
The What-All

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WAYCROFT-WOODLAWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

September 2013

President's Message

By Tracie Morris / traciegmorris@gmail.com

Dear Neighbors,

As I write this, there is a chill in the morning air reminding me that fall is fast approaching. Where did the Summer go? It seems that the association just sponsored the annual Fourth of July picnic. For those of you who were out of town, the picnic was well attended and everyone had a good time. Again, I would like to thank the many volunteers who organized, set-up and cleaned-up. Anyone who has helped put this event together in the past knows what a monumental task it is.

Looking forward to the future of the Waycroft-Woodlawn Civic Association (WWCA), I plan to reach out to the neighbors for requests for volunteers, ideas for meetings and input into the activities of the WWCA. If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, please contact me at traciegmorris@gmail.com. Thanks to those who have already stepped up as a Civic Federation delegate and to participate in the recycling focus group.

This is the first newsletter that we have had in a while. We will continue to distribute the newsletter in paper to everyone until more neighbors join "**Nextdoor**". While **Nextdoor**, just as the old listserv, is not managed by the WWCA, we plan to use it to the maximum extent possible. It will not entirely replace the paper distribution as not everyone will join.

The September and October agendas (see article) have been set and we are working on the November agenda. The December meeting will be a holiday party. It is our hope that you will find these meetings informative and fun.

Tracie

Waycroft-Woodlawn
"The Garden Spot"

WWCA Monthly Meeting

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 7:30 P.M.

LOCATION: CAPITAL HOSPICE

THEME: "Neighboring Neighborhoods"

Join us on September 17th as we kick off our monthly meetings with two dynamic speakers who will share what's happening nearby and how it might impact WWCA.

Agenda:

- Tina Leone, Executive Director of Ballston BID (Ballston Improvement District)

Tina will discuss what is happening in the Ballston area. The mission of the Ballston BID is to preserve and enhance Ballston as a vibrant, innovative, and attractive urban place to ensure the competitive success of its existing and future commercial properties.

- George Rovder, President of the Blue-mont Civic Association

George will join us to share the challenges and on-going debate over the proposed re-development of the Wilson Blvd. Safeway.

Future Monthly Meetings

WWCA meetings will resume our typical schedule, on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, in October.

October's agenda will include a demonstration of our new listserv, **Nextdoor**, to be given by our listserv moderator, John Odenwelder.

WWCA Executive Committee

Table with 3 columns: Office / Name, Term, Committee Assignments. Lists roles like President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Delegates, and Past President with names and terms.

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".

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 for July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014
\$ _____ Voluntary donation
\$ _____ Total Enclosed

Park Committee Report

By Patrick Tallarico and Kurt Hyde

Quite a bit has been happening recently. Many of you have seen our update on the old listserv, but just in case you missed it, we have been working with Arlington County to upgrade equipment, add new paths, and replace invasives with native trees/bushes.

- 1. Remove the existing asphalt and gravel walkways and put in Flexi-pave walkways (porous pavement) and address access (i.e. wider in some areas for maintenance folks).
2. Provide porous pavement access to areas that do not have access.
3. Replace the ugly fence along the playground side of the creek.
4. Install new planting. However, we will have to have community support for maintenance of anything other than trees.
5. Removal of invasive plants. Item #4 is critical for this.
6. Replace play equipment. Everything will have to be in established locations.
7. Provide new site furniture. This could include: nice benches that have access, picnic tables (including ADA accessible picnic tables), bike racks, and new park signage.
8. The County also suggested that it might be nice to bring in some big boulders and connect the play areas!

They want to present this at an upcoming civic association meeting.

