



LVCA News



Newsletter 14

April/May 2003

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pparoline@infantadopt.org

Joe Braceland, Web Master, 703-641-9477, 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, trudiopeterson@armstrong.net ,
6074 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310

KEEP FOR REFERENCE



A True Neighbor

By Roger Hennigh

With all the talk of global warming, and the mild winters of the past few years, it seemed as if the Washington, DC, area was losing its winter edge. After all, a patient associated with the Italian Embassy once told me that before the advent of air conditioning an assignment to Washington brought hardship pay because of the summer heat and the usually cold winter.

Well, with this winter being more typical, the President's Day snowstorm reminded us of the season's true potential. Like many of you, I watched the snow accumulate and figured that I would be out there at least two to three times in a vain attempt to save my back. I had already shoveled once by noontime of the first day, and was steeling myself for number two when I saw someone across the street firing up a snow blower.

Hmmm, immediately I was reminded of the last time I passed up a snow blower at Home Depot. But how often do you really need one? 'Right now' would have been good! Within five minutes he had cleared his driveway, but he didn't stop there. Next he had cleared the sidewalk on his side of the street, and then started across to my side where, without being asked, he re-cleared my driveway. Floored, I couldn't decide fast enough whether to run out and thank him, or try to wave him off with a, 'thanks but you don't need to . . .'

Like an eraser over a chalkboard he had already moved on to our sidewalk and out to the walk along Lafayette Village Drive. With a chuckle I thought, 'he must be having a blast.' The scene repeated itself the next day, and between himself and most of us on the street we had a snowshovin' party. He helped dig out an Explorer, and AG&E didn't even have to clear our neck of the street. Eraser? Maybe snowplow would be more appropriate.

Anyway, on behalf of his neighbors at the top of Ashley Glen, I would like to recognize and thank Mr. Donald Falls, for his kindness and help in clearing the snow. He would say that it was all good fun, but all of us know he could have easily gone back inside and closed the garage door before anyone knew he was a true neighbor. Thanks, Don!

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Another true neighbor, Roger Hennigh, will be moving from Lafayette Village soon. Ashley Glen Road is now in need of a new block captain for the ACC. If you are interested, please contact Roger or Trudie Peterson. Please see the index for their contact information.

News from Supervisor Penny Gross
Mason District, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003
Tel. 703-256-7717, Fax 703-354-8419, Email: ma-
son@fairfaxcounty.gov

Parking Violation Fines Review: Two frequent complaints I hear from civic or homeowners associations are illegal parking in violation of restricted parking permit districts (RPPD), or commercial trucks parked in residential neighborhoods. In response to resident concerns about continued parking violations despite law enforcement efforts to ticket violators, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 24th, to discuss increasing the fine schedule commensurate with neighboring jurisdictions. Currently the fine for either violation is \$25, while similar violations in neighboring jurisdictions are fined at up to \$50 for RPPD and \$40 for parking commercial trucks. If you wish to add your voice for increasing the fine schedule or express your concerns against it, but can't attend the public hearing, please write or email me (at mason@fairfaxcounty.gov). Your message will be included in the public record. To testify in person, contact the office of the Clerk at 703-324-3151.

Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled: Department of Tax Administration staff will be on hand at the Mason District Governmental Center on Tuesday, March 25 and Thursday, March 27, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, to assist Mason residents who are either 65 or older, or totally disabled, in obtaining Real Estate, Personal Property Tax and Vehicle Decal Fee relief as well as Rental Grants. For more information on eligibility requirements, contact: 703-222-8234, TTY 703-222-7594 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gov/bos/md/homepage.htm.

Mason Matters!: For information on issues of interest to your community, watch Mason Matters on channel 16 on Thursdays at 7:30 PM, and on Fridays and Sundays at 6:30 PM. January's program features Chris Strand, Manager of *Green Spring Gardens*. February's scheduled topic: Black History in Mason District.

Report Malfunctioning Streetlights: Help deter crime and increase pedestrian safety by reporting malfunctioning streetlights to Dominion Virginia Power, which is responsible for maintaining most streetlights in Mason District. Unfortunately, electric utilities do not "self-patrol" the streetlight system to identify inoperable lights. Please jot down the number on the pole of the malfunctioning light and report it by calling 1-888-667-3000 (toll-free). If you can't obtain the pole number, then provide the specific location, such as "in front of 123 Columbia Pike," or "the 2nd and 4th lights going west on Columbia Pike south of the intersection at Powell Lane." To ensure better follow up, make sure that you record the work order number given by Dominion Virginia Power. If the streetlight is not repaired within 11 calendar days of your call, contact my office at 703-256-7717 or e-mail: mason@fairfaxcounty.gov, and provide the work order number.

