



# Civic Pride

## Newsletter of the Yorktown Civic Association

The Yorktown Civic Association (YCA) represents residents living in north Arlington, Virginia, bound by Lee Highway on the south, Old Dominion Dr. and Columbus St. to the east, Little Falls Rd. and Rock Spring Rd. on the north, and N. Jefferson St. to the west. <http://YorktownCivic.org>

Spring 2014

### Letter from the President

It is going to snow next week! Well, I for one am tired of hearing that for most of the Winter and Spring. Now that Spring really does seem to be upon us, I encourage you to attend our next general meeting on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Yorktown High School. We will hear from representatives of Arlington Hospital (owner of the new TitleMax/old 7-11 building), as well as updates on the new elementary school and the reconstruction of Chestnut Hills Park.

One of the absolute best things about living in Arlington and the Yorktown neighborhood is the strong sense of community and friendliness that abides throughout our county. The death of Nottingham parent, Jenn Lawson, outside of Nottingham Elementary on February 24<sup>th</sup> was an absolute tragedy. In that vein, it is a fact of modern life that we are busy, there are lots of cars on our roads, and it can be hard to always remember to slow down, let pedestrians cross, and to be especially aware of young children and parents (Jenn was putting her child in her car when she was struck by a truck on Little Falls across from Nottingham) during the course of a normal day. Since the accident, the Arlington County Police have stepped up traffic enforcement near Nottingham and have found

that most infractions have been committed by residents who live within 5 blocks of the school.

We can all play a part in helping Arlington be safer and more pedestrian friendly; the YCA is working to identify shortcomings in our neighborhood, as well, so please let us know of any particularly dangerous or neglected areas in your neighborhood.

Similarly, please be mindful of your responsibilities as a citizen when it snows – the YCA is taking a more aggressive approach to communicating with the County about businesses who fail to comply with Code requirements to remove snow within 24 hours and I encourage you to follow the same policy. More importantly, if you have a neighbor who needs help clearing their walk, pitch in or let me know and we can identify volunteers who can help.

Happy Spring (no snow!) and see you on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Best,  
Andrew Schneider  
President  
Yorktown Civic Association



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Join our **facebook group:**   
[@groups.facebook.com.](https://www.facebook.com/YorktownCivic)

The YCA is seeking a volunteer 'facebook administrator' to regularly update our facebook page. For position info, please contact Andrew Schneider at [andrew\\_schneider@hotmail.com](mailto:andrew_schneider@hotmail.com).

### Next Meeting: April 22nd at 7:30 pm at Yorktown High School

**Stay in Touch:** We need your email address! Even if we have your email address from past newsletters, please send your email address to [yorktowncivicassociation@gmail.com](mailto:yorktowncivicassociation@gmail.com) as we are updating the Civic Association Email List. We need your help in reaching all Yorktown residents as we slowly shift more of our communication to email and facebook.

#### Arlington County Phone #'s:

**Arlington Alert:** A great way to stay informed and receive timely information. Sign up at: <https://www.arlingtonalert.com/index.php?CCheck=1>

- If you notice suspicious persons or activity, call the **Non-emergency Police number** (703-558-2222) and report it.

**Police reports can be made online:**  
<http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/police/incident/new/start-report.html>

**Power Outages:** Dominion Virginia Power, 1-866-366-4357

**Natural Gas Emergencies:** Washington Gas, 703-750-1400 or 800-752-752. If you smell gas, leave immediately and call 911.

**Street Flooding, Water, Sewer problems:** 703-228-6555 (emergency hotline)

**Traffic Signals/Street Light Outages:** 703-228-6511

**Fallen Trees:** 703-228-6525

**Signs, Potholes, Trash, Sidewalks:** 703-228-6570

**Code Enforcement:** 703-228-3232

## Residential Property Assessments Up 5% in Yorktown Neighborhood

A civic association analysis of 2014 real estate assessments for the Yorktown neighborhood reveals that the neighborhood no longer has even a single home valued at less than a half-million dollars. The 2014 average residential assessment in this neighborhood now stands at \$791,801, up 5% from the average at the start of 2013 of \$754,079. Across all of Arlington county, the average residential assessment is \$552,700 for 2014, up 5.3% from 2013.

The total assessed value of the 1,070 homes in the neighborhood, including land, is now \$847.2 million. Assuming the County Board leaves the tax rate at the current level of \$1.006 per \$100 of assessed value, the combined property tax bill of all Yorktown residents will be \$8,523,101 this year. The average tax per home would be \$7,966.

While the neighborhood now has 179 homes valued at more than \$1 million, the largest number of homes still fall within the range of \$600,000 to \$700,000. The neighborhood median value now stands at \$687,000, which is well below the average, due to the much higher value of the growing number of newly-built homes in the area.

The Yorktown neighborhood recorded 59 residential sales during 2013. The vast majority of those sales were at prices above the 2013 assessments of those properties, with an average difference of 19.7%. Just seven of the property sales during the last year were below the assessed valuation of those same properties.

Homeowners that disagree with the value established by the County can still file appeals directly with the Board of Equalization, but the deadline for those appeals is April 15. Additional information on the appeal process can be found at:

<http://topics.arlingtonva.us/realstate/assessments/appeals/>

### 2014 Residential Assessments in Yorktown Neighborhood

From	To	# of Homes	%
500,000	600,000	173	16.2
600,000	700,000	413	38.6
700,000	800,000	185	17.3
800,000	1.0 million	120	11.2
1.0 million	1.2 million	60	5.6
1.2 million	1.5 million	90	8.4
1.5 million	4.0 million	29	2.7
		1070	100

## If Your Dog is Lost

Dogs get lost for a whole host of reasons. Fear (fireworks), opportunity (gates left open, snow making fences lower), just plain bad luck and the "perfect storm" of converging circumstances. It is probably inevitable that this will happen at some point to everyone who owns a dog so the first thing to do is to prepare before it happens.

