

Arlington-East Falls Church Civic Assoc.
General Membership Meeting

Tuckahoe Elementary School Cafeteria
Thursday, October 3, 2013
7:30 to 8:30 pm

Bring a friend!

THE POINT

ARLINGTON-EAST FALLS CHURCH
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

FALL 2013



Wrapping Up

Main construction for renewal of Tuckahoe Park Playground is on schedule for a soft opening in the next few weeks. Landscape planting and a ribbon cutting ceremony is targeting later in the Fall. The reconstruction of the playground at Tuckahoe Park will focus on play equipment, accessibility from Sycamore Street and around the play-ground, site furnishings, site drainage improvements and enhanced plantings which will all be implemented according to current playground safety guidelines and ADA standards.



Thanks to local resident and park activist Mary McLean we learn an interesting historical perspective about Tuckahoe Park playground. This is the second playground built since the original "Log City," the famously challenging playground for all ages. Log City included a tunnel and a log climbing slope about as high as the previous tower. A stream now runs under the park. The stream starts as a spring uphill from Bishop O'Connell High School. Prior to the stream being buried under Tuckahoe Park, it used to run through Tuckahoe which was a wetland where the dairy cows got water. The wetland extended all the way to East Falls Church Metro.

Tuckahoe Habitat Report for July, August and September 2013

You may have seen the warning signs "Don't walk off the trail." Plant specialists placed them to protect pets and people, because Arlington County has hired Invasive Plant Control (IPC) to help Tuckahoe's habitat, by applying herbicide to invasive plants. IPC employees are specially licensed and trained. Only the most environmentally-suitable chemical, a glyphosate-based herbicide, was used on non-native plants. This sturdy crew of

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four bush-whacked throughout Tuckahoe Park giving no ground to the plants harming Tuckahoe's habitat. The dead, brown-leaved plants are those that have been killed by the treatment. Plants that have been removed or treated are Norway maple, Asian bittersweet, Winter creeper, English ivy, Japanese holly, Prunus avium, Prunus subhirtella, Goldenrain tree, Malus spp., California privet, Chinese barberry, Bradford pear, White mulberry, Amur bush honeysuckle, and Multiflora rose.



Native species are now up and taking root! The "Grow Zone," replanted with native species by Eagle Scout Jacob Heidig, has flowers in bloom. Rare native Smartweed, Great Blue Lobelia, Cardinal Flower, orchid Joe-Pye, fuchsia Bergamot, Ox Eye Sunflower, and purple New England Aster. Lacy white heath aster begin blooming now. Native plants are now taking hold and spreading. This is exciting! Jacob Heidig planted natives in the Grow Zone for his Eagle Scout project. Our park manager Kevin Stalica chose just the right plants. Congratulations, Tuckahoe Park! You are on your way!
— Mary McLean

Silence is Golden

A friendly reminder: the Arlington Noise Ordinance prohibits mowing, construction, and other noisy activity outdoors before 7:00 am on weekdays and 10:00 am on weekends.

A Look Down the Road on Lee Highway

Waverly Hills Civic Association has announced a grassroots strategic partnership for re-visioning Lee Highway. The effort includes presidents of nearly all adjacent civic associations, including Arlington-East Falls Church, and is being assisted by Arlington

County's Planning Department.

Formed in February 2013, the group meets monthly for a series of Presidents' breakfasts and walking tours along Lee Highway. During this educational phase, relevant topics are discussed with local experts. Topics include land use and zoning, smart growth, urban design, housing, transportation and parking, signage, demographic trends, tax financing, transferable development rights, local business preservation, and emerging opportunities. The group also hosts forums of interest to members. Consider attending its next forum on the subject of Aging in Place. The date is Wednesday, October 23, 7:30-9:30 pm, in the auditorium of Washington-Lee High School. Everyone is welcome.

The group will continue to meet in 2014. The anticipated result is a new community vision for a more vibrant, walkable, attractive Lee Highway corridor, one that benefits neighborhoods and businesses. That vision will be sent to the Arlington County Manager's office with a request that the County appoint and fund a Task Force to formally develop a Lee Highway Sector Plan to guide future rezoning applications.

Arlington Tree Education and Distribution

It's time for Arlington County's annual free tree distribution program. Each year, the county's Natural Resources Division provides a variety of free native trees that residents can pick up and plant. Residents can help ensure that our tree canopy will remain healthy and full for future generations by participating on Saturday, October 26.

Assisted by TreeStewards of Arlington and Alexandria, which is sponsored by the Virginia Urban Forest Council, the county makes a variety of native trees available and consults to help determine which would best thrive on your property. The six species offered this year are Black gum, White oak, Sweet birch, Pagoda dogwood, Black haw, and Sweetbay magnolia.

