

TARA-LEEWAY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY NEWS



www.taraleewayheights.org | December 2022

JOIN our next
meeting virtually!



The Tara-Leeway Heights Civic Association will host its next meeting on January 11 at 7pm via Zoom. Check our website at taraleewayheights.org for a link to join the session.

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Hi Neighbors!

On behalf of your Tara-Leeway Heights Civic Association board of directors, I want to wish each and every one of you a most merry, joyous, safe and satisfying holiday season! This is a time for celebrating with friends, neighbors and family, and here's a hope that this special season is full of fun and love for everyone.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, we are enclosing a survey for you that will help us greatly as we continue to plan what we hope will be a terrific neighborhood party on the Cardinal School grounds in September not long after school resumes. We have partner sponsors for this event, and planning is underway.

Our Cardinal Fest will mark four years since many of us enjoyed the Farewell to Reed event also held on the school grounds. Back on the Labor Day weekend in 2019, we were still in shock at the enormity of loss, damage and heartbreak inflicted by the monsoon storm of July 8 that year.

On the porch of a house next to the school grounds at that Farewell to Reed event, the presidents of the four local civic associations met to begin planning how we could make sure our area was much better protected when the next big storm hits.

Those four civic associations—Highland Park-Overlee Knolls, Leeway-Overlee, Tara-Leeway Heights and Westover Village—formed a coalition to push for solutions. This led to an unprecedented collaborative effort by county and APS leadership and staff which in turn led to construction of our new stormwater detention vaults that will protect the Westover shops and many residents downstream from the school. To expedite the process, the county was able to fund a change order to the APS/Cardinal School construction contract.

The larger of the two vaults is one of the biggest of its kind in the country. As you have heard at community meetings and on the county website, we're nearly done with the noise, dirt and general inconvenience of the vault construction. When this massive project is complete, nearby neighbors from three different civic associations will breathe easier—and relish the return of relative quiet.

We also feature an interview by TLHCA secretary John Richardson with Lisa Ostroff, the proprietor of Trade Roots, the popular shop and gathering place in Westover.

Speaking of Westover, we're excited to see what's up with the new Westover Taco restaurant that will open in the new year in the space previously occupied by The Forest Inn.

Again, you have our best wishes for a wonderful holiday season. Just remember to fill out and return our survey. Please also consider sending along the \$10 dues for your 2023 TLHCA membership and update your contact information as needed.

Best wishes to all.

John Ford, President, Tara-Leeway Heights Civic Association



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Add your email address to our listserv so you can get updates, newsletters, and alerts straight to your inbox. Our Summer 2023 newsletter will be distributed to your mailboxes.

taraleewayheights.org

Community News

Trade Roots

By **John P. Richardson**

Lisa Ostroff, founder/proprietor of Arlington's "Trade Roots", is committed to the concept of fair trade (meaning fair income) for the foreign artisans who create the wide variety of craft items sold in the Westover shop on Washington Boulevard. Trade Roots, now in its tenth year, is yet to become an income machine, but Lisa says that it makes enough money to continue purchasing items for sale and serving its customers. Fair trade is an internationally recognized program to insure that the artisans who create the unique products sold in affiliated stores are assured a fair wage for their work. Lisa said that she works closely with the World Fair Trade Organization and its Fair Trade Federation, which also assist with purchasing products in far-off villages and vetting the artisans.

Lisa acknowledged a life-long "passion" for studying the developing world, having hoped after college and graduate school to travel and work overseas, perhaps with Peace Corps or USAID.

Sidetracked by marriage and raising four sons, she decided at age 50 to live her dreams and opened Trade Roots. She says that she "loves that people love Trade Roots" and often return. Described as an eco-friendly café and gift store, Trade Roots services many "regulars," including a group of Vietnamese-origin men who gather from northern Virginia every week for coffee and conversation. Most of the products sold in the shop originate in Guatemala, Nepal, and India. Lisa is able to make two to three foreign trips each year to keep in touch with her sources.

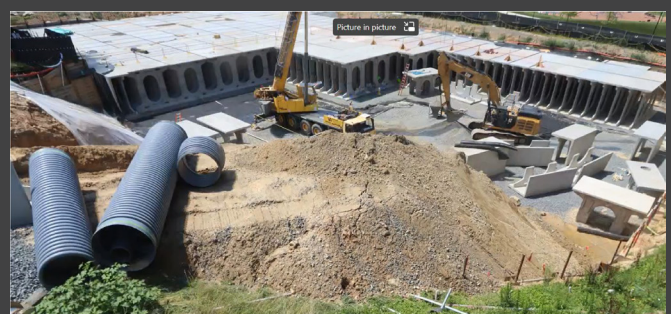
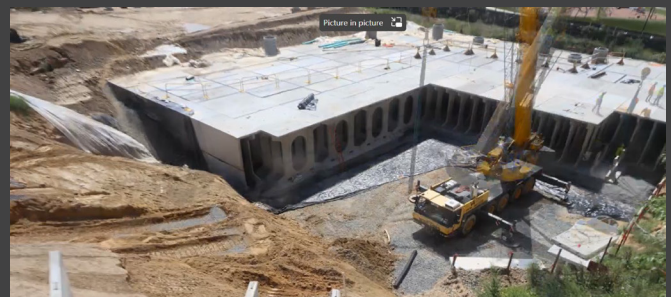
Trade Roots was closed for four months during the COVID pandemic but stayed alive with online sales, even though most of the staff had to be let go. Describing the Westover commercial core as "vibrant," Lisa said that Trade Roots is branching out to a developing Arlington-wide arts scene and plans to host "Wine, Women, and Art" get-togethers on a monthly basis in the near



