

Volume 17, Number 6

February/March 2002

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**Joe Braceland**, Web Master, 703-641-9477, [jbrace@wizard.net](mailto:jbrace@wizard.net)

**OTHER NUMBERS**

Police Emergency: 911

Police Non-Emergency: 703-691-2131

Community Towing: 703-730-1177

**ARMSTRONG  
MANAGEMENT**

**Trudie Peterson**, 703-313-9359 ext. 3010, [trudiepeterson@armstrong.net](mailto:trudiepeterson@armstrong.net) , 6074 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310

**KEEP FOR REFERENCE**

# LVCA News

[www.lafayettevillage.org](http://www.lafayettevillage.org)

**Violations:**

We need your help! Homes within Lafayette Village Community Association will be inspected in April and the 1<sup>st</sup> violation notices will be mailed the first of May. Please be proactive and start making arrangements for exterior work on your home to be started prior to receiving a violation letter.

Before making any exterior change, please fill out an A.C.C. request form and wait for Board approval. You can call Trudie Peterson at (703) 313-9359 extension 3010 to request one be mailed or faxed to you.

Lafayette Village is a great community and the homes have increased in value over the last year, let's all be committed to continuing this upward climb and keep our homes looking great!

### **Trash:**

Lafayette Village recently entered into a contract with BFI for trash and recycling services. Trash pickup days remain the same - Monday and Thursday and recycling is still removed on Thursdays.

If you need a bulk item picked up (furniture, appliances or other large miscellaneous household items), please call BFI to find out if there is an additional charge. They will pick up most mattresses and box springs for no additional charge, but you **must** call them to find out when to put out items for special pickup. BFI can be reached by calling (703) 471-1320.

Mandatory recyclable items are: newspaper, plastic, metal food cans, aluminum and glass. Items that will not be picked up are: oil, paint, dead animals, toxic or flammable items or construction materials. These items must be taken to the I-66 Transfer Station (County Recycle Center) at 4618 West Ox Road. Call 703-631-1179 for hours of operation and further information.

The Board has a few suggestions for improving the trash situation within the community:

- if you don't have a trash receptacle, use larger bags (the heavier the bag, the less chance of it blowing around the community),
- use dark green or black bags (studies show that birds are least likely to pick at this type of bag),
- ensure that your bags are secured properly (if you can see into the bag where the bag is tied, an animal can smell it and get into it) or your trash receptacles have snug fitting lids,
- if using trash bags, put a drop of ammonia in the bags (this will discourage animals from digging into your bags), or
- try to place your trash at the curb on the morning of trash collection instead of the evening before (Make sure to have it by the curb no later than 6:00 a.m. on the day trash will be picked up).
- remember to pick up your trash receptacle and/or recycling bin and place inside your house or in your rear yard the evening that trash was picked up (the community looks shabby with trash cans sitting out for days on end),
- do not use community trash containers (on Lafayette Village Dr.) for your household trash. (see inset to the right) Plus, if the community trash container is full, please use other means of trash disposal.

No matter what, there will be times when trash doesn't get into the trash truck, so please help to keep the community looking clean by picking up stray remnants.

### **Resales:**

Did you know that when you sell your unit you should request resell documents? Resell documents are all the documents that pertain to Lafayette Village Community Association. A copy of the Declaration, Bylaws, Resolutions, Rules and Regulations, A Welcome Packet, Parking information, Financial information and Current Dues information are some of the items

contained in the binder. Prior to the resell documents being released, an exterior inspection is made to your home to see if it is in compliance with all of the Associations rules and regulations. If you are in the process of selling your home, you may call our main office at (703) 385-1133 and speak to the resale coordinator at extension 3272. She will be happy to assist you in processing your request.



