



# Lafayette Village Community Association August/September 2016 Newsletter

## National Night Out – Tuesday, August 2, 2016

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 as we gathered together, shoulder to shoulder, to dig out of a snowstorm; increased camaraderie of neighbors during times of need; and many other activities captured on Nextdoor. Let's 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, 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 27 (Rain date August 28)!

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*
- *Fairfax County needs election officers*
- *Managing contractors*
- *President's notes*
- *Community news*

### Have you considered volunteering for the LVCA Board?

The LVCA Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 12, 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](mailto:president@lafayettevillage.org).

## Our Community Information...

### LVCA Board Members

#### **Carl Iddings – President**

202-957-1194

[President@lafayettevillage.org](mailto:President@lafayettevillage.org)

#### **John Alexander – Vice President**

703-208-9614

[jmalex14@msn.com](mailto:jmalex14@msn.com)

VACANT– Secretary

#### **Jim Franklin - Treasurer**

703-205-9087

[jim@prodigycapitalconsulting.com](mailto:jim@prodigycapitalconsulting.com)

#### **Kathie French – Member-at-Large**

703-207-0070

[kfrench22@verizon.net](mailto:kfrench22@verizon.net)

### LVCA Committee Chairs

#### **Architectural Control – Angela**

**Cutter**

[aicutter50@gmail.com](mailto:aicutter50@gmail.com)

#### **Grounds – Mike Nutbrown**

[grounds@lafayettevillage.org](mailto:grounds@lafayettevillage.org)

#### **Finance – Jim Franklin**

703-205-9087

[jim@prodigycapitalconsulting.com](mailto:jim@prodigycapitalconsulting.com)

#### **Pool & Recreation – Lisa Conoly**

703-698-7455

[lisac\\_234@hotmail.com](mailto:lisac_234@hotmail.com)

#### **Communications – Carl Iddings**

[lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org](mailto:lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org)

#### **Neighborhood Watch – Steve**

**Longstreet**

571-328-9837

[slongstreet@gmail.com](mailto:slongstreet@gmail.com)

### Sequoia Management Company

Dale Edwards

[dedwards@sequoiamgmt.com](mailto:dedwards@sequoiamgmt.com)

Phone: 703-803-9641

Fax: 703-968-0936

### **Patriot Disposal Services**

Phone: 703-257-7100

### **Dominion Towing**

Phone: 703-339-2400

**EARLY REMINDER: Fourth Quarter Assessments are due October 1, 2016.** 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** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 7:00 PM. (August 8 at the Mason District Government Center, small meeting room, 6507 Columbia Pike and September 12 at the Woodburn Elementary School Library, 3401 Hemlock Drive at Gallows Road)

**ACC Meetings** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of month at 7:00 PM at 3711 Yorktown Village Pass (August 18 and September 15)

**Grounds Meetings** – 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of month at 7:30 PM at 7920 Brunswick Forest Pass. (August 22 and September 26)

**Finance Committee** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of month at 7:00 PM at 3733 Yorktown Village Pass (August 16 and September 20)

**Neighborhood Watch** – TBD. Check the website for meeting dates and times.

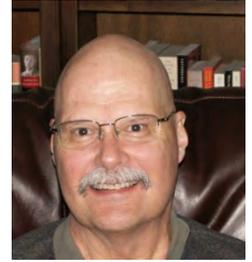
**All residents, including renters, are invited to attend scheduled meetings. Please check the website for the most current information:**

**Dog waste continues to be a problem:** 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.

Both Fairfax County law and Association covenants require that dog owners and dog walkers clean up after their pets. And we make it easy to do so, with six community trash cans and two doggy bag stations providing the resources to remove pet waste. Dog owners who don't do this are irresponsible scofflaws. If you know of someone leaving his or hers dog's waste, please, either talk to them or send me an email ([president@lafayettevillage.org](mailto:president@lafayettevillage.org)) and I will talk with them.

