



Lafayette Village Community Association

August/September 2017 Newsletter

National Night Out – Tuesday, August 1, 2017

Lafayette Village is more than a collection of houses – we are a community. Each year we celebrate the power of our community on National Night Out when 16,000+ communities across the nation come together to make their neighborhoods better, safer places to live. Join us this year on **Tuesday, August 1st from 7-9pm at Trammell Park**. Meet the pillars of Lafayette Village - neighbors, public servants, HOA board, committee members and others who continue to make this a wonderful place to live.

Community spirit shone through this year with neighborhood clean-ups, tasty cookouts, yard sales, pool events. If you're a new resident in Lafayette Village, come out, meet your neighbors and let's all celebrate our fantastic neighborhood!

ACTIVITIES:

- Moon bounce
- Snow cone machine
- Visit from local Fairfax County police
- Water balloon toss & other outdoor games
- Home safety giveaways

WHY YOU NEED to participate: We will provide you with information about:

- Neighborhood Watch
- Dog Walker Watch
- Home Security examples (Cameras, video doorbells, security sensors)
- Improved home lighting
- Child ID kits



On Tuesday, August 1, let's keep our porch lights on for safety!

It will be fun! Meet your neighbors, make new friends, and celebrate a crime-free summer!

Pool Event – End of Summer Barbecue Saturday August 26 (Rain date August 27)

Come celebrate the approaching end of summer, when we will have an end of pool season barbecue and pool party starting at 4:00pm. The Association will supply burgers and hot dogs, condiments, chips, and drinks. Neighbors are asked to bring a side dish to share. The pool will be open to all residents until 8:00pm.

In this issue...

- *Committee Reports/Schedule*
- *Special Election: School Board at Large*
- *The Great American Solar Eclipse*
- *President's notes*
- *Community news*

Have you considered volunteering for the LVCA Board?

The LVCA Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 5, when two Board seats will be up for election. If you are interested in helping lead your community, you should consider volunteering as a candidate for the LVCA Board. All homeowners in good standing are eligible.

If you would like to be considered as a candidate for the Board or have questions, please email Carl Iddings at president@lafayettevillage.org.

Our Community Information...

LVCA Board Members

Carl Iddings – President

703-206-0170

President@lafayettevillage.com

Michelle Kloc – Vice President

703-304-6736

michelle.kloc@gmail.com

John Alexander – Secretary

703-208-9614

jmalex14@msn.com

Jim Franklin - Treasurer

703-205-9087

jim@prodigycapitalconsulting.com

Steve Longstreet – Member-at-Large

571-327-1214

slongstreet@gmail.com

LVCA Committee Chairs

Architectural Control – Angela Cutter

aicutter50@gmail.com

Grounds – Mike Nutbrown

grounds@lafayettevillage.org

Finance – Jim Franklin

703-205-9087

jim@prodigycapitalconsulting.com

Pool & Recreation – Lisa Conoly

lisac_234@hotmail.com

Communications – Carl Iddings

lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org

Neighborhood Watch – Steve

Longstreet

571-327-1214

slongstreet@gmail.com

Sequoia Management Company

Dale Edwards

dedwards@sequoiamgmt.com

Phone: 703-803-9641

Fax: 703-968-0936

Patriot Disposal Services

Phone: 703-257-7100

EARLY REMINDER: Fourth Quarter Assessments are due

October 1, 2017. Make it easy on yourself by signing up for the Direct Debit program, and have your payments automatically paid from your bank account at the beginning of each quarter! Complete the direct payment form at <http://www.lafayettevillage.org/docs/AutomaticDebitFormLVCA.pdf> and send it to Sequoia Management, 13998 Parkeast Circle, Chantilly, VA 20151-2283, Attention: Dale Edwards.

LAFAYETTE VILLAGE COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

Monthly Meetings (Check Website for Details)

Board Meetings – 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 PM. (August 14 at the Mason District Government Center, small meeting room, 6507 Columbia Pike and September 11 in the library at Mason Crest Elementary School, 3705 Crest Drive)

ACC Meetings – 3rd Thursday of month at 7:00 PM at 3713 Yorktown Village Pass (August 17, September 21)

Grounds Meetings – 4th Monday of month at 7:30 PM at 7920 Brunswick Forest Pass (August 28, September 25)

Finance Committee – 3rd Tuesday of month at 7:00 PM at 3733 Yorktown Village Pass (August 15, September meeting TBD)

Neighborhood Watch – 3rd Wednesday of month at 7:00PM at 7876 Hampton Village Pass (September 20)

Fairfax Federation – 3rd Thursday of month at 7:30PM at Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Dr, Fairfax (No summer meetings, September meeting TBD)

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

Please check the website for the most current information:

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

Dog owner courtesy: Some dog owners refuse to collect their dog's poop.

