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LVCA Committee Chairs

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Vacant
Grounds

Finance

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cmagulas@netzero.com

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lafayette_village@yahoo.com
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Neighborhood Watch

Vacant

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**LAFAYETTE VILLAGE COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER-JULY/AUGUST
2007**

Notes from the Board

The board recently met with our neighbors at Hidden Oak Park. Among the topics of discussion was the result of a recent property survey conducted by the County Park Authority that identified and validated our respective property boundaries. It was discovered that the property from the Lafayette Village Community sign (across from the basketball courts) to the woods is owned by the Fairfax County Park system and is a part of Hidden Oak Park. The Park Service has requested that we stop mowing beyond our sign and allow their land to go back to a natural state. The board members voiced their concerns about the aesthetics of allowing this to happen. The naturalist that works for the Park Service suggested that we use a "native Virginian" wildflower mix to allow the strip of land to gradually return to its native state. The board is interested in the community's comments. Please plan to attend the August meeting where this issue will be discussed in further detail.

For some time LVCA Board members have heard complaints about the lack of service from our current management company. In an effort to ensure Lafayette Village has a management company that provides the level of service desired, the Board has decided to begin a competitive search for a new property management firm. Ten companies have been sent a "request for proposal" (RFP) and invited to compete for our new contract. The Board will review the proposals in August and compare them with our current management company services. A final decision will be made in September.

On another note... Thanks to the efforts of board member Jay Jarvis, the Community committees are beginning to see new members and Chairs. Thanks Jay for this concerted effort! We are still looking for additional volunteers! Please call any board member if you are interested in working on one of our committees. This will be this editor's last newsletter. I'd like to thank everyone on the Board, committees and community members who have contributed. I am sure Kristin will appreciate your continued support!

Kathie French

The 24th Annual "National Night Out", a unique crime/drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) has been scheduled for **Tuesday, August 7, 2007.**
Please turn on your outside lights

HIDDEN OAKS IS CHANGING

Hidden Oaks Park is undergoing a dramatic change to its circular drive and parking lot. In the



past no more than 3 cars could park near the Nature Center because there were only 3 parking spaces. That situation is changing dramatically as the drive is being expanded and 20 new spaces added. This is good news for the many users of the park and Nature Center.

Importantly for the environment, the method of construction for the project is low impact. Usually to expand a parking lot in a wooded area, bulldozers arrive and clear cut the space for the new drive and parking. However, in this instance, Fairfax County Park Authority personnel have taken extra efforts to save as many trees as possible, even delaying the overall project because of the need to use smaller pieces of equipment.

One of the most sensational aspects of the enhanced access road and parking lot will be that it will be built as a low impact development (LID) project. Just what does that mean? LID

techniques mitigate the effects of storm water runoff and ultimately will improve the health of nearby streams and lakes. Using permeable techniques mitigate the effects of storm water runoff and ultimately will improve the health of nearby streams and lakes. Using permeable pavers for the drive and parking lot, rainwater will be collected and sent to a rain garden, or bio-retention basin, being created in the center of the circular drive. The water will then be bio-filtered through 5 feet of various rock strata before it is vectored eventually to an outfall within the park property. The project will also feature interpretive signage explaining the environmental benefits of the new technology.

This \$350,000 project, funded in the 2004 Park Bond, is another example of the use of innovative methods that support the Fairfax County Board of Supervisor's 20-year environmental vision, as well as aligning with the Fairfax County Park

Authority's mission to serve as stewards of the environment.

Hidden Oaks Nature Center will remain open during construction but parking will be at the Packard Center at 4020 Hummer Road. The Nature Center hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9-5. Saturday and Sunday 12-5. Closed Tuesdays. Admission is free.

Neighborhood Watch Committee Reorganizing

The Neighborhood Watch Committee is being reorganized and the committee's first meeting will be Tuesday August 7th from 7 to 8 p.m. at 7828 Ashley Glen Road. Mark Rhodes, has agreed to become the organizing Chair.

