

Highland Park Overlee Knolls



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Neighborhood News

Highland Park – Overlee Knolls Civic Association

February 2003

www.hp-ok.org

Message from the President of HP-OK

Happy New Year! I hope you will make it a New Year's resolution to get involved in your HP-OK Civic Association. As you will see in this newsletter, there are many ways to participate. Do you have a street improvement in mind? Are you interested in improving pedestrian safety in our neighborhood? Would you like to help plan another fun-filled Neighborhood Day? Your input is welcome!

We are pleased to announce that it is now even easier to get connected with HP-OK. If you join our e-mail distribution list, you will receive periodic updates on activities and programs in our neighborhood and throughout Arlington County. You will find directions about how to join below.

See you around the neighborhood!

Cliff McCreedy, President, HP-OK Civic Association

HP-OK Meeting: Wednesday, February 5, 2003 Guest Speaker: County Board Member Jay Fisette

Westover Library/Reed School Update: Dave Alberts, Arlington County Representative to Project Planning Team
Reed School Multipurpose Room 7:30 pm

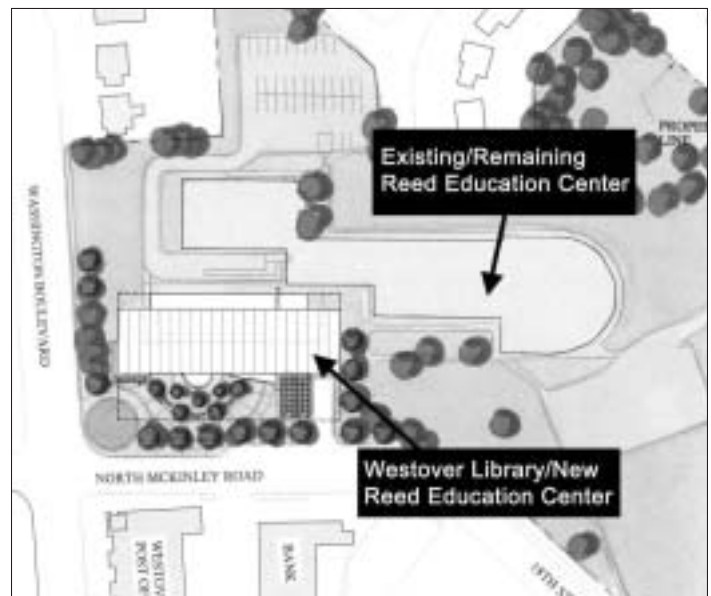
Westover Library/Reed School Design Plan Presented to Community

By Janet Oak

A meeting was held December 9, 2002 in the Reed School multipurpose room to present to the community the progress of the Westover Library development plan.

Greg Lukmire, the architect on the project, presented his conceptual design for the new library. The new building will be shaped much like the current Reed School main building. There will be large windows on the ground level, and the library's front door will be about two-thirds of the way down the building from the plaza. This permits views both into and out of the building from passersby on Washington Blvd., inviting them into the space. The plaza at the corner of McKinley and Washington Blvd. will be approximately 65 feet square. It is envisioned as a space where the community can gather for Neighborhood Day and other special events.

The major hurdle still to be overcome is the funding for the underground parking garage. This issue has been one of the community's priorities since the PPT began, and it was agreed during this meeting that it is still a priority. Dave Alberts, the County representative on the Project Planning Team, remarked that he thought the County would find a way to fund the garage. The PPT had recommended removing the existing surface parking lot at Reed School during Phase I of the project but the School Board opted to retain the lot. The new underground garage would meet the urgent need for parking (98 spaces), while avoiding the need to replace green



space with additional surface parking.

In order to accommodate the 60-space underground garage, the mature trees on the corner of Washington Blvd. and McKinley Street will have to be removed. However, because the underground garage needs to be at least 25 feet from the street, that 25 foot setback area will allow the planting of trees that will grow to sizable height.

(Westover/Reed School... continues on p. 2)

Bond Money Approved for Neighborhood Improvements

Bond Money Approved for 18th Street Improvements!

By Theresa DeFore, HP-OK Neighborhood Conservation Representative

The Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Program utilizes bond money approved by Arlington County voters to provide infrastructure improvements to communities (curb and gutter, sidewalk, lighting, landscaping, etc). Each community prioritizes its projects and provides a list to the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee twice a year. At the June and December funding sessions, the NCAC decides which neighborhood projects will receive funding, based on a points system that ranks the first priority projects received. A total of \$2,118,000 was allocated for infrastructure projects at the December funding session.

At the October HP-OK Civic Association meeting, the neighborhood approved the prioritization of projects as listed below.

- 18th Street between Washington Blvd. to Reed School
- Nottingham and 19th Streets between Washington Blvd. and Madison Street
- Quantico Street from Washington Blvd. to 19th Street.