The trees distributed are generally termed "whips" in the nursery trade, and are in 2-gallon

containers that are easy to carry and easily will fit in most vehicles. Height varies with species, but generally ranges between two and four feet. There is a limit of one free tree per household, to ensure that as many residents as possible are able to benefit.



TreeStewards also provides free consultation with a qualified expert in advance of the October Tree Distribution Day. Contact info@TreeStewards.org and they will either arrange a visit to your home or provide advice by exchanging emails, phone calls, and photos. Those wishing to participate must [register online](#), in advance.

On Saturday, October 26, participants can pick up their tree at the Arlington County nursery facility from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. TreeSteward volunteers will be on site to provide additional information to ensure you plant and maintain your tree the best way.

The nursery is located in South Arlington on South Four Mile Run, behind Barcroft Park Field #6. Parking is available at the parking lot in front of the ball field. All participants are asked to walk to the nursery to pick up their tree.

For more information, please contact Patrick Wegeng, Environmental Landscape Supervisor, at Pwegeng@arlingtonva.us. For more information on TreeStewards, see <http://treestewards.org/about>

Potential I-66 Air Rights Development

Last July, Governor McDonnell announced that the Office of Transportation Public-Private Partnerships, in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), is issuing a request for information, seeking

ideas for potential development of "air rights" above I-66 at two Metro station locations — East Falls Church and Rosslyn. The effort is coordinated with the state Department of Rail and Public Transportation, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, and Arlington County. Its primary focus is potential development of mixed use facilities above the highways as a means to generate additional revenues for transportation improvements.

During a recent chat with a VDOT program manager, we learned there has been little activity during this stage of the request for information. There is no guidance for development of I-66 and right of way, so additional planning and public review is a given. The spokesman did say that VDOT welcomes all responses to the request, not just those from developers. Good ideas and concerns are welcome, especially from civic associations in the vicinity of the East Falls Church Metro.

Both VDOT and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority agree with the EFC Area plan that outlines transportation benefits from having a western access to the Metro, which would provide greater and safer accessibility for busses, cyclists, and pedestrians. If Arlington County finds value in and is interested in delivery of public amenities outlined in the EFC area plan, perhaps there may be opportunity to see some of the improvements envisioned by the EFC Plan sooner rather than later.

Community Policing by District Teams

Arlington-East Falls Church is assigned to Police District 1. (There are 3 Police Districts.) District 1 is under the command of Captain Karen Herchenroder, an Arlingtonian who began her career with the police department in 1981.



Know Your District 1 Captain
Email: kherch@arlingtonva.us
Phone: 703-228-4062

District teams are responsible for police services provided to the community to include response to both emergency and non-emergency calls for

service, preliminary criminal investigations, special event planning, establishing a cooperative relationship with the community, and identifying broad based strategies to address crime trends and public perceptions of crime and safety.

These efforts link the department to the neighbor-hoods more strongly and further enhance the partner-ships already developed with civic associations, residents, business groups and public/private entities. District personnel do not limit their activities to reducing or preventing crime, but also attempt to solve problems that affect citizens' quality of life with assistance from other County agencies as needed. These three Districts are commanded by Police Captains, who report directly to the Deputy Chief of Operations.

Important Contact Numbers

Adult Protective Services (*to report abuse, neglect or exploitation of persons 65+*):
703-228-1700

Batterers Intervention Program (*Abuser Counseling*): 703-228-1516

Crime Solvers can be anonymous (*se habla español*): 866-411-TIPS (8477)

Domestic Violence Counseling: 703-228-1550;
(*se habla español*): 703-228-1513)

Emergency Shelter (*Domestic Violence Victims Only*): 703-237-0881

Gang Hotline: 703-228-GANG (4264); can be anonymous (*se habla español*)

To report graffiti: 703-558-2222

Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court:
703-228-4500

Rape Crisis/Sexual Assault Counseling:
703-228-1550

The ABCs on LEDs

On August 6, County officials hosted a public field demonstration of its new residential streetlights. Roughly 100 residents came out to see the County's presentation of the streetlight timing technology and modifications it is exploring to address residents' concerns about brightness.

Arlington is deploying intelligent light-emitting diode (LED) streetlight and signal technology throughout the County to modernize its network, reduce costs and minimize the environmental impact. The County maintains 6,000 streetlights. Until recently, almost all used inefficient high-pressure sodium technology. With the switch to LEDs, the County anticipates an energy cost savings of nearly 75% annually and a marked reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.



