

# Sweet & Sour News



*The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the Cherrydale Citizens Association*

The Cherrydale Citizens Association ~ [www.cherrydale.net](http://www.cherrydale.net) ~ November 2015

## CCA Elections to be Held on November 18

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### CCA General Meeting

*Wed, 11/18/15, 7:30 pm  
at Cherrydale VFD*

Come to our meeting on Wednesday, November 18, at 7:30 pm at the Cherrydale Volunteer Fire Department on 3900 Lee Highway to vote for the officers of the Cherrydale Citizens Association. Each year, the CCA elects individuals to serve in each of our four officer positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Thank you Jim Todd, Gillian Burgess, Catie Sullivan, and Katherine Christiansen for your service. With Catie stepping down, this year we are looking for a new Secretary. CCA officers help make Cherrydale the terrific place it is. The officers help plan the Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser in March, the Cherrydale Fourth of July Party on Stafford Street, and work with the Cherrydale Business Alliance to help plan Discovery Cherrydale. They also help other volunteers on committees to address things like Five Points Intersection, the new Stratford Middle School, and the new ART 55 bus. But we can't do it without our officers, and your votes. Make your vote count at our November meeting.



### CCA is looking for a new secretary!

The Cherrydale Citizens Association is looking for a new Secretary to run in our November election. All four officers are needed to participate in our monthly Officers Meetings, assist in our Cherrydale events, and help set the agenda for Cherrydale. Thanks go to Catie Sullivan for jumping in last November to help make this the best year in Cherrydale so far. Contact CCA President Jim Todd at [president@cherrydale.net](mailto:president@cherrydale.net) for more information.

### Also on Nov 18: Bike Friendly Ballston!

WABA's Arlington Action Committee's Bike Friendly Ballston campaign seeks a protected bike lane on North Quincy Street from the Custis Trail in Cherrydale to Glebe Road. A protected bike lane is simply a bike lane that is separated from moving traffic. On Quincy, Arlington could swap the bike lane with parking, so that parked cars are next to the travel lanes. A buffered area allows passengers to exit cars and serves to protect the people on bikes. This protected bike lane will make biking, walking, and driving from Cherrydale to Ballston less stressful. The Arlington Action Committee sees this as the first section of a north-south "spine" that is key to connecting the network of bike facilities in the County. Come hear more on Nov. 18.

# Cherrydale Muralist!

Cherrydale native Kate Fleming unveiled the finished mural that she has been painting for the Engleside Cooperative apartment building, with some grant help from Arlington County, on October 24. The mural, which portrays Arlington landmarks such as Arlington House and cemetery and Washington-Lee High School, covers Engleside's 106-foot-long, 781 square foot retaining wall on Lee Highway at Veitch Street — opposite the old Bergman's/the new My Organic Market.

Kate began the design drawings in 2014 and started painting in July 2015. Among her greatest challenges was the heat of Arlington summers with endless ninety-degree days. She said, "the paint dried in mere minutes, even on my brushes as I continued to paint." Of course she invested heavily in sunscreen! Another challenge was painting the perfectly straight lines of the somewhat abstract mural. Kate's father — Tim Fleming of TCS Building, Inc. — told her that "real painters don't use painter's tape." She rose to that challenge and developed a very steady hand as you can see when you check out the mural.



Photo by Tom Woodruff, [www.woodrufftr.tumblr.com](http://www.woodrufftr.tumblr.com)

For pictures of the project as it developed and more information on how Kate planned and executed the mural, go to her blog at [www.katepaintsamural.com](http://www.katepaintsamural.com).

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## Help Deliver the News!

The CCA is looking for volunteers to help deliver the Sweet and Sour News. Our newsletter comes out five times a year: January, March, May, September, and November. Volunteers help distribute the newsletter to our block captains, who hand deliver it every residence in Cherrydale. Contact CCA President Jim Todd at [president@cherrydale.net](mailto:president@cherrydale.net) if you'd like to help.



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## Help Out Cherrydale.net!