**Contributors to this edition: Thanks to** Steve Longstreet, Amanda Longstreet, Ryan Greene, Imran Khan, Jim Franklin, Mike Nutbrown, Angela Cutter, Lisa Conoly, and Penny Gross. **Special thanks to the distributors:** Christie Prucker, Larry Dunham, Kathie French, Linda Boone, Greg Johnson, DJ Terreri, and Tina Snapp,

## A note from the President:



**J. Gaston** has served as Secretary on the LVCA Board of Directors since his election to the Board at the October 2012 Annual Meeting. He and his wife Ginger are building their dream home in Aldie, VA and have sold their home in Lafayette Village. The July Board meeting was his last as a Board member. On behalf of all members of the Association, I want to take this opportunity to thank J. for his four years of service. While he was responsible for the minutes of each Board meeting during that time, he also provided the Board with his good judgment, intelligent observations and direct and pertinent comments on issued that came before that body.

J., we will miss you, but wish you the best of luck in your new home. And we thank you for helping keep Lafayette Village the great community we know it to be.

After saying goodbye to J., I would like to welcome **Michelle Kloc** to the Board as J.'s replacement. At its August meeting, the Board will appoint her to fill the remaining two years on J.'s term. Michelle is a resident of Merrimac Trail. Michelle is a health and human services analyst for The Lewin Group, conducting quantitative and qualitative analyses for several projects, mainly for the Federal government. Please join me in welcoming Michelle to the Board on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

Marking another change, I would like to thank **Doug Stewart** for serving as our Neighborhood Watch chair the past two and a half years. Doug has kept our National Night Out celebrations ongoing, and has helped mobilize community responses to the various car break-ins that happened over the past few years. Thank you, Doug, for taking on this responsibility and executing it so well.

And on that note, I would like to welcome **Steve Longstreet** as the new chair of the Neighborhood Watch. Steve and his wife, **Amanda Longstreet**, are organizing our next National Night Out, which will take place this Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:00pm in Trammell Park. Steve and Amanda are interested in the use of technology to help secure their home and will provide demos this Tuesday of the Wi-Fi enabled video doorbell and video surveillance cameras they use to keep their home and surroundings safe. This is exciting and affordable technology that can really help prevent crime and identify culprits who steal packages from our front porches and rifle through our vehicles in search of loot.

**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](mailto: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 been actively 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 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 reviewed the first half financial statements and updated the budget submission for the Board of Directors at the last formal meeting. 2016 has been a good year to date with the first half financials showing good adherence to budget plans, while accomplishing several notable goals including the renovation of the pool house and significant landscaping improvements.

The Association's financial position remains strong with current homeowner assessments sufficient to sustain operations and make contributions to the reserve fund as required by the 2012 study. The Committee and Board have explored updating the Reserve Study with an interim report and will present the decision at the upcoming Annual Membership Meeting. You can find the current reserve study, completed in 2012 on the website at <http://www.lafayettevillage.org/docs/LVCA2012ReserveStudy.pdf>.

See you all at the Annual Meeting, where the Finance Committee will present the draft 2017 budget for your review and comments.

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](mailto:franklin-assoc@msn.com) or call at (703) 205-9087. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://www.lafayettevillage.org/lvca_MonthlyFinancials.htm).

### Grounds Committee – Mike Nutbrown, chair:

The two retaining wall projects mentioned in the last newsletter (between Butterfield Lane and Byrds Nest Pass and around the corner of 7811 Butterfield Lane and running along to the utility box) have been completed. The new plantings near the meadows bridge are really starting to take shape and grow. We lost one of the new rhododendrons in front of the pool house that just wasn't happy. Some others struggled in the heat and lack of rain, but seem to be pulling through. The committee is working to get the



bridge area to be a certified wildlife habitat.

Two new retaining walls to combat erosion. The Grounds Committee will arrange for plantings and pavers to finish the project.

We are still planning additional erosion projects for this calendar year as well as some reseeding and other solutions for areas that are becoming bare around the common areas.

We're always open for 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. If you are interested, please send me an email at [grounds@lafayettevillage.org](mailto:grounds@lafayettevillage.org). The wheels are really in motion right now on the Grounds Committee. We thank you for your community support in making Lafayette Village a better place to live today and tomorrow.

