



Lafayette Village Community Association

December 2014/January 2015 Newsletter

Make a New Year's Resolution – Volunteer for your Association!

The heartbeat of our Lafayette Village Community Association is its volunteers! The Association could not function if it weren't for the volunteer board members, committee chairs and committee members who do the work that makes Lafayette Village go. But the Board and these committees need new energy, new ideas, and new volunteers.

With the New Year comes a time for making resolutions. For 2015, resolve to become more active in your homeowner's association. **Resolve to volunteer** for one of our committees. If you are interested in money or finance, you should consider the **Finance Committee**. This committee helps draft the Association's annual budget, monitors expenditures and our reserve funds, reviews the annual audit, and manages a reserve study every five years – the next reserve study is due in 2016.

If you like to work outdoors, landscaping or gardening, the **Grounds Committee** is for you. On this committee, you will help direct the landscape for our community, from trees and plantings to street lights, mail boxes and meadows. The Grounds Committee also manages our contracts for trash collection and grounds maintenance, and in 2015 will prepare a comprehensive tree management plan for the community.

If you are more interested in architecture and design, the **ACC** is your home – you can help ensure Lafayette Village maintains its colonial townhome look. The ACC also updates our Architectural Guidelines when necessary, and helps ensure owners adhere to our standards.

If you like to swim or organize parties and community events, the **Pool and Recreation Committee** can use your help. If you like to write, edit and publish newsletters or work on websites, the **Communications Committee** needs you. Our last committee, **Neighborhood Watch**, organizes neighborhood patrols when needed, and runs our annual National Night Out celebration – if you're safety-minded, this committee has a place for you. All these committees meet at most once a month, with much work accomplished by email.

Lafayette Village has a reputation as an attractive, well-run community, thanks to a relatively few home-owner volunteers. But those volunteers need your energy, your ideas and your help to maintain an active community that's a great place to live. So, take the plunge, make the resolution, and volunteer to help Lafayette Village!

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Kathie French Appointed to Board: At its October meeting, the Board appointed Kathie French to the Board seat previously held by Jay Jarvis. Kathie will complete Jay's term, which will expire October 2016. A homeowner on Merrimac Trail, and formerly a Byrds Nest Pass homeowner, Kathie has previously served on the Board as Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and Member-at-Large. She also edited the newsletter.

She brings a wealth of experience to the Board, and we are fortunate to have her return to the Board.

Holiday Trash Collection Schedule: There will be **NO trash collection** on Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25, or on New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1. Please do not put your trash out Wednesday evenings or Thursdays on those two days. Instead, trash will be collected on the following Fridays, December 26 and January 2. You can put your trash out Thursday evening or Friday morning for collection on those days.

Our Community Information...

LVCA Board Members

Carl Iddings – President

703-206-0170

President@lafayettevillage.com

John Alexander – Vice President

703-208-9614

jmalex14@msn.com

J. Gaston – Secretary

571-262-1207

lvca.secretary@yahoo.com

Jim Franklin - Treasurer

703-205-9087

jim@prodigycapitalconsulting.com

Kathie French – Member-at-Large

703-207-0070

kfrench22@verizon.net

LVCA Committee Chairs

Architectural Control – Angela Cutter

aicutter50@gmail.com

Grounds – Mike Nutbrown

grounds@lafayettevillage.org

Finance – Jim Franklin

703-205-9087

jim@prodigycapitalconsulting.com

Pool & Recreation – Lisa Conoly

703-698-7455

lisac_234@hotmail.com

Communications – Carl Iddings

lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org

Neighborhood Watch – Doug Stewart

703-965-3242

stewart8668@cox.net

Sequoia Management Company

Dale Edwards

dedwards@sequoiangmt.com

Phone: 703-803-9641

Fax: 703-968-0936

Patriot Disposal Services

Phone: 703-257-7100

HOME OWNERS REMINDER!

First Quarter Assessments are due January 1, 2015.

