
The What-All

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WAYCROFT-WOODLAWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

October 2013

President's Message

By Tracie Morris / traciegmorris@gmail.com

Neighbors,

Thanks to all who attended this year's first civic association meeting. There were approximately 30 people in attendance to hear about the Ballston Business Investment District, the Safeway project and the parks project.

At our next general meeting, scheduled for October 8th at 7:30 at the hospice, we will cover three topics.

1. John Odenwelder will provide training on Nextdoor, the new listserv. He will cover topics such as how to reply to a post (either to all or to the individual), how to set up and accept an event, etc.
2. Alex Deucher will give a brief presentation on the association's website.
3. Pat Tallarico and Kurt Hyde will seek approval for the parks project.

Please mark your calendars for the following dates:
November 12th at 7:30 (general meeting) and December 14th from 2-5 for the association's holiday gathering.

Hope to see you in October.

Tracie

WWCA Monthly Meeting

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8th, 7:30 P.M.

LOCATION: CAPITAL HOSPICE

Agenda:

- John Odenwelder, WWCA listserv moderator
Learn how to use **Nextdoor**, the new listserv, from the expert.
- Alex Deucher, WWCA Secretary
Discover the WWCA website and how it can be useful to our community.
- Kurt Hyde and Pat Tallarico, WWCA Park Committee
Cast your vote on the upcoming park project.
(See the Park Committee Report in this What-All for details.)

Waycroft-Woodlawn
"The Garden Spot"

Five Tips for New Users of Nextdoor: by John Odenwelder, Listserv Moderator

1. If you click "Reply" to any post, *everyone* on the listserv (or in your Group) will see your reply. Everyone. (This is like "Reply All" in our old listserv.) So think twice before "Reply"ing. If your message is intended only for the poster, click on his/her name. Then, when the profile page comes up, choose "Send Message". This will result in a private conversation between you and the sender.
2. You are no longer required to sign your posts because commenter name is automatically shown above each post. You no longer need to add your address either. Anyone who wants to know which part of W-W you hail from can click on your name to see your street (and house number, too, if you've chosen not to hide it).
3. If you goof and post something that was not intended for general audiences, just click on the green box next to "Reply" and choose "Delete". Unless it is an urgent alert (which cannot be deleted), it should disappear before anyone else even sees it!
4. If you want to post directly from your e-mail account, just send your message to: post@waycroftwoodlawn.nextdoor.com (For those who like to compare to the old Yahoo! Groups listserv, this is the equivalent of sending an e-mail to waycroftwoodlawn@yahoogroups.com) You may also "Reply" to any post you receive via e-mail simply by replying to the e-mail.
5. Your profile is only visible to other W-W neighbors unless you change the settings. But that doesn't mean you can't post to neighboring civic associations. If you have found a lost dog along Glebe or are looking to unload Nats tickets at the last minute, expand your audience to include Tara-Leeway Heights, High View Park and/or Waverly Hills. You can choose nearby neighborhoods when you select the recipients as you create a new post.

As of this writing, 339 members and 267 (or 45%) of 593 households had joined Nextdoor Waycroft-Woodlawn. We are currently the largest of the "nearby neighborhoods"-- a list which now includes High View Park, Tara-Leeway Heights, Cherrydale, Waverly Hills, Old Dominion, Ballston, Westover Village, Leeway Overlee, Ashton Heights, and Brockwood.

Thanks to all who have embraced the new listserv technology! As always I am open to your feedback/suggestions/constructive criticism. Anyone can sign up by going to this link:

<https://nextdoor.com/invite/ambtbsjyseghsuywsfn>

ATTENTION:

Training Exercise at VA Hospital Center on Oct. 5

The Arlington County Office of Emergency Management and the Arlington County Fire Department will be conducting a training exercise, in collaboration with Virginia Hospital Center on **Saturday, Oct. 5, from 6:00am to 1:00pm** at Virginia Hospital Center.

Exercise activity will largely occur within the Hospital itself; however, a large number of public safety vehicles will be parked in and around the Virginia Hospital Center campus. There will be no use of lights or sirens for this exercise. Please be alert to traffic conditions in an around the hospital.

