

#### Lafayette Village Community Association Board Members

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# LVCA Committee Chairs ACC/Grounds

Vacant

#### **Finance**

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#### Pool

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Neighborhood Watch

Vacant

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# Loudoun Management Associates

Phyllis Pryor or Dave Ciccerelli

866-LMA-1890 lvca@Imainc.com

PO Box 2070,

Purcellville, VA 20134-2070

Fairfax Police Department

Emergency – 911 Non-Emergency-703-691-2131

### **Notes from the Board**

Over the past month or so the Board has been receiving a number of complaints about neighbors not properly taking care of their property--open garbage storage and junk in back yards, homeowner trees infringing on neighboring properties...and the list goes on. The Board and LMA have little recourse in solving many of the complaints we have received because the issues are taking place within the "private" property of homeowners. The ACC Guidelines spell out what authority we do have and when the guidelines are violated, homeowners are cited and expected to correct problems and issues. If they do not they are subject to fines, hearings, and legal recourse.

However, we would like to remind <u>every</u> homeowner that they have a responsibility to the community as well. If you see a health violation, you may of course contact the Board and LMA and if we can resolve the issue we will. If we cannot we advise you to contact the Fairfax authorities to get them involved in helping you solve the issue.

As a reminder, the Board volunteers to serve and we need more volunteers to help us maintain the beauty of our neighborhood. At every board meeting and in every newsletter we ask for volunteers to serve the community. We get very little response. So again, we ask that you become part of the solution by taking part in the board meetings and volunteering to serve on one of our committees.

# Pool Opened May 26<sup>th</sup> All Association Assessments/Fines must be paid in full to receive pool stickers!



Jan Vaughan of the Preliminary Engineering Office of the Virginia Department of Transportation spoke at the semi-annual homeowners meeting on May 14. She provided information about the general status of various transportation projects in the Annandale area and specifically about the Beltway widening project that may impact LVCA.

Additional funding for transportation is available now that the Northern Virginia Transportation Funding bill has been passed by the General Assembly. The action will allow local governments to raise revenue from taxes to support local transportation initiatives.

### **HOT Lanes**

One of the initiatives that may affect LVCA is the High Occupancy or Toll (HOT) lanes. Two new lanes will be privately built on both the inner and outer loops of the Beltway from the mixing bowl in Springfield to the Veterans Memorial Bridge. Current plans for these lanes are at the 30% design phase and call for seven exits/entrances between Springfield and Georgetown Pike. The two exits closest to LVCA will be at Braddock Road and Gallows Road. The impact on the intersection at Little River Turnpike is supposed to be minimal. Access to the HOT lanes will be for HOV-3 or more or the driver can pay a sliding toll, depending on the time of day and traffic congestion. The timeline for the project is nebulous but probably in 2010.

Residents asked for VDOT to post the plans on their website as soon as they are public. Their website is <a href="www.va.dot.org">www.va.dot.org</a> for any transportation questions.

### Other projects

Other projects are underway also:

- -adding 2 left turn lanes onto Beauregard Street from VA-236 to be completed by end of summer.
- -road work on VA-236 from Northern Virginia Community College to Fairfax City. The work is underway now.
- -pedestrian crosswalk at Seven Corner shopping center.
- -improving the intersection at Route 29 and Gallows Road to add 2 left turn lanes and a third through lane. The bid for this work will be out in 2010.

### **Traffic Calming**

VDOT encourages communities to work with their Board of Supervisor member if the community is interested in pursuing traffic calming measures. Many new ways are available to slow traffic including 4-way stops, traffic tables, and speed humps.

### **Sound barriers**

The HOT lane project is not being built with Federal funds, but with tolls, so it is exempt from required sound barrier provisions. If the community wants to pursue sound barriers, VDOT suggested working with the Mason District Supervisor.

Members of the Board asked to be added to the VDOT mailing lists for information about projects near LVCA. Board members will contact VDOT periodically for updates on these projects.