Receive News and Updates by E-Mail: If you wish to receive information and updates about Mason District by e-mail, please send your e-mail address to mason@fairfaxcounty.gov. For District calendar of public meetings and other info, go to the Mason District web page at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gov/bos/md/homepage.htm.



Neighbors in the News

Belated congratulations to our own Roger and Diana Hennigh! They announced the arrival of Michaela on November 4, 2002. Everything went smoothly, and a prouder father and mother are hard to find!

A special thanks to John and Pamela Stanley, from the area birds. The Stanleys' enjoy bird watching and have several feeders. Common and rare species alike have flocked to Ashley Glen for the feeding extravaganza.. For an entertaining evening, ask John and Pamela about the courtship habits of the North American Junco.

We regret to announce the passing of Dick Fleming after a courageous fight with cancer. Dick was a retired Navy Pilot and a great patriot. Our resident race-car driver, he could be seen giving clinics to neighbors on race-car clutch techniques, how to shift in traffic and the art of Porsche maintenance. Please keep the Fleming family in your thoughts and prayers.

ADS & NOTICES

FCPS CALENDAR FOR SPRING 2003

April 4	Third Grading Period Ends
April 7	Student Holiday
April 8	Fourth Grading Period Begins
April 14-18	Spring Vacation
May 26	Memorial Day Holiday

JOIN CARPOOL AND ENJOY FREE PARKING DOWNTOWN

An Annandale/Springfield carpool is seeking 2 new commuters to join this 5 person carpool. Free parking is secured in the Department of Agriculture South Building located at 1400 Independence Avenue downtown, right next to the Smithsonian Metro Stop. We leave Annandale/Springfield every workday at 7:00 a.m. and return from Washington DC at 5:00 p.m. If interested, please contact J. Tremols at (703) 876-0313 or (202) 720-1465.



BFI BULK TRASH REMOVAL

Please call ahead and place out for Thursday morning pick-up.
703-471-1320
703-560-8866

Is a vehicle illegally parked in your neighborhood? Call a LVCA Board Member AT A REASONABLE HOUR and report vehicle make, model and license tag along with location.



COMMUNITY YARD SALE!

- ✓ The Lafayette Village Community Yard Sale will be held on Saturday May 10th from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm in the pool parking lot. If you are interested, please contact Carola Williamson at (202) 669-5247 and leave your name and number. You can also e-mail her at cjt7817@yahoo.com.
- ✓ There is a \$10 deposit to hold your space. There are a limited number of spots and they are first come, first serve! Hurry and call if you are interested!

HR Motorcars

If you like saving money by purchasing a pre-owned automobile you need to contact us!

We should be able to beat everyone else's price – **EVEN CARMAX.**

We purchase from the same sources as large retail dealerships, but have little overhead and therefore can sell for less.

You reap the savings.

Put us to work for you.

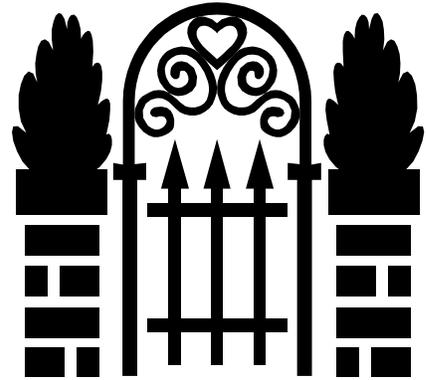
www.hrmotorcars.com

Roger Hennigh
(703) 314-6136

SPRING IS FINALLY HERE!

This is the time of year when AG&E (the grounds maintenance crew) comes through the community and trims your Liriope and other plants in your front yard that must be trimmed in early spring. They then mulch your front yards and at the end of April, or first part of May, AG&E trims the shrubs in your front yards.

