

CIVIC PRIDE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
YORKTOWN
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

After an almost four-year hiatus, the Yorktown Civic Association (YCA) Executive Committee (EC) has decided to resurrect the YCA newsletter. The YCA Newsletter requires dozens of volunteer hours and several hundred dollars for printing and distribution, but we felt getting community information to ALL Yorktown community members is important, especially for our seniors who may not be tech savvy or for anyone not following us on social media.

The YCA began the year by gathering community input for our updated YCA Neighborhood Plan. Our volunteer consultant Lynda Blust helped to create an online and paper survey. The paper survey was delivered to every household within the YCA boundaries.

CONTENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Letter from the President
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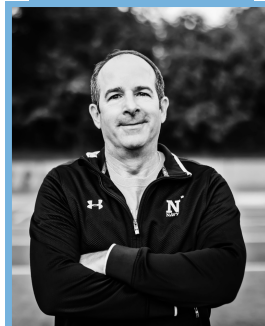
Lynda and YCA EC members reviewed and analyzed data and information from the completed surveys and will use this information to update the YCA Neighborhood Plan in the coming months. An updated neighborhood plan confers benefits to a civic association, such as priority placement for certain neighborhood improvement projects.

Yorktown Civic Association members have been very active over the last year. Missing Middle (also known as Expanded Housing Options) was a hot topic in 2023. Several community members, on both sides of the debate, participated in sending emails to County Board members and speaking at County Board meetings. The County Board ultimately decided to change the county's zoning regulations to allow different types of housing types in single family home neighborhoods. See the County's website for more information.

The County Board also finalized the Langston Boulevard Area Plan (LBAP). The LBAP provides a vision for the Langston Boulevard corridor and guides corridor planning efforts.

The plan is mostly aspirational, and developers will need to submit site plans before development can begin. Virginia is a strong property rights state, therefore, the use of eminent domain to force homeowners to sell their property is highly unlikely.

The YCA EC has big plans for 2024. Some of our goals are to 1) increase community member participation in the quarterly meetings, 2) increase the number of dues paying members, 3) produce and distribute a quarterly newsletter, 4) organize and execute one or more community events, and 5) increase the number of community members participating in Arlington County commissions and advisory groups.



Follow all the Yorktown Civic Association news on our website, Facebook, and Nextdoor.

See ya around the neighborhood!

Mike Cantwell
President
Yorktown Civic Association

Arlington Yorktown Civic Association

Membership Form

Name of Applicant (one form per person)

Address in the Civic Association

Mailing Address (Enter only if not the same as your property address above)

Phone Number(s)

E-Mail Address



Mail To: Dustin Anderson
YCA Treasurer
5104 23rd Road N
Arlington, VA 22207

Please include:
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A MODO MIO

A Classic Immigrant Success Story

By Caryn Wagner



Our roving reporter visited A MODO MIO to learn more about this Arlington staple from Rosario Farruggio, who is the manager—and so much more, as you will learn!

Q: How long have you been open?

A: A MODO MIO has been open for 3 years, since October of 2020. But of course, before that we were Joe's Place Pizza and Pasta, and Joe's opened here in Arlington in 1985.

Q: What prompted the opening of Joe's in 1985?

A: Joe Farruggio immigrated from Sicily to New York. He had not been in the food business in Italy, but he learned the pizza business in New York, making New York style pizza. He was visiting northern Virginia and realized there was no New York style pizza here, so he and his brother Vincenzo opened their first place in Woodbridge in 1978. When it succeeded and he wanted to open new locations, he called my Dad in Sicily to come over and help—that's how they did it in those days. I was 12. When the Arlington store was opened, my Dad became a partner. In 2008, we consolidated all our suburban pizza locations into Arlington because Arlington had the next

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THE YCA WOULD LOVE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!

If you have any ideas for articles, features, or interviews, please contact:
Zach Newkirk at ZJAnewkirk@gmail.com and/or
Caryn Wagner at carynnewagner@icloud.com

JOIN THE YORKTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION!

Your Annual Membership for \$20 supports the cost of the Civic Pride newsletter, management of the website and other outreach. Formal membership in the Yorktown Civic Association is open to all adults (18 years old or older) that live within our neighborhood boundaries. If you own residential property within our boundaries, but rent your home to someone else, you also can be a member. Only members in good standing will be allowed to vote. Several adults in one household may become a member. Use one form per person, and pay dues for each applicant.

Business owners within the neighborhood can also serve as non-voting members in the Association. Businesses are asked to name a specific representative for membership.

The Yorktown Civic Association covers the area of north Arlington, bound by Langston Boulevard (formerly Lee Highway) / Route 29 on the south, Old Dominion Drive to the east, Little Falls Road and Rock Spring Road on the north, and North Jefferson Street to the west.