## ATTENTION DOG OWNERS

After several months of luscious pet-waste free common areas, our community green space is suddenly littered with numerous land mines. Is it because we have new neighbors, or have old neighbors just gotten a dog for the first time? Is the problem coming from within our community or from dog walkers who use Lafayette Village as a walk (and drop) thoroughfare. The bottom line—if you choose to own a dog in a high density community such as ours, picking up after your pet is a must. Please be considerate enough to immediately PICK UP AFTER YOUR PET! Keep baggies by the front door (I collect newspaper bags from neighbors and co-workers) and grab a few as you go out on dog walks. It takes only a few inconsiderate individuals to make the problem monumental. You do the math... if one dog leaves two deposits per day in our community that equals **FOURTEEN** deposits per week! Whether you own a small or a large dog it is your responsibility as a dog lover and as a good neighbor to leave the LVCA common grounds pet-waste free. If you do not “want” to pick up after your dog, you should not let your pet defecate outside your own fenced back yard. Why is this reminder placed in every newsletter? Because several dog owners in our community continue to ignore our pleas. No matter where you walk your pet — PICK IT UP! Let's put this issue to rest once and for all. For those of you who do the right thing, carry your baggy in plain sight and carry a few extras to give to the inconsiderate folks who just don't seem to get it.



### FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL CALENDAR (February-March)

January 30	3rd Grading Period Begins
February 18	Washington's Birthday Holiday
March 1	Interim Reports
March 25-29	Spring Vacation

#### FOR SALE:

TWO REDSKINS 2002 SEASON TICKETS FOR SALE. EIGHT REGULAR SEASON TICKETS AT FEDEX STADIUM PLUS TWO PRE-SEASON GAMES. THE BASE PRICE FOR THE TICKETS IS \$55.00 PER GAME (\$1,100 TOTAL) AND I WILL SELL FOR THAT AMOUNT. IF INTERESTED, PLEASE EMAIL MIKE CONSIDINE AT [considinemg@msn.com](mailto:considinemg@msn.com).

## Free Ad Space or Article Space To Residents!

To include an announcement or article in the April/May newsletter, just send it via email (nanjking@aol.com) or fax (703-208-1956) to the LVCA News Editor by no later than March 15, 2002.

## BOARD MEETINGS OPEN TO ALL

All meetings of the Lafayette Village Homeowners Association Board of Directors is open to all owners of record. The Board meets on the first Thursday of each month at Woodburn Elementary School. If you would like to attend a future meeting, please put these dates on your calendar:

February 7, 2002	April 4, 2002
March 7, 2002	May 2, 2002

### Annandale: The History of Our Community (Part 3)

#### Green Spring Farm

Another beautiful home was built on 540 acres during the eighteenth century by a gentleman and leader of the Methodist Church, John Moss. He named his home "Green Spring Farm". Built in 1760, Green Spring Farm was used for dairy, grain, and vegetable farming instead of the typical tobacco crops of the time. Mr. Moss became a justice of the Fairfax County Court and served the Crown as Commissioner of the King's Revenue for all of Fairfax. He was a captain during the American Revolution and took an active part in organizing the new government. In 1843, Moss' grandson Alfred, sold the farm to Fountain Beattie, who rode with Mosby during the Civil War. After the war, Beattie successfully raised 12 children and ran the farm, known for its dairy cattle, fruit, and vegetables. Due to Green Spring's proximity to Little River Turnpike, Beattie had easy access to the major area markets.

In 1942, the Manor House (pictured below) and 33 acres surrounding it were purchased by Michael and Belinda Straight. The Straights were not farmers, using the estate as their "out of town villa" where dignitaries such as Hubert Humphrey and Aldous Huxley were entertained. After 30 years of living on "an island of undeveloped land", the Straights deeded the house and 16 acres to Fairfax County Park Authority in 1970. The Park Authority purchased 11 additional acres to create Green Springs Garden Park.

Visitors can enjoy the Manor House, set amid lovely gardens, enjoy tea with a tour or presentation on Sunday afternoons, and shop in the *Ivy Cupboard Shop* Wednesday –Sunday, noon-4:00 pm. Green Spring's gardens and educational programs advance the awareness and practice of gardening in Northern Virginia and it's grounds are open dawn to dusk every day of the year. The Horticulture Center is open Monday—Saturday, 9 am to 4:30 pm, and Sunday, noon to 4:30 pm. For more information about this wonderful oasis in our midst, visit [www.greenspring.org](http://www.greenspring.org) or call 703-941-7987. The park is located at 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, VA (behind the Salvation Army on Route 236).

## LVCA Newsletter/Website Available for your Advertisements!

An inexpensive way to advertise to over 300 annandale residents is by placing a business card size ad in the LVCA newsletter for only \$25.00. Contact the newsletter editor if you are interested.