The sidewalks and grassy areas in our community are still repositories of dog refuse, from all sizes of dogs. Please remember to pick up after your pet – the Association makes it easy to do so, with six community trash cans and two doggy bag stations providing the resources to remove pet waste.

And some dog owners allow their pets off leash while walking them or fail to keep them in their yards. Dogs running free could frighten other residents, attack other dogs, or even injure themselves. Please, do everyone a favor and keep your dogs on leash and in your yard.

A Note from the President...

As I announced in the last newsletter, I will be leaving the Board this October, so this will be my second to last note as your Association President. And unfortunately, I have another announcement to make.

Jim Franklin, Board member and our excellent treasurer will be leaving Lafayette Village at the end of August, moving to the Newport News area. In my opinion, Jim has been the best treasurer the Association has had. Working with the Sequoia financial management team and with our financial advisor at Wells Fargo, Jim has ensured our reserve funds are earning top dollar in this low-interest era, while still being fully FDIC-insured. In addition, through his scrutiny of the budget, we have been able to maintain the recommended reserve fund monthly contributions, while still meeting the needs of the Association, all without a fee increase. And he has ensured our audits are clean, each reflecting our Association's excellence in financial management. On behalf of everyone in the Association, I want to thank Jim for his service to the community.



Of course, Jim's move leaves another vacancy on the Board, in addition to my seat. If you would like to fill Jim's seat on the Board (which is up for election in October 2018) or my seat, please send me an email at president@lafayettevillage.org expressing your interest in this volunteer opportunity. Jim's replacement won't necessarily serve as the treasurer – the Board will appoint the next treasurer – but he or she will help direct the Association's affairs.

On other Association news, at its July meeting the Board adopted an **ACC approved amendment to the ACC Guidelines regulating electric vehicle charging stations**. With fully electric vehicles becoming more common, the ACC and Board felt the need to establish guidelines for how these charging stations should be installed. As adopted, the regulations allow a townhome owner to install a charging station as close as possible to one of the parking spaces assigned to the townhome. The owner must provide detailed installation specs and drawings to the ACC. The electrical cable connecting to the charging station must run underground to the charging station and can only run under the owner's property and common ground leading to the parking space. The owner is also responsible for restoring common property to its original state following installation of the charging station, and for removing the charging station when the owner moves or disposes of the vehicle. The guidelines are very detailed, so you should review them at <http://www.lafayettevillage.org/docs/RevisedACCGuidelinesJune2017.pdf> before rushing out to buy your new Tesla!

Cicada Killer Wasp Traps Available: It's high summer, the cicadas have returned and so have the cicada killer wasps. If you would like to control these wasps, the Association has purchased cicada killer wasp traps to distribute to residents. To obtain these traps, you can email Pam Paroline at mspinkygal@verizon.net to request up to 5 traps at a time. Include your name, address and how many traps you are requesting (5 max.) , and Ms. Paroline will respond by either providing a time you can pick up the traps from her home or making arrangements to deliver them to you.

You can find out more information about this program at <http://www.lafayettevillage.org/docs/cicadkillerwasptraps.pdf>.

Parking Tickets: The Association has actively been enforcing our visitor parking spaces and the pool parking spaces. As you know, residents are not allowed to park in visitor parking spaces – these spaces are limited to guests only and even then for only two consecutive days. If your vehicle has been ticketed, that ticket is a warning – the next time your vehicle is parked in a visitor spot, it will be towed. If your guest's vehicle has been ticketed, please call the phone number on the ticket and explain the situation.

The pool parking lot is restricted to pool users and gardeners only during pool hours. If you park in the pool parking lot overnight and leave your vehicle for the day, it will be ticketed, and repeat violations will result in your vehicle being towed.

