

NOVEMBER 2015

The What-All

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
WAYCROFT - WOODLAWN
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

WWCA Monthly Meeting

Thursday, November 12th, 7:30 P.M.

Location: Capital Caring Hospice

Agenda:

- Transform 66 - Inside the Beltway - Investing in Multimodal Solutions

Speaker: Amanda Baxter, Special Projects Development Manager, Virginia Department of Transportation

President's Message

Dear Neighbors,

I cannot believe it's November already and the winter holidays are a mere 5 weeks away! Halloween was the best ever and many of us experienced twice as many trick-or-treaters compared to last year. No wonder our schools are overcrowded!

Please note, this month's meeting has been moved from our regular Tuesday night to Thursday night, November 12th to accommodate our speaker. Amanda Baker, Special Projects Development Manager at Virginia Department of Transportation. Amanda will present the current findings and VDOT plans for I66.

I encourage everyone to try to attend this month's meeting. It is our opportunity to directly ask Amanda pointed questions regarding the impact VDOT's plans will have on our neighborhood. One example: I've been in meetings where she stated that VDOT has done studies that indicate there will be no impact to parallel streets. This week in the SunGazette, an article by Scott McCaffrey begins with the paragraph "Arlington staff say they'll work to ensure controversial changes to Interstate I66, if enacted, don't negatively impact traffic flow on other main arteries across the community". There seems to be a difference of opinion – which is true? Let's ask Amanda this month and then we'll invite Arlington staff to our January meeting and ask the same questions. In addition, the County Board will be hearing comments from the community on November 14th at their regular meeting.

On more a more festive note, don't forget to put your contributions out for "Scouting for Food". The Turkey Trot – 5K still is accepting entries... and many neighbors will be traveling to family and friends out of town.

Safe travels and have a great holiday!

Sharon

Arlington County Civic Federation Report

by Jim Pebley

The Civic Federation's Tuesday, November 10th meeting will include a presentation by the Virginia Governor's office, Montgomery County and Sunlight Foundation presenting on "Open Data - A Gateway to Government Transparency." Members attending the meeting will see what other public groups are doing in the region to access public data in usable, faster formats for use by citizens. Civic Federation meetings are held on the first Tuesday evening of every month September-June. All WWCA members are welcome to attend the meetings held at the hospital's auditorium. For more information, contact Sharon Dorsey or Jim Pebley via the Nextdoor website.

A second topic at the meeting will provide a discussion-overview of the County's yard-waste program addressing benefits, costs and other questions to consider.

Finally, the Federation's Bylaws Committee will present their report on a recent proposed bylaws amendment that, if passed would permit the Federation's Executive Committee to change the dues charged annually to Federation members. While the Executive Committee proposes to lower annual fees in the coming year, some members are concerned that the general membership will not be given a full review of such changes before they are implemented.

KIDS 4 JOBS

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| B - babysitting | L - lawn mowing | S - snow shoveling |
| C - cat sitting | O - odd jobs | T - putting out trash bins |
| D - pet sitting | P - plant watering | |
| H - house sitting | R - leaf raking | |

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Please submit any additions or revisions to thewhata11@gmail.com.

METRO PASSENGER SAFETY

WWCA Resident, Jim Pebley is a member of the County's Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission participated in a October 21st program on what Metro bus and train riders should know in case of an emergency while traveling on Metro. A panel of experts from the Washington Metropolitan Transportation Authority (WMATA) Office of Emergency Management; the Arlington County Fire Department; the County's Office of Emergency Management and Arlington County Transit (ART), the County's bus system, talked about how Arlington public safety officials work with WMATA, the operator of Metro, to prepare and respond to incidents and special events while using Metro, and what passengers should know about emergency preparedness while riding Metro. Since most of the attendee questions addressed recent fire incidents on Metro, Jim's main take away from the meeting was that in case of a fire in a train tunnel, 99% of the time, the safest course is to stay on the train and wait for firefighters to respond. If the train operator should tell passengers to evacuate (a last ditch procedure – the 1 % case) It's a 43 inch drop from the train car to the tracks and the very high voltage in the train's third rail will (not could) be lethal if you get to close. (continued next page)

At the meeting, the Metro safety representative advised that if you see a crime taking place on a Metro bus or train and don't want to tell the bus driver, use the train car's emergency call box or call the Metro police number at (202) 962 2121, you can text the Metro police at "MyMTPD". Be sure to tell them which bus or train car you are on (it's the number by the emergency call box or near the doors). For more information. That way the Metro police will be waiting at the next available station. And as always (like with suspicious packages), "If you see something, say something!"