The County began converting traffic signals to LEDs in the mid-2000s. Then, in 2010, it began upgrading streetlights along residential streets and major corridors. As of June 2013, most major corridor and over 60% of the residential streetlights have been converted to LEDs.



20th Street South, Aurora Highlands

All residential LEDs will be connected to a smart technology that dims the lights as activities on the streets lessen. The dimming technology works on dusk-to-dawn cycle: light comes on at full 4,600 lumens for the first 20 minutes, then drops to approximately 50% until about 11:00 pm, when it drops to 25% until dawn. The timing of the dimming program is set to balance concerns for brightness with national standards for safe lighting of sidewalks and streets for bicycles, pedestrians, and vehicles.

In order to reduce the brightness of the LEDs on neighborhood streets, the County has also begun installing “eyebrows” on the fixtures, which shields some of the light on the side adjacent to homes. The LED conversion of existing streetlight fixtures takes up to two weeks

for each street. Each fixture must be individually programmed for dimming purposes. A wealth of additional information about LEDs and the County's streetlight program can be found on its [website](#).

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Spotlight on Local Businesses

Take a Trip to Trade Roots

Stepping into Trade Roots is like taking a trip around the world – without leaving your hometown. The shop, which opened on Washington Boulevard in Westover last October, is the only exclusively fair trade store in Arlington/Falls Church/McLean.

Fair trade is an economic system built on relationships. What started as a way to raise wages among coffee and coca farmers in lesser developed countries has blossomed into a movement that contributes to economic development world-wide. Europe has seen an explosive growth in fair trade over the past two decades, and the US is not far behind. Fair trade brings down the barriers to trade and allows producer/artisans a way to lift themselves out of poverty through guaranteed fair wages for their work, and freedom from discrimination and harassment in their workplaces

“It’s trade, not aid,” says Trade Roots owner and Arlington resident Lisa Ostroff. “It offers hardworking men and women in small villages the opportunity to reach our market and reinforces the concepts of environmental stewardship and sustainability.”



In store you’ll find purses up-cycled from rubber tires (Nepal), soda can tabs (Mexico), quilts recycled from colorful saris (India), oil drums transformed into mirrors and other decorative wall hanging objects (Haiti). There is jewelry, including the tagua nut bracelets from Ecuador and beads made from magazine pages by Kenyan women. Textiles include clothing and scarves, hand-blocked tablecloths, napkins and pillow covers from India. Whether your taste runs to the whimsical – soda can art from South Africa – or the practical – olive wood salad bowls and serving utensils from Kenya – you’ll find it at Trade Roots. The merchandise is constantly being refreshed and rearranged, making every visit to the store a new adventure. Customers may also shop online (www.fairtraderoots.com).

For Ostroff, a former non-profit professional and active community volunteer, Trade Roots is an opportunity to share her lifelong passion for international affairs and economic development while also giving a boost to talented and deserving artisans. One of the nine fair trade principles emphasizes education. Thus, Ostroff is hoping to educate school and civic groups about fair trade, (she’s already spoken at Ashlawn, Nottingham and Swanson) participate in local events, such as alternative gift fairs and help Arlington gain status as a fair trade town.

You’ll find Trade Roots at 5852 Washington Boulevard, right across from Ayers Hardware, or at www.fairtraderoots.com. Look for the felted birdhouses out front!

Little City Gourmet

Any time of day, you will find fresh, high quality, gourmet foods and beverages at Little City Gourmet, served to you in a warm, welcoming neighborhood café setting. Located three blocks from the East Falls Church Metro and steps from the W&OD trail, Little City Gourmet offers breakfast, lunch, and dinner, as well as specialty desserts. Much of what we serve is made from scratch in our kitchen or sourced from one of our local business partners.



Start your day with a rich cup of Italian-roasted Illy coffee, accompanied by a homemade breakfast sandwich or pastry. Connect with a friend over lunch, catch up on work, or take a grab-and-go sandwich with you on the run. In the evening, share a few small plates with a special friend, along with a craft beer or glass of wine. Or enjoy a family-friendly meal with your kids. You can also order the "daily dinner" to bring home with you.

Little City Gourmet also offers full-service catering for your next dinner party or special celebration. Our parent company, Northwest Fresh Catering, has been Northern Virginia's choice for boutique catering for more than three years. We will offer all of the same great menus, along with some new surprises!

Free Wi-Fi and free garage parking are available, and we are a short walk from the East Falls Church Metro station. Make us a part of your morning routine. Stop by and grab a quick lunch to go. Order dinner online and pick it up on your way home. Or meet a friend and stay awhile. No matter the time of day, Little City Gourmet is your friend in the neighborhood!

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Please email any comments, questions or submissions for future newsletters to lizmcongigle@verizon.net