future. She urged TLHCA and other civic groups to consider using Trade Roots for their own events.

Stormwater Vault

Check out these photos of the stormwater vault taken in August 2022.



We're planning a party!

Your Tara-Leeway Heights Civic Association is planning a big party. After COVID (hopefully) and large construction projects in and near us, we feel it's time for a big neighborhood bash. By September the two new stormwater detention vaults will be all completed, and the new grass and sledding hill should be restored and ready for prime time. The new school will have been open for one year.

Together with our partners from Highland Park-Overlee Knolls and Westover Village Civic Associations and the Cardinal School PTA, we're already working on ideas, proposals and approvals from various authorities to hold the 2023 Cardinal Fest on the grounds of our terrific new neighborhood school.

We're tentatively planning for September 2023. We're thinking of several local bands, food for the whole family, games and a tour of the new school.

We have attached a short survey to help us plan the Fest. Please fill out the enclosed survey over the holidays, and try to return it to us by Sunday, January 8.

Many thanks, and Happy Holidays to all!!



TAKE SURVEY



Help Support TLHCA

Each year, we ask every household within our boundaries for an annual contribution of \$10. Please consider a donation for 2022-23 below. Funds are used for neighborhood events, guest speakers, and other investments in our community. Additional donations are always welcomed and appreciated.

We offer two payment options:

1. PayPal: go to our website at taraleewayheights.org. And click on our PayPal link to pay with your PayPal account or a credit card.

2. Check: mail us a check using the form to the right.

Annual Dues and Donations to TLHCA

(December 2022—December 2023)

Name

Address

Email **

☐ Family Membership (\$10)

☐ Additional Contribution In the amount of \$

Mail check to: TLHCA, P.O. Box 50022, Arlington, VA 22205

** Please provide an email address to ensure receipt of the TLHCA Newsletter which is distributed electronically periodically throughout the year.

Tara-Leeway Heights Quiz

1. What is the population of Tara-Leeway Heights according to the 2020 census?

- (a) 2,222
- (b) 2,363
- (c) 2,307

2. TLH population increased by what percentage from 2000 to 2020?

- (a) 6.3%
- (b) 7.9%
- (c) 9.4%

3. What percentage of TLH population is under 18 years of age?

- (a) 27%
- (b) 22%
- (c) 19%

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TaraLeewayHeights.nextdoor.com

This newsletter was brought to you by your neighbors.

Neighborhood Updates

Learning more about our neighborhood

THE HISTORY OF TARA-LEEWAY HEIGHTS

in 2005, 16 of our neighbors contributed to an outstanding document entitled "[Tara Leeway Heights Neighborhood Conservation Plan](#)." If the weather keeps you cooped up inside during this holiday season, we suggest you dive in to a fascinating read, two of whose authors remain active on the TLHCA board 17 years later—**Bill Braswell** and **John Vihstadt**.

Here is a snippet (from page 11) to whet your interest:

Recollections acquired from recent interviews of long-time Tara-Leeway Heights' residents draw pictures of a neighborhood that was once surrounded by forests and fields, in a quieter time with more green space, fewer cars, and children walking to school or exploring the countryside. Stories were told of excursions to the top of the hill near Harrison and 17th Streets, which brought discoveries of Civil War relics and old bricks from some long forgotten building; of playing between Reed School and our present day library, where a creek ran through the fields; of crossing the one-lane wooden plank bridge spanning 18th Street; of glimpses of goats and horses that could occasionally be seen on the paths to Lee Highway; of neighborhood children walking to the "big house" on Inglewood for piano lessons in the grand music room; and of course, of candy given out in school by Mr. Ayers from the Five and Ten Cent Store.

[READ MORE](#)

HOW DOES LIFE IN TLH COMPARE TO 2005?

A 2005 survey of TLH residents was taken to gather general neighborhood concerns to bring to the county. Though respondents listed almost twice as many advantages as disadvantages to living in the neighborhood, several significant issues were mentioned repeatedly. Are these still top of your list today?

