



Lafayette Village Community Association

December/January 2018 Newsletter

Association and Board Volunteers

We are a community of 294 townhomes and 21 detached homes that has historically maintained a vibrant and active community association and Board. The association is comprised of several committees: Finance, Pool and Recreation, Architectural Control, Communication, Grounds, and Neighborhood Watch. Additionally, five residents comprise the association's Board of Directors. The volunteers on these committees, as well as the Board, are responsible for maintaining the integrity, safety, communications, and finances of the community whose annual operating funds are about \$500,000.

In recent years, resident interest and enthusiasm about serving on an association committee or on the Board has waned. We have struggled, and continue to struggle, to find interested and willing committee and Board members. Lafayette Village is as attractive and resident-friendly as it is, because of the services our committees and Board provide. I want to thank our current and previous committee members, and ask for your participation on several of our committees.

Neighborhood Watch Committee - Chair and Members Needed

Neighborhood Watch is a community-based crime prevention program where neighbors look out for each other's safety, property and homes in a systematic and sustained way. It is based on the idea that when residents, businesses, clergy, police and other partners look out for the safety of the neighborhood, establish and maintain open lines of communication, and collaborate to resolve problems of crime and disorder, they create safer, friendlier and healthier neighborhoods. Some activities might include:

- Monthly meetings
- Liaising with local police
- Reviewing police reports
- Monitoring the activities of the neighborhood

If you would like to learn how to best protect yourself and our community, please join the Neighborhood Watch Committee. This active committee needs a Chairperson to help keep the community informed on how to most effectively deal with these safety and security issues.

Finance Committee - Members Needed

The Finance Committee is in particular need of members with financial or accounting backgrounds. The Finance Committee is charged with drafting the Association's annual budget, monitoring expenditures, reviewing the annual audit, and managing the reserve study.

Communications Committee - Chair and Members Needed

The Communications Committee leads production of this newsletter and maintenance of the LafayetteVillage.org website. We are in need of a committee Chair and members.

If you think you might be interested in any of these committees, please contact lvca.bod.president@gmail.com.

In this issue...

- *LVCA 2018 meeting schedules*
- *Christmas Tree Collection Schedule*
- *Changes to the Board*
- *MLK Day activity*

Our Community Information...

LVCA Board Members

Michelle Kloc – President

703-304-6736

lvca.bod.president@gmail.com

Donna Jacobson – Vice President

jacobsond48465@gmail.com

John Alexander – Treasurer

jmalex14@msn.com

Amy Phipps – Secretary

akp3719@gmail.com

Steve Longstreet – Member-at-Large

slongstreet@gmail.com

Committee Chairs

Architectural Control – Angela Cutter

aicutter50@gmail.com

Grounds – Mike Nutbrown

grounds@lafayettevillage.org

Finance – John Alexander

jmalex14@msn.com

Pool & Recreation – Lisa Conoly

lisac_234@hotmail.com

Communications – Vacant

lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org

Neighborhood Watch – Vacant

Sequoia Management Company

Dale Edwards

dedwards@sequoiamgmt.com

Phone: 703-803-9641

Fax: 703-968-0936

Patriot Disposal Services

Phone: 703-257-7100

Newsletter Editor – Cheryl Ryefield

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Notice of Changes to Board: As many of you know, October saw some significant changes to the Board membership. In addition to appointing two new members to the Board, several Board positions changed. Firstly, Carl Iddings chose not to run again for President - the Board thanks him for his excellent leadership for the past 6 years. Replacing Carl is Michelle Kloc. Secondly, Jim Franklin moved and left an opening as Treasurer; the Board thanks Jim for his excellent financial oversight and management of the Association's budget and expenditures. Replacing Jim as Treasurer is John Alexander. Replacing Michelle Kloc as Vice President is Donna Jacobsen. Replacing John Alexander as Secretary is Amy Phipps.

LAFAYETTE VILLAGE COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

Monthly Meetings (Check Website for Details)

Board Meetings – 7:00 p.m. at Mason Crest Elementary School, January 8, 2018. Meetings are typically the second Monday of every month. The locations of the meetings beyond January 2018 are to be determined.