Make sure your dog has a tag with your name and current phone number. Have your dog micro chipped and registered— there is nothing more worthless than an unregistered microchip. Prepare a flyer with a good full-body shot that gives his name, age, and a good description. Doing this BEFORE your dog is lost saves time and ensures it is done well. Keep it updated. Also, train your dog so you have a good recall on him. This really is a life-saving tool.

In our area we have had good luck with people posting immediately to the YCA facebook page. A few basic tips: Post an address or intersection where the dog was last seen. Just saying, "My dog got out of our backyard." is not very helpful. Give your address. Similarly, don't just say, "My dog slipped his leash while we were walking on Yorktown." Cite a cross street you were near or even a house number. Be sure to always post a phone number (or two) that you or a family member can be reached on at all times. Post a picture as it is always more helpful than just a written description.



### Tips for finding a dog in the short-term:

#### MOST IMPORTANT - DO NOT CHASE THE DOG

- Take a leash and treats. Squeaky toys if your dog likes them. If you spot the dog, drop to your knees and call the dog to you. If other people are with you they can QUIETLY, CALMLY and SLOWLY push the dog toward you by moving slowly behind the dog. Be patient. Be calm.
- Leave a bowl of water and food outside at your house (or on an accessible porch or garage) and a crate or bed with something smelly of yours. The scent may draw them. Sweaty t-shirts and socks work well. Some dogs like a grand adventure, but others have an "oh no, what have I done" moment and want to go home.
- Call the dog's name in a cheerful, upbeat voice. They don't really understand words, but they totally get tone and body language.
- If your dog escapes frequently, check his favorite places first. (And consider a GPS tracking collar.)
- If possible, take another dog with you as you search.
- After a few hours (or sooner) and you have had no luck finding her, be sure to notify the Arlington shelter in case your dog gets turned in. It's called the [Animal Welfare League of Arlington](http://www.awla.org). If your dog ends up there be sure to have your license and proof of rabies vaccination (if not on the dog) when you go to get her.

<http://www.awla.org>

2650 S. Arlington Mill Dr., Arlington, VA 22206,  
 Phone: 703-931-9241, Fax: 703-931-2568

For more information, especially for dogs gone for more than a few hours or lost outside the neighborhood, see the link below.

<http://dogs.about.com/od/caringfordogsandpuppies/ht/Search-For-Lost-Or-Missing-Dogs.htm>

## Arlington School Board Awards Contract for New Elementary School

On March 6, the School Board approved the contract for the construction of a new 630-student elementary school to be built on the grounds of Williamsburg Middle School (WMS). SIGAL Construction Company beat out 4 other companies for the job with a winning bid of \$32.3 million. A groundbreaking celebration took place Wednesday, March 19, to kick off work towards building completion in time for the start of the 2015-16 school year in September 2015.

The school system had previously adopted school district boundary changes that would move the majority of students in

the Yorktown neighborhood to the new school from the Nottingham and Jamestown areas. Only those families living to the west of N. Harrison will continue to send their children to Nottingham Elementary when the new building is completed.

The new building will be built to the south of the existing Williamsburg Middle School building, with drop-off access from N. 36<sup>th</sup> Street. The project includes alterations to the existing WMS east parking lot that will provide a shared bus loop and additional staff parking, replacement of two existing grass athletic fields on the west side of the existing Middle

School with synthetic turf fields, providing irrigation and Bermuda turf for a 3rd athletic field, and a lighted basketball court.

Construction bids actually came in below estimates, allowing room in the budget to move forward with plans to make this the first "net zero" school on the East Coast, meaning that the building can produce as much or more energy than it will use. The facility's energy consumption is expected to be about a third that of a typical elementary school, achieving the savings through the use of geothermal wells and an array of solar panels covering almost the entire roof. The building is ex-

pected to achieve LEED Gold or Platinum certification.

The total budget for the project is \$43.8 million.

This project is just one of several projects that are expected to be a part of the APS "More Seats for More Students" initiative to address overcrowding and future enrollment growth in Arlington. Work is already underway on an expansion of Ashlawn Elementary, and the School Board has also just approved a 225-seat expansion of McKinley Elementary, which is targeted for completion by the start of the 2016-17 school year.



Image courtesy of  
VMDO Architects/  
Arlington Public Schools

*Please support your neighborhood civic association and help us better communicate the latest community news...*

### Join the Yorktown Civic Association!

Just \$10 per year is all that is needed to support the costs of the neighborhood newsletter, website and outreach. Please complete this membership form and mail to: Bob Littell, YCA Treasurer, 2827 N. Harrison St., Arlington, VA 22207. Make checks payable to: **Yorktown Civic Association**. Thank you for your support!

\_\_\_\_\_ YCA 2014 Annual Membership Dues (\$10)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



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*For more information, please contact Trent Sorensen at: [trent\\_so@hotmail.com](mailto:trent_so@hotmail.com)*

**Yorktown Civic Association  
2827 N. Harrison St.  
Arlington, VA 22207  
<http://YorktownCivic.Org>**

*Yorktown Neighbor*