If you did not received your 2015 coupon book and are not on an automatic payment plan, please contact Sequoia as soon as possible.. Remember that your assessment payment must reach Sequoia by January 15, 2015, or you will be **assessed interest at 8% on your outstanding balance.**

LAFAYETTE VILLAGE COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

Monthly Meetings (Check Website for Details)

Board Meetings – 7:00PM, Monday, January 12 in the Woodburn Elementary school library, 3401 Hemlock Drive at Gallows Road.

ACC Committee – 3rd Thursday of month at 7:00 PM at 3713 Yorktown Village Pass (December 18 and January 15)

Grounds Committee – 4th Thursday of month at 7:00 PM at location TBD. (December meeting cancelled; January 22)

Finance Committee – Third Tuesday of month at 7:00PM at 3735 Yorktown Village Pass. (December meeting cancelled; January 20)

Neighborhood Watch – TBD.

Fairfax Federation – 3rd Thursday of month at 7:30PM at Mason District Government Center. We need a new representative to this important organization. Please email president@lafayettevillage.org if you are interested in volunteering for this position.

All residents, including renters, are invited to attend scheduled meetings. Please check the website for the most current information:
<http://www.lafayettevillage.org/>



Christmas Tree Collection Schedule

Christmas and holiday trees will be **collected** and **recycled** by Patriot Disposal on Wednesday, January 14, and Wednesday, January 21. The trees must be **clean** of ornaments, tinsel, etc., and should **not** be placed in plastic bags. If you miss those dates, Patriot will collect your tree as part of its regular trash collection.

A note from the President:

I am sorry to announce that former resident and active community member Susan Henley passed away on November 12, 2014 after battling endometrial cancer for 2 ½ years.

A Byrds Nest Pass homeowner, Susan was a key member of the Grounds Committee, helping the committee to focus on planting native plants and trees on our common grounds. Susan's interest in gardening and horticulture led her to develop a list of native plants suitable for landscaping in our community. This list later became the approved ACC plant list. Susan left Lafayette Village in 2011 after marrying her husband, Jack.



Susan's positive impact on our community shows the power of volunteering. Her work with the Grounds Committee left a lasting legacy for our Association, while helping to enhance our community's environment.

During 2015, LVCA Board meets on the 2nd Monday of each month

The LVCA Board of Directors meets the second Monday of the month in the library at **Woodburn Elementary School**, 3401 Hemlock Drive, opposite the corner of Aston Street and Gallows Road.

Our meeting schedule for 2015 is:

January 12	July 14
February 9	August 10
March 9	September 14
April 13	October 12
May 11	November 9
June 8	December 14

The Board hopes you can attend these meetings!

2015 LVCA Budget Keeps HOA Fees Unchanged

At its November meeting, the LVCA Board adopted the FY 2015 budget for the Association as recommended by the Finance Committee and presented to the membership at the October annual meeting. Once again, HOA fees will remain unchanged for 2015, at \$328 per quarter for town home owners and \$167 per quarter for detached home owners.

The 2015 Budget fully funds the Association's reserve fund (to support future major projects) at \$80,000. The approved budget has been posted on the website at <http://www.lafayettevillage.org/docs/LVCA-2015BudgetAdopted11-10-2014.pdf>. Homeowners should have received a copy of the approved budget in the mail.

Community Food Drive for Martin Luther King Day of Service – Monday, January 19, 2015

Last year to commemorate Martin Luther King's life and legacy, Lafayette Village residents contributed 359 pounds of food to Food for Others, a local food bank. For the upcoming Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 19, 2015, **we will challenge the community to contribute 500 pounds of food.** We are looking to collect the following types of food:

- Canned meats – ham, chicken, tuna, or beef
- Peanut butter and jelly/jam
- Canned soup, stew, and chili
- Cereal
- Vegetables –canned
- Fruit - canned
- Beans – dried or canned
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Boxed Meals
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Rice
- Fruit Juice
- Coffee and tea

Please, no expired foods or partially opened packages of food.