At the December funding session of NCAC, the 18th Street Project received funding for curb, gutter and sidewalk and street repairs. This means that long overdue improvements to address hazardous icing and drainage problems, as well as addition of a sidewalk on this busy street, will finally go forward. In February, the County Board will approve the NC Projects Package, and County staff will begin the process of surveying and design. Nottingham and 19th Streets have received funding from a separate bond and will also begin surveying and design this year (see article below).

The NC Plan Update Committee is developing a draft of the NC Plan for review by the community and the County. Once this plan is complete, our next four projects will receive additional points. Our community has indicated through the NC Survey

that placement of initial curb and gutter projects, which allow the County to pave the street, should be completed first. There is also a requirement from the County Manager that sidewalk on one side of the street be included with every project.

The County allows three projects to be ongoing for each community. If you and your neighbors would like to make infrastructure improvements to your street, please contact Theresa DeFore at 703-536-7611 or email at deforetl@yahoo.com.

More News:

- Arlington – East Falls Church – Palmer Parcel parking lot closed. A plan for town homes is in the works.
- Traffic Calming – has a separate committee, funding and approval process.
- Urban Forestry Master Plan – Public Forum – Thursday, Feb 20 from 6:00 pm to 9:45 pm. Central Library Auditorium. All neighbors are invited to attend and participate.
- Neighborhood Day – Saturday, May 10 – Possible themes: trees, flags. To volunteer please contact Barb McCreedy at 703-538-4568. More to come.

For more information or questions, please email Theresa DeFore at deforetl@yahoo.com

Improvement Ahead for N. Nottingham and N. 19th Streets

By Shirah Cohen, Block Captain

Last November's election resulted in approval of the FY2003 bond, which includes road improvements (continuous curb and gutter, and sidewalk for some portions) for N. Nottingham Street between Washington Blvd. and 19th Road, and 19th Street, between N. Nottingham Street and N. Madison Street. At this time, the County does not have a project schedule in place. We have learned that the project will be managed by DPW under the general procedures of the Pedestrian Systems Program, but there are eight other projects to be scheduled first. The county projects it will be several months before the field survey and drafting will be initiated. Watch for updates in the Neighborhood News and via e-mail. 📧

Renovation Plans for Parkhurst Park

By Jan McQueary, NE Quadrant Representative

Thanks to the passage of the bond issue in last November's election, Parkhurst Park will be getting a much-needed face-lift. Arlington attempts to renovate our parks on a 15-year schedule, replacing worn out equipment and addressing issues such as accessibility and changing community needs.

Parkhurst Park adjoins 70 of the homes in the original Parkhurst subdivi-

sion. Its unique horseshoe design makes for a pleasant stroll on the way to the play equipment areas, to visit neighbors, or to pass through on the way to the library. It has entrances on N. Madison St, N. 19th Street, and from N. 20th Road, off N. Lexington Street. Neighborhood residents maintain much of the park's landscaping and also occasionally get together to spread hard-

wood mulch on muddy path areas.

The actual planning and design phase for the renovation is expected to begin in early 2004, when County staff will contact the civic association to present an outline of the process and invite citizen participation and comment, including equipment selection. If all goes well, the actual renovation could take place in Fall 2004.

(Westover/Reed School... continues from p. 1)

Pending completion of the next set of plans, the County envisions beginning construction of the project by fall 2003, with completion by late summer 2005. Want to know what the proposed library will look like? You can view a drawing of the current plan in the Westover Library lobby, or check the web

site, <http://www.co.arlington.va.us/forums/westover/meetings.htm>.

More questions? Come and hear Dave Alberts speak at the February 5 HP-OK Civic Association meeting.

Arlington Civic Federation Offers Guidelines for Emergency Preparedness

By Tom Hetrick

The events of September 11 have made us all aware that disasters can strike at any time, even here in peaceful Arlington County. Since that time, federal, state, and local officials have developed detailed plans to deal with future disasters of all types. However, the response to any disaster will work only if citizens have planned what to do at the household and neighborhood level.

The document entitled "Home Guide to Emergency Preparedness" from Arlington County's web site is a good guide to what citizens should think about when planning for disasters. It recommends that each household prepare a kit of important items, including 3-5 days worth of food and water, a first aid kit, light sources, tools, clothing, and bedding. Specialty items such as medicine, baby food and diapers should also be assembled or their location noted. Important household documents such as insurance papers and account numbers should be stored safely in the house with copies stored elsewhere.

The most important part of any plan is to test it. Make sure everyone in the household can find important items, can locate the agreed-upon meeting place, and can get touch with an out-of-town contact. Citizens should discuss their

plans with their neighbors, paying special attention to whether more vulnerable neighbors have a plan and someone to help them implement it. Parents should know the procedures for picking up children from school. Pets should also be considered in any plan.