You can review the Association's parking regulations at <http://www.lafayettevillage.org/docs/LVCA Parking Regulations 2012-04-09.pdf>. Note that vehicles parked in "No Parking" zones will be towed without a warning!

Community Updates: Committee Reports....

Finance Committee – Jim Franklin, Chair:

The Finance Committee has focused on bringing the new budget to life, and with the considerable help of the folks at Sequoia has been able to maintain a relatively constant control over spending. To date the expenses of the association are within budgetary limits and projected to hold steady through the remainder of the year.

As we all know, the snow season will dictate how well we can adhere to the spending guidelines, but regardless the grounds and finance committees are working closely together to provide continued services that are up to your expectations.

Replacement reserves are holding steady and adequate for all projected infrastructure maintenance. We purchased two new certificates of deposit to increase interest yields of the fund, and expect the increased contributions to help us reach the required fund level by the end of this year.

The Finance Committee is always looking for input, and if you are interested in assisting the Association with financial management and fiscal policy, please contact Jim Franklin at franklin-assoc@msn.com or call at (703) 205-9087. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, June 20th, at 3733 Yorktown Village Pass, and all interested community members are invited to attend.

And remember that Association monthly financial statements can be found on the website at http://www.lafayettevillage.org/lvca_MonthlyFinancials.htm.

Grounds Committee – Mike Nutbrown, Chair:

Progress has been very slow for the grounds committee over the past few months. These seem to be the very busy months, so while we've had a pair of meetings since the last newsletter with discussions of things needing done, there has been no visible forward motion. We still have retaining wall, tree, and general grounds work to be done this year. The draft budget numbers are due to the finance committee in August. Our grounds maintenance contract concludes at the end of this calendar year. If you have any feedback about Blade Runners either positive or negative, feel free to send an email to grounds@lafayettevillage.org for consideration when the work is re-competed this fall.

Thank you to whoever cleared the foot path between Byrds Nest Pass and Merrimac Trail when a tree came down last month. We had contacted Blade Runners to get it cleared, but the job was already done by a mystery resident before they could respond. Thank you as well to the residents of Hancock Forest who volunteered their time to cut back some of the invasive vines creeping toward the backs of houses on that street.

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. The committee has lost several members in the past year which puts additional work on the remaining members. 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:

With our recent heatwave the pool is busier than ever. If you haven't visited the pool, now is the perfect time to see what you've been missing.

We have two events remaining before the summer ends. Our second and final "Swim Under the Stars" night of the summer had to be rescheduled due to rain and will be held Saturday, July 29 from 8:00-10:30pm. We'll turn on the lights, turn up the music and keep the pool open late into the evening.



Community Updates: Committee Reports, cont'd....



Please also plan to join us in the pool parking lot for our End of Summer Cookout on Saturday, August 26 (Rain date Sunday, August 27). We'll light the grills from 4:00-6:00pm and the pool will remain open until 8:00pm. The Association will provide burgers, hot dogs, condiments, chips and bottled water. Neighbors are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. If you have a grill we can borrow (preferably gas) or are willing to serve as a grill master please email me at lisac_234@hotmail.com.

Earlier this month, we hosted our third annual Wine and Cheese Party. It's the one night of the summer that the pool is open to adults only. About 45 of our neighbors came out to socialize, have an adult beverage and a snack. The pool was open for swimming, although since it was a cool night, nobody opted to take a swim. The Association provided the snacks and beverages. Many thanks to Angela Cutter for preparing the delicious snacks.

We are continuing our Water Fitness classes 4 times a week: Mondays and Wednesdays at noon, and Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:00pm. It's not too late to join us; classes are drop-in and cost \$10 per class, cash or check. This year, we have added a discount punch card offering 10 classes/\$70. No advance reservation required. Water shoes are recommended but not required.

The picnic pad is available for residents to reserve for small gatherings at no charge. A reservation includes wristbands allowing admission to the pool for 10 people, in addition to your family's pool passes. The reservation form is available at www.lafayettevillage.org/pool.htm.

Stop by our Book Exchange bookcase in the pool house to find your latest read. If you see a book you'd like to read, take it. If you have a book you've finished and would like to share, leave it. We have books for all ages. If you have books you'd like to donate, bring them to the pool house during pool hours or email me at lisac_234@hotmail.com.