Please bring your donations to the **Pool House** at the following times:

- **Sunday, January 18**, 12 noon to 2:00pm or **Monday, January 19**, 10:00am to 2:00pm

A Board member should be present to accept your donations. If no one is around, please leave them in the marked box at the front of the pool house. All food will be donated to **Food for Others**, a local food warehouse distributing free food directly to people in need in Northern Virginia.



Community Updates: Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Jim Franklin, Chair

By now you've all received the mailing with our 2015 budget and an additional letter from the President of the Association regarding our reserve fund. As a board we have focused on healthy and conservative contributions to the reserve fund to ensure sufficient financial ability to keep our infrastructure solid, and to provide adequately for emergency requirements.

We are financial healthy and prepared for 2015, and if you are not on an automatic payment plan, you should have already received your annual assessment coupons in the mail this month. I am very pleased that we have been able to keep the assessments at the same level, and we are grateful to all the homeowners for their timely payments supporting the continued financial health of the association.

While we hope for a mild winter, the financial resources of the Association should meet any emergency snowfall or weather related event. Additionally, we are well positioned to address a possible assessment reduction for the 2016 budget.

As always we solicit your comments and questions. Our financial committee meetings have been scaled back for the holiday season, but I can be reached at (703) 205-9087, or by e-mail at jim@prodigycapitalconsulting.com. And you can always find our current balance sheet on the website at http://www.lafayettevillage.org/lvca_MonthlyFinancials.htm.

Pool and Recreation Committee – Lisa Conoly, Chair

The 2014 pool season was very successful due, in part, to having some of the best lifeguards we've ever had. Once again, we had two "Swim under the Stars" nights and two Community cookouts with high attendance at all of the events. But the highlight of the summer had to be the completion of our pool patio eating area. We finally have an area where people can bring a picnic or order a pizza while visiting the pool.

In addition to continuing our "Swim under the Stars" nights and cookouts next season, we hope to add an adults only wine party event. Stay tuned for details in the April/May newsletter. If you have suggestions for events you'd like us to consider or comments regarding the pool, please email me at lisac_234@hotmail.com.

Remember to save your pool passes for reuse next year so you don't have to pay for replacement passes. Look for the 2015 Pool Pass Application in the April/May newsletter.

Architectural Control Committee (ACC) – Angela Cutter, Chair

No ACC report this issue. Look for the next ACC report in the February/March newsletter, which will also provide you with details about the 2015 ACC spring inspection. Have a happy and safe holiday, and be sure to contact me at aicutter50@gmail.com if you are planning any work affecting the exterior of your home or property.

Otherwise, since exterior improvements and garden projects are generally on hold, it's a quiet time for the ACC. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Dale Edwards at Sequoia management or email me at aicutter50@gmail.com.

Communications Committee – Carl Iddings, Chair

The Communications Committee is responsible for this newsletter, for maintaining and updating the Association website, www.lafayettevillage.org, and for managing the community email notification list. The Committee relies on residents, committee chairs, and the Board to provide interesting content relevant to homeowners and residents of Lafayette Village.

The next newsletter will be distributed at the beginning of February 2015. The deadline for submitting material is January 28, 2015. The newsletter will print your articles, photos, letters to the editor, advertisements (free to residents!), and especially your contractor recommendations, so please plan on making a contribution to the February/March 2014 Newsletter.

Community Updates: Committee Report, continued...

Grounds Committee – Mike Nutbrown, Chair

Things have been relatively quiet on the Grounds Committee front over the past few months. The budget was discussed and approved by the committee and subsequently the board. Milkweed seeds were collected to add to the Monarch Waystation project next year. A great number of leaves were removed from the community with the final sweep completed in early December.

The garden was put to bed for the winter. Special thanks to Anne Sansbury and Jay Jarvis for blowing out the water line so it wouldn't freeze over the winter.

