



Lafayette Village Community Association

February/March 2010 Newsletter

Traffic Calming Update: In 2009, Lafayette Village Drive was the scene of at least three dangerous traffic incidents. One occurred when a southbound speeding car barely avoided a collision with another car, jumped the sidewalk and skidded onto the basketball court, all this happening just minutes before a school bus dropped off its passengers of elementary children. (See photo below.) Another incident involved a parked car being rear end on Lafayette Village Drive. And a third accident was reported in the December/January Newsletter.

In light of these and other incidents the Board sent a letter to Supervisor Penny Gross last year to request that the Fairfax County Department of Transportation assess Lafayette Village Drive for a traffic calming program. A traffic engineering review was done on May 13, 2009. The results of the review are below:



Aftermath of one LVD accident

NORTH BOUND VOLUME	564
SOUTH BOUND VOLUME	442
NORTH BOUND AVERAGE SPEED	28 MPH
SOUTH BOUND AVERAGE SPEED	31 MPH
NORTH BOUND 85 TH PERCENTILE SPEED	36 MPH
SOUTH BOUND 85 TH PERCENTILE SPEED	45 MPH

Lafayette Village Drive, where the posted speed limit is 25 MPH, met the qualifications for acceptance into the traffic calming program:

- Average speed of 30 mph OR 85th percentile speed of 35 mph (LVD's was 45 MPH south bound!)
- Volume between 600 and 4,000 vehicles per day (Total for LVD was almost 1100 vehicles per day.)

(Note: "85th percentile speed" means that 85% of the vehicles were travelling at or below the measured speed. For southbound Lafayette Village Drive, this means that **66 vehicles were traveling faster than 45 mph** down our main neighborhood street, where the posted speed limit is 25 mph.)

A Traffic Calming Task Force was formed made up of Lafayette Village residents to lead the traffic calming efforts. The current members of the task force are Linda Boone, Susan Dudley, Carl Iddings, Fred Saah, and Maria Ugincius. The Task Force met in early December with Bill Harrell, a traffic engineer from Fairfax County Department of Transportation, and Clara Pizana from Supervisor Penny Gross's office. At the meeting Bill discussed various traffic calming options traffic planners can use to control speeding on residential streets, including speed humps, speed tables, raised crosswalks, defined parking lanes (to narrow the apparent width of the street), painted median islands, and other signage options.

The next step will be for Bill and his team to study Lafayette Village Drive and prepare a number of options for the task force to consider. The task force will then agree on a final plan to present to the community at a forum for review and feedback. If the feedback is positive, there will be a community mail-in ballot, limited to LVCA residents. There has to be a 50% response rate, and of those responding, 60% have to be in favor of the plan. If the plan passes, VDOT implements the plan.

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- **Committee updates**
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- **More Traffic Calming**

Traffic Calming Discussion at Feb. Board Meeting

The LVCA Board meeting on February 8th will be an opportunity for residents to discuss traffic calming on Lafayette Village Drive. Please plan to attend this meeting to share your views on what you like to see in your community traffic calming plan. If you would like to become involved in these efforts please email Jay Jarvis at Jay@JCLInsurance.com.

Our Community Information...

LVCA Board Members

Jay Jarvis - President

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Jay@JCLInsurance.com

Joaquin Tremols – Vice President

703-876-0313

tremols@lycos.com

Sean Walsh – Treasurer

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Michele Krahn - Secretary

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Shawn Howard – Member-at-Large

703-560-7109

howardshawn@gmail.com

LVCA Committee Chairs

Architectural Control – Mary Coyle

703-698-7804

MaryECoyle@cox.net

Grounds – John Alexander

703-208-9614

jmalex14@msn.com

Finance – Sean Walsh

im_sean@msn.com

Pool & Recreation – Linda Witham

703-698-7455

linda.l.witham@verizon.com

Communications – Carl Iddings

lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org

Neighborhood Watch – Fred Saah

703-641-0446

fred300@gmail.com

Klingbeil, Powell and Alrutz Inc. (KPA)

Diane Tschirhart

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LAFAYETTE VILLAGE COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

Monthly Meetings (Check Website for Details)

Board Meetings - 2nd Monday of month at 7:00 PM at the Mason District Government Building, 6507 Columbia Pike. (February 8 and March 8)

ACC Committee - 3rd Monday of month at 7:00 PM at 7882 Hampton Village Pass (February meeting cancelled; March 15)

Grounds Committee – 4th Thursday of month at 7:00 PM at 7900 Peyton Forest Trail. (February 25 and March 25)

Finance Committee – 4th Thursday of month at 7:00 PM

Locations and times of meetings to be determined. Check the website for details.