August 7th is the "National Night Out", a night designed to: heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. It is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), a non-profit organization dedicated to the development and promotion of organized, law enforcement-affiliated crime and drug prevention programs. <http://www.nationalnightout.org/nno/>

Article IX(d) of the LVCA By-Laws states the role of the Neighborhood Watch Committee in Lafayette Village: "shall act as liaison with the Fairfax County Police Neighborhood Watch Program and shall advise the Board of Directors on all matters pertaining to such program and methods of improving the security of members' homes, property and persons."

According to Fairfax County the Neighborhood Watch program, encourages total community involvement in discouraging preventable crime by organizing and providing technical assistance through awareness meetings that help neighbors get to know one another, learn to secure their property, look out for one another, and recognize and report suspicious activity. It encourages community and individual involvement in crime prevention and targets burglaries, larcenies, and vandalism in residential areas. Enhances and foster communications between the community and the police department through the Crime Prevention Office."

At the committee's meeting, members will discuss what role such a program should take in Lafayette Village. Those agreeing to serve as of this writing are; Mark Rhodes, Dale Clark, Jim Bell, Pat Fox , Jim Ferguson, Ted Wray, Jim Lynch, Joaquin Tremols. Others interested in participating, please contact Mark Rhodes markandnancy@cox.net or Board Member Jay Jarvis jay@jarvislandscaping.com.

Following the meeting, committee members will walk through Lafayette Village in recognition of "National Night Out." Refreshments will be served at the playground area. Come meet your neighbors!

It's Back!!

Dog Poop Epidemic Returns

For a while this spring, our neighborhood was sparkling! Dog owners took to heart their responsibilities to clean up after their dogs. But now, some of our neighbors are backsliding, and the dog poop piles are returning throughout the community. And now the rest of us have more messes to deal with.

What are the facts?

It is against Fairfax County law to leave your dog waste. The law states that “The owner or custodian of any dog shall be responsible for the removal of excreta deposited by such dog on the property of another, including public areas (“pooper scooper” regulation)” (*County Code Section 41-1-2, Section 108-5-2 and Section 41-2-6*).

It is against the Lafayette Village Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions to keep pets in the community that are a source of annoyance or nuisance to the neighborhood. All homeowners agree to this Declaration of Covenants when they purchase their homes.

Dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs are violating Fairfax County law and our Declaration of Covenants.

If you see someone failing to clean up his or her dog’s poop, let them know what their responsibilities are. If you can identify these people, contact a Board member, and we will contact these scofflaws.

What are the alternatives?

So far, we have avoided the alternative of **hiring someone** to pick up dog waste, at an annual cost of **\$3000** or more. This would cost every home owner at least \$10 a year, **to clean up after someone else**. And we have more pressing needs in our aging community!

So please – if you are a dog owner, pick up after your dog. If you see a dog owner failing to clean up their dog’s waste, talk to them. If you feel more comfortable, call or contact a Board member, and we will talk to them. It’s our community! We deserve, expect and demand a clean, well-kept neighborhood!

ITEMS OF INTEREST

LAFAYETTE VILLAGE COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

Monthly Meetings

Board Meetings- 2nd Monday --7:00 p.m.-- 6507 Columbia Pike-
Mason District Government Building

Board Working Sessions - 4th Monday -7:30 p.m. at 3686 Yorktown
Village Pass

ACC Meetings—3rd Monday evenings, George Mason Library, 7001
Little River Turnpike @7:00 p.m.

Finance Committee - 4th Thursday - 7:00 p.m. (Contact the Chair for
location)

Community Activities

Farmers Market at Mason District Park -Join your friends and
neighbors at the Farmer's Market on Thursday mornings from 8 a.m. until
12 p.m. at Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale. The
Farmer's Market offers vine-ripe produce, fresh baked goods and, herb
plants, and much more for your summer and fall enjoyment. For a
complete schedule of Farmer's Markets hosted by the Fairfax County Park
Authority, and other activities, visit their Web Site at
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animalservices>

Spotlight by Starlight, at the Newton Edwards Amphitheatre in Mason
District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale. One popular summer
activity for all ages is this free concert series. The complete schedule is
available for pick-up at 6507 Columbia Pike, or on-line at
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.performances. See you at the park this
summer!