### Pool and Recreation Committee – Lisa Conoly, chair:

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

This month we hosted the final "Swim Under the Stars" night of the summer. Over 40 people came out while we kept the pool open late for some fun on a warm night. We also hosted an adult "Wine and Cheese Party". It's the one night during the summer that the pool is open to adults only. About 45 neighbors came out to socialize, take a swim, have a drink and a snack while we, once again, kept the pool open late. Food and drinks were



A family enjoying "Swim Under the Stars"

## Community Updates: Committee Reports, cont....

provided by the Association. Thanks to the efforts of Angela Cutter, we had some delicious snacks.



Making friends at the Wine and Cheese party

We have one event remaining before the summer ends. Please plan to join us in the pool parking lot for our End of Summer cookout on Saturday, August 27 (Rain date Sunday, August 28). 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](mailto:lisac_234@hotmail.com).

The picnic pad is available for residents to reserve at no charge. The reservation form is available at [www.lafayettevillage.org](http://www.lafayettevillage.org) under the "Pool" section.

There has been a lot of interest in our new water aerobics classes. It's not too late to join us. Drop-in classes are Tuesdays at noon and Thursdays at 7:00pm, \$10 per class, cash or check. No advance reservation required. Water shoes are recommended but not required.

As a reminder: even though we now have a "lap swim" period every hour instead of a traditional "break", it's still a good idea for children to take regular rest breaks. The lap swim period is a good time for your children to take rest breaks and stay hydrated.

The pool will remain open through Labor Day, Monday, September 5. Contact me at [lisac\\_234@hotmail.com](mailto: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<sup>nd</sup>. 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](mailto:slongstreet@gmail.com).

**Criminal Activity:** Some good news! During the past two months, Fairfax Police report no crimes in our neighborhood!

With Fairfax County's new partnership with CrimeReports.com, you can monitor police crime reports on a daily, weekly or monthly basis. [CrimeReports.com](http://CrimeReports.com) provides a convenient, web-based platform which will allow FCPD to proactively share local, police related 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 the public on a desktop or mobile device.

The new [CrimeReports.com](http://CrimeReports.com) experience now provides you with the opportunity to view police activity at your leisure, sign up for updates, and instantly send secure tips to the Fairfax County Crime Solvers network. (You don't need to provide your name to submit these.) [CrimeReports.com](http://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:

This month I thought it would be good to focus on weeds and overgrown back yards.

Heavy rains followed by lots of sunshine have really encouraged the weeds to flourish. I carefully pull the weeds from my front yard only to find new ones the next day. And any I do miss grow stubborn roots and spread like crazy. Sadly for us, Blade Runners doesn't "do" weeds (although if you have kids, maybe you can bribe them to do it).

It's so hot and all people want to do is run into a lovely air conditioned house. But if you can get out early in the morning, or when we do get a break in the weather, please tackle the weeds. Left alone they spread via invasive roots or windblown seeds and become a problem for you and your neighbors. That means front and rear yards. Perhaps you're not a gardener or an outside person but your back yard is seen by many people and needs to be kept tidy and cleared too. It also helps to keep rats and snakes out of your yard. If you don't have rats (or baby birds) the black rat snakes will go elsewhere.

## Community Updates: Committee Reports, cont....

As I walk around I've noticed many homes have English ivy or Virginia creeper beginning to climb the walls. It does look pretty, but these are fast growing plants (English ivy is an invasive!) and potentially damaging to your house.

Please be proactive and remove these from walls and fences – especially where they're creeping on to your neighbor's house. It's so much easier to do now than when they've become established. Just be sure to rip up the roots too or they'll be right back, happier than ever.

Lastly, there is a proposed amendment to the ACC Guidelines regarding the extension of townhome fences.

Currently the documentation required to prove property lines is unclear. We had an instance where the Grounds Committee was planning the installation of retaining walls and discovered that a fence extension was actually on common grounds. This was a matter of weeks after the homeowner had installed the fence, which left everyone feeling badly. While the homeowner took steps to correct the problem, the Board felt that steps should be taken to prevent this situation from happening in the future, especially since many homeowners have started to replace their existing fences. The Board asked the ACC to review the fence Guideline to see what changes could address this situation.

In response, the ACC prepared an amendment that will require homeowners to have a property survey conducted before any fence extension can be approved. While it's another step to take, this requirement should prevent any future mistakes and protect the homeowner in the long run. The Board will vote on the amendment at its August meeting.