Please let us know, through our new Nextdoor site, if you have any questions or suggestions. ▪

Neighborhood Listserv Getting A Technology Upgrade

By John Odenwelder

A little over three years ago, Dave Walters passed the volunteer “moderator” torch to me, giving me oversight of a listserv that has been in place since 1999 and has had over 300 members. I remain passionate about this listserv! It is a great way to share important information, move goods and services, and generally foster a sense of neighborhood in this modern age. Unfortunately, our vendor (Yahoo!Groups) has not evolved along with the changing needs and usage habits of the residents of Waycroft-Woodlawn.

As a result, I spent a long time looking for ways to improve the functionality and efficiency of our current listserv and to address some of the features that people complain about most often. This led me to look at several other vendors before selecting replacement technology called **Nextdoor**. After a resident of Tara-Leeway recommended it, I began to kick the tires on this new software. I was impressed. I then invited a random sample of W-W listserv members to help see if it would work for our neighborhood. I am happy to report that **Nextdoor** was well-received by the “testers”.

There are a few features that the testers requested that are not part of the current product. But I was impressed that my e-mail request to **Nextdoor** customer service was answered within just a few hours saying that at least one of the features is on the company’s radar for an upcoming release. This alone was a huge difference from my experience with Yahoo!Groups. Knowing what a huge task it was, I was not looking to replace our current listserv if the technology wasn’t superior. But, I really think it is, and my list below attempts to give you several examples why.

All it requires is for you to create a user profile. You may do this by going to the following link: <http://nextdoor.com/invite/ambtbwsjyseghsuywfsn>. The system allows multiple users at a single address so that roommates and/or family members don’t have to share an account. Like Facebook, Twitter, and other social media, there is room to add other personal information. Some of the testers have shared names of significant others or children. Some have shared what they love best about the “Garden Spot”. Others have simply entered their name and address and nothing more. **It is totally up to you to decide what you are comfortable sharing beyond your name and street.** You will receive the listserv posts regardless of how much information you enter about yourself.

The original plan was to have everyone move to the new **Nextdoor** platform by Labor Day. But we have extended that deadline until September 9th in light of summer vacations and the start of school. **You may continue to post messages on the existing Yahoo! Listserv until you hear otherwise.** I will not move the listserv officially until I am sure that the vast majority had had the chance to make the switch. I am on the agenda for the October WWCA meeting to talk about how to use some of **Nextdoor’s** features. But I have to say that the testers and I have been able to do a lot in there just by trial and error. If you have questions between now and then, feel free to send me or one of the co-leads an e-mail. Or if you have managed to login, you may post questions about how to use **Nextdoor** on the new system.

I apologize if this is a hassle for some of you. I really believe that, in this particular case, change is good. I promise to ensure that we don’t lose the best parts of our cherished neighborhood resource in the transition. Thank you in advance for your patience!

How is Nextdoor different than Yahoo! Groups?

Below are some benefits that **Nextdoor** offers today that our current provider, Yahoo! Groups, does not offer:

- Automatic address verification. Since the neighborhood boundaries have been predetermined, you are automatically admitted once you enter a W-W address. (In the Yahoo! Groups listserv, anyone wishing to join had to send me a separate e-mail with their name and address so that I can verify residency before I go back and approve your request to join.)
- A neighborhood directory, which is built on top of real profile pages, making it possible to really get to know your neighbors and have a dynamically updated listing of contact info that can be sorted by name or by street.
- A neighborhood map showing which houses are on the listserv. This will “finally” allow us to move toward our goal of going paperless, as we will no longer deliver flyers/newsletters to homes that we know receive them electronically.
- The ability to create public or private sub-groups within the neighborhood listserv - - so there could be a “group” for beekeepers, quilters, residents of 16th Road, runners, Swanson parents, or whatever. These messages also appear on **Nextdoor**, but are only visible to members of the subgroup.
- The ability (only if you want it) to communicate with people who live in “Nearby Neighborhoods”. For example, if a dog were lost along George Mason Drive, you could post so that Tara-Leeway residents received the message in addition to W-W.
- The ability of each user to control e-mail settings based on the types of message. For example, you could set it up so that you receive “Crime and Safety” and “Lost

Listserv Upgrade (Continued)

and Found” messages real-time, but “Free Stuff” and “Classifieds” in a daily digest.

