



# Lafayette Village Community Association

## December 2015/January 2016 Newsletter

### Announcing Nextdoor.com for Lafayette Village!

The Association has created a Lafayette Village neighborhood on Nextdoor.com. Membership to this neighborhood is limited to residents and homeowners of Lafayette Village only. We hope this will provide a forum for neighbors to interact online, to share information, offer services like babysitting and snow-shoveling, to offer suggestions to improve the neighborhood, to provide support to our neighbors when they need it, and generally to strengthen our community spirit.

**Nextdoor** has a collection of guidelines in three broad categories to help neighbors interact in a neighborly fashion. **First, treat everyone with respect.** Among other things, this means to assume good intentions in others, to disagree without being disagreeable and to avoid dominating discussions. **Second, share helpful information.** This means to answer questions when you have the answer, post information about crime and safety issues, recommend local businesses and services based on your experiences, sell, share, or give away personal items you no longer want or need, discuss community issues, and plan and advertise local and neighborhood events. **Third, honestly represent yourself.** This means that when you register with [lafayettevillage.nextdoor.com](https://lafayettevillage.nextdoor.com), you will use your real name and will join as an individual. You can find a detailed presentation of these guidelines at <https://help.nextdoor.com/customer/en/portal/articles/1428059-nextdoor-guidelines-member-agreement-and-privacy-policy-updates-february-4-2014->.



Nextdoor initial homepage

If you have signed up for LVCA email notifications, you will shortly receive an invitation to join Lafayette Village's Nextdoor.com neighborhood. If you aren't on the mailing list, you can still participate in Nextdoor – just link to [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com) and register at the initial homepage, seen above. Once your address is verified, you will receive a welcome notice and can begin participating.

**Nextdoor will not replace the LVCA Mailing list**, which will continue to distribute official announcements. Rather, our Nextdoor neighborhood will be a way for neighbors to meet and talk to one another online.

#### *In this issue...*

- ***LVCA 2016 meeting schedules***
- ***Committee Reports***
- ***Winter Snow Management***
- ***Christmas Tree Collection Schedule***
- ***Community ads***
- ***Winter maintenance tips***
- ***MLK Day activity***
- ***LV 2025 Committee Report***
- ***Electronic payment form for HOA fees***

#### **Notice to Tenants**

If you are renting a home in Lafayette Village, your landlord or property manager should have given you a copy of the summary rules and regulations of Lafayette Village and asked you to sign an acknowledgement that you have received that copy and agree to comply with the Association's rules and regulations.

The Association has contacted all absentee homeowners and provided them with the appropriate Tenant Information Disclosure documents. If your landlord or property manager has not given you the acknowledgement to sign, you may want to contact them. Beginning on January 1, 2016, the Association will revoke the parking privileges of all townhomes whose tenants have not signed the acknowledgement.

You can find the form at <http://www.lafayettevillage.org/docs/TenantInfoResolutionFinalSigned.pdf>.

## Our Community Information...

### LVCA Board Members

**Carl Iddings – President**

703-206-0170

[President@lafayettevillage.com](mailto:President@lafayettevillage.com)

**John Alexander – Vice President**

703-208-9614

[jmalex14@msn.com](mailto:jmalex14@msn.com)

**J. Gaston – Secretary**

571-262-1207

[lvca.secretary@yahoo.com](mailto:lvca.secretary@yahoo.com)

**Jim Franklin - Treasurer**

703-205-9087

[jim@prodigycapitalconsulting.com](mailto:jim@prodigycapitalconsulting.com)

**Kathie French – Member-at-Large**

703-207-0070

[kfrench22@verizon.net](mailto:kfrench22@verizon.net)

### LVCA Committee Chairs

**Architectural Control – Angela Cutter**

[aicutter50@gmail.com](mailto:aicutter50@gmail.com)

**Grounds – Mike Nutbrown**

[grounds@lafayettevillage.org](mailto:grounds@lafayettevillage.org)

**Finance – Jim Franklin**

703-205-9087

[jim@prodigycapitalconsulting.com](mailto:jim@prodigycapitalconsulting.com)

**Pool & Recreation – Lisa Conoly**

703-698-7455

[lisac\\_234@hotmail.com](mailto:lisac_234@hotmail.com)

**Communications – Carl Iddings**

[lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org](mailto:lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org)

**Neighborhood Watch – Doug Stewart**

703-965-3242

[stewart8668@cox.net](mailto:stewart8668@cox.net)