ACC Meetings – 3rd Thursday of month at 7:00 p.m. at 3713 Yorktown Village Pass

Grounds Meetings – 4th Monday of month at 7:30 p.m. at 7920 Brunswick Forest Pass

Finance Committee – TBD

Neighborhood Watch – TBD

Fairfax Federation – TBD

Mason District Council – TBD

All residents, including renters, are invited to attend scheduled meetings.

Notice of Appointments to Board: At the October Board meeting, the Board appointed Amy Phipps to fill a vacant position; her term will end in 2020. Amy has a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations with a minor in Political Science. She has lived in Lafayette Village since 2007. Also appointed during this meeting was Donna Jacobson; she was appointed to fill Jim Franklin's term, which expires in 2018. Donna has been a resident of Lafayette Village since 1989. During that time, she has helped with the Newsletter Committee, the Neighborhood Watch Committee, the Architectural Control Committee and was a member of the Community Garden for a couple of years. Donna became involved with the Mason District Council in the spring of 2017 and she is the Association representative to MDC.

A Note from the President...

Holiday Trash and Christmas Tree Collection Schedule

CHRISTMAS DAY (MONDAY)

- No services will be provided.
- Recycling services usually provided on Monday will instead be provided on Wednesday, December 27th.
- Trash service will resume on the next regularly-scheduled pickup day, Thursday, December 28th.

NEW YEAR'S DAY (MONDAY)

- No services will be provided.
- Recycling services usually provided on Monday will instead be provided on Wednesday, January 3rd.
- Trash service will resume on the next regularly-scheduled pickup day, Thursday, January 4th.

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

- All tinsel and decorations must be removed and trees should not be placed in plastic bags.
- Christmas trees will be collected on Wednesday, January 3rd and Wednesday, January 10th.



Hello!

As many of you are aware, the leadership and membership of the LVCA Board underwent some significant changes in October. These changes are discussed in detail in other sections of this newsletter. However, I wanted to take the opportunity to introduce myself, as the new LVCA Board President. I am a health and human services analyst, with a doctorate in Public Policy. I manage contracts, projects and staff with my current position. I have lived on Merrimac Trail since 2012, and have served on the Board as Vice President for a year.



With the transition of Board leadership, Carl Iddings and I have worked to transfer LVCA emails to my account. If you are on the email list, you should have received an initial email confirming this. If you were on the email list and have not received the initial email, please email lvca.bod.president@gmail.com.

I look forward to serving you this year!

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 a 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 acknowledgment to sign, you should contact them. The Association revokes 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>.

HOMEOWNER'S REMINDER!

First Quarter Assessments are due January 1, 2018

If you did not receive your 2018 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, 2018, or you will be assessed interest at 8% on your outstanding balance.

Committee Reports....

Finance Committee – John Alexander:

Dear Neighbors,

I am your new Treasurer and the Chair of the Finance Committee. I have served on the Board of Directors for many years, was the Grounds Chair for a few years before that and also served on the ACC shortly after my wife and I moved here in 2003. We are now 14 years into our ‘starter’ home, and have stayed so long because of the wonderful sense of community Lafayette Village provides, the beauty of the common grounds and our well-kept amenities. Your Board has worked diligently to apply a commonsense and prudent management style that prioritized community, beauty, home values and financial health to ensure that LVC remains an extraordinary place to live.

Our dear friend Jim Franklin, who held this position for several years, has moved to Virginia Beach, but left behind big shoes to fill. He built a solid financial foundation by initiating and enacting many financial policy and practices, including a budgeting process that is closely tied to our Reserve Study, an investment strategy for our Reserve funds that combines liquidity with high-yield CDs, and a collection policy that dramatically reduced past-due accounts. I intend to continue these policies and keep LVCA on track to meet our current and future financial obligations.

The budget you have received in the mail is nearly identical to the one presented at the Annual Meeting. Since the meeting, the Board approved a Grounds contract, pending verification of two items that will increase our expenditure by only \$300 annually. This has dropped our anticipated surplus to \$1,300 for 2018. As a reminder, assessments have remained unchanged since 2010.

If you have any interest in seeing how the community manages its funds, what it spends your assessments on, or what big expenditures are coming up, please reach out to me via email or text, jmalex14@msn.com or 703-231-4845. The Finance Committee is establishing a new meeting day, and will put this on the website as soon as we can. I’m looking forward to serving you all in this new capacity.