Community Contacts

Fairfax Police Department
Emergency - 911
Non-Emergency-703-691-2131

Mason District Supervisor Pennv Gross
703-256-7753

NOTE FROM A CONCERNED NEIGHBOR

Some time between July 12th and July 14th,
our community park was vandalized.
Graffiti was found written all over the play
scape. As a community, we need to band
together to keep our neighborhood safe. I
urge all of my neighbors, please, if you see
anything at all that looks out of place,
please call the police (703-691-2131) and
have them check it out. You don't have to
leave your name, but if we all keep our eyes
open, we can keep our neighborhood safe.

LVCA Board Meeting
August 13th
Please join us!

DID YOU KNOW?

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AUGUST 7, 2007 TURN ON YOUR OUTSIDE LIGHTS

National Night Out is designed to:

- Heighten drug and crime prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and;
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

SIGN UP FOR THE LVCA E-MAIL LIST!

Occasionally, the Board sends announcements, reminders and other notices of interest to community residents by email. For example, we recently sent out a notice about the semi-annual meeting that was held this past May 14th. If you would like to receive these email notices, please email the LVCA Webmaster at LVCAWebmaster@hotmail.com, and indicate that you would like to receive notices by email.

Quarterly Assessments

Assessments are due on the first day of the payment month (January, April, July, and October). The payments are late if received after the 15th of the month. So mail assessments early enough to arrive at the management company by the 15th. The Board has reiterated that it will not waive late fees in the future if payments are received after the 15th of the month assessments are due!

VOLUNTEER! BECOME PART OF THE SOLUTION!

Our community still needs volunteers with energy and ideas to actively participate in our community and on our LVCA committees that report to the Board. Give a few hours or serve on one of our committees:

- ◆ Neighborhood Watch – Watch Committee Members.
- ◆ Architecture Control Committee (ACC) - Leader and Committee Members
- ◆ Pool and Recreation – Committee Members
- ◆ Communication/Media- Committee Members
- ◆ Finance – Committee Members

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The Neighborhood Watch Committee is reinventing itself! If you are interested in participating on the Neighborhood Watch Committee, please join other concerned residents at the home of Jay Jarvis (jay@jclinsurance.com or telephone 703-280-5812) on August 7, at 7:00 p.m. It is National Night Out and after the meeting we will walk to the tot lot to show our support and meet and greet our residents,

RECREATION COMMITTEE



Summer Barbeque -- AUGUST 5, 2007

The annual summer barbeque will take place August 5th at the pool parking lot. All residents are invited. Bring your favorite side dish or desert to share with your neighbors. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided by your Association. Need volunteers to help in setting up the annual community barbeque! Contact Christie Magulas at cmagulas@cox.net or by phone (703-560-3520). Let's Party!!!



Yard Sale

Are you interested in a fall yard sale? Please contact Christie Magulas at cmagulas@cox.net or by phone (703-560-3520) to voice your interest!



We're having a great pool season so far! If you haven't had an opportunity to use the pool, please stop by soon. We've been having great weather and the water is delightful.

Reminders:

- **Pool Passes.** Each person entering the pool must have a pool pass with a current 2007 sticker. This includes children and guests. There are no exceptions to this rule. If you haven't applied for 2007 pool passes, the registration form is available at www.lafayettevillage.org.
- **Disciplinary concerns.** We have had several incidences of bad behavior this summer, including cussing and talking back to the lifeguards. This type of behavior is not tolerated at our pool, and will result in being banned from the pool for the remainder of the season. The lifeguards are there to ensure the safety of everyone at the pool, and they deserve our respect in enforcing the rules. Please refer to the 2007 Pool Rules for additional information.
- **Vandalism.** There have also been several incidences of vandalism at the pool house. If you observe any inappropriate after-hours activity at the pool, please call Fairfax County Police. This is not harmless activity as it results in expenses to the homeowner's association to repair damage.