Bricks spalled by growing ivy

### 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](mailto:lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org) and request to be added. And if you haven't already, log on to [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com), create an account, and join in on the discussions!

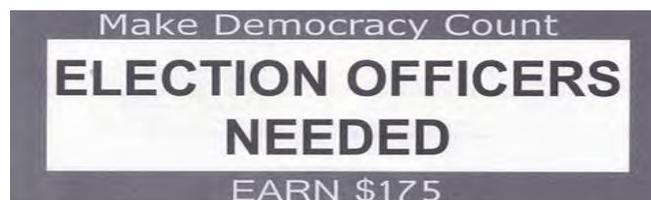
Did you know that you can submit ads, articles, contractor recommendations, and comments to the newsletter? All submissions will be considered for inclusion. Please submit your entries to [lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org](mailto:lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org). The next newsletter will be available October 1, 2016. Articles and submissions are due by September 27th.

## Community ads and contractor recommendations...

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

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

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



For details, see next page

## ***Door-to-door Solicitors – Know your Rights!***

A number of residents have encountered the hard sell from **Capital Meats, HomeFix**, and other door-to-door solicitors. While the Association has no authority to restrict door-to-door solicitors, you do have specific rights when dealing with such people.

**Soliciting** is the sale of goods or services door-to-door or from a temporary stand, and is regulated by Fairfax County Code. Fairfax County requires peddlers and solicitors be licensed **before** they solicit door to door. They may solicit only between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m., and **may not solicit at a residence that posts a "No Peddlers or Solicitors" sign**. A peddler or solicitor must show the license upon request and must leave the premises immediately if asked to leave.

### **When solicitors knock:**

1. Ask for his or her license. If he or she does not have a valid license, ask him/her to leave;
2. Close and lock your door; and
3. Immediately call Fairfax County Police (non-emergency) at 703-691-2131 to report the violation.

For more information, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/consumer/education/solicitors.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/consumer/education/solicitors.htm) or call the Fairfax County Consumer Affairs branch at 703-222-8435.

And remember, **you have rights** under the federal "Cooling Off" rule and the Virginia Home Solicitation Sales Act. These laws apply to virtually all purchases made in your home or at any location that is not the seller's permanent place of business. Under these laws, **you have the right to cancel any home solicitation sale or contract** within three days of your agreeing to the sale or contract.

## ***Election Officers Needed in Fairfax County***

Election Officers are needed at each of the 242 precincts in Fairfax County. The Office of Elections currently is recruiting voters to serve as Election Officers starting with the upcoming 2016 elections ([www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm)). Election officers run the polls. They assist voters obtaining their ballots and provide customer service helping voters cast their votes. They help with voting equipment and assist disabled voters. At the end of day, election officers at each precinct certify the results of voting and call in their tally to the central election office.

To be an Election Officer, you must:

- Be fluent in English;
- Be a registered voter in the Commonwealth of Virginia;
- Be able to fulfill the Federal I-9 employment eligibility requirements;
- Attend a 3-hour training class;
- Arrive at the polling place at 5 a.m. and remain until all work has been completed after the polls close at 7 p.m.; and
- Have basic computer skills.

Training classes are ongoing. Election Officers are paid \$175 for serving a full day, or they may volunteer their time. Half-day positions are also available. **Bilingual citizens also are urged to serve**, as language assistance is needed in many precincts.

**A number of LVCA residents** serve as Election Officers at the polls for our local, state, and national elections. Serving as an election officer is one of those civic duties (like serving on a jury) that make our democracy work, and is rewarding as you help your fellow citizens exercise their right to vote.

For more information and to apply, call the Office of Elections at 703-324-4735; TTY 711, send an e-mail to [elect@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:elect@fairfaxcounty.gov), or visit the Office of Elections Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/working.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/working.htm).

**Did you know?** Each issue of the LVCA Newsletter is posted on our community website at <http://www.lafayettevillage.org/newsletter.htm>. You can view each newsletter in color and click on any web URL to go directly to the referenced website.