There are several online resources for Emergency Preparedness information. The Arlington County Government has posted its information at <http://www.co.arlington.va.us/emergency/>. The Arlington Civic Federation has several helpful documents at <http://www.civfed.org/emergprep.htm>. And the State of Virginia publishes its information at <http://www.vdem.state.va.us/>. If you don't have access to a computer, the Westover Branch has computers with internet access, free printing, and staff members who can help with locating the information you want. Also, watch for updates from HP-OK in future newsletters. 🏠

New HP-OK Committee to Address Pedestrian Safety

In order to address concerns expressed by civic association members, HP-OK is forming a Pedestrian Safety Committee. The committee will identify areas in our neighborhood where pedestrians are at risk, such as areas where sidewalks are necessary and where the high-volume, high-speed traffic poses a threat to pedestrians. The committee

will discuss possible solutions to improve pedestrian safety and work with the civic association leadership in getting Arlington County to take action.

Individuals who are interested in joining the committee should contact Diane Rentner at 703-533-0285 or at rentners@erols.com. 🏠



Get HP-OK News via E-mail

The HP-OK e-mail list is up and operating. The list is a great way to get involved in community issues and keep in touch with neighbors. To join the list, send an e-mail to hp-ok-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. In one to two days, you will receive an e-mail confirming your subscription. This e-mail will contain a welcome letter that explains the rules of the list. After your subscription is confirmed, you can send messages to hp-ok@yahoogroups.com and other members of the list will see them. If you have questions about the list, send an e-mail to hp-ok-owner@yahoo.com. Join in and get involved today! 🏠

The Way We Were

By Eric Florimon-Reed

Did you know that there was once a Safeway where 7-11 now operates, and that the post office was built on the site of a gas station? Do you remember when the library was in an apartment on Washington Blvd.? How about the spaghetti suppers at Walter Reed Elementary? Do you recall hearing the freight trains that rumbled down the W&OD tracks where I-66 now runs? If not, then you may not have lived in HP-OK as long as Mark and Inga, neighbors on N. 18th Street near the intersection of N. Pocomoke St.

Mark and Inga came to Washington, D.C. after the war and lived in an apartment on Harrison Street in the District. Their first two kids were born there. They moved to their house here in HP-OK in 1956, where their third child was born. They recall the community dinners at Walter Reed Elementary when their kids were younger and all of the changes that the community went through when the railway stopped, and the free-

way was planned. Mark explains that the County condemned a lot of houses, and then let the land sit for years before starting construction. Mark retired from the U.S. Government in 1976 after a 31-year career, so he missed his chance to commute on the Metro system that started in the late 1970's.

Mark and Inga raised their family with a single bathroom, and then added two more after the kids moved out. One son is an architect, which may account for these recent additions. Their backyard is beautiful, including a little pond to view from a quiet deck. Mark and Inga still love our neighborhood for many of the same reasons that brought them here in the first place. It is quiet, convenient to shopping and other amenities, and has good schools. Mark and Inga are also part of what makes HP-OK a wonderful place to live. They are good neighbors, kind and generous.

Do you have old or new stories to share about HP-OK? Contact Eric Florimon-Reed at 703-531-1179 to get your story in the next newsletter. 🏠



Future HP-OK Civic Association Meetings

The following dates have been tentatively scheduled in 2003:

April 2, June 4, October 1

Please check future issues of the Neighborhood News and the HP-OK web site for updates to this schedule.

Join HP-OK Civic Association

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

email _____

Quadrant NW SW NE SE

I am interested in volunteering for _____ committee

I am available to help distribute newsletters

Attached is my \$2 dues payment for this year.

Please make checks payable to **HP-OK Civic Association**.

Please drop this form off at 6122 N. Washington Blvd.

Do you have an article or an idea for the newsletter? Email Cheryl Moore at cwmkmoore@msn.com

Highland Park – Overlee Knolls Civic Association Officers 2003-2004

Executive Committee

President

Cliff McCreedy
6204 North 18th Street
703-538-4568
Email: president@hp-ok.org

Treasurer

Steve Rentner
6122 North Washington Blvd.
703-533-0285
Email: treasurer@hp-ok.org

Vice-President

Cheryl Moore
6008 North 19th Street
703-237-9481
Email: vice-president@hp-ok.org

Secretary

Janet Oak
1401 North Nicholas Street
703-538-6919
Email: secretary@hp-ok.org

Neighborhood Conservation Representative

Theresa DeFore
1843 North Powhatan Street
703-536-7611
Email: nc-rep@hp-ok.org

SE Quadrant

Vacant - volunteer wanted!
Email: se-quad@hp-ok.org

Neighborhood Quadrant Representatives

Washington Blvd. and Ohio Street divide the community into four quadrants. Quadrant representatives coordinate activities and issues in their respective areas.

NW Quadrant

Roger Morton
Email: nw-quad@hp-ok.org

NE Quadrant

Jan McQueary
Email: ne-quad@hp-ok.org

SW Quadrant

Denise Sisson
Email: sw-quad@hp-ok.org