If you have any web design knowledge, we need your help. Cherrydale.net needs to be reorganized and updated to make it useful and accessible. Contact CCA President Jim Todd at [president@cherrydale.net](mailto:president@cherrydale.net) if you can help out.

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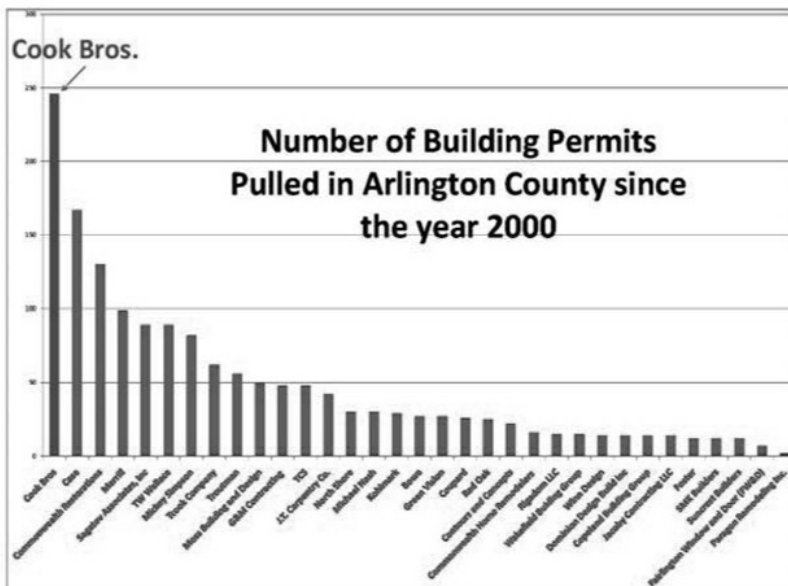
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# Neighborhood Conservation Report

by Harry Spector

The benefits Cherrydale has slowly reaped from Arlington's Neighborhood Conservation (NC) projects is starting to show. Through this citizen-organized, county-funded program we received the decorative brick wall and landscaping that masks the unsightly power substation at Lee and N. Monroe, new sidewalks and lighting on parts of N. Randolph, N. Stafford, and N. Kenmore, making walks safer, and soon, brilliant makeovers of both Oakgrove Park and 20<sup>th</sup> St (bounded by N. Kenmore and N. Monroe). It's safe to say that NC is vital to our neighborhood's continuing improvement and livability.

Across Arlington's other neighborhoods similar NC improvements can be experienced. But all is not perfect. The inventory of streets lacking complete or usable sidewalk is large. And we all likely know of a crumbling, pockmarked street or two in dire need of love but is ignored because it's not a primary arterial. You may be asking yourself why is this? Sometimes, yes, it's lack of available funding. But often when it comes to NC funded improvements it's likely because of something akin to a homeowner's veto.

Many years ago, a less populous, more rural-feeling, Arlington County directly charged homeowners for a portion of the cost to install sidewalk abutting their property line. In light of this additional imposed financial burden the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) felt fairness required the affected homeowners must have the first say whether a project on their block would happen since they were literally paying more for the project.

Then and now, if 60% of the block, by linear feet, does not approve of a project, it simply

cannot happen. That's how we end up with missing sidewalk and streets in disrepair for seemingly forever. With such a high threshold for approval and an unequal voting system, even a few homeowners can be enough to keep an entire neighborhood at risk, even if a majority of residents on the block want the project.

This is a important factor because the county's "owner pays" rule hasn't existed now for well over a decade. NC projects are now paid 100% by the county, though a combination of bond proceeds and staff salary paid from the county's operating budget. Either way, it's all taxpayer funded. Despite this, organizational inertia kept NC from catch-up with that rule until now.

Last spring the NC Executive Board decided it was past time for NC to modernize its rules to both better reflect current method of project funding and also to streamline the process so staff isn't wasting its scarce resources engineering projects that a few block homeowners might ultimately reject for a host of parochial reasons.