## Community Notes....

**Reminder: Sales Tax Holiday/Tax-Free Weekend** – Mark your calendar! **Virginia's 2016 Sales Tax Holiday** is coming! Starting **Friday, August 5, 2016** at 12:01 a.m. and ending the following **Sunday, August 7, 2016** 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 [www.tax.virginia.gov/content/sales-tax-holiday](http://www.tax.virginia.gov/content/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 Peruvian, Indonesian, Colombian, and Russian Cultural Heritage Nights 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](http://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](mailto:mason@fairfaxcounty.gov). You also can view and download the guide at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason).

**Fairfax Animal Shelter Returns to Mason District for Low-Cost Rabies Clinic for Pets** – The Fairfax County Animal Shelter and Pender Veterinary Clinic, in partnership with the Office of Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross and the Mason District Station of the Fairfax County Police Department, will host a low-cost rabies clinic on **Sunday, September 11**, 12 to 2 p.m. for dogs and cats in the Main Community Room of the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. All dogs **must** be on leashes, and cats and ferrets **must** be in carriers. Fairfax County 2016 dog licenses will be sold separately and cost \$10. Cash and checks **only** will be accepted for payment at the clinic. For more information, call 703-830-1100, or visit the Fairfax County Animal Services Division Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animal](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animal).

## Pics from the community garden ...



If you are interested in gardening next year, you can add your name to the waiting list by emailing the Garden Chair, Anne Sansbury, at [asansbury@gicgroup.com](mailto:asansbury@gicgroup.com).



## Tips on dealing with contractors....

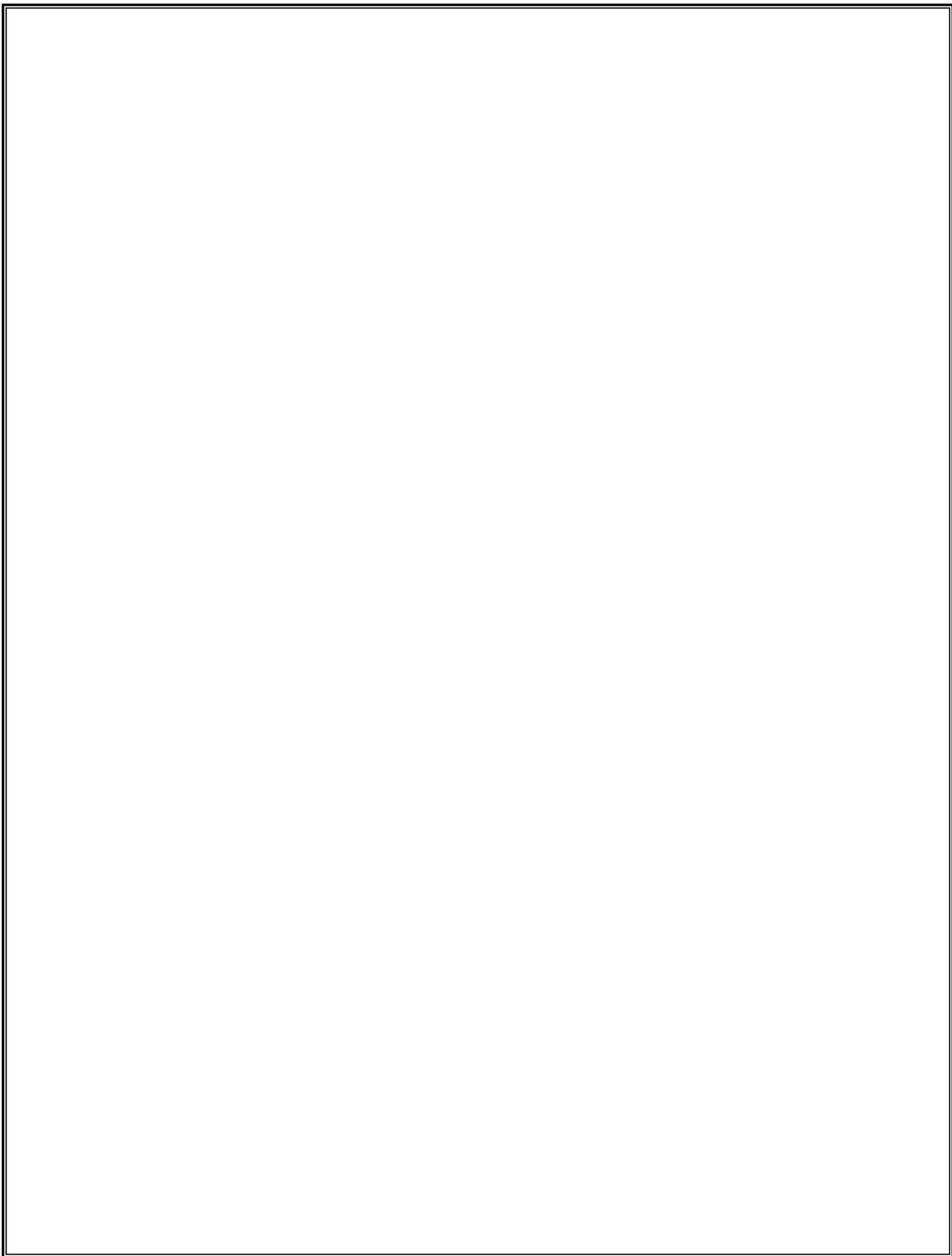
Like everything else in life, our homes require maintenance due to normal wear and tear. And, like a lot of homeowners recently, you might also want to change the look and functionality of your home by updating fixtures and structures. Before you jump into a big project like remodeling a bathroom or kitchen, do a bit of a research on the costs, and the companies doing business in your area. If you have decided to hire a contractor, you may want to consider these tips and guidelines before hiring a contractor:



- Have pictures and examples of the look, style and feel you want to install. Pull from magazines and share them with the contractors.
- Establish a budget with at least a 5% cushion upfront. Shop the internet for significant items to develop a price expectation for material items, and communicate the uncushioned budget to your contractors to work with. (If your budget is unrealistic, they will tell you during the first conversation.)
- Insist on a written contract, especially if your work will cost more than \$500. Most projects will.
- A rule of thumb we found to calculate the value of your renovation was +/-10% of the estimate sale price of the house - i.e., Sale price is \$450k, expect quotes for a kitchen around \$45k depending on size, number of upgrades and level of appliances. Less than that and when you go to sell your house, you might compete against comps that are more appealing. More than that and you are unlikely to recover your costs.
- Don't forget sales tax in the overall cost of your project.
- Ensure your contractor is licensed. Ask for the contractor's license number and check it with the state database <http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/LicenseLookup/> where you will find detailed information about the contractor's business, including any complaints. (If you hire unlicensed workers, you have no recourse for damages. You may even end up voiding warranties (home warranty, appliance warranty, material).)
- Ensure your contractors are insured and bonded. While this will likely not be an issue and they always say they are, **request written proof**. It's worth it in the unlikely event you need to file a claim.
- Confirm the warranty for their work (labor). The tangible items have some type of guarantee, but you will want the contractor to guarantee his or her work, as well.
- Meet with the people who will **ACTUALLY BE DOING THE WORK**, not just the owner/sales person. These are the people who will be in your house daily. You want to be comfortable with them and with their work.
- Establish upfront and in the contract your expectation of the worksite conditions after each day and the necessary daily clean up you expect each day and at the end of the project.
- Notify your neighbors when you expect significant construction (demo and significant hammering).
- Negotiate payments consistent with the deliverables (i.e., purchase of materials, performance of certain milestones like plumbing and cabinet installation, etc.) and do not be afraid to negotiate deadline discounts, which is common regardless of what your contractor might say. This will also force a timeline that your contractor will manage to.
- And finally, explicitly ask what are common items that are not included in the quotes or work that they do not do, which you need to consider (delivery of materials, shoe molding, cabinet fixtures, faucets, common upgrades, etc.) and never accept that they have it all covered. A legitimate, experienced contractor will know what the common things are.

Also, **remember that any work affecting the outside appearance of your home or yard visible from the street must be reviewed and approved by the ACC**. A good contractor will recognize that you live in an HOA community and will expect to see an approval letter. A copy of the ACC Request for Exterior Improvement form is attached to this newsletter.

*--article based on Nextdoor posts by Ryan Greene and Imran Khan and used by permission*



**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)