### Sequoia Management Company

Dale Edwards

[dedwards@sequoiangmt.com](mailto:dedwards@sequoiangmt.com)

Phone: 703-803-9641

Fax: 703-968-0936

### **Patriot Disposal Services**

Phone: 703-257-7100

### HOME OWNERS REMINDER!

#### First Quarter Assessments are due January 1, 2016.

If you did not received your 2016 coupon book and are not on an automatic payment plan, please contact Sequoia as soon as possible.. Remember that your assessment payment must reach Sequoia by January 15, 2016, or you will be **assessed interest at 8% on your outstanding balance.**

### LAFAYETTE VILLAGE COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

#### Monthly Meetings (Check Website for Details)

**Board Meetings** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of month at 7:00 PM at the Woodburn Elementary School library, 3401 Hemlock Drive at Gallows Road (December 14 and January 11).

**ACC Committee** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of month at 7:00 PM at 3713 Yorktown Village Pass (December 17 and January 21)

**Grounds Committee** – 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of month at 7:30 PM 7920 Brunswick Forest Pass (December 7 and January 25)

**Finance Committee** – Third Tuesday of month at 7:00PM at 3735 Yorktown Village Pass (December meeting cancelled; January 19)

**Neighborhood Watch** – TBD.

**Fairfax Federation** – TBD

**Lafayette Village 2025 Committee** – Thursday, January 14at 7:00PM at 3733 Yorktown Village Pass

**All residents, including renters, are invited to attend scheduled meetings. Please check the website for the most current information:**

<http://www.lafayettevillage.org/>



#### Christmas Tree Collection Schedule

Christmas and holiday trees will be **collected** by Patriot Disposal during regular trash services on Monday and Thursday during January. The trees must be **clean** of ornaments, tinsel, etc., and should **not** be placed in plastic bags.

## A note from the President:

First, I would like to wish everyone in Lafayette Village a very happy holiday season, and marvelous New Year! I think 2016 will be a remarkable year for our community, with significant common grounds improvements being undertaken, and the report of the LV 2025 Committee (see page 11 for a status report) being delivered to the Board and the members at next October's Annual Meeting.

I would also like all homeowners to consider signing up for **direct payments of your HOA fees**. You can find the Authorization Agreement on page 13 of this newsletter. This agreement allows Sequoia to debit an account you select from accounts at your banking institution. This is the easy way of ensuring you are always up-to-date on your homeowner fees and will never receive late fees and an interest penalty.

I've taken my own advice and just recently signed up. Now I won't have to worry that I've missed a deadline to pay my HOA fees.



### During 2016, LVCA Board meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month

The LVCA Board of Directors meets the second Monday of the month in the library at **Woodburn Elementary School**, 3401 Hemlock Drive, opposite the corner of Aston Street and Gallows Road.

Our meeting schedule for 2016 is:

January 11	July 11
February 8	August 8
March 14	September 12
April 11	October 10
May 1	November 14
June 13	December 12

The Board hopes you can attend these meetings!

### 2016 LVCA Budget Keeps HOA Fees Unchanged

At its November meeting, the LVCA Board adopted the FY 2016 budget for the Association as recommended by the Finance Committee and presented to the membership at the October annual meeting. Once again, HOA fees will remain unchanged for 2016, at \$328 per quarter for town home owners and \$167 per quarter for detached home owners.

The 2016 Budget fully funds the Association's reserve fund (to support future major projects) at \$80,000. The approved budget has been posted on the website at [http://www.lafayettevillage.org/docs/LVCA2016Budget\(Adopted\)11-9-2015.pdf](http://www.lafayettevillage.org/docs/LVCA2016Budget(Adopted)11-9-2015.pdf). Homeowners should have received a copy of the approved budget in the mail.

## Community Food Drive for Martin Luther King Day of Service – Monday, January 18, 2016

Last year to commemorate Martin Luther King's life and legacy, Lafayette Village residents contributed 505 pounds of food to the ACCA Food Pantry, a local food bank. For the upcoming Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 18, 2016, **we will challenge the community to contribute 600 pounds of food**. We are looking to collect the following types of food:

- Canned meats – ham, chicken, tuna, or beef
- Peanut butter and jelly/jam
- Canned soup, stew, and chili
- Cereal
- Vegetables –canned
- Fruit - canned
- Beans – dried or canned
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Boxed Meals
- Pasta and sauce
- Corn meal (Masa harina)
- Rice
- Fruit Juice
- Coffee and tea

Please, no expired foods or partially opened packages of food.