Neighborhood Watch – Tuesday after the Board meeting at 7:30 PM at 3721 Yorktown Village Pass (February 9 and March 9)

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

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

Traffic Calming – Frequently Asked Questions

Do traffic calming measures affect emergency response times?

Studies have shown that certain traffic calming measures, especially vertical measures such as speed humps and raised crosswalks, can slow fire trucks and other emergency vehicles by about 3 to 10 seconds each.

Do speed humps affect snow removal?

Speed humps and raised crosswalks are gradually sloped so that snow plow blades go over without damage to them or the pavement surface.

Do speed humps create additional noise levels?

Studies have shown that some noise levels increase where the total percent of heavy truck traffic volume is 20% or greater. This does not pertain to our community.

Do traffic calming measures affect property values?

There is no evidence to suggest that traffic calming measures either raise or lower residential property values. It is likely that for every person who feels they detract from the value of a property, there is another who feels their safety benefits add to the value of a property.

Can the speed humps on our street be made higher or lower?

Speed humps (and raised crosswalks) in Fairfax County are 12 feet and 22 feet long respectively, and 3 inches high. Research has found these dimensions to be the best compromise to slow most vehicles without affecting emergency response times.

Who develops and who has final approval of the traffic calming plan?

The development of a traffic calming plan is a community-driven process under the leadership of a traffic calming task force and the overall direction of the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT). The community task force has a significant role in the project approval. The community votes on the plan via a ballot process, to ensure that the traffic calming plan has widespread support across the community. (Source: Fairfax County Department of Transportation)

Prez Sez: Thoughts and observations

by Jay Jarvis, LVCA President



- Spring is just around the corner at Lafayette Village. We'll hold our spring clean up, tree planting and picnic on Saturday, April 24th. We'll start with the Great Trash Treasure Hunt, where the kids will meet with their parents at the pool house. Then teams will move out across our community collecting trash that has accumulated over the winter. In addition, along with the trash, gold dollars will be placed in paper cups for the kids to keep. Join everyone for a picnic at the community park and a tree planting. We have invited our County Board Chair and other elected officials to join us for the food and tree planting.
- If you haven't noticed, we are missing a lot of trees in the wood between the Beltway and Lafayette Village Drive at the S curve. Dominion Power is relocating a distribution power line and is installing new and larger power poles. All the trees on property previously owned by LVCA and taken for Beltway construction, have been removed. The whole area looks pretty bad, but once the sound wall is installed and new plants added to the area, hopefully, it will look a bit better.

The loss of this area to state eminent domain has left a serious hole in our buffer with the beltway. Through legal counsel, we are still working to get more than the state offered for the land they have taken. This process may take as long as two years before it is settled, but your Board is committed to making sure our community receives a fair price for the land which has been taken.

- Two years ago the Board hired KPA as our management company. The relationship has been much better than that with our previous company, but your Board feels we still need more from our management company. We have formed a Task Force to recommend to the Board what the ideal management company would bring to our community. We expect recommendations from the group this spring. Task Force members are Larry Dunham, Chair; Linda Boone, and Kristin Walsh.
- Parking is one of the most serious concerns facing Lafayette Village. Each home has two parking spaces and some streets have visitor parking. All others vehicles must park on Lafayette Village Drive, a state road. The County recently passed an ordinance restricting certain types of commercial vehicles from community streets such as Lafayette Village Drive. In addition, the Board has asked that Lafayette Village Drive be designated a Community Parking District (CPD). Such a district would restrict watercraft, boat trailers, motor homes, camping trailers, or any other trailer or semi-trailer, regardless of whether such trailer or semi-trailer is attached to another vehicle; any vehicle with three or more axles; any vehicle that has a gross vehicle weight rating of 12,000 or more pounds except school buses used on a current and regular basis to transport student; any vehicle designed to transport 16 or more passengers including the driver, except school buses used on current and regular basis to transport students; and any vehicle of any size that is being used in the transportation of hazardous materials. These restrictions only apply to the designated public roadways.

The fifty-five homeowners closest to Lafayette Village Drive will be asked to sign a petition to establish the CPD.