THIS IS A TRAINING EXERCISE ONLY

If you have any questions please contact John Crawford, the Office of Emergency Management Public Information Officer, at 703.228.4080 or at jd Crawford@arlingtonva.us

REQUESTS FOR VOLUNTEERS:

Distributors for the What-All

Distributors are needed for the What-All, and occasional flyers, for the following two routes:

- 16th St. from Abingdon St. to Edison St. (31 homes)
- 15th St. from Buchanan St. to Edison St. (17 homes)

Contact George Cecchetti at 703.524.9483 or at gcecch3458@aol.com

Snowblower Brigade

Bonnie Beckett has volunteered to be the WW snowblower brigade leader for the upcoming winter. Arlington County loans an industrial snowblower to each neighborhood, provides training for the volunteers who run the snowblower, and also keeps the machine in working order. While we haven't had enough snow the past 2 winters to use it, this could be a year when we put it to good use. First priority goes to clearing off key public areas for which no homeowner has responsibility (e.g. 14th St. path through the park, overpasses over 66 at Glebe Rd. and Washington Blvd).. Second priority is assisting the elderly, disabled, or ill folks in the neighborhood. We also try to take care of folks who are out of town and let us know so they don't incur the county fine for failing to clear their sidewalks. If you're interested in volunteering to run the snowblower, help out with your own snowblower or shovels, or need assistance, please contact Bonnie at (703) 524-5534 or bonnie_beckett@hotmail.com. We anticipate receiving our snowblower at the end of October. We also have a lighter weight snow thrower donated by a resident's father that we can use. We'll put out more detailed information once we have a firm date for delivery of our snowblower.

WWCA Executive Committee

Office / Name	Term	Committee Assignments
President / Tracie Morris	2013-2014	Civic Federation (Alternate)
Vice-President / Sharon Dorsey	2013-2014	Civic Federation (Alternate)
Secretary / Alex Deucher	2013-2014	Communications
Treasurer / Lynette Smith	2013-2014	Membership
Delegates /		
Kurt Hyde	2013-2015	Park
Patrick Tallarico	2013-2015	Park
Kutlay Ebiri	2013-2015	Westwind
Hans Bauman	2013-2015	NCAC
John Schell	2013-2014	Land Use/Zoning
Jim Mathews	2013-2014	
Jim Pebley	2013-2014	Civic Federation
Jimmy Falkner	2013-2014	
Past President / Michael Grace	2013-2014	Civic Federation (Alternate)
Appointed Representatives /		
Wayne Quillin	2013-2014	NCAC (Alternate)
Jason Rylander	2013-2014	Civic Federation
Sue Smith	2013-2014	Civic Federation
John Odenwelder	2013-2014	Civic Federation

WWCA MEMBERSHIP SIGN-UP AND DUES PAYMENT FORM

Renew your WWCA membership, or join us, today! There are two ways to sign up:

- Cash or check (made out to WWCA) can be mailed or dropped off at 1503 N. Buchanan St., Arlington, VA 22205
- Or, pay online at www.paypal.com. Click on the "send money" link, leave it on "friends & family" selection, and put WWCAtreas@gmail.com in the "pay to e-mail address". Follow the rest of the prompts. Don't forget to note your household address and the names that you want listed as voting members.

Thanks! Lynette - WWCA Treasurer
Mlynettesmith@gmail.com

* * * * *

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Voting Member Names:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Enclosed is:

\$ **5.00** Household dues from July 1, 2013 to June 30,2014

\$ _____ Voluntary donation

\$ _____ **Total Enclosed**

Park Committee Report by Kurt Hyde and Patrick Tallarico



Vote on the Park Improvement Plan at the October Meeting!

In the last What-All, we shared some ideas about park improvements generated by suggestions from residents and from Arlington County staff. Kathy von Bredow, a landscape architect with Arlington County Parks Department, took these suggestions and developed an initial park

improvement plan and shared this plan at the September meeting. The plan is currently in the concept stage – it does not include details about species of plantings, bench and equipment types, etc. The plan is primarily focused on addressing overdue maintenance and equipment upgrades and bringing the park up-to-date with accessibility requirements. It is NOT a plan to re-imagine the park and turn it into a destination park that will attract people from outside our neighborhood any more than it already does.

The current proposed plan includes the following components:

- Replace existing benches, picnic tables, trash and recycling bins.
- Replace and improve park signage at park entrances to address safety concerns and add park signage to play areas.
- Replace and upgrade current pathways by making them compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements and make them from new, porous materials to promote rainwater infiltration.
- Incorporate solar, in-path lighting to enhance safety for commuters cutting through the park in the early morning and late evening hours.
- Improve grading around pathways to address current drainage issues.
- Protect and preserve existing trees.
- Remove invasive plants through a long-term process that continues initial efforts started this summer.
- Plant new, native plants to improve stream health and promote pollinators. This would include a two-year maintenance and watering plan.
- Replace existing fencing along stream area to allow for stream side planting areas so that soils will be less compacted.
- New play features – equipment will be updated in their current locations to avoid disturbing nearby trees. The play area will also be made more accessible and updated

to comply with current safety standards. Equipment, layout, etc. will all be determined at later dates.

