable attack on the Pentagon brought home to so many of us the courage and conviction of our public safety people," is what Tim said to me. "They put themselves in harm's way, and do this almost every time they answer a call. We felt the best way to say 'thank you' was through their children".

On Sunday, December 9, 2001, many of us gathered to say thank you to Arlington's public safety personnel. The official kick-off for the Civic Federation 911 Scholarship Fund was held at Fire Station Five, 1750 S. Hayes Street. Fire Station Five was chosen as the site because its paramedics and firefighters were the first to arrive at the scene.

The 911 Scholarship Fund is intended to be an enduring tribute to Arlington's safety personnel. We hope to raise \$5,000 the first year, but if we raise more, we can give more. The Civic Federation Scholarship will be administered by the Arlington Community Foundation. Donations, made payable to the Arlington Community Foundation, earmarked "911 Fund", may be sent to 2525 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington 22201, or you can donate via payroll deductions through United Way or CFC, #8143. For additional information on the Scholarship Fund, contact the Foundation at 703-243-4785 or me at jim@civfed.org.



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School Renovation Plans

Two schools that serve our civic association, Glebe Elementary and Swanson Middle School, will be undergoing renovation work in the next several years. The Glebe School project is currently in the schematic phase, a phase established to provide a general idea of layout and character of the architectural changes for the building. The second step will be design development. The goal for the Glebe School renovation is to build an addition, gut the mechanical and electrical systems, leaving the building shell, extend the building life, and bring the building up to the current education equipment requirements.

Glebe was originally built as an open plan school. The architecture proposed will try to take the best of the open concept but compartmentalize using glass enclosure walls to provide a more controllable teaching atmosphere. Glebe's current enrollment is 319. The design will add capacity to 473. This will allow early childhood development programs to be brought back into the building, including 0-3 years, a Montessori program, a Virginia preschool initiative, and preschool special education.

The timetable is to vacate Glebe in June 2003 and relocate the student body to Wilson school, a building used as a swing school on Wilson Blvd. (located on Pierce and Wilson Blvd). The plan is to bring the students back in January 2005.

Swanson Middle School will undergo renovation not to increase its size, but rather to reconfigure its current capacity. The addition will be in the front of the building and will use brick to match the classic façade of Swanson (correcting the 1950 addition that does not match the building's original architecture).

Along with 12 new classrooms in the front, a courtyard is planned, as well as two classrooms in the back of the building. The interior renovation includes a redesigned administration area and counseling suite. An existing classroom and the current teacher's lounge will be eliminated for the redesign of these areas but will be redesigned in the back of the building, as will the drama/TV production area. The media center will acquire storage space as well as a reading area. The large gym will be outfitted with an improved locker room, which was passed over in 1994 in an earlier renovation.

The new proposal adds a student drop off area as a sweep off the back, with a single lane entry and exit. This addresses a key problem at Swanson, a lack of parking and student drop off area. The design adds two dozen parking spots in the lower area of what is now a parking lot. This will require of a shift of the tennis courts and fields by 18-20 feet toward the woods. The plan is to begin construction in 2003 with an 18-month schedule.

Construction access will be on Washington Blvd. An Arlington County School Board meeting has been scheduled for January 8 to discuss the plans, with action scheduled on January 17. Residents are encouraged to attend the meeting to relay any concerns that they might have with the renovation at Swanson.

✂ *Clip away*

Join TLHCA!

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 2001-May 2002 fiscal year.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

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

Phone: _____

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.

Volunteer Opportunities

Take time to help! Call the Arlington County Volunteer Office at 703-228-1760 for more information on more opportunities.

- A-SPAN, the Arlington Street People's Assistance Network, needs volunteers to assist staff with running the Emergency Winter Shelter. Three shifts exists: 6:30pm to 9:30pm, 10:00pm to 7:00am, and 5:30a.m. to 7:00am. Volunteers are also needed to prepare and donate a cooked meal for 46 men and woman and deliver it to the shelter on Mondays or Tuesdays. Bot of these activities can be done one time or on a regular basis.

Find TLHCA on the Web!

Don't forget to check the Tara-Leeway Heights Civic Association web site. The web site has electronic versions of past newsletters, civic association by-laws, meeting minutes, and important up-to-date information.

The web site communicates important information between newsletters and provide a two-way communication tool between residents and the board. The web site address is:

<http://www.geocities.com/tlhca>

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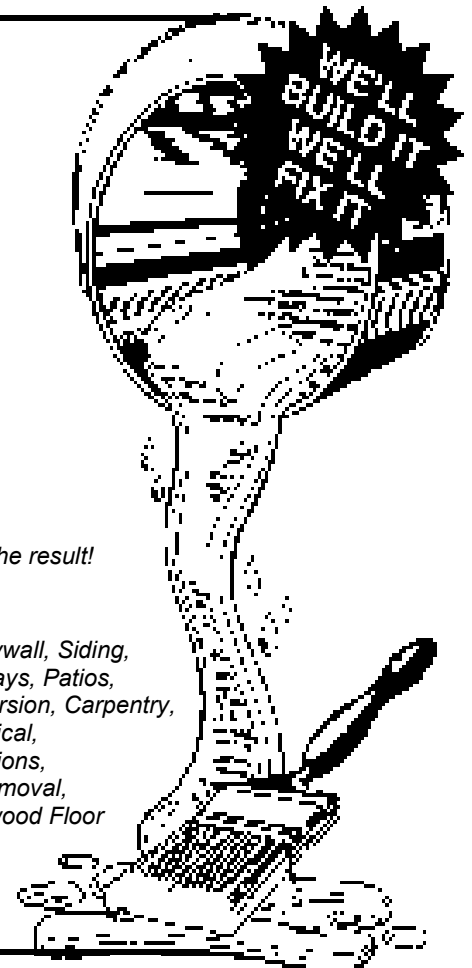
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