## **Scooter Returns**

By Sam Schaen and Marilyn Gaizband

Many of you are already familiar with the beginning of this story. The Monday after Thanksgiving, our black cat, Scooter, slipped out our partially open door. Many of you received the fliers we distributed. In searching the neighborhood we met many wonderful and sympathetic neighbors we had not previously met.

We tried everything we could think of to find him. We faxed copies of the flier to the area veterinarians, registered with the area animal shelters and even hired a pet detective. Yes, there is such a thing. We were amazed at his diligence. He had two dogs to follow Scooter's scent. He set out food in humane traps. He did stakeouts in the middle of the night.

Scooter had gotten out once before, about 7 years ago when he was 1 year old. That time, we saw him every day and he returned on his own after we left the door open for him early one morning four days later. This time it was different. After the first night, we didn't see him. We were also concerned because he had a number of illnesses which required daily medication and it was beginning to turn cold. As days stretched into weeks, we lost hope of seeing him again.

Our other cat, Pumpkin, was depressed as were we. Finally, around Christmas, we decided that getting a kitten might help both Pumpkin and us focus on something else rather than dwell on what may have befallen Scooter. We found an adorable 6-week old kitten at the Fairfax Animal shelter who was a bundle of energy. We named him Joules.

A few days later, on New Year's day, we saw a black cat by a storm drain near our house. It was hard to tell from a distance, and as we approached, he slid into the storm drain. With a combination of skepticism and hope, we looked for him later that day and again saw the black cat, but he soon disappeared again.

The next day, our neighbor, Marilyn Johnson, spotted Scooter. She called to let us know, and by the time we got home, she had managed to lure Scooter into our house with treats.

Feline Veterinary Clinic, where we've been taking Scooter as long as he's been with us, was willing to see him immediately. In the five weeks Scooter was gone, he lost five pounds, much of it through dehydration. He has also become anemic. He seems to be doing better and we hope he will continue to improve. We are most grateful to all in the neighborhood who helped look for Scooter and whose thoughts were with us.

<p><b>EASTER EGG HUNT</b></p>
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Please join your neighbors for the annual LV Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, March 24 at the neighborhood tot lot from 2-3 p.m.

The hunt will begin PROMPTLY at 2. Please bring goodies to share; the LVCA will provide drinks.

Also, please deliver 12 goody-filled eggs per child to 3713 Mt. Airey Ln. by Saturday, March 23.

Bunnies will need to hide them by 1:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Questions? Call Kirstin Armstrong at 703-698-5337.

### TRASH COMPANY SWITCHEROO GOES AWRY!

The switch from AAA Trash Service to BFI did not go as well as was hoped. Recycle bins from AAA were "supposed" to be removed by that company on January 10 and 11. New recycle bins from BFI were "supposed" to be delivered on January 14. Due to the mix up, AAA has agreed to pick up all yellow recycle bins on each Thursday throughout February. Hopefully, BFI will have delivered our new recycle bins by the time this newsletter is published. **PLEASE LEAVE YELLOW AAA RECYCLE BINS FOR PICKUP ON THURSDAYS THROUGHOUT FEBRUARY!** You know the old saying....the best laid plans.....

### **RESIDENTS RESPONSIBLE!**

Remember, homeowners and renters are responsible (I.e., liable) for keeping sidewalks clear of ice and snow!

## **BOARD REIGNS BACK AGGRESSIVE TOWING**

By David Metcalf, LVCA Secretary

The Community Spoke and your Board listened! At the annual meeting several neighbors voiced concern at the aggressive nature of the roving tow trucks. As the topic was discussed, it became clear to the Board that the overwhelming consensus was to eliminate aggressive towing. The Board responded with Action! The agreement with the towing company is to have roving tow trucks help enforce our parking rules. Aggressive towing practices continue to be a common complaint to the board, and the discussion at the annual meeting added fuel to the fire.

At the November Village Board meeting the Board agreed to limit the roving tow truck patrols from 11 pm to 7 am. President Roger Hennigh received assurances from the tow truck company management that drivers will stop aggressive towing, and the trucks will meet all safety regulations (including backup warning beeps).

What can you do to help? Without roving towing we need to be more diligent to prevent improper parking and misuse of visitor spaces. If you see a vehicle misuse our scenic, tranquil streets or monopolize visitor parking, call a board member and they will spring into Action!