Our apologies to those residents who were quoted to have concrete work done by Concrete Jack. The board has opted not to accept Concrete Jack's billing option of billing the association for the entire amount and asking residents to reimburse the association. Concrete Jack wanted to charge each resident the full price instead of the discounted prices which would cause the cost of many jobs to increase 900%. That work will not be done this year. Instead, we will issue a new solicitation next spring and complete the work in 2015.

Over the winter we'll be updating our tree inventory and planning for new trees and shrubs to be planted next year. We'll also be planning next year's erosion-control projects and looking into replacing and extending some of the retaining walls in the community.

Finally we're considering building and installing a mini library near the pool house for a community book loan program. Residents could contribute books to the library for others to borrow, read, and return. You can find details about this sort of project at the Little Free Library web site, <http://littlefreelibrary.org/>. We're looking into the possibility of someone local doing this as their Eagle Scout, community service or similar project.

Neighborhood Watch Committee – Doug Stewart

In the past two months Fairfax County Police reports show two incidents in Lafayette Village called into the police, both on Peyton Forest Trail. One call was for a drug offence and the other was for a noise violation. Other than those two events, the neighborhood has been quiet.

We are currently looking for more volunteers to serve on the Neighborhood Watch. If you are interested in volunteering, email Doug at stewart8668@cox.net. The committee will begin meeting again in the spring to start planning for National Night Out 2015.

Preparing for Winter – Information you can use...

Winter has arrived!

And that means snow, snow plowing, and snow shoveling! Here are the guidelines Blade Runners will use to determine when and how it will plow our streets:

- If winter weather advisory is issued for our area that predicts snow in excess of 2 inches, Blade Runners will wait and see that we receive at least the predicted amount.
- When the snow depth reaches two inches, Blade Runners will begin plowing operations, unless it appears the total snow amount will be considerably more. Once the snow has stopped and our roads are clear, Blade Runners will apply sand and calcium chloride to our streets to minimize icing.
- If we have a dreaded wintry mix – snow, rain, and ice – making the roads treacherous, Blade Runners will begin to apply Magic Salt® to the our roads. Magic Salt® is a special de-icer that is efficient at melting snow and ice, while being more environmentally friendly than alternatives, including salt.



The Snows of Yesteryear!

Preparing for Winter, continued...

Blade Runners will communicate with the chair of the Grounds Committee and the President of the Association. In turn, they will provide updates to you through the LVCA email list.

If you do not already subscribe to the email list, now is a good time to begin – send your email address to lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org and request to be added to the mailing. You'll then be assured of getting the latest snow updates this winter, as well as other valuable notices. When the power failed during the most recent snow and ice storm, residents on the email list received 5 alerts, keeping them informed about when power would be restored and when Blade Runners would treat our streets.

Snow Shoveling:

As a resident of Lafayette Village, you are responsible for shoveling the sidewalks in front of your home, as well as the sidewalk to your front door and your driveway. In the event of a significant snowstorm, the Association will ask Blade Runners to clear the sidewalks on Lafayette Village Drive and Trammell Road next to Association property.

Shoveling snow or picking up large debris such as fallen branches can be physically demanding and can lead to injuries such as sprains and strains. Please follow these safety tips when you clean up after our wintry weather:

- Shovel small amounts of snow at a time.
- Push the snow instead of lifting where possible.
- Use proper form if lifting is necessary: keeping your back straight and lift with your legs.
- If you have a history of heart disease do not shovel without your doctor's okay.
- Avoid shoveling under snow and ice covered trees and roof lines due to possibly falling limbs, ice and snow.
- Take breaks while shoveling and do not overexert yourself, especially if you are inactive or over 40.
- Dress in layers and wear warm clothing and appropriate footwear.
- Watch where you are walking, even a little bit of snow can hide curbs and uneven walkways.
- Take off your boots or use a floor mat when you go back inside to avoid making floors slippery and hazardous.

More winter preparedness information can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/hazards/winter-storm-snow-cold.html.