A NC Rules Subcommittee contemplated how to balance a neighborhood's need for newer, safer infrastructure with the affected

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### Library Hours

Monday	10 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Tuesday	1 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Wednesday	1 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Thursday	10 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday	CLOSED

### Fall Programs

#### Two Storytime Programs (No Registration Required):

- "Over Twos" Storytime (ages 25 mo-5 yrs.), Tuesdays, 4:30 pm, through Nov. 17.
- "Stop In for Stories" (ages 0-5 yrs), Thursdays, 10:30 am, through Nov. 19.

"Paws To Read: For Emerging Readers & Kids who Love Dogs!" For K – 5 students . . . on the 1st and 3rd Sats. of the month, 3-4 pm, by appointment . . . specially trained dogs will be available for 15-min. reading sessions . . . **\*\*free, but registration is required\*\*** . . . call or stop by circulation desk.

"Tech Help": Weekly program, now on Mondays & Thursdays, 5-8 pm. Having difficulty with a computer program or just need some help figuring out how to do something on the computer? Sign up for one-on-one

tutoring sessions. **\*\*Free, but pre-registration required.\*\***  
Contact library.

Knitting Club: Every Wed., (7:30 – 8:30 pm). All skill levels are welcome. Older kids with an adult also welcome.

NANOWRIMO! (National Novel Writing Month) Write In: Sat., Nov. 14, all day. Grab some snacks and settle in to work on your 50,000 words!

Edible Book Contest! on Sat., Dec. 12: Drop off entries (creations based on a book, character or title -- puns encouraged!) between 10 and 12pm; awards at 3pm.

Book Discussions for Adults: Check web site above for complete schedule and book descriptions. Limited copies are available a month in advance for those signing up. Call ahead.

- No meeting in December: The Dec. 2015/Jan. 2016 book will be given out at the November 2 discussion.
- Mon, January 4, 7:30 pm: *Americanah: A Novel*, winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie . . . 477 pp. of text.

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## NC Report *(cont'd from p. 4)*

homeowner's desire to have a voice on important issues such as parking. While a goal of any changes is to get more needed improvements completed while completing them faster than previously, everyone at NC recognizes the block's homeowners still have a significant stake in any changes and must not be cut out of the process. This presented a substantial challenge to the subcommittee and is something it studied and brainstormed for months before even printing out a first draft.

The draft proposal presented to the entire NCAC last June isn't perfect, and never can be because as small as Arlington is, the nature of our neighborhoods are distinct, it provides for a greater community conversation earlier in the planning stage than the current block-only oriented rules. But it offers a more equitable way for all civic associations to discuss and decide how a tiny bit of our tax revenue will best benefit its respective neighborhood.

It's early yet. There is fine-tuning to do still before a motion to vote is made, but the gist of the new process allows any neighbor or civic association to approach NC staff with proposals. If they pass muster with NC project definitions, are within project budget limitations, and part of a neighborhood's NC Plan, it can be proposed to the civic association. Of course that neighbor still needs to get the votes and there may be competing proposals, but it offers a more democratic approach than the previous petition process, allowing the neighborhood to lead the process, not a particular block, and lets staff pre-vet projects too saving time and money.

There should be more to say about the proposed changes early next year as NCAC fleshes out the details more. The framework here is by no means a certainty, but hopefully a consensus that works for all of Arlington's NC participants will be arrived at leading to safer streets for us all.

## Update on Stafford Middle School Planning Process



As many of you know, last year the School Board approved the renovation of the Stratford Building, which currently houses the HB Woodlawn and Stratford programs, for a new 1,000-seat neighborhood middle school scheduled to open in the fall of 2019. (The HB and

Stratford programs will move to a new building that will be constructed on the Wilson School site in Rosslyn).

Since April, the Stratford Building Level Planning Committee (BLPC) and Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) have been meeting regularly to discuss design and siting options for the new Stratford Middle School in consultation with the architects and traffic engineers retained by Arlington County Public Schools (APS) to work on the project. These committees have considered various options for the design of the new middle school, related traffic and pedestrian safety issues, and issues surrounding the community's use and enjoyment of public facilities in the park adjacent to the school. They have also considered issues related to the request to designate the Stratford site as a local historic district that was submitted to the Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB) as a result of Stratford's significance as one of the first two public schools in Virginia to be integrated in February of 1959. The materials and meeting minutes for all of these committees' meetings are available on the APS Stratford Middle School Project website at <http://www.apsva.us/Page/29586>.