### **Volunteer Request**

Transportation issues and especially the Beltway widening project could affect LVCA. If anyone is interested in serving on an ad-hoc committee to track these transportation developments, please contact Linda Boone or another board member to volunteer.



### Yard Waste Collection on Merrimac Trail

Starting May 30, 2007, the single family homes on Merrimac Trail will receive their weekly yard waste collection on Wednesdays. This measure is designed to reduce the number of truck visits that our vendor, American Disposal, makes to the community. Wednesdays are typically yard waste collection days for the rest of Fairfax County and American wishes to consolidate the Merrimac Trail collection with others already scheduled on Wednesday in the Annandale area.

Residents are required to separate yard waste from trash for disposal. Collected yard waste is recycled. To facilitate this identification, residents are requested to place yard waste at the curb in clear plastic or craft paper bags. As with other trash set out in LVCA, residents should place yard waste at the curb late on Tuesday evening or by 7:00 am on Wednesday. Brush is collected if it is cut in 5 feet lengths and bundled so that no bundle weighs more than 40 pounds.

We appreciate your cooperation in making this new date work. It is a good thing to do for the environment.

# **Proposal for Police Enforcement at LVCA**

Captain Dittmer of the Mason District Police Office has offered to enforce the Code of Fairfax County on our private property in LVCA. Fairfax County Police already enforce code violations on public property, but this will be an opportunity for the police to come aboard our property and ticket vehicles for expired registrations, non-working vehicles, etc. This topic was presented at the Semi-annual Owners Meeting on May 14 and most of the 25 residents present indicated they were in favor of the idea.

However, before signing the authorization, the Board wanted to notify the community about the proposal and allow for feedback prior to taking the action. Please contact Linda Boone at 703-698-0338 or Linda.boone1@verizon.net to make your thoughts known.

# Overall Crime Down in Fairfax County during First Quarter of 2007

Fairfax County continues a trend that began in 2002 with an overall decrease in index crime for the first three months of 2007 as compared to last year at this time. Index crimes which include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assaults, burglaries, larcenies and motor vehicle thefts, decreased by 6.2 percent as compared to the first quarter of 2006.

There was a decrease in the number of reported aggravated assaults, burglaries, larcenies and motor vehicle thefts. However, there was an increase in the number of reported rapes and robberies. The increase in reported robberies, which mirrors ongoing regional and national trends, is being proactively and aggressively targeted by the department. Upward trends in reported crime as noted with robberies and rapes are always of concern to the department because of the violence and potential for violence against victims. The department uses these quarterly statistics to deploy its resources to better respond to the needs of the community, to identify trends and implement new and continuing strategies to enhance public safety.

All members of the community are encouraged to help combat crime by promptly reporting criminal activity directly to police or by providing tips through the Crime Solvers program, 1-866-411-TIPS/8477.

Crime	Jan. – March	Jan March	% Change
	2006	2007	increase
			(decrease)
Murder	2	2	0.0%
Rape	21	35	66.7%
Robbery	132	155	17.4%
Aggravated	71	64	(9.9%)
Assault			
Burglary	366	302	(17.5%)
Larceny	3051	2851	(6.6%)
Motor Vehicle	344	329	(4.4%)
Theft			
Total	3987	3738	(6.2%)

Fairfax County Police releases its reported criminal offenses, or index crimes using the FBI's "Uniform Crime Report" (UCR) method. The year-to-date data contained in this release is subject to change due to data revision and updating.

# Weeds have met their match!

The invasive weed management program is showing results here in Lafayette Village!

Volunteers have spent three weekends in late April and May attacking the invasive weeds that have taken over the lower parts of our community, including Hidden Oaks/Annandale Community Park. On April 28th, a group of six volunteers, led by Joan Martinez, learned how to identify invasive weeds and proceeded to fill up six yard waste bags with invasive weeds in just two

Linda Boone, Sue Henley, Susan Dudley, Joan Martinez and Gloria Kozich at the April 28th workday with some of the bags of weeds they collected.

hours of work. The group removed porcelainberry, Japanese honeysuckle, Oriental Bittersweet, multiflora roses and autumn olive, all invasive weeds that in some cases alter the very soil they grow in.