A reminder: due to fair housing rulings, the period from 45 minutes past the hour to the top of the hour previously known as "break" or "adult swim", has become "lap swim". The period is now open to swimmers of any age, able to pass a swim test, who want to swim laps or water walk. Swimmers may not play games, float, dip in to cool off, or do anything other than swim laps or water walk during this period. The diving board will be closed during "lap swim". Although we now have a "lap swim" period every hour instead of a traditional "break", it is important to take regular rest breaks and stay hydrated. Please also make sure your children take regular rest breaks.

The pool will remain open through Labor Day, Monday, September 4. Please contact me at lisac_234@hotmail.com with comments or suggestions.



Neighborhood Watch Committee – Steve Longstreet, Chair:

See the front page of this newsletter for details about Lafayette Village's celebration of National Night Out on Tuesday, August 2. We do need volunteers to help with the moon bounce and the snow-cone machine. If you can help, please email me at slongstreet@gmail.com.

Criminal Activity: In the June/July 2017 newsletter, we reported on two crimes, a larceny and a suspicious vehicle. I'm pleased to report that the property stolen from the pool house was found the next day, with nothing missing. And the suspicious vehicle turned into a drug possession arrest. That is very good news – people have been using the pool parking lot for years as a hangout for drug deals and drug usage, so it's good news that the police have finally begun to monitor this area more closely. And to whomever may have called the police about the suspicious vehicle – Thank You!

Community Updates: Committee Reports, cont'd....

You can monitor crime in the area by accessing CrimeReports.com. This website provides easy access to Fairfax County Police Department service information. Events reported to the police and stored in FCPD's records management system are automatically published in an interactive map, free and accessible to anyone with a web browser.

CrimeReports.com contains reports on all sorts of criminal activity, and includes data from the state's sex offender registry, as well. And, if you have a home security camera, you can register your camera with the police who can then contact you if they think your camera may have recorded criminal activity.

Go to <https://www.crimereports.com> and enter your address to see what's happening around our community. You can also register to receive alerts via email on a schedule you select.

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

The ACC welcomes new members Frances Downey and Donna Jacobsen to the team and looks forward to working with them both. They are replacing Chas Ryan, who moved to new pastures, and Matthew Drown, whose busy work schedule is consuming his time.

If you're new to Lafayette Village, a big "welcome" to you, and please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with our HOA guidelines on the Lafayette Village website. These were developed over the years to help keep the community looking great and to make living in close quarters easier for all. Also online (and included on the last page of the newsletter) is the form, [Request for Exterior Improvement](#), to be submitted to the ACC before you undertake work. Once you submit it to me, it is forwarded to the rest of the ACC for questions or comments. When the request is approved you'll receive a signed copy for your files and one is sent to the management company for their files. Please don't proceed until you've received this.

We're proud of our community and the way it runs so smoothly and know that you've chosen to move here because that pride shows.

New Guidelines addressing the installation of charging stations for electric vehicles were approved at the last meeting of the Board of Directors. This is an extensive section and can be found after the Detached Homes (Merrimac) Guidelines on the Lafayette Village website.

If you're considering an electric car, please read the guidelines carefully and consult with an electrician before committing. Depending on the distance from your home to your parking space, it may not be possible to install a station. A Request for Exterior Improvement form must be submitted prior to any work.



Warm, wet weather has given weeds and vines a real boost this summer. **Per Guidelines 1.29 and 2.23**, Ivy, Virginia Creeper, and other invasive vines must be removed from houses and fences - Especially common walls and fences. Once established, they're difficult to remove and can damage masonry and siding. Please check your yard to make sure invasive plants haven't found a new home there. Poison Ivy has also been found, even in townhome yards, so be careful when you're gardening.

Speaking of gardening, it's too stressful for trees to be transplanted in this heat, so some homeowners were given a time extension. If you committed to planting a tree in September, please follow through with it, so we don't have to :) Non-compliance will mean you'll be called to attend a hearing with the Board.

Also boosted by summer weather is the appearance of pool toys, towels, bikes, kiddie cars, etc. left in front of houses overnight. Please be respectful of your neighbors and take these into your house or back yard. For some reason (not at all related to summer) there are even a couple of snow shovels stored in front yards. It seems silly to be called to a hearing for something that could be corrected in two minutes and at no cost.