Please bring your donations to the **Pool House** at the following times:

- **Sunday, January 17**, 12 noon to 2:00pm or **Monday, January 18**, 10:00am to 2:00pm

A Board member should be present to accept your donations. If no one is around, please leave them in the marked box at the front of the pool house. Again this year, we will donate our food to the ACCA Food Pantry to assist needy residents living in Mason District. To learn more about how ACCA helps Mason District, view a video at <https://youtu.be/XiaVuel27Zl>.



## Committee Reports from the Annual Meeting

### Finance Committee and Treasurer's Annual Report – Jim Franklin, Chair

- **Accomplishments:** The fiscal health of LVCA has improved this past year and we are more than able to sustain our community infrastructure and home values.
    - **Financial Health:** Challenging year, but financial health was not a problem → Future looks very bright as long as we can count on stable homeowner assessment payments
    - **Board Guidance and Budget Adherence:** Strong leadership from the board to manage budget within planned limits despite the changes in project requirements and unexpected operations costs
    - **Infrastructure Improvement:** Paving project got us up to speed for streets, sidewalks, curbs and thoroughfare drainage. Pool improvements and tree replacements are scheduled with several small projects to be completed next year.
    - **Banking Consolidation:** Our account consolidation and purchase of certificates of deposit are ongoing and earning interest while be secured by FDIC.
  - **Audit Report:** The 2014 audit was comprehensive and showed a clean bill of health for the community finances.
    - **Replacement Reserves:** Replacement Reserve accounts now managed by LVCA and we are right on the required funding for planned infrastructure and community projects. Board will review the Reserve Study to ensure adequacy and update pricing and schedules
    - **Accounting Procedures:** Minor changes made with no real impact on operations or funding
    - **Bank Account and Funds Management:** Sequoia operations account minimization placed the bulk of our Replacement Reserves under the management of Wells Fargo advisors. When cash is needed, Wells is instructed to move funds to the operating account
    - **Insurance Review:** Coverage limits were reviewed and increased slightly per audit recommendation in 2014 and reviewed again this year with slight increased coverage for uninsured common labor
  - **Capital Reserve Report:**
    - **Reserve Study Review:** The Reserve Study requires us to have \$483K in reserves by year-end 2016. We project that we will have \$522K in the combined funds after our 2016 reserve projects.
    - **Current Reserve Balance:** Currently we are contributing \$82K per year to the replacement reserves which is slightly above that recommended by the study
    - **Planned Capital Reserve** projects for 2016 include:
      - Pool house renovations (\$16,000 estimate)
      - Lights, benches, and fixtures (\$24,000 estimate)
- Retaining walls and other erosion control measures (\$45,000 estimate)

### Pool and Recreation Committee – Lisa Conoly, Chair

The pool closed on Labor Day after a busy summer. Highlights of the season included:

- We had a safe summer due to our great lifeguard staff that included Chase, Michael, Jan and Angelica. Also, thanks to residents for observing the rules.
- The major project at the pool this year was the removal and replacement of the chain link fence and the plantings surrounding the pool. Additional maintenance included a new water heater for the pool house and replacement of a screen door.
- We purchased five new umbrellas and bases to provide additional shade after the removal of mature shrubbery.
- Six families reserved the patio eating area to hold small parties.
- We established a “Reader's Exchange” bookcase in the pool house where residents can take a book or magazine they'd like to read or leave a book or magazine they would like to share.
- We held two “Swim Under the Stars” nights where we kept the pool open late, turned on the lights, and turned up the music. The August “Swim” had the highest attendance ever of this popular event.
- In July, we kept the pool open late again for our first ever adults only event at the pool. We held a “Wine and Cheese” Party. It was a cool evening to swim but those in attendance enjoyed the chance to socialize and meet their neighbors.

## *Committee Reports from the Annual Meeting, continued....*

- Finally, we hosted two cookouts, on Memorial Day weekend to kick-off the pool season, and in late August to celebrate a great summer. The Association provided burgers, hot dogs, chips, condiments and water while residents were asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

For next summer we are planning two “Swim Under the Stars” nights, two cookouts, and one Adults Only Night. We will continue building our “Reader's Exchange” bookcase. We will also continue to offer residents the opportunity to reserve the patio eating area for small parties. The pool has become a great gathering place for the community. We hope to continue to make improvements and add events to enhance this wonderful resource.