This is the first step in the park improvement process. At the October meeting, we will be asking members to vote to approve the plan so that it can be submitted, along with a proposed budget, for County Neighborhood Conservation (NC) committee approval in the December time frame. The NC committee recommendation then goes through a County Board approval in early 2014. Assuming the concepts and budget are approved, we will be working with the County to develop more detailed plans and schedules, so there will be additional opportunities for residents to provide input on things like plantings, equipment, design, etc. Although a few things may happen quickly, some of the structural changes may not happen for a year or two.

We will be sure to update everyone at WWCA meetings and on **Nextdoor** about specific activities.

We encourage people to come to the October meeting to ask questions, share their thoughts, and vote! In the meantime, if you have questions or comments, please contact the Park Committee chairs – Pat Tallarico (ptall_2000@yahoo.com) and Kurt Hyde (kurthyde@yahoo.com).

What’s an INVASIVE?

One of the elements included in our proposed park improvement plan is eradicating the invasive plants and replacing them with native plants. This issue can be controversial for neighborhoods because some may like the look of the invasive plants and think they provide a great resource for wildlife. Removing them will also temporarily leave some bare spots. However, Lacey Woods Park and Tuckahoe both have eradication programs, and they look great.

Until I joined the Parks Committee, I really wasn’t aware that we had an invasive plant problem and what it meant, so let me share some information that Arlington County’s horticulturist in charge of invasive eradication provided me. (Yes, invasives are so bad in Arlington that the County has a person assigned full-time.)

- **Invasive plants negatively impact the balance of our native ecosystems.** Due to their ability to outcompete native plants, invasive plants have displaced many rare and endangered native species that provide habitat and forage for wildlife. Additionally, invasive plants can disrupt the functioning of ecosystems, disturbing normal forest succession and inhibiting regeneration of native tree species. Just glance at the side of the road and see the vines choking the trees.
- **Invasive species are plants that were brought from different ecosystems to areas where they did not evolve, which is catastrophic.** Because they didn’t evolve here they have little or no benefit to our

(Continued)

Park Committee Report (Continued)

local insects, butterflies, birds, and animals. Invasive plants have few, if any, natural predators or controls (evolution takes a *very long time!*)

- **Once they become established they grow rapidly and spread throughout our backyards, forests, parks, and fields, crowding out native flora** and undermining the fauna that depend upon those plants for their survival
- **Invasive plants dominate new areas because they are without the natural controls** that would keep down population in their native settings. Several qualities that are found among many invasive plant species include
 - Ability to tolerate various environmental conditions
 - Production of large amounts of seeds
 - Ability to spread by underground runners or rhizomes
- **Managing an area for invasive plant species is a process that requires planning and persistence.** Removing the invasive plant species can take time and will most likely require several treatments.

Our park has a huge number of invasives that cause problems downstream where eradication efforts are underway. Some of the invasives are:

- Bush Honeysuckle—this lines both sides of the creek
- English Ivy—the County sent out a note to all residences (in their tax bill) to pull this up!
- Porcelainberry

Again, the County has included in its plan for our park the eradication of these invasives over the next several years, assuming our plan is approved. ▪

Neighborhood Conservation News

by Hans Bauman

There is a new path being built across the Woodlawn Park at 15th Street using a combination of Parks and NC funds. This path will allow pedestrians and other commuters to cross the park without passing through the Hospice rear portico. This short, environmentally-friendly, porous asphalt path will connect the new sidewalk section on the east side of the park with the existing sidewalk on the west side. It should be completed by the end of October.

The new NC-funded LED streetlights on Abingdon and nearby streets have been installed but not activated as we go to press. There was an issue with some electronic controls which have delayed activation later into the fall.

In the coming months, the WWCA will be having conversations to determine what projects we should put

NC News (Continued)

into the NC project funding pipeline. We will be using the exhaustive neighborhood survey (conducted a few years ago) as a basis for this process. Stay tuned for opportunities to help shape what projects we send forward for funding. ▪

Gardenology

by Betsy Cecchetti

October's cooler weather places less stress on plants. This is a good time to:

- Dig up, divide, and transplant perennials that are overgrown or whose centers have become sparse.
- Select and plant shrubs - choose a site that will give them room to grow!
- Plant pansies, mums, asters, or cool weather salad greens.
- Prepare beds for late-month bulb plantings.
- Cut back spent plants.
- Cultivate, loosen, and improve soil richness and drainage by adding leaf mulch, a soil improvement mix, compost, or manure.
- Start bringing in tropical or tender plants at night and gradually adjust them to more hours of shade during the day, before bringing them indoors for the season.

Remember to enjoy your porch or deck and the first turning leaves!





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Business Card: \$10, ¼ page: \$20, ½ page: \$32,
Full page: \$55.

Contact: thewhatall@gmail.com