Finally, I offer my usual call to please **keep trash and containers out of sight until the evening before trash days**. Recently a lot of trash was put out on Hampton Village Pass over the weekend and crows or raccoons ripped open the bags and spread smelly

Community Updates: Committee Reports, cont'd....

garbage everywhere. It upsets the people who live there and the ACC hears about it. Also we've noticed that if one person starts to do this, others think it is okay. It absolutely is not! You probably know who the offenders are, so talk to them, remind them of the rules, perhaps stress the health concerns for our kids and dogs and the drop in property values if rats start to roam the streets. Please do take the initiative to communicate the importance of cooperating on this issue.

We're volunteers and glad to help in the community, but we shouldn't have to act as "trash police." Thank you!

Communications Committee

Lafayette Village makes it easy to stay informed through the newsletter, our website, the LVCA email list, and Nextdoor.com, our community's social network. If you would like to receive announcements of interest to the community, please send your email address to lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org and request to be added. And if you haven't already, log on to www.nextdoor.com, create an account, and join in on the discussions!

Did you know that you can submit ads, articles, contractor recommendations, and comments to the newsletter? All submissions will be considered for inclusion. Please submit your entries to lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org. The next newsletter will be available October 1, 2017. Articles and submissions are due by September 25.

Greetings from your New LVCA Newsletter Editor....

I'd like to introduce myself as the new editor of the LVCA Newsletter. I have big shoes to fill as Carl Iddings hands over the reins with this issue. I hope to become as expert as Carl is at keeping you informed about Lafayette Village and our community! Please don't hesitate to contact me at caryefield@yahoo.com if you have any questions, suggestions, articles, ads or photos for our upcoming issues.



Special Election Information: School Board at Large

What you'll be voting for: The County has scheduled a **special election** on Tuesday, August 29, 2017 to fill a vacant **School Board At-Large seat**. More information about the candidates on the ballot is available at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm>. Four candidates are vying for the vacant at-large seat.

Where you will vote: All residents of Lafayette Village reside in **Hummer Precinct**, and vote at the **Packard Center at 4022 Hummer Road**. The polling site will be open from 6:00am to 7:00pm on Tuesday, August 29. Since many residents will be on vacation during this time, the Board of Elections recommends **voting by absentee ballot** or voting early "**absentee-in-person**" at the Fairfax County Government Center, the only location for early in-person voting in the county.

Voter registration: If you are a new resident in Lafayette Village and have not yet registered to vote or you need to change your voter registration information, you can do so at the State Board of Elections website: <http://www.elections.virginia.gov/voter-outreach/>. If you're already registered, you can verify your registration information at this website.

Special Election Information, cont'd....

Absentee voting: If you want to vote absentee by mail, this website will provide you the information you need: <http://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/index.html>. You can request your absentee ballot online at that site. You must request an absentee ballot by August 22, and you must submit your ballot in time to arrive at its location by 7:00pm, August 29 in order for your vote to be counted.

Early voting: If you know you won't be able to vote at our Packard Center polling place on Election Day, you can still vote "absentee in person" at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Parkway, Suite 323, Fairfax. You will need a photo ID in order to vote. In-person absentee voting ends Saturday, August 25. Voting hours at the Government Center are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00am to 4:30pm and Thursday from 8:00am to 7:00pm.

Photo ID requirements: You will need to show an acceptable photo ID before you will be allowed to vote. These photo IDs are acceptable:

- Valid Virginia driver's license, even if it has your old address.
- Military photo ID.
- Federal, Virginia, or local government-issued ID, including a passport.
- Employer-issued photo ID.
- Virginia college or university student photo ID.
- Tribal enrollment or other tribal ID.

For voting purposes, an expired ID remains valid for 12 months after its expiration date.

If you don't have a photo ID when you come to vote, you will be required to vote a provisional ballot. In order for it to count, you will then have until noon on the Friday after the election (September 1st) to deliver a copy of acceptable photo ID identification to the Fairfax County Electoral Board at the Office of Elections in the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.



This is the voting machine you will use to record your paper ballot in the upcoming election.

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 0-11years 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.

Community Notes....

