

**Waterford Citizens' Association Statement to the School Board About the Proposed
Waterford Elementary School Renovations**

November 29, 2005

I am speaking today as the President of the Waterford Citizens' Association. The Citizens' Association represents 175 families in the village and its surrounding area and was established in 1947 to further the common good and general welfare of the community.

The Association is concerned with two issues: Water Use and Traffic.

Water Use

Waterford has about 80 homes on small lots and all have their own domestic wells. Well yields vary but a survey of the data of the Board of Health will show that we have exceptionally low yields and very deep wells that produce very little water <2gal per minute to a few pints per minute. In addition there are numerous dry wells at depths greater than 600 feet. Three attempts to obtain water on the Old School site directly opposite the Elementary School by the Waterford Foundation failed to produce water. Some lots have no water and some wells go dry in droughts.

In the 1980's, Loudoun County Sanitary Commission conducted a study of the water usage of the village and the elementary school. At the time the school had 110 students and used 1/3 of the total water passing through Waterford's sewage system.

Because the school is the largest water user in the village, increasing its size will have a dramatic impact. With 875 students, a new school's usage could be twice that of the daily usage of the entire village, even with water conservation measures. Adding to the pressure on the water table is the compounded water use by new homes being built in the area.

What needs to be done:

- A village-wide hydrologic study of water availability and sustainability must be made as part of the process.

- The County needs to have a plan in the event that Waterford town wells begin to fail.

Traffic and Road Safety

No other school this size is supported by a country road. Access to the school is from Loyalty Road which is a two lane road with no shoulders. In places it is not even two lanes wide. Its curves and hills require constant driver attention.

Since Waterford is not near any major access roads, all cars and busses will be traveling on narrow country roads which can be dangerous. Because traffic will not be staggered, but will be arriving and leaving at the beginning and end of the school day, it will greatly affect the area.

VDOT traffic surveys show that Loyalty Road by the school averaged 1,200 vehicles in 2001 and 2,000 vehicles in 2004. And with more than more than 150 new homes currently being built on Loyalty Road, the traffic increase will grow even more, and most likely double in the next few years.

What needs to be done:

- Traffic studies need to be conducted to determine the impact of increased bus and car traffic on the village and surrounding area not only from the school, but also from newly constructed homes.

Thank you

Edward Lehmann

President, Waterford Citizens' Association