Remember to save your pool passes for reuse next year so you don't have to pay for replacement passes. Look for the 2016 Pool Pass Application and event schedule in the 2016 April/May newsletter.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this an enjoyable and safe pool season. If you have comments or suggestions regarding the pool, please email me at [lisac\\_234@hotmail.com](mailto:lisac_234@hotmail.com).

### **Architectural Control Committee (ACC) – Angela Cutter, Chair**

The Architectural Control Committee was formed in the early days of Lafayette Village, when everything was bright and shiny, and people moving in wanted to ensure their new community would stay looking great for many years to come. As formal as the title sounds, the Architectural Control Committee's purpose is simply to help maintain those standards.

As time passes, the homes, yards and common grounds start to show their age, and we have to compete with new, upscale townhome communities. And new buyers are demanding a lot now. **We have solid homes, a good location, lovely common grounds, a pool, etc. but what can really set us apart is showing that every resident really cares.** It takes all of us living here (or owning property here) to do that. Being human, we sometimes need a reminder of what needs to be done. Enter the management company and the ACC.

This year we've fielded about **30 new requests for exterior improvement**, small and large. Most of those were approved. Before denying a request the committee considers the prevailing covenants and the ramifications of granting an exemption. (Exemptions can have an awful snowball effect.) More difficult to negotiate are the instances where homeowners have taken action that is against the guidelines, without requesting prior approval. The person is often upset when called to remedy the problem. These issues can drag on endlessly. Our guidelines are, for the most part, quite clear. And people know they can contact the ACC, Dale Edwards or the Board, if they need clarification.

The 2015 spring inspection by the management company generated **approximately 300 violations** that ranged from falling down fences to picking up cigarette ends in the front yard. (Many of those were multiples going to the same properties.) Many of the violations during the past two years involved dying or missing bushes and trees in front yards. Our guidelines require us to maintain bushes to screen the foundation of the house. If people plant roses and other seasonal shrubs, then there will be no greenery for several months of the year, so those owners were cited. Since several people have contested this, the ACC has clarified Guideline 1.1 to specify that evergreen shrubs must be planted.

While this might seem a small issue to focus on, when multiplied by 30 or 40 houses it makes a big difference. Your dead shrub or broken window pane affects your neighbors too. And for every person who doesn't want to take action, there's a neighbor asking why we aren't making people take action! Or citing that non-compliant home as a reason why they don't need to comply either. It's that snowball effect that makes it really difficult for the ACC. It's not just up to the volunteers in



Thanks to the ACC and conscientious homeowners, Lafayette Village is looking good!

## ***Committee Reports from the Annual Meeting, continued....***

the community to care. Everyone needs to do what's best for the community – regardless of how petty they think some of the rules are, or the many reasons (and we've heard some doozies) why they feel their case is special.

On the other hand, there are all those lovely people who take a good look at their homes and yards and see what needs to be repaired or refreshed, without waiting for the inspection. We thank you so much! Truly.

As mentioned earlier, periodically the ACC amends the guidelines. Recently the Board approved the changes we recommended, including:

- Specifying evergreen shrubs along foundations.
- Requiring drainpipe extensions be hidden from view. (It's just ugly seeing 4" plastic pipes running from the house to the street.)
- Requiring the installation of gates on all new fences.
- Approving the use of solar attic fans.
- Clarifying the policy on invasive vines.

Finally, thank you to the other volunteers on the ACC for their invaluable input on what is often a thankless, and highly unpopular, task.

### **Communications Committee – Carl Iddings, Chair**

This Report summarizes the activities of the LVCA Communications committee for the period from the last annual meeting through October 19, 2015.

- **Newsletter**
  - Since the last annual meeting, edited and distributed five newsletters (December, April, June, August and October) , totaling 61 pages.
  - The cost of printing these five newsletters was roughly \$1811.56, spread across two fiscal years.
  - The newsletter printed numerous articles written by residents, committee reports written by the chairs of the various committees, contractor recommendations, and advertisements submitted by residents. It included photos submitted by residents.
- **Website**
  - Updated regularly with meeting schedules, contact information, and various LVCA documents, such as Board minutes, LVCA Newsletters, the annual budget, etc.
  - The cost of hosting the website is \$131.88 per year.
  - The domain name maintenance charges are \$102.94. Total cost of the website is \$234.82.
- **Mailing list**
  - Approximately 50 announcements sent to LVCA mailing list. These announcements address general LVCA news and announcements of possible interest to our residents. During the winter months, snow announcements provide updates about the status of snow removal.
  - Approximately 304 separate email addresses are on the LVCA mailing list.