Reminder: Sales Tax Holiday/Tax-Free Weekend – Mark your calendar! **Virginia's 2017 Sales Tax Holiday** is coming! Starting **Friday, August 4, 2017** at 12:01 a.m. and ending the following **Sunday, August 6, 2017** at 11:59 p.m., consumers can purchase **qualifying** school supplies, clothing, footwear, hurricane and emergency preparedness items, and Energy Star and WaterSense products without paying sales tax. This includes qualifying items purchased online, by mail, or over the phone. For more information, including a list of qualifying items, visit <https://www.tax.virginia.gov/virginia-sales-tax-holiday>.

Spotlight by Starlight Concerts Serenade Summer – Performances featuring Traditional Blue Grass, Roots/Rock, Latin, Vintage Jazz/Blues and more, can be heard every week in August at **Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike** in Annandale. **Ossian Hall Park, 7900 Heritage Drive** in Annandale, features Vietnamese, Taiwanese Cultural Heritage and Jazz/Klezmet performances on Saturday evenings in August. All performances begin at 7:30 p.m. A schedule of performances is available in the Office of Supervisor Gross, or on-line at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances. Admission is free, and parking is on-site. Concerts are cancelled in the event of inclement weather. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) one hour prior to performance for updates.

The New Mason District Quick Guide – The new *Mason District Quick Guide* is now available! Similar to the previous Mason District handbooks, the *Mason District Quick Guide* is designed to be a reference to Fairfax County and the Mason District, but now in a fast, concise format. If you know residents in your community who would like to receive a copy of the new guide, or other information about county services, please ask them to call Supervisor Gross' office at (703) 256-7717, or send an e-mail to mason@fairfaxcounty.gov. You also can view and download the guide at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason.

Notes on the Community Garden....



The LVCA garden has been loving all the heat we've had this summer, as long as it's gotten enough water to survive. Everyone has been harvesting crops for a while, although some gardeners started planting in March and others didn't plant much until the end of May. Right now it's time to plan for our fall vegetable gardens and we probably should have planted some crops in early July, although planting in extreme heat with extreme storms occurring can be tricky.

Some crops can wait until August though. Planning should take into account the first frost date in the fall where you live. In Fairfax County, the first frost on the east and south side of I 395 and the I-95 corridors occurs sometime between November 8 and November 28; on the north and west sides, between October 19 and October 29. This gives a growing season of approximately 105 days to the east and south of the dividing line and 90 days to the north and west. Providing about a week for seeds to germinate at the beginning and about 2 weeks for harvest at the end, we can select vegetables that mature within the remaining timeframe.

Warm season vegetables such as beans can be planted in July for harvest in September or October. Cool season vegetables such as broccoli and cabbage can be planted in late July or early August. Depending on the variety, lettuce, which may be planted in late July, may need to be started indoors because the seeds will not germinate when soil temperatures exceed 85 degrees F.



Notes on the Community Garden, cont'd...

Pick cucumbers early and often because they don't last well on the vine. Keep them consistently watered to prevent a bitter taste. Pumpkin and squash blossoms are edible. Pick them as soon as they open. Wash them well; dip them in batter and deep fry. Pinch off vine crops at the growing tips to prevent them from taking over the entire garden. This will also direct the plant's energy to produce fruit.



If your tomatoes stop setting fruit, it is likely because daytime temperatures exceeded 86 degrees F and nighttime temperatures exceeded 70 degrees F several days in a row. The flowers abort in these warm conditions. There is nothing you can do about it. Tomatoes taste best when they are eaten within minutes of being picked. Taste goes downhill in a hurry when tomatoes are refrigerated.

If birds are pecking holes in your tomatoes, try picking the tomatoes just as they begin to turn pink. These tomatoes are known as "breakers." You can also slip an old nylon stocking over an entire cluster of tomatoes when they are green; tie a knot at the end of the stocking. When the tomatoes ripen, remove the stocking and put it over another green tomato cluster.

If you use overhead watering, water your vegetable garden early in the morning to allow the leaves of the plants to dry off quickly. It is better to use drip irrigation or to hand water the plants, taking care not to wet the foliage.

And Beware of the Diseases and Pests that Commonly Occur in July

Downy Mildew -- indicated by gray fuzz on the underside of basil leaves and leaves of cucurbits (plants of the gourd family).

Septoria Leaf Spot and Early Blight on Tomatoes -- characterized by small brown spots on the leaves. Early Blight is indicated by large spots that coalesce into purple blotches.