- In the last newsletter, our volunteer editor noted many of the fine volunteers we have in our community. His modesty would not let him mention his own name. Carl Iddings is one of this community's most valuable assets. He not only produces our newsletter, but has developed and maintained one of the best websites of any homeowners' association. He also represents our community on a number of committees for LVCA and the county. Thank you, Carl! We are all better for the work you do for Lafayette Village.

Community Updates and Recap...

Finance Committee

KPA has prepared an unaudited December 2009 financial statement, summarizing the Association's financial status at the end of 2009. The Board and the Finance Committee will be reviewing these statements in the next few months.

Here are some of the highlights from the year-end statement:

- At the end of FY2009, the Association showed a surplus of \$38,866 for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2009.
- Operating income was within \$1,092 of budget.
- Administrative expenses were under budget by \$4,870. The LVCA auditor will adjust account 5055 (Bad Debts) to reflect the write-offs approved by the Board during the January meeting.
- Swimming Pool expenses were over budget by \$9,333 mostly due to the dual main drain work that was required by new Fairfax County regulations before the pool could open.
- Maintenance expenses were under budget by \$42,880. The Board asked for a separate recap of grounds related expenses:
 - The Grounds contract with Blade Runner is at budget.
 - Maintenance repair was under budget by \$5,177.
 - Tree removal was under budget by \$13,600.
 - Emergency tree fund was under budget by \$2,700.
- Utilities were over budget by \$629.
- Fixed expenses were under budget by \$17 (insurance).
- Cash and investments totaled \$490,428, with the Association having \$342,302 in its reserve fund. These funds will pay for future major repairs, such as street and sidewalk rebuilding.

These unaudited statements show that despite a difficult housing market, with numerous foreclosures in Lafayette Village, the Association's finances are sound and improving.

Pool and Recreation Committee

It's not too early to begin thinking about the spring LVCA Yard Sale. Contact Linda Witham if you would like to help plan that community-wide event.

Architectural Control Committee (ACC)

The Architectural Control Committee (ACC) is looking for a volunteer to act as a street representative for homeowners on Butterfield Lane and Mt. Airey Lane. We try to have ACC representatives or Street Captains for each street in the Association, to act as a liaison between the homeowners and KPA, our professional management company. Your street representatives are available for homeowners who have concerns or questions regarding their street and/or their property. If you are interested in joining the ACC and representing your neighbors on these streets, please respond to Mary Coyle (maryecoyle@cox.net) or Hattie Walden (hmwalden@mindspring.com).

The ACC would also like to remind homeowners that spring inspections are approaching and will be done by KPA sometime in March. Among the most common and recent violations are the storing of trash, recyclable and other miscellaneous containers on the front porch or in the front yard behind bushes. Please remember that trash is collected on Mondays and Thursdays and recyclables are collected on Thursdays (no collections on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day) and should not be in public view except on collection day or after dark on the day preceding the collection.

There will be no ACC meeting in February. The next meeting of the ACC will be at 7PM on Monday, March 15th at 7882 Hampton Village Pass. For further information on ACC guidelines, please visit our website www.lafayettevillage.org or contact KPA directly. The ACC Exterior Improvement Form can be found on page 9 of this newsletter.

Community Updates and Recap, continued...

Communications Committee

The next newsletter will be distributed the first weekend in April 2010. Please send your articles and other submissions (MS Word, Excel or JPEG format only) for the newsletter to lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org by March 29th. We are particularly interested in **contractor recommendations** you would like to share with the rest of the Association. If you've had a good experience with a contractor doing work on your home, your neighbors would love to see your recommendation.

If you would like to view the newsletter in **astoundingly vivid color**, sign up for electronic distribution (email the Webmaster at lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org) or access the newsletter on the website!

Grounds Committee

Hello LVCA Residents! I'm John Alexander, your new Grounds Committee Chairman. The committee is in charge of keeping up the common areas by trimming and planting trees and plants, fixing erosion issues and managing the landscaping and trash contracts. Your input is always welcome, so please contact me with any feedback or suggestions in these areas. If you'd like to be involved on a regular basis, we're always on the lookout for good volunteers.

In December the committee purchased 25 trees to replace some of the pine trees that were removed. The day before the huge snow storm 10 Hemlocks and 15 American Hollies were planted throughout the community. Once the ground thaws, we will do some additional planting. We're looking to plant some Red Maples, Beech and Blackgum trees.