- I don't know why anyone in W-W would want this, but you can also choose to “Mute” specific listserv participants so that you don't see their posts. You can also choose never to receive e-mails about “Recommendations”, for example.
- An “Urgent Alerts” feature, which makes it possible (but not required), to blast out urgent information (emergency, crime, etc.) by text message as well as e-mail.
- A “Recommendations” section which archives recommendations by category (“Medical”) and sub-category (“Pediatrician”) making it much easier to browse and find information over time.
- “Event” functionality that allows the listserv and subgroups to publicize events, collect RSVP's (so that they know how many people to expect), and even to post pictures during and after the event.
- “Classifieds” and “Free Items” categories that make this kind of exchange easier and more efficient than a purely message-based solution.
- A dedicated “Crime and Safety” section.
- Interoperability with Facebook (e.g. you can log-in using your Facebook account instead of creating a **Nextdoor** account) for people who are already Facebook users. ▪

Gardenology

By Betsy Cecchetti

September is a good time to start cutting back spent annuals and perennials; cultivate; mulch; and start planning any bulb plantings for implementation in November. Take a look at local garden centers for Fall color and cooler season plants, like asters, chrysanthemums, Japanese anemone, sedum, and grasses. And start thinking about shrubs and trees you might want to plant in the Fall, to get established before Winter. Finally, check the Arlington County website for leaf pickup schedules and mulch availability. Enjoy these last days of summer! ▪

Coming Events

Fall Plant Sale / Sept. 21	No admission charge
Long Branch Nature Center 1-3pm	Info: 703.228.6535
Arlington Youth Fitness and Wellness Expo / Sept. 28	Free
Thomas Jefferson Community Center 5-8pm	Info: 703.228.4729
Latinoamericano Festival / Sept. 29	Free
Kenmore Middle School 1-5pm	Info: 703.228.3329

News from the Neighborhood Conservation Program

By Hans Bauman

The Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Program is a voter-approved bond-funded County program that delivers streetscape improvement into Arlington's neighborhoods with no additional contribution from residents. All projects are initiated and approved by affected residents. In addition to larger projects, such as park improvements, streetlights, and block-long sidewalk installations, the program also funds smaller pedestrian improvements such as curb cuts and short sidewalk sections.

These projects are driven by each neighborhood's specific NC Plan. Thanks to the hard work and countless hours of many dedicated neighbors, the outdated Waycroft-Woodlawn Plan has been updated base on the neighborhood survey developed, conducted, and compiled over the past several years. Once this plan gets reviewed and formally adopted by the County Board, it becomes a platform for advocating infrastructure improvements to our neighborhood.

For some time, the WWCA has been asking the NC Program to fund a Woodlawn Park improvement project. It is likely the County will consider funding this work in the coming year, perhaps as early as December. This Fall, data from the extensive neighborhood survey will be used by the Parks Committee to develop specifics around this project. Watch for meeting announcements in the coming months to join in the conversation around specific Woodlawn Park improvements. Once funding is approved, it would likely be another year or two before we start seeing work commence.

This Spring, the NC Program also built the sidewalk connector on 15th Street east of the park, connecting Abingdon Street to the location of the new porous Flexi-pave path which will skirt the playing field along the Hospice fence.

Five years ago, the residents of the area bounded by Glebe Road, 16th Street, Woodlawn Park, and Washington Blvd. petitioned the NC program to have new streetlights installed. After a painfully long wait, those lights have finally been installed and should be activated by the County in the coming weeks. These lights have the new energy efficient LED bulbs, which put out a slightly bluer light than the older sodium vapor lamps. Based on resident concerns in other areas, the County has agreed to reduce light output levels and install shields to reduce glare to adjoining houses. ▪