Grounds Committee – Mike Nutbrown, Chair:

The grounds maintenance contract ends with this calendar year and the board has approved a contract with Peter’s Landscaping for the next five years pending verification of two items. If you had contracted Blade Runners to maintain your back yard, you may need to make new arrangements with Peter’s. Details will be forthcoming. Also, if you had opted-out of services from Blade Runners you will need to opt-out of those services with Peter’s. Again, details will come soon.

Fall planting wasn’t in the cards this year, but tree pruning and removals will take place shortly. We’ll also get one erosion issue addressed with the remaining budget for the year in the area between Byrds Nest and Butterfield that has been caving in.

We are in need of new members of the community who have an interest in the maintenance and beautification of our grounds to join the Grounds Committee and help make it a better place for everyone. We’d like to welcome our newest member Deborah Dunham who joined the committee last month. If you have any interest in improving our common areas, please send me an email at grounds@lafayettevillage.org.

Pool and Recreation Committee – Lisa Conoly, Chair:

The pool season ended on Labor Day after a very busy summer. Thank you to the pool users who helped to make this a safe and enjoyable pool season for all of us. And thank you to the many volunteers who contributed their time, talents and resources to make our events successful. It wouldn't be possible without their contributions.

Committee Reports, continued

Look for the 2018 Pool Pass Application in the April/May newsletter. And remember to save your pool passes for reuse next year so you don't have to pay for replacement passes.

If you have comments or suggestions regarding the pool, please email me at lisac_234@hotmail.com.

Architectural Control Committee (ACC) – Angela Cutter, Chair:

Freezing temperatures are on the way so, if you haven't already done so, it's time to winterize your home. Water supply to the exterior hoses should be turned off to prevent freezing, as I once learned the hard way! Gutters need to be cleared of all leaves and debris, so rain and snow can flow freely down the spouts, rather than backing up into the house. The bottoms of the downspouts also need to be cleared where possible. If you have pets, or even if you don't, consider using pet friendly ice melt this winter. As well as being gentler for paws and less corrosive on your steps and sidewalk, it's much better for the environment.

It's always wonderful to see the holiday lights and decorations in the neighborhood, and many people are off to an early start this year, especially on Ashley Glen. Perhaps they're hoping for the prize this year! All outside decorations should be removed by mid-January, per ACC guidelines, and Patriot will pick up live trees after the holiday too.

The other thing to talk about is the same old one – trash. For some reason there are still people who refuse to follow the HOA guidelines regarding trash. It's frustrating to address this time after time, when it's so easy, and costs nothing at all, to do the right thing. Peyton Forest seems to be a particular problem recently. A few people on that street are regularly putting trash out far too early – sometimes as early as Saturday morning. Animals are getting into the bags and scattering the mess all around. It's ugly, dirty and disrespectful, and of course other people are understandably upset. If you know who's doing this, *Please, Please*, talk to them. If you're reluctant, or they don't want to listen, send me their address. I will go and remind them of the rules and of the consequences for consistently ignoring them, including appearing for a hearing with the Board and perhaps forfeiting the right to parking spaces. Peyton Forest also had a large TV sitting out for collection for several days. If you have oversize items to get rid of you can call Patriot to schedule a special pickup.

I encourage everyone to sign up for Nextdoor so you're in the loop for messages regarding holiday trash schedules and other timely notices. Christmas and New Year both fall on Mondays so there will be a revised trash schedule.

Finally, with the upcoming holidays, please keep an eye out for packages left on your neighbor's doorsteps. If you know they're away, consider taking the packages into your house for safekeeping. Porch pirates will go elsewhere if there's nothing to be found in our community.

Happy Holidays from the ACC!

2018 LVCA Budget Keeps HOA Fees Unchanged ...

At its November meeting, the LVCA Board adopted the FY2018 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 2018, at \$328 per quarter for town home owners and \$167 per quarter for detached home owners.

The 2018 Budget fully funds the Association's reserve fund (to support future major projects) at \$89,800. The approved budget has been posted on the website at [http://www.lafayettevillage.org/docs/LVCA-2018Budget\(BoardAdopted\)2017-11-13.pdf](http://www.lafayettevillage.org/docs/LVCA-2018Budget(BoardAdopted)2017-11-13.pdf). Homeowners will receive a copy of the approved budget in the mail.