While working, the group learned more about how invasive weeds frequently start out as plantings in back yard gardens that spread to and take over local wilderness areas. These forest invaders can severely degrade our local environment, resulting in fewer native plants, less healthy wildlife, and a less attractive forest, as we see daily on Lafayette Village Drive.

Two follow-up workdays focused on the part of margins of Annandale Community Park bordering Lafayette Village

Drive. Invasives frequently gain a foothold in transition areas, so removing weeds at those locations can be especially effective.



The results! These invasive weeds are awaiting removal by Fairfax County Park Authority.

If you would like to be part of this effort to greatly improve the appearance of our community, contact Carl Iddings at <a href="mailto:carl\_iddings@hotmail.com">carl\_iddings@hotmail.com</a> or call him at 703-206-0170. The Fairfax



Bill Steiglitz frees a tree from porcelainberry weeds.

County Park Authority website has an excellent website about the Invasive weeds management program at <a href="http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/ima/">http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/ima/</a>.

# ITEMS OF INTEREST

### LAFAYETTE VILLAGE COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

### **Monthly Meetings**

<u>Board Meetings</u>- 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday --7:00 p.m.– 6507 Columbia Pike-Mason District Government Building

 $\frac{Board\ Working\ Sessions}{Village\ Pass} - 4^{th}\ Monday - 7{:}30\ p.m.\ at\ 3686\ Yorktown$ 

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

<u>Finance Committee</u> – 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday – 7:00 p.m. (Contact the Chair for location)

### **Community Activities**

Farmer's 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 <a href="https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks">www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks</a>.

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter will be at the 2007 K9 2K and Doggie Expo on Saturday, June 2 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Herndon, VA. Shelter staff will be available to sell 2007 Fairfax County dog licenses at the Expo, which will be located in the softball field parking lot of Bready Park at the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave. in Herndon. To obtain a Fairfax County 2007 dog license, residents must bring proof of their dog's current rabies vaccination. Licenses cost \$5.00 for altered dogs and \$10.00 for unaltered dogs (please bring proof of your pet's spay or neuter). For more information about the shelter, visit the Fairfax County Animal Services Division Web site at <a href="http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animalservices">http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animalservices</a>

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 <a href="www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.performances">www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.performances</a>. See you at the park this summer!

# ADVERTISE IN THE LVCA NEWSLETTER FREE TO RESIDENTS

**CONTACT EDITOR KATHIE FRENCH** 

# LVCA Board Meeting June 11<sup>th</sup> Please join us!

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

### **Fairfax County Master Gardeners**

Wonder what is eating your plant? How should you re-pot a house plant? How do you prune that tree in your yard? When should you fertilize your lawn? Free advice about your gardening concerns is available from the Fairfax County Master Gardeners. Contact the Master Gardeners at 703-324-8556, by e-mail: mgfairfax@vt.edu, or on the Web at fairfaxmastergardeners.com. Volunteers also are available to speak to community groups, homeowner associations, and garden clubs. To arrange for a speaker to come visit your community, call 703-324-8556 or e-mail: speakersbureau@fairfaxmastergardeners.com. You also can visit the Master Gardeners at the county's Farmers Markets and Libraries and bring your plant and insect samples. For a complete listing of the 2007 Plant Clinic Schedule. their visit Web fairfaxmastergardeners.com.

# RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL

If you would like to receive your newsletter via email, send email to Kathie French, Newsletter Editor (kfrench22@cox.net)

### SIGN UP FOR THE LY(A E-MAIL LIST!

Occasionally, the Board 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 LVCA Webmaster email the LVCAWebmaster@hotmail.com. indicate that you would like to receive notices by email.