The Communications Committee has a number of volunteer distributors, the folks who distribute the newsletter door-to-door. During the past year, these included Kathie and Bill French, Christie Prucker, Tina Snapp, Linda Boone, DJ Terreri, Nathan Garcia, Greg Johnson, Chris Karasiewicz and Larry Dunham. A special thanks goes out to these individuals.

### **Grounds Committee – Mike Nutbrown, Chair**

Allow me a quick recap of the year.

- We've installed new reserved parking signs that are fully compliant with the new Fairfax County code.
- The annual Earth Day / Arbor Day celebration was held with trash cleanup, tree-planting, and picnic.
- Trees and shrubs were planted around the new pool fence.
- The dog run was removed and associated parts cleaned up.

## Committee Reports from the Annual Meeting, continued....

- The fence mesh for the playground was replaced. The old one was curling at the bottom and had become dangerous.
- New mulch was added to the playground.
- The broken playhouse in the playground was replaced with a fresh copy.
- We had another “fruitful” year in the community garden.
- The monarch waystation was expanded to include additional plantings to attract and feed butterflies.
- We replaced a broken bench near the bottom of Butterfield, a picnic table in Trammel Park, and ordered a replacement bench for Hancock Forest.
- We awarded a contract for tree removal and trimming.



One of the 29 trees planted in the community.

- We awarded a second contract to plant 29 trees throughout the community and 7 shrubs mostly around the pool house.

We received only one response to the concrete work proposal – which again was Concrete Jack. The Board has approved this contract to correct sidewalk issues that cause tripping hazards throughout the community and the work should be completed before the end of the year.

The only erosion project completed this year was done by a grounds committee member, but before he joined the committee. The project was a new retaining wall behind the last two houses on the Westward, downhill side of Butterfield. We have completed the community walkthrough and will be discussing and prioritizing with the committee at our next meeting to devise a plan of attack.

**Also, volunteers from the Grounds Committee repaired the bridge behind Brunswick Forest Pass into the meadows.** The group repaired several broken rails and rearranged the planks to eliminate the large gaps between boards. The bridge is now pet friendly!



Meadows bridge after repairs. Note that Dominion mowed the meadows, which it does every 5 years.

The Grounds Committee looks forward to the outcome of the 2025 Committee which will feed design change ideas back into how the grounds team will make improvements and changes in the next 10 years.

We’re always open for new members of the community who have an interest in maintaining and improving our grounds to join the Grounds Committee and help make it a better place for everyone. If you are interested, please send me an email at [grounds@lafayettevillage.org](mailto:grounds@lafayettevillage.org).

### Neighborhood Watch Committee – Doug Stewart

Lafayette Village has remained relatively crime free over the past year (October 18, 2014 – December 17, 2015) and crime totals are down from the past year when we had 14 reported crimes. To date, there have been a total of 9 offenses reported to the police.

Report type	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Noise Violation	1								2				1			3
Larceny								1		1						2
Destruction								1	1							2
Drug Offense	1															1
Vehicle Tampering															1	1
Totals																9

**Please report any crime to the police if you are a victim or if you suspect a crime is being committed.** Document any details that you may observe. To report any suspicious event, use the police non-emergency number 703-691-2131. For

## *Committee Reports from the Annual Meeting, continued....*

events that are life-threatening or immediately damaging to property, call 911. You can remain anonymous if you wish. After you have notified the police, please email me at [stewart8668@verizon.net](mailto:stewart8668@verizon.net) with the details so we have a record of all suspicious activity in the community. Without documentation it can be difficult to influence police action when they have other pressing matters that need attention.

We are fortunate to live in a community relatively free of serious crime. With your help and the Neighborhood Watch, we can keep it that way.

## *Preparing for Winter – Information you can use...*

### **Winter will arrived (we think)!**

While it's been an unseasonably warm December, rumor has it that winter will show up come January and February. And that means snow, snow plowing, and snow shoveling! Here are the guidelines Blade Runners will use to determine when and how it will plow our community streets:

- If winter weather advisory is issued for our area that predicts snow in excess of 2 inches, Blade Runners will wait and see that we receive at least the predicted amount.
- When the snow depth reaches two inches, Blade Runners will begin plowing operations, unless it appears the total snow amount will be considerably more. Once the snow has stopped and our roads are clear, Blade Runners will apply sand and calcium chloride to our streets to minimize icing.
- If we have a dreaded wintry mix – snow, rain, and ice – making the roads treacherous, Blade Runners will begin to apply Magic Salt® to the our roads. Magic Salt® is a special de-icer that is efficient at melting snow and ice, while being more environmentally friendly than alternatives, including salt.