Three of the trees planted in December

Our attention is currently focused on a proposal from Clearwire, a wireless broadband provider, to lease about 50 square feet of our property under one of Dominion's high-voltage utility poles that runs along the Beltway. Clearwire will use this space to construct a shelter for their equipment that will support cellular antennae mounted on Dominion's tower poles. The community was approached by Clearwire in early January and it was discussed by the committee at our last meeting. An evaluation of the proposal will be presented by the Committee at the February Board Meeting, February 8th at 7 pm at the Mason District Government Center.

Leasing the land to Clearwire could provide supplemental income to the Community, but the costs also have to be worked out. We have considered issues such as vehicle access, electricity, noise and federal tax. If you have experience with this, of any type, we'd love to hear from you.

Neighborhood Watch Committee

The one good thing about the cold weather is that there have been no reported incidents this winter. The weather will change and the trouble makers will be back before you know it. We still need more volunteers to give about 2 hours a month to patrol the neighborhood. Training can be provided and anyone over 18 can do it. If you are interested please email fred300@gmail.com. Everyone needs to do their part to keep this neighborhood a safe one.

Everyone who attended the National Night Out last August had a great time and we are looking forward to an even better one this year. We would like to start planning earlier this year, probably in April/May. We are looking for a couple of volunteers to help coordinate it. We are also looking for ideas. So any of you moms (or dads) that would like to help please email fred300@gmail.com.

As always if you are interested in joining the Neighborhood Watch Committee contact Fred Saah (fred300@gmail.com).

Community Updates and Recap, continued...

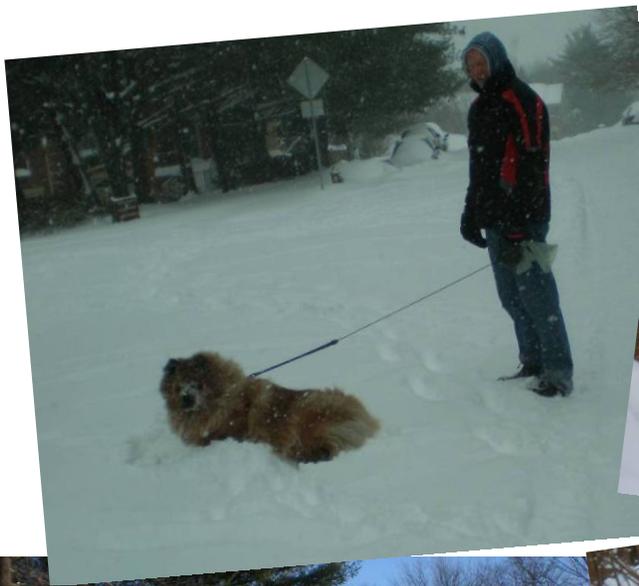
A note from the Board:

One of the toughest jobs of Board members is enforcing the rules by which we all agree to live in Lafayette Village. The Board is charged with the responsibility to make sure our homes and the grounds around them remain attractive and well-maintained.

Most of our homeowners do abide by the rules, but when someone does not there can be financial consequences. This spring we will conduct inspections, to enforce our ACC Guidelines. If you receive a letter notifying you of a violation, notify our management company right away, letting them know when you plan to correct the violation. A violation is another way of saying you may have repairs that need to be made to your home to bring it into compliance with the ACC Guidelines. When the repairs are completed, again notify the management company.

Lafayette Village streets are private and we enforce our own rules. Cars parked in violations of our parking rules are subject to towing without warning. As a courtesy, someone may place a warning sticker on your car or speak with you personally. You may only park in your assigned parking space(s) or in your garage. If you have a driveway, you may park one car there, so long as it does not block the sidewalk.

Scenes from a Record Breaking Snow:



NVCT to host monthly environmental restoration volunteer activities in 2010!



Every 2nd Saturday from 1-3pm, volunteers will meet at the **Packard Center in Annandale Community Park** (4022 Hummer Road, Annandale)

to remove non-native invasive plants. These plants crowd out native vegetation, eliminating vital food sources and degrading the habitat for native wildlife. Removing them allows native vegetation to thrive and helps restore local biodiversity.

No experience is required and groups are welcome! This is a perfect opportunity for families and students who need to fulfill volunteer service hour requirements.

What to wear

Volunteers should dress for the weather and for working outdoors where there may be mud and poison ivy: boots or sturdy shoes, long pants, long-sleeved shirt, and work gloves are necessary. A hat and sunblock are recommended.