For more information, check out the Metro safety site at http://www.wmata.com/getting_around/safety_security/emergency.cfm

Park Report

by Evelio Rubiella

A Saturday in late October saw the kickoff of the WWCA's invasive plant removal and stream cleanup program for Woodlawn Park. This effort which focused on the playing field side of the park and the upper reaches of the stream where both invasive plants and trash are a constant challenge. With assistance from Arlington County park staff, several volunteers removed a variety of invasive plants, shrubs, and small trees which have overtaken the western part of the playing field. These invasive plants crowd out native species and provide a poor substitute for the ecological benefits that native plants provide—including more and varied shelter and food for wildlife (especially birds). Coupled with a growing concern by the county over the loss of tree cover and biodiversity brought about by development (tree cover declined in the County from 43% to 40% between 2008 and 2011), the County has sought to stem this problem through efforts aimed at encouraging residents to plant native trees and teaming up with volunteer groups and civic associations in removing invasive plant species. Based on advice from County staff, the WWCA's invasive plant removal effort was focused on removing plants such as Rose of Sharon, Euonymus, Mulberry, and Norway Maple—all of which are especially prevalent in the playing field area of the park.

The WWCA's latest efforts in the park follow a similar undertaking begun last year that resulted in a plan for redesigning the playground and replacing the outdated equipment, along with the removing invasive honeysuckle, mulberry, and mimosa trees along the stream bank adjacent to the playground. In place of the honeysuckle, native plants such as sassafras, arrowwood viburnum, and witch hazel were later planted along the stream bank. Native oaks and tupelo that had been living in the shadow of the non-native trees have also benefited from the non-native eradication efforts along the stream banks. Meanwhile, construction on the redesign of the playground is expected to kick off early next summer once the County has gone through the process of selecting a contractor to do the work. The redesign will also include new fencing along the playground area adjacent to the stream and a reworking of the gravel path opposite the playground.

The WWCA hopes to make the invasive plant and stream cleanup effort a quarterly event and is in the process of applying for "Adopt-a-Park" status for Woodlawn Park. Through Adopt-a-Park, the WWCA expects to take better advantage of the program's resources for coordinating and advertising invasive removal and stream cleanup efforts with other groups, community tools shed access, and potential funding for further native planting efforts. In the short term, if you (or your group) are interested in volunteering to remove invasive plants or participating in other park cleanup efforts, please contact WWCA Park Delegate Evelio Rubiella at erubiella@yahoo.com for more information.

WWCA Executive Board

Office / Name	Term	Committee Assignments
President / Sharon Dorsey	2015-2016	Civic Federation
Vice-President / Jason Rylander	2015-2016	Civic Federation
Secretary / Alex Deucher	2015-2016	
Treasurer / Ann Cole	2015-2016	
Delegates / Evelio Rubiella	2015-2017	Park
Jackie Hoggins	2015-2017	
Kutlay Ebiri	2015-2017	Westwind
Patrick Tallarico	2015-2017	Park
Jim Pebley	2014-2016	Civic Federation
John Schell	2014-2016	Land Use/Zoning
Catherine Sprouse	2014-2016	Membership
Jimmy Falkner	2014-2016	
Past President / Tracie Morris	2015-2016	NCAC
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★		
WWCA Appointed Representatives /		
Wayne Quillin	2015-2016	NCAC (Alternate)
Sue Smith	2015-2016	
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★		
What-All Editor / John Schell		
Website / Alex Deucher		

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 4908 Washington Blvd., 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!
Ann, WWCA Treasurer fritofran@aol.com

* * * * *

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Voting Member Names:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Enclosed is:
 \$ **10.00** Household dues for the year 7/1/15 to 6/30/16
 \$ _____ Voluntary donation
 \$ _____ **Total Enclosed**