Bon appetit!

Board Awards Trash Collection Contract to Patriot....

At its July meeting, the Board awarded a five-year contract to Patriot Disposal for trash and recycling collection in Lafayette Village, starting September 1. While the cost of trash collection will increase slightly, Patriot has promised to continue providing the same excellent trash collection service we've come to expect from the company.

The Board considered two other proposals from competitor companies. One proposal was slightly lower than Patriot's, but the proposed schedule for trash collection was unacceptable – the company proposed to collect trash on Tuesday and Friday, recyclables on Thursday, and yard waste on Wednesday, so under that proposal, we would see trash trucks on community streets at least four days a week. Such wear and tear on the community would outweigh any cost savings from the contract. The other proposal was higher than Patriots.

Patriot is looking forward to serving Lafayette Village for the next five years. If you have a service questions, you can contact Patriot at 703-257-7100 and ask to speak to customer service.



To STR or not to STR....

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



Fairfax County is currently considering making Short-Term Rentals legal in residential areas. These short-term rentals being defined as rentals for less than thirty days, usually obtained through internet sites such as Airbnb or HomeAway. When I first heard this I thought it was an interesting concept. However, after reading articles and viewing news reports and videos about the negative issues associated with STRs, I've definitely changed my mind.

Neighborhoods with STRs end up with a decrease in affordable housing. Evidently, one can make more money renting to many short-term renters than to one stable long-term resident. Employment opportunities in the hospitality industry decrease in areas with STRs. Also, localities with STRs experience an increase in local government costs due to the need for additional regulations; safety, tax collection and additional policing. Plus these localities have a multitude of issues with STR operators not adhering to regulations. Finally, an issue that I found extremely disturbing, a significant percentage of STRs do not carry liability insurance to cover third party injuries to person or property.

Therefore, I advise residents to think carefully when deciding whether or not you support STRs in residential neighborhoods. Also, please make Fairfax County aware of your views by completing their survey, which can be found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/short-term-rentals.htm>. This survey needs to be completed by August 31, 2017.

Get Ready for the Great American Eclipse!!