### Lafayette Village is a beautiful, natural

looking community .... We are snuggled just inside the beltway and back to Hidden Oaks Park. Lafayette Village grounds were created by the developer. Essentially, the top of a hill was leveled to accommodate placing the homes in the 3 separate areas of the project. When the hill was removed, most of the trees and topsoil were also removed. In order to make the community appear more established as lots and homes were being sold, the developers liberally planted many, fast-growing pine trees, some very close to homes. Now that the community is nearing 25 years old, many of the trees have grown into huge trees that dwarf the homes and surrounding hardwoods. The ACC has developed a tree management plan designed to trim and/or remove some of the problematic trees. However, as the trees have grown and shade has become denser, less grass is able to grow in the shady areas.

Another result of the community's early development is that the topsoil is thin with a very rocky level a few inches underground. Growing plants and shrubs is more difficult because of clay composition of the underneath soil and the shallow topsoil. Lots of soil amendment is needed if plants are to grow well.

This brief history of the community grounds provides the backdrop for some of the erosion problems that LVCA is currently experiencing. Mike Dollard, arborist and account manager with Blade Runners, our grounds maintenance company, walked the property with several Board and Architectural Control Committee members on April 24. He offered comments and addressed potential corrective actions that will be needed over the coming years.

Erosion concerns: Essentially every area with a slope is a potential erosion problem. Several areas have been addressed over the years with partial retaining walls being placed behind Peyton Forest, Byrds Nest, and Yorktown Village Pass. Other erosion work has recently been completed between Byrds Nest and Butterfield Lane and behind Peyton Forest and Brunswick

Forest. New projects are being considered behind Yorktown Village Pass, on Byrds Nest Pass and between Byrds Nest Pass, Mt. Airey and Butterfield lane. Some of the erosion problems on slopes had been caused by improper mowing, which Blade Runners is endeavoring to correct. Some of the problems have been exacerbated by homeowners' roof and patio drains being installed above ground or emptying onto common property. The management company is working with individual owners to correct those problems.

Blade Runners has proposed a series of erosion projects and a plan to correct drainage problems over the next few years that the ACC/Grounds Committee and the Board will be reviewing in the next month.

<u>Ground cover</u>: Blade Runners recommended that densely shaded areas be mulched or that ground cover be added. Likewise on steep sloped areas, the company is recommending adding ground cover such as behind Yorktown Village Pass or between Peyton Forest and Newport Glen. The ACC will be discussing these options and costs.

<u>Invasive plants</u>: The Board has coordinated with Hidden Oaks/Annandale Community Park to learn about removing invasive plants, so that we can support volunteer efforts within LVCA to help protect our common property from invasives. The project goals are to remove invasives and replant native species along our property that will enhance the natural environment and keep the area less overgrown. See the article elsewhere in this issue for a progress report on this project.

If we have to pay for this kind of work, it will be very expensive to have the grounds company remove the invasives.

LVCA is a beautiful community and through the volunteer efforts of owners and residents, we can keep it that way. The Board encourages everyone living in LVCA to volunteer on one of our committees or workgroups.



The *National Wildlife Federation* (NWF) sponsors a program that certifies backyards as wildlife habitats. The NWF has certified 74,000 yards and has set a goal of certifying 100,000 more. Several of your neighbors have already taken the steps necessary to become certified. It's easy and your yard may already qualify. Registering your yard (front and/or back) for certification requires filling out a questionnaire. Your answers determine whether you meet the basic requirements necessary to support and sustain a Wildlife Habitat: Food, Water, Cover, and Places to raise young.

**Food.** You might think the easiest way to provide wildlife with food is to put out a bird feeder. But there's actually an even easier way, which is to plant native plants. Native plants provide the nutrition necessary to sustain the wildlife in your garden as well as providing the beautiful wildflowers to enjoy throughout the seasons. Go Native!

**Water.** An easy way to provide water for wildlife is to put out a bird bath. You'll be amazed by the flurry of activity around a bird bath. The key to having a successful bird bath is to change the water at least every other day. This keeps the water fresh and ensures mosquitoes do not use the water. Do not use Bleach!