Community Food Drive for Martin Luther King Day of Service – Monday, January 15, 2018

This year to commemorate Martin Luther King's life and legacy, Lafayette Village residents contributed 388 pounds of food to the ACCA Food Pantry, a local food bank. For the upcoming Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 15, 2018, *we will challenge the community to contribute 450 pounds of food.* We are looking to collect the following types of food:

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

Please, no expired foods or partially opened packages of food. Please bring your donations to the Pool House at the following times:

Sunday, January 14, noon to 2:00 p.m.

or

Monday, January 15, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

A Board member or volunteer 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/XiaVuel27ZI>.



LVCA's Martin Luther King community food drive contributions from a previous year.

Notes on the Community Garden....

By Anne Sansbury, LVCA's Community Garden Sage



This award-winning pumpkin was started from seed at preschool by Charlotte Kraft (pictured with pumpkin), a long-time gardener. Her mother hadn't planned on growing pumpkins, but Charlotte was treating the seed better than a pet, so her mother decided to let her have her way and planted it in their LVCA garden plot. So far they have used the pumpkin for pie, muffins, pancakes, and soup. Good work, Charlotte (and Katharine).

Russell Anderson has been canning the fruits of his labors in the garden, so he can enjoy good food all winter long. Here's what he picked on November 8th!

And here's what it looked like a while later...



While we've all been enjoying our crops and our garden duties, we have also been enjoying the gorgeous flowers various gardeners grew this year. We are thrilled to report that some monarch butterflies agreed. Several people saw more than one monarch butterfly in the garden this past summer on more than one occasion. We've always been a good host to a variety of bees, our other good pollinator friends, but this is the first summer we have seen so many monarchs.

Now it's time to pull up our garden plants and take a break, but we'll be back to plant our potatoes on St. Patrick's Day! If you want to get on our waiting list for next year, please email Anne at asansbury@gicgroup.com.

Lafayette Village at the Polls: Election 2017...

We all know the results of this year's state-wide elections. How do we compare here in the Hummer precinct, where all Lafayette Village residents vote?

Turnout:



Registered voters	Voting in person	Voting absentee	Total voters	Percent Voting
1,959	852	113	965	49.3%

In 2013, the last state-wide election, our turnout was 43.8%, representing 810 voters. County-wide this year, voter turnout was 56.1%. There was clearly a lot of interest in this year's state-wide election.

Hummer precinct results:

Governor:

Candidate	Votes	Percentage
Northam	572	67%
Gillespie	272	32%
Hyra	7	>1%
Total	851	100%

Lt. Governor:

Candidate	Votes	Percentage
Fairfax	565	67%
Vogel	284	33%
Total	849	100%

Attorney General:

Candidate	Votes	Percentage
Herring	563	66%
Adams	286	34%
Total	849	100%

House of Delegates, District 38:

Candidate	Votes	Percentage
Kory	561	67%
Leslie	282	33%
Total	843	100%

The School Bond referendum passed in our precinct by a 72% margin.

Winter Will Arrive (We Think)!

This year the Board has approved a Grounds contract, pending verification of two items, with Peter's Landscape, Inc. to provide snow removal services to Lafayette Village this snow season. The snow removal protocol remains much the same as in previous years:

If winter weather advisory is issued for our area that predicts snow in excess of 2 inches, Peter's will wait to see that we receive at least the predicted amount. In addition, for larger snowstorms, Peter's will pre-position snow removal equipment in our pool parking lot.

When the snow depth reaches two inches, Peter's 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, Peter's may apply sand and calcium chloride to our streets to minimize icing.

If we have the dreaded wintry mix – snow, rain, sleet, and ice – making the roads treacherous, Peter's will begin to apply a sand and de-icer mixture to our roads. The de-icer used is efficient at melting snow and ice, while being more environmentally friendly than alternatives, including salt.

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.

The Association will continue to give you updates as they're received about snow removal 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 lvca.bod.president@gmail.com 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 Lafayette Village on 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. Peter's will be responsible for clearing the sidewalks on Lafayette Village Drive and Trammell Road next to Association property.