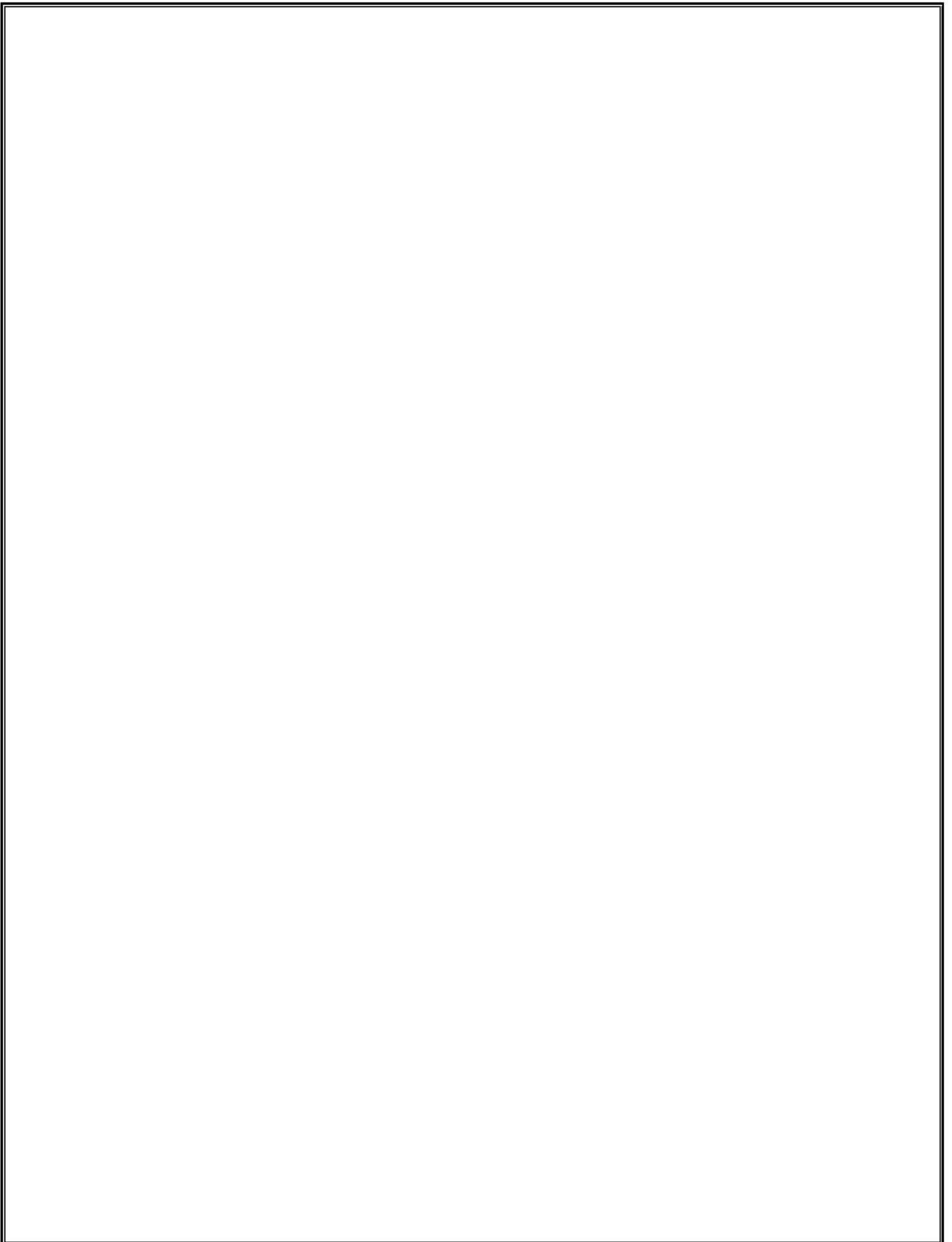


By now you've probably heard the big news: on **Monday, August 21, 2017**, a total solar eclipse will occur, causing the day to temporarily turn into night. This rare event may happen only once in someone's lifetime: the 2017 event is the first total solar eclipse going coast-to-coast across the continental United States in nearly 100 years.

Locally, Fairfax County will host opportunities to learn about the eclipse at nature and recreation centers, historic sites, parks, libraries, and schools. Museums in Northern Virginia and DC also will have special programs. Events include day-long science festivals, special boat tours at Fairfax County parks on eclipse day, and an information session on the myths and superstitions related to eclipses. Some events are free; others have a small fee, require registration, and are filling up fast. Click here for a [list of local events celebrating the eclipse](#). The list includes events before and on eclipse day.

Additionally, don't miss out on the **Total Eclipse of the Sun stamp** issued in June by the US Postal Service. It uses thermochromic ink, which reacts to the heat of your touch. Placing your finger over the black disc on the stamp causes the ink to change from black to clear to reveal an underlying image of the moon. See their website for more information at http://about.usps.com/news/national-releases/2017/pr17_032.htm.





REQUEST FOR EXTERIOR IMPROVEMENT FORM

To: Chair, Architectural Control ACC
Lafayette Village Community Association
c/o Sequoia Management, attn.: Dale Edwards
13998 Parkeast Circle
Chantilly, VA 20151-2283

Date: _____

Pursuant to the By-Laws and A.C.C. regulations of the LVCA the following exterior improvements to my property located at: _____ are proposed:

Sketches, pictures, diagrams, color paint chips and further details of my project (as necessary) are attached to help preclude further inquiries that slow the A.C.C. process and delay my work.

I am aware that A.C.C. approval for the project is contingent upon quality workmanship and timeliness of work. I further understand that A.C.C. approval is not a substitute for compliance with applicable Fairfax County building codes, ordinances or any other regulation or restriction (such as easements) and that compliance with the above is the responsibility of the homeowner. Any cost relating to compliance will be borne by the homeowner.

I further understand that it is Association policy that the homeowner is responsible for repairing, to Association satisfaction, any damage done to common properties that might be caused by the homeowner and/or parties contracted by the homeowner during the execution of the project.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Phone # _____ Fax # _____ E-mail: _____

ENDORSEMENT

Date of ACC action: _____

The ACC, having carefully considered the above request, hereby:

- approves as submitted
- approves the proposal as modified below
- regretfully cannot approve the project for the reasons cited below:

A follow-up inspection will occur after completion to ensure compliance. Thank you for your cooperation.

Chair, Architectural Control Committee (ACC)