Previously, a list was kept at Armstrong Management Services, Inc. for homeowners that did not want work done in their yards. The list is now several years old and needs to be updated. If you do not want AG&E to trim your front plant material or mulch your front yard you should contact Trudie Peterson at (703) 313-9359 extension 3010 or via email at tpeterson@armstrong.net or you can buy a reflector (at Home Depot) and place predominately in your front mulch bed and that will let the contractor know that they are not to do any work in your yard. Please contact Trudie as soon as possible to have your name placed on the new list.



ARCHITECTURAL INSPECTIONS

This is the time of year to line up a contractor to do any repairs or painting to the exterior of your home. The Spring inspections will soon begin and you will want a head-start on fixing up your home. Some tips for working with a contractor are:

1. If you choose a contractor, please make sure that you sign a contract with them to do the work. You can make changes to the contract, just be sure the contractor initials the changes when you do.
2. You should include a "completed no later than " date, so you can be assured that the work will be completed in a timely manner.
3. You may consider not giving your contractor more than 1/3 of the quoted price prior to their beginning the job. You can let them know, as an addendum to the contract, that they will receive another 1/3 when the job is half done and the balance will be paid when it is completed to your satisfaction.
4. You may want to call the Better Business Bureau (202-393-8000) to see if there have been any complaints filed against the contractor your considering using.

ROVING TOWING REMINDER

Dominion towing is fully authorized **by the Board** to enforce "No Parking" areas by towing, and to remove cars illegally parked elsewhere by towing them without warning, and *without* a Board member calling them to tow the car. They do this via Roving towing at any time between the hours of 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Hello! My name is Jen Dinoia and I am the new editor of the LVCA Newsletter. I have recently returned to Lafayette Village after a two year stay in Caracas, Venezuela. My husband, Peter, and I have two daughters, Catilin (age 4) and Kelsey (age 1) as well as a dog, Maggie, and a cat, Bailey.

We will be in the area for at least two years and I hope to bring you a noteworthy newsletter during that time. To me, the most important part of the newsletter is community input. I desperately need your stories, pictures, ads and announcements. Please email any and all articles to dinoia@cox.net.

A final note....I would love to produce a newsletter more often, but costs have to be considered in such an undertaking. I am going to make the newsletter available to community members through e-mail and it will also be posted on the Lafayette Village web-site. If you wish to receive your newsletter through e-mail *only*, please send a note to dinoia@cox.net with your name, email, home phone & home address. I will do call-backs to verify that you wish only to receive the electronic copy.

By sending them electronically, many costs will be saved, such as ink, paper, etc. Also, it will allow us to use more pictures and graphics that may be expensive to print. SO, if you are willing to be a "guinea pig", let me know and the next edition of your newsletter will ONLY arrive in your e-mail box.

Thanks and I look forward to working with everyone!
Jen Dinoia

UTILITY IMPOSTERS??

By Pam Paroline

Once in awhile, local utility companies receive reports of people making false claims about being company employees. To protect yourself from imposters, please look for a vehicle bearing the company name and logo of the person in question.

Our local utility company's employees—meter readers, customer service representatives, construction and maintenance technicians and supervisory personnel—carry a company photo identification card with the corporate logo and the employee's name.

If you have doubts whether someone who claims to be an employee of any utility company actually works for the company, request to see the employee's photo identification card. If you still have doubts, have him or her return to

the vehicle to call their office requesting that their supervisor call you to verify their employment, or call the company yourself to verify the employee's identification.

\$\$ Tips from the Treasurer \$\$

-Pay your LVCA dues hassle-free with automatic debit!

-On-time payments save your Community Association valuable dollars!

Free Ad Space or Article Space To Residents!

To include an announcement or article in the April/May newsletter, just send it via email (dinoia@cox.net) to the LVCA News Editor no later than May 15, 2003.



POOL PASSES, ANYONE?!

We have mailed out the pool registration forms and are asking that **homeowners** hold on to their passes this year for use in 2004 and 2005. We will issue stickers during the 2004 and 2005 seasons to be placed on the passes. If homeowners are not current, with their assessments, late fees or violation charges, they will be called to a hearing at the next Board meeting on the 23rd. At this time the Board may restrict their use of the pool until they are current.

BOARD MEETING REMINDER!

The Board meets the fourth Wednesday of every month and will meet in the Woodburn Elementary Cafeteria at 7:00 p.m. through month of May. Look for the announcement of summer meeting locations in the next edition of the newsletter!