Don't forget—Save your pool passes for next season to avoid paying for replacements next year.



ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE

One of the first impressions for any first time visitor to Lafayette Village as they drive into the neighborhood is the wonderful wooded ambiance of the shrubs and trees around our homes and in our community. The summer heat and dry weather, however, is taking its toll on the grass, trees, and shrubs in our common areas. You can help keep Lafayette Village green and attractive by watering the common area foliage near your home. It only takes a moment and a bit of water to rejuvenate trees and shrubs that are parched and dry. Please pitch in and keep Lafayette Village green and beautiful!

Lots of grounds activities are taking place this summer. The ACC has made arrangements for the removal of several dead pine trees near the tot lot and several other trees near Hampton Village Pass and Hancock Forest Trail. Other tree removal and stump removal projects are under consideration and the Committee has requested quotes from contractors on several projects.

Addressing erosion issues is also a top priority of the ACC. Several bids are being sought for these projects. The Board recently received three bids to correct the erosion issue on the Merrimac Trail extension and has requested that the ACC review and make a recommendation. It is expected that work on this issue will begin in August.

At the last ACC meeting, upon the recommendation of a board member to split the ACC and Grounds into two separate committees, the members determined that the separation was not feasible due to the lack of volunteers to fill 2 committees.

The Board recently held hearing for delinquent homeowners who have not brought their properties into compliance with the ACC guidelines. No one showed up after receiving a certified letter as well as a letter mailed through regular mail service. When homeowners do not notify the board of their progress and/or difficulties in complying, fines are levied if the violation has not been remedied at the time of the hearing. **Communication is the key**...homeowners are encourage to contact LMA or Board members to identify any reason why they cannot fix the violations. The fines levied are \$10 per day per violation until the matter is resolved. By communicating with the Board it affords you opportunity to work with the Board to help find a resolution. Several homeowners have allowed fines to accumulate and when not paid the debts are turned over to our attorney and a credit bureau to collect. When fines/assessments are chronically ignored the Board has the authority to place a lien on the homeowner's property. So, **Communication is important!**

TREASURER'S REPORT



The Finance Committee is reviewing all financial statements and will be working with LMA to seek solutions on delinquent accounts and other financial issues. Currently there are some 20 owners who owe late fees of \$10 or \$20 to LVCA for quarterly assessments. Each resident should periodically check with LMA to ensure you're your accounts are paid and accurate. Contact Phyllis@lmainc.com if you have any questions regarding your accounts.

Hurricane Season Preparedness

Hurricane season, June 1 to November 30, is underway and, according to scientists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), an above normal 2007 Atlantic Hurricane Season is anticipated with 13 to 17 named storms of which seven to 10 may become hurricanes. The Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management urges residents to prepare for any hurricane or tropical systems that may affect this area by reviewing hurricane safety tips and preparing an emergency supply kit.

A three-day supply of essential items may include, but are not limited to, food, water, battery-powered radio or

T.V., extra batteries, flashlights, a first-aid kit, and medications. Register for alerts from the Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN) at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean. The CEAN delivers emergency alerts, notifications, and updates during a major crisis or emergency to e-mail accounts, cell phones, text pagers, satellite phones, and wireless PDAs registered on the system. Residents also may register for additional CEAN alert categories, such as severe weather 24/7 and severe weather 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday. For more emergency preparedness information and resources, contact the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management at 703-324-2362, TTY 711, or log on to:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency.

LVCA ANNUAL BBQ



When: Sunday, August 5th at 4:30pm

Where: Pool Parking Lot

LVCA will provide burgers and dogs. Please bring a side dish or a dessert to share.

Please RSVP to Christine Magulas at cmagulas@cox.net (with “bbq” in the re line) so we know how much meat to buy.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