There are three ways to make your membership official. Apply:

- Online at yorktowncivic.org/membership
- By Mail
- By Email

Apply by Mail and Pay by Check

- Fill out our Membership form, available online and on page 2 here.
- Write a check of \$20 to the Yorktown Civic Association for your annual membership.
- Mail form and check to our treasurer:

Dustin Anderson
YCA Treasurer
5104 23rd Road N
Arlington, VA 22207

Apply by Email and Pay with PayPal
Email yorktowncivicassociation@gmail.com.

Be sure to include:

- Your Name
- Address
- Phone Number
- Email



Thank you!

A MODO MIO

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generation ready to take over, and kept Il Canale in DC, which is Joe Farruggio's flagship.

Q: There's been an explosion of different pizza styles over the past few decades. Tell us what kind of pizza A Modo Mio specializes in, and why.

A: You know we started out with New York style pizza because that was what Joe had learned, and also because when we started, you couldn't get the ingredients to make a true Neapolitan pizza—the right tomatoes, fresh mozzarella, 00 flour. But once COVID hit, we realized buffets and salad bars weren't going to work any more, so Joe—having already successfully owned and operated Il Canale—decided it was time to switch to Neapolitan, which people were now familiar with. So together with our new partner and chef, Antonio Biglietto, we now make authentic Neapolitan pizza, VPN Certified.

Q: What's VPN?

Verace Pizza Napoletana or Real Neapolitan Pizza. It's an association that promotes and protects true Neapolitan pizza, and you can be designated a VPN pizzeria if you meet strict standards, which we do. You can see the VPN logo as you come in the restaurant, with our number, #857.

Q: What's the most popular item on your menu?

A: I would have to say the classic Margherita pizza.

Q: What's the item you wish more people would try?

A: I just love this appetizer called violet burrata. It's a mixture of beets and burrata with some crushed pink peppercorns and a little truffle oil, it's delicious.

Q: Where do you see A Modo Mio in 10 or 20 years?

A: I hope we will still be here serving the Arlington community as we have for almost 40 years. We've been very involved with the community since we opened, sponsoring teams and hosting their events, having art exhibits, that sort of thing. We want to keep doing that.


Q: What's the story with the little car we sometimes see in front of the restaurant?

A: Joe brought the little car from Sicily for Il Canale, but when the restaurant expanded there was no room for it, so it came here. Sadly, it's being repaired right now, but you will see it again soon.


Q: What else would you like the Yorktown Neighborhood to know?

A: We are authentic Italian. I am Italian, our pizza chef and partner Antonio Biglietto is Italian and comes from generations of Neapolitan bakers. We are making some good pizza, we were recognized as one of the top 50 pizza places in the US making Neapolitan pizza in 2023. Come in and try us out for lunch or dinner! And if you want to know more about the family story, Joe wrote a book called: *My Name is Joe And I Am A Pizza Man*.

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A BOLD APPROACH TO HOUSE NUMBERS

Popular not only among First Responders

By Zach Newkirk



Anyone driving, biking, or walking down Yorktown Boulevard probably hasn't noticed the houses' numbers—with one exception. In bold white font "a 5, two zeros, and a 6, so large that you could see them from space" greet any passerby traveling past the 1951 brick rambler, as Slate contributor Dan Kois described in 2021.

Why such large numbers? Balance, primarily. Caryn Wagner, the force behind the house numbers (and YCA EC Member), and her husband installed a bay window in the master bedroom above the garage—but it wasn't quite lined up with the garage door. "I felt like I needed something over the garage to balance it," she told Slate. "I thought maybe a piece of art?" After considering several ideas, Arts & Crafts-style numbers—"Frank Lloyd Wright-y," she describes—won the day.

After Googling "large house numbers," Ms. Wagner found a company, Woodland Manufacturing, that can create house numbers at any size. Specifically, her numbers are a crisp two feet tall—or the height of a typical grown Golden Retriever. "They'll give the house a little bit of a quirky punch, and then I won't have to tell the Uber driver where my house is," she explained to Slate. She describes the style as mid-century eclectic. Around Christmas time, she decorates the zeros with red bows to make them look like giant wreaths.

The reaction has been overwhelmingly positive. "People take pictures; people stop and talk to me. I've become a kind of mini celebrity on Yorktown Boulevard," Ms. Wagner said to Slate. The numbers are worth the deviation from the boulevard's norm in her view. "I was looking for a way to give it a little personality," she said about her house to Slate. "I go in and out of [it] every day, and I see my great big numbers, and that makes me happy."

Has she received any criticism? "No, I actually haven't," Ms. Wagner said, laughing. "But I don't think anyone would tell you that to your face," she added.

The numbers have been a big hit from a particular population: first responders, who appreciate the quick identification. "I actually got letters from people from around the country after they read the Slate article," Ms. Wagner said. One veteran of an Ohio fire department wrote to her saying, "if only everyone could be convinced to mark their homes so boldly, it would save first responders a lot of aggravation."

YORKTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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mtcantwell @ msn.com

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dharing @ outlook.com

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dustinanderson@mac.com

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Change your email?

We are updating the Civic Association Email List, so even if we have had your email in the past, please send it once again to: yorktowncivicassociation@gmail.com.