The Snows of Yesteryear!

Merrimac Trail is plowed by contractors who work for VDOT. Merrimac Trail residents can monitor the status of plowing on a VDOT website, [www.vdotplows.org](http://www.vdotplows.org).

Blade Runners will communicate with the chair of the Grounds Committee and the President of the Association. In turn, they will provide updates to you through the LVCA email list and Nextdoor.com.

If you do not already subscribe to the email list, now is a good time to begin – send your email address to [lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org](mailto:lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org) and request to be added to the mailing. You'll then be assured of getting the latest snow updates this winter, as well as other valuable notices. You'll also receive an invitation to join LafayetteVillage.NextDoor. These alerts will keep you informed about winter events!

### **Snow Shoveling:**

As a resident of Lafayette Village, you are responsible for shoveling the sidewalks in front of your home, as well as the sidewalk to your front door and your driveway. In the event of a significant snowstorm, the Association will ask Blade Runners to clear the sidewalks on Lafayette Village Drive and Trammell Road next to Association property.

Shoveling snow or picking up large debris such as fallen branches can be physically demanding and can lead to injuries such as sprains and strains. Please follow these safety tips when you clean up after our wintery weather:

- Shovel small amounts of snow at a time.
- Push the snow instead of lifting where possible.
- Use proper form if lifting is necessary: keeping your back straight and lift with your legs.
- If you have a history of heart disease, do not shovel without your doctor's okay.



## Preparing for Winter, continued...

- Avoid shoveling under snow and ice covered trees and roof lines due to possibly falling limbs, ice and snow.
- Take breaks while shoveling and do not overexert yourself, especially if you are inactive or over 40.
- Dress in layers and wear warm clothing and appropriate footwear.
- Watch where you are walking, even a little bit of snow can hide curbs and uneven walkways.
- Take off your boots or use a floor mat when you go back inside to avoid making floors slippery and hazardous.

More winter preparedness information can be found at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/hazards/winter-storm-snow-cold.html](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/hazards/winter-storm-snow-cold.html).

**VDOT's Got Your Back this Winter** – The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is the state agency that controls and maintains the roads in Fairfax County, and clears our streets of snow. Drivers and residents may prepare for the first snowfall early by adding VDOT Winter Resources to mobile devices to get information about road conditions while at home or work:

- See the status of plowing in Northern Virginia neighborhoods: [www.vdotplows.org](http://www.vdotplows.org);
- Follow [@VaDOTNOVA](https://twitter.com/VaDOTNOVA) on Twitter, and for real-time traffic updates and road conditions, call 511, follow [@511northernva](https://twitter.com/511northernva), use the [511app](#) or visit [www.511virginia.org](http://www.511virginia.org);
- Report unplowed roads and hazardous conditions by e-mail to [novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov) or call 1-800-367-7623;
- Get general snow removal information at [www.virginiadot.org/travel/snow.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/travel/snow.asp);
- Visit [www.YouTube.com/VDOTweb](http://www.YouTube.com/VDOTweb) for snow removal tips
- Visit [www.VirginiaDOT.org](http://www.VirginiaDOT.org) for news and road conditions

### Winter maintenance tips:

With winter approaching, here are some tips to help you prepare your home for the upcoming season:

1. **Turn off the water supply to your outside faucets:** Every winter, one or two Lafayette Village homes suffer the consequences of burst water pipes leading to the homes' outside faucets (also called hose bibbs). Be sure to turn off the water supply to these faucets. The shut-off valve should be located in your utility room, somewhere above the main water supply shut-off and pressure reducing valve. Once you've located the shut off valve, it's a good idea to label it for future use.
2. **Change your furnace air filter:** If you don't regularly change your furnace air filter, now is a good time to replace it. Townhomes with the original furnaces use 16x25x1 filters; Merrimac Trail homes use 20x25x1 filters. If your heating system has been upgraded, you may be using a different size filter. Air filters can be found at Home Depot, Lowes, or other hardware stores. Clean filters help your furnace (and air conditioner) work more efficiently.
3. **Schedule an inspection of your heating system:** It's always a good practice to have your heating system inspected once a year. There are a number of heating and air conditioning specialists in the area, but all will perform the basics:
  - Inspect and clean the blower assembly
  - Check and clean the combustion blower housing for debris and clean as necessary
  - Inspect for gas leaks
  - Inspect the burner assembly and clean and adjust it as necessary
  - Inspect the heat exchanger or heating elements
  - Inspect the flue system for proper attachment to the furnace and for signs of corrosion.

