



The Arlington/ East Falls Church *Point*

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING**
Thursday, October 6
7:30pm
Tuckahoe Elem School

Newsletter of the Arlington / East Falls Church Civic Association

Fall 2005

NEIGHBORHOOD BUZZ

Tax Analysts Site on Westmoreland St.

On September 20 the Arlington County Board voted to defer for 60 days the Hovnanian proposal to build about 210 condominium units and 6,500 sq. ft. of retail on Westmoreland Street.

The Planning and Transportation Commissions, the County Manager, and the AEFCCA all supported the project. However, several Board members felt that community benefits could be improved and that more time was needed for Board review.

Metro Site Development Study

Arlington County staff are preparing an analysis of the potential traffic impact of several development scenarios provided by the AEFCCA Metro Study Committee.

When the traffic analysis is complete, the Committee will resume meetings to consider recommendations about the development of the East Falls Church Metro site.

Monster House Revisited

Work is underway to bring the controversial structure at Sycamore and 27th Streets into compliance with County requirements. Some neighbors still have concerns about exterior features including a gravel parking pad, overgrown debris, and a masonry wall.

The "Point" Newsletter

Since April, the all-volunteer AEFCCA executive board has been discussing the pros and cons of exploiting technology and "going electronic" with the newsletter. Financing, producing, and distributing by hand almost 2,000 newsletters three times per year is an expensive and labor intensive task.

At the same time, the AEFCCA website and neighborhood listserv (electronic mailing list) offer opportunities for more frequent and in depth communication. If we choose a digital option to disseminate information, mailing a limited number of hard copy newsletters could easily continue as an option for those without Internet access.

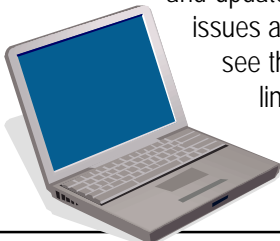
AEFCCA by-laws currently require that all households receive a newsletter three times per year; therefore any change may require a by-laws update.

Interstate 66

The debate over widening I-66 inside the Beltway continues. Although Congress has allocated \$26 million to the proposed project, a fraction of the funding required, opponents are still hopeful. Meanwhile, several AEFCCA residents have been pressing authorities for improved sound walls independent of the widening proposal.

aefcca.org

The association's website provides timely information and updates on neighborhood and County issues and happenings. Visit the site to see the calendar of events, locate links to community services, and learn how to subscribe to the AEFCCA listserv e-mail list.



*FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES,
COME TO THE AEFCCA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING AT 7:30PM, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6,
AT TUCKAHOE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.*

*Special Guest: Historian John F. Iekel
"10 Oldest Structures in East Falls Church"*

EAST FALLS CHURCH HISTORY: Train Stations

from A History of East Falls Church by John F. Iekel

Railroads came to East Falls Church (EFC) just before the Civil War. Three railroad stations have served EFC and all stood in the same location on the western side of Lee Highway just south of North Fairfax Drive. This site is adjacent to the Washington & Old Dominion Trail, part of a regional park that runs the course of the old rail line.

The first station was built after the Alexandria, Loudon & Hampshire Railroad laid its tracks through EFC in the late 1850s. Around 1880, the Washington & Ohio branch of the Richmond & Danville Railroad decided to build a new station at the site.



Third EFC Train Station, 1966

Instead of destroying the old station, it was moved to 6901 Lee Highway. A Mr. Adams used the building as a blacksmith shop for more than two decades. By 1917, the building had become the Falls Church Garage. The building was finally destroyed and replaced in the late 1950s.

The second station was built in the 1880s and was used until 1895 when Southern Railway (which had purchased the Alexandria, Loudon & Hampshire Railroad) decided to build the third station on the site.

The second station was moved to 6854 North Fairfax Drive and was purchased by a Mr. M.E. Church. At its new location, the building first served as a residence, inhabited by the Lowery family for many years. The former station was eventually converted to business use and over the years accommodated Black Cocker Antiques, Arfax Labs, Papillions Bicycle Shop, Dave's Comic Books, and the S&W Sign Company. The building was demolished in 1984 to make room for the current Econolodge.

The Southern Railway built the third EFC railroad station in 1895 to accommodate its Bluemont Branch, running from Washington to Bluemont, Virginia. The Washington & Old Dominion Railway and the Railway Express Agency also used the station.

The last day of passenger service at the EFC Railroad Station was May 31, 1951. Freight service ended in August 1968. The station building was closed in August 1967 and the tracks were taken up in 1969 (although some remnants still exist in the brush near the site of the station).

In 1970 Arthur Brown and Charles Kelley purchased the station and moved it to Amissville, Virginia, where they had planned to reconstruct it. Unfortunately, that never happened.

Hear more about the history of East Falls Church from Historian John F. Iekel at the AEFCCA General Membership Meeting on October 6.

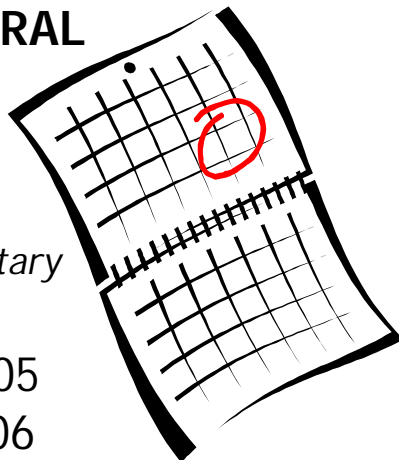


Snyder's Hardware Store, 1927

AEFCCA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

7:30pm at
Tuckahoe Elementary School

October 6, 2005
January 5, 2006
April 6, 2006



JOIN YOUR CIVIC ASSOCIATION

AEFCCA is a non-profit, non-partisan association of residents and property owners in the East Falls Church section of Arlington County.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ARLINGTON, VA ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Membership costs \$5 per person per year.

Send your check, payable to AEFCCA, to:

AEFCCA Treasurer
6809 N 28th St
Arlington, VA 22213