### BLPC Update

Recently, it became apparent that construction of the design options that the BLPC and PFRC had been considering would exceed the budget for the project. In early October, the School Board hosted a work session to review both the Stratford and Wilson projects, and presented options for completing both projects within available funding. APS staff advised that, for the Stratford project to come in on budget, the size of the planned addition would need to be decreased from 45,000 square feet to 35,000 square feet. The options that fell within budget included a new "Link" option, that would link the two ends of the school together, and a "West" option, that would place a new 3-story, 35,000 square foot addition on the west end of the school next to the current gym. APS staff also presented revised

options for an "East" addition, that would place a new addition off of the east end of the school next to the current music and theater wing, and a "Terrace" option that would place a new addition towards Old Dominion drive terraced into the existing courtyard. The presentation from the October 6 work session is available on the APS Wilson Site Project website at <http://www.apsva.us/Page/29273>.

At its meeting on October 13, the BLPC narrowed the design options under consideration to the "West" and "Link" options, and the majority of the members in attendance favored the "West" option. The BLPC also continued its consideration of different driveway/drop-off options, and the majority of the members in attendance favored an access driveway connecting Vacation Lane and Old Dominion Drive and located between the soccer field and the school building. During the meeting, the architects explained that, as a result of the square footage reduction necessitated by budgetary constraints, their current plans did not include a number of features that had been included within the original design options,

*cont'd on p. 7*

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## BPLC/PFRC update

(cont'd from p. 4)

such as a new library/media center, new gym space, an additional elevator, and historic interpretation elements.

The BLPC held another meeting on October 26 to further discuss the various options and to prioritize suggestions for restoring items eliminated in the cost reduction. After vigorous discussion and public comment from several members of the surrounding neighborhood, the BLPC voted 15 to 4 to support the West option (over the Link option) and 13 to 6 to support the option to build a driveway between the soccer field and school building (versus building no road at all). The BLPC also voted unanimously to urge the School Board to build the entire project at one time, rather than expanding in phases, to minimize the disruption to the community and school environment. The BLPC will now formally convey these recommendations to the School Board, which can accept, reject, or modify the recommendations. APS staff and the BLPC also agreed to continue the discussion of restoring or prioritizing items eliminated in the cost reduction as the project moves into the schematic design phase.

### PFRC Update

The Public Facilities Review Community is charged with reviewing the plans of the BLPC to look at the impacts on the larger community resources such as parks, green space, site access, traffic, and other area concerns. On October 15, we met to review the revised plans presented to the BLPC on the 13<sup>th</sup>. The PFRC unanimously endorsed the "West" site plan, which appeared to the community to minimally impact the adjacent park, while accomplishing the goals of the educators and meeting the design criteria of the HALRB. The PFRC narrowly voted 6-4 to endorse the "high" road providing an exit connecting Vacation Lane and Old Dominion. Supporters of the road felt that the "no road" option would create traffic and pedestrian safety problems along Vacation Lane. Those in opposing the road cited the cost of the road in light of the budget challenges for the school building, as well as a concern that improved site access unnecessarily accommodated parents driving children to school instead of walking, biking, or taking the bus.

For more information about the Stratford project, including links to meeting minutes and presentations not discussed in this update, please see the Stratford website at <http://www.apsva.us/Page/29586>. Please also feel free to contact the Cherrydale representatives on the BLPC (Eve Reed, [ereed\\_dc@yahoo.com](mailto:ereed_dc@yahoo.com), and Ray Sendejas, [sendejasr@gmail.com](mailto:sendejasr@gmail.com)) and the PFRC (Mark Bildner, [mark@bildner.net](mailto:mark@bildner.net)) with questions or comments about the process.

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## JOIN THE CCA — PAY 2015 DUES

***Dues are due in January of every year BUT can be paid as early as the prior November.***

Dues help cover the cost of community events, our website and this newsletter.

Mail form & payment to:

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