What to bring

Water, a light snack, clippers and loppers if you have them.

Available on-site

Free parking

Restrooms

Water

NVCT can provide a few tools, gloves, and poison ivy treatment for clothes & hands (ie, Tecnu or Ivy-Dry)

Light refreshments will be available most times

Please spread the word, and we'll hope to see you there!

--submitted by Whitney Bailey, Director of Stewardship & Outdoor Programs
703-354-5093 x25, wbailey@nvct.org

Contractor Recommendations:

House Painter: I'm a house painter who lives in the community with 25 years of experience. I specialize in interior painting and provide free estimates. References available upon request. Call Mark Rhodes at 703-560-8329.

Plumber: Quick-Fix Residential Services LLC (www.quickfixresidential.com. 703.405.9893)

We had a top-floor toilet leak down to our basement. The repairman was responsive, polite and very competent. The repair was done at a reasonable price. We would definitely use this company again and recommend it to others.

If you have had a good experience with a contractor performing work on your home, share your opinion with your neighbors! Send your recommendation to the editor at lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org to appear in the next Newsletter.

Inova Blood Donor Services: Be a Donor! Save a life!

Did you know there is a world-class blood donor center right here in our Annandale community?

The Inova Blood Donor Services Woodburn Donor Center is located in the Woodburn Medical Park on Woodburn Road one block south of Inova Fairfax Hospital. As part of the award-winning Inova Health System, Woodburn Donor Center collects blood donations to service 15 area hospitals and healthcare centers in and around the greater DC metropolitan area. Our great staff is trained to provide excellent service. Whole blood and automated donations may be made. 7 apheresis (automated blood collection) machines are available in our state-of-the-art facility to better serve our donors as well as our patients. Center hours are M-F 8a.m. to 8p.m. and Sat. 8a.m. to 4p.m. The center is closed on Sunday. Appointments are strongly recommended. Walk-ins are welcome.

Please help us in our mission to provide a safe and adequate blood supply for patients in the diverse community we serve.

To schedule a personal tour or to make an appointment to donate, please contact Paul Witt at (703) 208-6013. You can visit us at inova.org/donateblood, find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @InovaBlood. When you register to donate, please reference Code 7632, for the Lafayette Village Group.

Mason District Announcements

Popular MODIP Course Returns to the Mason District Governmental Center - The Fairfax County Police Department, in collaboration with Supervisor Penny Gross, will offer a Mature Operators Driver Improvement Program (MODIP) course on **Wednesday, February 17, 2010, from 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale.** The MODIP course is offered to **residents ages 55 and older** with a valid driver's license, and provides an excellent review of safe driving practices. Upon completion of the course, participants will be mailed a certificate, which can be used to obtain a reduction in car premium insurance for three years. Contact your insurance carrier for specific information and eligibility for the premium reduction. **The course is free, but space is limited.** Interested residents may call Linda Bufano in the Office of Supervisor Gross at 703-256-7717 to reserve a place.

Electric Sunday Events Continue in 2010! - The widely successful e-waste recycling program, *Electric Sunday*, continues in 2010, and provides residents with an opportunity to **recycle televisions, computers, monitors, printers, scanners, speakers, keyboards, mice, and external drives.** Residents also may recycle **fluorescent light bulbs** at these events. Better yet, *Electric Sunday* events are a **free service** for Fairfax County residents! The 2010 events will be held at the Fairfax County's Recycling and Disposal Centers at the I-66 Transfer Station in Fairfax (4618 West Ox Road), and the I-95 Landfill Complex in Lorton (9850 Furnace Road), from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on the following specified dates and locations: Feb. 28 (I-66); March 28 (I-95 Landfill Complex); April 25 (I-66); May 23 (I-66); June 27 (I-66); July 25 (I-95); Aug. 22 (I-66); Sept. 26 (I-66); Oct. 24 (I-95); Nov. 21 (I-66). For additional information, call the Fairfax County Division of Solid Waste Collection and Recycling at 703-324-5230, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/calendar.htm.

REQUEST FOR EXTERIOR IMPROVEMENT FORM

To: Chair, Architectural Control ACC
Lafayette Village Community Association
c/o KPA, Attn. Diane Tschirhart
6400 Arlington Blvd., Suite 700
Falls Church, VA 22042-2336

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)