Civic News

Follow all the Yorktown Civic Association news on our own yorktowncivic.org website, facebook.com/groups/YorktownCivic, and Nextdoor.

Our Neighbors

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LEE HARRISON SHOPPING CENTER

A Retail Pillar of the Yorktown Civic Association Celebrates Decades of Success — And Looks Forward to the Future

By Zach Newkirk

The Lee Harrison Shopping Center, situated in the southwest corner of the Yorktown Civic Association's footprint, is an anchor of the community—and has been for more than 50 years under the management of A. J. Dwoskin & Associates, Inc. The company, formed in 1967 and continuously owned by Albert Dwoskin since, is a fully integrated real estate firm that owns and manages 28 commercial and residential properties across Northern Virginia.

The shopping center's diverse tenants cater to virtually every demographic in the civic association—from the anchor tenant, Harris Teeter, to a half dozen standout eateries, and to youth-oriented activities such as dance and martial arts studios. "We actively seek tenants who foster synergy within the center, enhance the community experience, and satisfy the parameters of the anchor tenant," explained a senior Dwoskin representative. Its "cherished mom and pop shops" are especially appreciated by both Mr. Dwoskin and the neighboring community.

Occasionally, rumors arise about the shopping center. In September 2023, the owner of the shopping chain Piggly Wiggly announced it was buying ten DC-area Harris Teeter stores. In Yorktown, residents have speculated whether we would soon have a Piggly Wiggly among our neighbors. Those rumors can be put to rest. "Mr. Dwoskin is not aware of any plans to convert the Harris Teeter to a Piggly Wiggly at this time," a senior representative of the company informed this newsletter.

"Managing a shopping center that draws substantial foot and vehicular traffic presents various challenges," according to Mr. Dwoskin, a leader in commercial and residential property management in Northern Virginia. "Balancing the diverse needs of tenants, staying attuned to changing consumer preferences, and navigating zoning regulations are constant considerations. These challenges underscore the dynamic nature of maintaining a thriving shopping center that has become a popular destination" in Yorktown and beyond.



Few doubt the shopping center's popularity. According to the representative, more than 8,200 cars pass the center on N. Harrison Street every day. That number on Langston Boulevard totals more than 22,500.

Still, with nearly 200,000 residents in a three-mile radius, it's no wonder that parking at Lee Harrison can sometimes prove challenging. "Despite tight parking conditions at peak times, our patrons have consistently found parking, and we believe we have struck the best feasible balance given our current situation," the Dwoskin representative said.

"However, we remain dedicated to ongoing improvements and appreciate the community's understanding as we strive to enhance the overall shopping experience." One case in point—the addition of a garage under the grocery store after Harris Teeter moved into the center in 2002.

Mr. Dwoskin remains appreciative of the community's continued support for the center and especially its small locally owned businesses. He is "proud that many of the center's local businesses have been with us for decades. "For instance, Wild Birds Unlimited and Chesapeake Bagel Bakery have been in the center for more than 30 years, while Sushi-Zen and Hair Cuttery have been steadfast as center staples for more than 25 years. "These enduring partnerships embody the rich tapestry of the center's history, showcasing the lasting bonds between community, tenants, and landlord" that define the shopping center.

Even as the center benefits from longstanding tenants, changes have occurred in recent years and new tenants will soon be welcome. In 2020, the center was able to replace an obsolete building with a new facility that attracted Vista Medical Center. In 2023, family-owned Khun Yai Thai replaced another family-owned restaurant, Ghin Na Ree Thai, which had served the community for more than two decades. Also last year, a Loyal Companion pet store converted to a Wag N'Wash. In 2024, the center will welcome Crumbl Cookies, a popular national chain known for their large, elaborate, and decadent cookies.

YORKTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Yorktown Civic Association

Send Address changes to:
5104 23rd Road N
Arlington, VA 22207

YorktownCivic.org



NEXT GENERAL MEETING

January 31, 2024

7:30 pm

**Yorktown High School
Library**

Enter through the Main Entrance
off of Yorktown Boulevard

AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

- YCA Newsletter
- Langston Blvd Area Plan - Recap
- 25th Place N / N Emerson St / 25th Rd N Sidewalk Project
- Pedestrian Safety Near YHS
- Revised YCA By-Laws
- Membership and Dues

ARLINGTON COUNTY ONLINE TOOL: REQUEST SERVICE OR REPORT PROBLEMS

For many services or problems, you can use Arlington County's online Request Service / Report a Problem tool:

arlingtonva.us/Government/Topics/Report-Problem

Or download the app My Arlington

For Traffic Light Outages:
Call Police non-emergency Number at 703-558-2222
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What you can report or request online includes:

- Trash/recycling and Litter
- Street lights/park lights
- Streets (potholes, concrete, gutter)
- Parks (dog park, facility, field, playground, trails)
- Water repair (utility cover)
- Signs (traffic, stop, parking)
- Parking meters
- Trees & mowing
- Bus stops
- Public art conditions
- Graffiti