VDOT's Got Your Back this Winter – The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is the state agency that controls and maintains the roads in Fairfax County, and clears our streets of snow. Drivers and residents may prepare for the first snowfall early by adding VDOT Winter Resources to mobile devices to get information about road conditions while at home or work:

- See the status of plowing in Northern Virginia neighborhoods: www.vdotplows.org;
- Follow [@VaDOTNOVA](https://twitter.com/VaDOTNOVA) on Twitter, and for real-time traffic updates and road conditions, call 511, follow [@511northernva](https://twitter.com/511northernva), use the [511app](https://www.511virginia.org) or visit www.511virginia.org;
- Report unplowed roads and hazardous conditions by e-mail to novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov or call 1-800-367-7623;
- Get general snow removal information at www.virginiadot.org/travel/snow.asp;
- Visit www.YouTube.com/VDOTweb for snow removal tips
- Visit www.VirginiaDOT.org for news and road conditions



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Trash Bag Fail...



Crows (or other critters) had a feast with the contents of this flimsy white plastic bag!
(Fortunately, Patriot picked up every last bit of this mess.)

If you use boxwood for holiday greenery, read this ...



Boxwood blight has been present in Virginia since 2011 and has since spread from its original location in Carroll County to a number of other counties around the state by movement of infected plants. Because much of Virginia's greenery production industry is located in areas where boxwood blight is known to occur, the potential for spread of the disease on boxwood greenery also exists. Last year we sent a notice regarding the potential for spread of the disease via holiday boxwood greenery. Now that potential has become a reality.

Although the fungus that causes boxwood blight is not active at cold temperatures, it produces structures that can survive on plant debris over the winter. The fungus could potentially infect nearby susceptible plants in the landscape when favorable weather conditions return. Therefore, it is very important that boxwood greenery be properly disposed after the holidays by double-bagging and putting it out for Patriot to collect. Do not compost boxwood greenery and do not leave it in cull piles in the landscape. Inspect boxwood greenery carefully for symptoms of boxwood blight before introducing it to a site containing susceptible boxwood plants.

Symptoms of boxwood blight include brown leaf spots with dark border, black streaks on green stems, and leaf drop. Be aware, however, that even asymptomatic greenery could potentially harbor the pathogen. If you have highly valued boxwood in your landscape, you may want to avoid introducing boxwood greenery altogether.

Open House salute to Jay Jarvis



Jay Jarvis and his family are in the process of retiring and moving to Palm Springs, California. An original owner, Jay has been very active in the Association since its very beginning. He has served for many years on the Board of Directors in all possible roles, including Member-at-Large, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President, and President. He has also served on many committees during the years, most notably on the Grounds Committee, where he was committee chair for many years.

His contributions to the community are almost too numerous to list. Just in the past few years, he was responsible for:

- Creating the community garden – Jay identified its location, roto-tilled it, created the plots, and fenced it in. Later he led the Grounds Committee in its project to expand the gardens to accommodate all the residents who wanted plots.
- Opening up the Meadows – Jay worked with Blade Runners to mow a series of paths and open spaces in our community meadows under the power lines next to the Beltway. These paths have created a pleasant walking area for community residents.
- Creating the pool picnic pad – for years, pool users have wanted an area where they could enjoy food while at the pool. This past year, thanks to Jay's leadership, a new picnic pad was added to the pool.
- Planting numerous trees and shrubs while removing aging and dying white pines.

To wish Jay good luck in his new home, we will hold an open house. Here are the details:

What: Open house to thank Jay Jarvis for his service to the community over the years

When: Sunday, January 25, 2015 from 2 to 4 pm

Where: At the home of Courtney Gorham, 7884 Hampton Village Pass

Please come and help us give Jay a rousing farewell!

Mark Rhodes, Interior Painting: We had Mark Rhodes come to paint in our townhouse. We got his name from this newsletter and would like to compliment him on such a neat, professional and pleasant-to-work-with job he did. We would recommend him to anyone who wants a referral. Mark is also a Lafayette Village resident.

Mark Rhodes: 703-560-8329