Update on Short-Term Rentals in Fairfax County

By Donna Jacobson, LVCA's representative to the Mason District Council



On Monday, October 30th, several members of the Mason District Council (MDC) met with Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross to discuss the issue of Short-Term Rentals (STRs). One of the major issues discussed by the MDC was the topic of insurance, which was not mentioned in the first draft of the proposed STR zoning ordinance. The MDC informed Supervisor Gross that its membership believes that the county needs to require STR operators to carry adequate liability/injury insurance to cover renters, operators and community residents. Also, that insurance information should be verified by the county at the time a host is applying to operate an STR and on an annual basis thereafter.

The Mason District Council representatives also discussed with Supervisor Gross that STRs could be allowed by Special Exception through the Board of Supervisors, instead of a “By Right” permit process through the Zoning Administration. Allowing STRs by the Special Exception process would enable more community input into the decision and would enable the Board of Supervisors to stay abreast of the enforcement issues associated with STRs. Also, the Special Exception process would allow the Board of Supervisors to better track and analyze the implementation of the STR policy and enforcement procedures in order to improve upon those procedures if necessary. Supervisor Gross thanked us for our input.

On Wednesday, November 1st, the Fairfax County Planning Commission had a Workshop on STRs. A few of the commissioners were concerned about the impact of STRs on townhouse communities. These communities have families living very close to each other in relatively small spaces and already have problems with parking and overcrowding issues. Also, one of the commissioners asked the representatives from the Zoning Administration if STRs can be restricted in specific areas. Donna Pesto, Deputy Zoning Administrator, stated that Fairfax County cannot restrict STRs by neighborhood or density, but can restrict them by dwelling type.

The next meeting concerning Short-Term Rentals is the Board of Supervisors Process Development Meeting on Tuesday, December 12th at 10:00 a.m. at the Government Center in Fairfax, VA. This meeting will be televised on Channel 16, Community Access Programming. At this meeting the Zoning Administration will be presenting an updated draft for the proposed STR zoning ordinance.

The issue of Short-Term Rentals is a complicated one that could have a negative effect on residential communities and their associated HOAs. I encourage residents to write to Fairfax County with any questions or comments you might have concerning STRs. You can contact Supervisor Penny Gross at mason@fairfaxcounty.gov and the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors at chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also, you can contact the Planning Commission at plancomm@fairfaxcounty.gov and the Zoning Administration at ordadmin@fairfaxcounty.gov or by calling 703-324-1314, TTY 711.

Community Ads and Contractor Recommendations....

Interior Painting: Contact Mark Rhodes, Lafayette Village resident and a skilled interior painter, for free estimates. Call **703-560-8329**. Check out his recommendations on Nextdoor!

Day Care Provider: Kids First day care for kids 0-11 years old. Licensed daycare provider, trained in CPR and First Aid. Lafayette Village location. For more information, please call Maha at 703-347-2876 (9am-5pm) or email Maha_tayar@yahoo.com.

Did you know? You can find lots more recommendations for contractors and services on LVCA's Nextdoor social network, www.nextdoor.com. Click on the "Recommendations" link, a new feature on Nextdoor.

Need a Notary? Notarial services are available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Office of Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross, located in the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. Please call 703-256-7717 to schedule an appointment.

Community Notes....

Deer Hunting in and around Lafayette Village

This year 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 seven 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 also holds a controlled hunt in Annandale Community Park (Hidden Oaks) 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.



Samples of damage hungry deer can cause to our landscaping.



Community Notes, continued....

ADOPT HYDRANT

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department

New "Adopt-A-Hydrant" Program – Our firefighters need your help to potentially save lives.

A new "Adopt-A-Hydrant" program is underway to combat obstacles created by snow, ice and winter weather, or weeds, leaves and shrubs in warmer weather. It's simple: If you're a resident or business owner, then consider adopting a fire hydrant close to your home or business, and pledge to keep it clear for firefighters to access in case of emergency. Immediate access to a water supply helps to swiftly extinguish the fire and prevent loss of life and property. In the event of winter weather, please clear a three-foot area around the hydrant and ensure there is a path to the roadway so the hydrant is visible and easily accessible. To participate in the Adopt-A-Hydrant program, simply fill out and submit an online application at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/outreach/adoptahydrant/adoptahydrantform.htm. After registering, a crew from the participant's closest fire station will deliver an "adoption certificate" identifying their hydrant. Important note: Fire hydrants are the property of the Fairfax Water Authority — so do not paint, personalize or change the appearance of the fire hydrant.

As Seen Around Town