If you are handy with tools and comfortable around gas fixtures, this is something you can do yourself.

4. **Clean your fireplace chimney:** If you use your fireplace regularly, it's a good practice to have your fireplace chimney cleaned once a season. This will prevent creosote buildup, a potential source of a chimney fire. Plus the chimney sweep service will inspect your chimney and recommend any repairs that may be needed to ensure the chimney works correctly.



**Burst water pipe**

## Preparing for Winter, continued...

5. **Check your CO detector:** Experts recommend installing a Carbon monoxide detector near your furnace, perhaps just outside your utility closet. . If you don't have one, you can purchase one at Home Depot, Lowes, or other hardware stores. If you do have one installed, you should test it monthly. These monitors are sealed units with a limited lifespan. If yours is approaching the end of its life, you may want to replace it before it fails (and starts beeping with annoying regularity!).



Carbon monoxide detector

**And not a maintenance tip, but good advice:** if you will be leaving your home this winter for a long vacation or trip, consider shutting off and draining your home's water supply before you leave. You won't have to worry about flooding out your house should a leak develop while you're away.

## Community Ads and Notices.....

**Mark Rhodes, Interior Painting:** We had Mark Rhodes come to paint in our townhouse. We got his name from this newsletter and would like to compliment him on such a neat, professional and pleasant-to-work-with job he did. **Mark Rhodes: 703-560-8329**

**Kids First Day Care** I am a day care provider for kids 0-11years old, here in Lafayette Village. If you would like to learn about my services or for more information, please call Maha at 703-347-2876 (9am-5pm)

**FOR SALE:** Get in shape over the winter with this **Nordic Track Ellipse E7 Rear Drive Elliptical Trainer** ...\$150.00

Also available before I change my mind: A matched pair of retro style **Schwinn bicycles**. Great for the beach or cottage...\$150.00 each.

And a **set of barbells**...make an offer. For any of these items, call Charlie Robrecht at 703-560-6250.

### TOP 5 REASONS TO CHECK US OUT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON:

#### BENEFITS OF DANCE:

1. Burns calories
2. Reduces stress
3. Increases energy
4. Improves mood
5. Boosts memory

### ONE FREE WEEK of unlimited classes

for Lafayette Village community members!  
With this ad (expires Jan 15, 2016).



at the Jewish Community Center  
8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, VA  
[jazzercise.com](http://jazzercise.com)

For more information:  
202-758-6946 [maloneylynnne@hotmail.com](mailto:maloneylynnne@hotmail.com)

## ***Lafayette Village 2025 Committee.....***

The LVCA Board of Directors formed the Lafayette Village 2025 Committee to look into a strategic plan for our community to preserve and enhance the beauty and value of the property over the next ten years. The committee will focus on what we want our community to be like in 2025 and the best ways to improve where we live. Our volunteers, with the help of professionals where necessary, will deliver the following:

1. Recommendations to the LVCA Board of directors and homeowners that will improve the community through 2025
2. Recommendations to the LVCA Board of Directors on changes and enhancements to the 2012 Replacement Reserve Study
3. Recommendations to the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) and Grounds Committee through the LVCA Board of Directors on practical project development and overall covenants, rules, and guidelines
4. Produce a 2025 Strategic Plan/Study with suitable projects and priorities for the preservation and improvement of the community for use by the LVCA Board of Directors to enact funding and priorities for strategic development

The committee agreed to organize the effort along specific project lines that are of common and mutual interest to the majority of LVCA residents. The following study areas provide the basis for our work and will ultimately outline our recommendations to the LVCA Board.

- Community Landscaping and Green Space Improvement
- Community Amenities Improvement (Pool, Tot Lot, Trails & Paths, Dog Run, Garden and Public Areas, etc.)
- ACC Guidelines Improvement and Modernization
- Future Community Enhancements (Focus on Security and Family Living Projects)
- Community Communications (Social Media and Web Improvements)
- Social Fabric Initiatives and Enhancements (Events, Gatherings, Community Groups, Social Media, etc.)
- Community Outreach (University, Government, etc.)
- Replacement Reserve Study Group
- LV 2025 Strategic Study Production Group

Thank you to the community volunteers that have given their time and pledged significant effort in the coming year to make the LV 2025 Committee a success.