Cover and Places to Raise Young. Wildlife need a place to hide in order to feel safe in your yard. They also need a more long-term shelter to raise their young. The easiest ways to provide cover is to use existing vegetation, dead and alive. Many shrubs provide great hiding places within their bushy leaves, and dead trees are home to lots of different wildlife. You can also construct hiding places using logs, brush or rocks. Build a Bird House!

**Sustainable Gardening.** How you manage your garden or landscape can have an affect on the health of the soil, air, water and habitat for native wildlife - as well as the human community. Following are some sustainable gardening techniques that you can use to help conserve resources: Mulching; Reducing lawn areas; Xeriscaping; Using rain barrels; Removing invasive & restoring native plants. Garden in an Environmentally Friendly Way!

To find out more about this worthwhile project go to <a href="http://www.nwf.org/backyard/">http://www.nwf.org/backyard/</a> and certify your Lafayette Village property as a NWF Backyard Habitat.

### **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
- **♦** Website Committee Members

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

The Neighborhood Watch Committee needs a new Chairman. If you are interested in taking over this important position or just want to participate in the Neighborhood Watch, contact Jay Jarvis at jay@jclinsurance.com or telephone 703-280-5812.

### **RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Yard Sale

The semi-annual LVCA yard sale was held on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Many neighbors participated in the yard sale and it was declared a huge success. Please let Christie Magulas at <a href="magulas@cox.net">cmagulas@cox.net</a> or by phone (703-560-3520) know if you would be interested in a fall yard sale!



# Summer Barbeque

Need volunteers to help plan the annual community barbeque! Contact Christie Magulas at <a href="magulas@cox.net">cmagulas@cox.net</a> or by phone (703-560-3520). It's never too early to plan a party!!!!!!



# Pool Opened May 26th- Welcome Summer!!!!

**Pool stickers** and passes will be available for pickup from the lifeguards at the pool beginning Saturday, June  $2^{nd}$  at 11:00 a.m.

### **Pool Pass Enforcement:**

- Each person entering the pool must have a pool pass with a 2007 sticker. **There will be no exceptions to this rule.** You can't have a pool pass without a 2007 sticker, or a 2007 sticker without a pool pass. You must have both.
- If 4 people come into the pool, they must have 4 pool passes.
- **New this year:** As you enter the pool, the lifeguard will take your pool passes. When you leave the pool, the lifeguard will return your pool passes. Be sure to pick up you pass as you leave the pool.
- The lifeguards have been instructed to strictly enforce this rule. Please help the lifeguards by making sure you have your pool passes with you every time you go to the pool. You won't be allowed entrance without your pass.
- If you haven't yet applied for 2007 pool passes, the application form is available on the web site at <a href="www.lafayettevillage.org">www.lafayettevillage.org</a>. Renters must get their passes/stickers from the home owner.

### Food:

Please remember, absolutely no food is allowed within the fenced pool enclosure.

**Bees and Drinks:** 



Every year people get stung by bees that fly inside open soda cans and then sting the drinker. Please be careful when you have open soda

cans. Parents also should be aware of the potential problem and watch out for their children. To help alleviate this problem, the vending machines at the pool will dispense bottle drinks only.

### **Pool Furniture:**

The pool furniture was new last summer, and this summer we have a new diving board and have replaced the second lifeguard chair. Please help us take care of the new furniture so it will last as long as possible.

# Enjoy the pool and have a great summer!



### ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE

inspections were completed by Spring our management company in April, and homeowners needing to conduct repairs have been notified by mail. If you received a notice but need a little more time to finish the repairs, please let Phyllis of Loudoun Management know by calling (866)LMA-1890 or emailing her phyllis@lmainc.com. Failure to conduct the repairs may lead to the loss of pool privileges, the loss of parking privileges, and may result in fines and legal action. You can also contact our management agent if you notice trees or shrubs in common areas that need trimming. Let's keep Lafayette Village beautiful!

### **WEBSITE**

The website is back up, running, and under redesign by board members Carl Iddings and Jay Jarvis. Check out the information on the web at www.lafayettevillage.org!