Jim Franklin	Susan Dudley	Angela Cutter	Courtney Gorham
Kathie French	J. Gaston	Amanda Sansbury	Liam O'Brien
Carl Iddings	Mike Nutbrown	Jennica Whitfield	Frances Downey
Sean Kelley			

The committee is always grateful for ideas and suggestions about how to make our community better; please contact Jim Franklin at [franklin-assoc@msn.com](mailto:franklin-assoc@msn.com) or call at (703) 205-9087, with any areas of interest, questions, and/or suggestions.

### **Deer Hunting in and around Lafayette Village**

Several years ago, the Board approved an agreement with Suburban Whitetail Management to allow bow-and-arrow deer hunting on Association property, in an effort to control the deer population in our community. Our hunting season goes from September until May of each year. In the current hunting season, deer hunters have taken four deer, and will continue to hunt for the rest of the season. The deer taken are typically donated to Hunters for the Hungry, a non-profit group providing food for the needy, although hunters are allowed to keep venison for themselves.

The County will also hold a controlled hunt in Annandale Community Park (Hidden Oaks) sometime in the next six to ten weeks, using police sharpshooters. Hunts will occur up to three times during this period in the evenings and nights when the park is closed. Police will secure entrances to the park during the hunt. Lafayette Village residents directly abutting the park should have received a letter from the County explaining the hunt. All venison will be donated to Hunters for the Hungry.

## Goings on About Town.....

### New Ways to Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste

Daily household hazardous waste disposal services at Fairfax County's two collections sites have been expanded, offering residents a convenient way to remove dangerous unused chemicals from their homes. The free service also helps keep harmful substances from entering the environment, such as cleaning products, inks and dyes, paint, products containing mercury, and other potentially harmful chemicals.

County residents who want to rid their homes of household hazardous waste may bring corrosive, ignitable, toxic, and reactive materials to permanent collection facilities located at the I-66 transfer station in Fairfax and the I-95 landfill complex in Lorton, any day of the week. From 2012 through 2015 the county's Solid Waste Management Program conducted four remote disposal events per year, but the events have been discontinued for 2016.

Household Hazardous Waste program manager Daniel Brooks says proper household hazardous waste disposal protects young children and pets. "Many homeowners don't understand the real dangers associated with the chemicals they keep under their sinks, in their pantries, or in their garages," he said.

For information about the Household Hazardous Waste Program, call 703-324-5068, TTY 711. The County collection site closest to Lafayette Village is the **I-66 Transfer Station** located at 4618 West Ox Road past the Fair Oaks Shopping Center. Household hazardous waste is collected at this site Monday through Saturday from 8:00am to 4:00pm and on Sundays from 9:00am to 4:00pm.



May I hang out  
at your place  
for a while  
(or forever) ?



Pets Bring Joy (PBJ), a Fairfax-based non-profit rescue organization, is seeking loving foster homes for at-risk cats and kittens – the more foster homes we have helping us, the more precious feline lives we can save.

It's easy to foster! All you need is one spare room in your home ... no need to introduce your foster kitty to your other pets. Also, dog families make great cat fosters! And PBJ pays for all veterinary expenses.

For more information on how to foster for or adopt from PBJ, please visit us on the web at <http://www.petsbringjoy.org/> or email us at [info@petsbringjoy.org](mailto:info@petsbringjoy.org).

## Lafayette Village Homeowners Association

### AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT FOR DIRECT PAYMENTS (ACH DEBITS)

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

**\*\*Instead of completing this form, you may include a voided check and sign and date the form\*\***

I (We) hereby authorize Lafayette Village Homeowners Association, hereinafter called "ASSOCIATION", to initiate debit entries to my (our)  Checking or  Savings account (select one) indicated below at the depository financial institution named below, hereinafter called "DEPOSITORY", and to debit the same to such account.

DEPOSITORY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ BRANCH: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

ROUTING NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Located on the bottom of your check)

This authorization is to remain in full force and effect until ASSOCIATION has received **written notification** from me (us) of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford ASSOCIATION and DEPOSITORY a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_ LAFAYETTE VILLAGE ACCOUNT NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL the completed form to: **Sequoia Management**  
**13998 Parkeast Circle**  
**Chantilly, VA 20151-2283**