



Lafayette Village Community Association

June/July 2012 Newsletter

VDOT Settles with LVCA – Is a club-house in our future?

The Association successfully settled its lawsuit against VDOT to determine the value of our property taken during the HOT Lanes project. VDOT agreed to our proposal that \$50,000 was a reasonable compromise to prevent our suit going to a jury trial. After legal and expert witness expenses, the Association will net about \$33,000.

Now comes the question – what should we do with that money? Our auditors have proposed a plan that would allow us to avoid paying taxes on the \$33,000, but to do this, we will need to get the approval of 2/3rds of the membership for this plan. Basically, the Board would approve both a rebate of these funds to the membership along with a special assessment equal to the rebate – no money would actually change hands. Then we would set aside the \$33,000, earmarking it for a capital improvement project, not an ordinary maintenance or operations item. Because of our covenants, **any** special assessment, even a pro-forma assessment like this one, requires a 2/3rds vote of the entire membership, so we would need to conduct a vote by mail. Any alternative to this plan would result in the entire \$33,000 being subject to federal and state taxes, and our auditors have warned us our tax bill could be significant.

What sort of capital project should we consider? A number of us developed a concept plan several years ago to build a club house addition to our pool house. You can see one such plan to the right with views below. This club house would be available for Board and committee meetings, and could be rented out to members for parties and other activities. Unlike the pool house, the club house would be designed for year-round use, so it would be heated and cooled, and would contain its own bathroom facilities. There would also be counter space, a sink and possibly some kitchen facilities such as a microwave and refrigerator. The club house would also contain storage areas for tables and chairs.



The idea of a club house was discussed at the Semi-Annual meeting on May 14 and was received favorably with the understanding that much more work needed to be done to identify the details of the proposal. For instance, we would need to estimate the costs of the project, both its initial costs and its ongoing operational costs. We would need to look at any variances we might need just to get a building permit, and at any design alternatives that might help us avoid that. Also, we need to consider if there are any other capital projects the Association might be interested in, instead of a club house.

So, our next steps are clear: we will work to provide more details for this plan to determine if it's viable or not. And we will consider alternatives. If you are interested in volunteering to work on the plan, please send an email to president@lafayettevillage.org. If you are an architect or have experience in the construction industry, you could make a valuable contribution by volunteering your knowledge and expertise. If you have any thoughts about this proposal, either for or against, or have a better idea for a capital project, again email your ideas to president@lafayettevillage.org. By working together, we can come up with a project that will be a lasting contribution to our community.

In this issue...

- *Committee Reports/Schedule*
- *Trash Collection Guidelines*
- *Express Lanes Landscaping*
- *Renter responsibilities*



Our Community Information...

LVCA Board Members

Carl Iddings – President

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John Alexander – Vice President

703-208-9614

jmalex14@msn.com

Jay Jarvis - Treasurer

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Nathan Garcia – Secretary

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Hattie Walden – Member-at-Large

703-204-4641

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LVCA Committee Chairs

Architectural Control – Angela Cutter

aicutter50@gmail.com

Grounds – John Alexander

703-208-9614

jmalex14@msn.com

Finance – Jay Jarvis

treasurer@lafayettevillage.org

Pool & Recreation – Lisa Conoly

703-698-7455

lisac_234@hotmail.com

Communications – Carl Iddings

lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org

Neighborhood Watch – Fred Saah

703-641-0446

fred300@gmail.com

Sequoia Management Company

Dale Edwards

dedwards@sequoiangmt.com

Phone: 703-803-9641

Fax: 703-968-0936

REMINDER: Third Quarter Assessments are due July 1, 2012. Please enclose the July coupon with your check and make sure you mail your check in time to be received by July 15th.

LAFAYETTE VILLAGE COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

Monthly Meetings (Check Website for Details)

Board Meetings - 2nd Monday of month at 7:00 PM at the Mason District Government Building, 6507 Columbia Pike. (June 11 and July 9)

ACC Meetings – Normally the 3rd Monday of month at 7:00 PM at 3711 Yorktown Village Pass (June 14; July 19)

Grounds Meetings – 4th Thursday of month at 7:15 PM at 7900 Peyton Forest Trail. (June 28 and July 26)

Finance Committee – No meetings in June and July. Meetings resume in August.

Neighborhood Watch – Normally the Tuesday after each Board meeting at 7:30 PM at 3721 Yorktown Village Pass (June 19; July 10)

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

Michele Krahn – In memoriam

Michele Krahn, a long-time homeowner in Lafayette Village, passed away unexpectedly Tuesday, May 15, 2012. Michele was an active contributor to the community, serving on the Finance Committee for many years where she alerted the Association to what were then inadequate contributions to our reserve funds, and was appointed to the Board of Directors in 2007 where she served until 2010. More importantly, she was a very good friend to many of us in Lafayette Village.

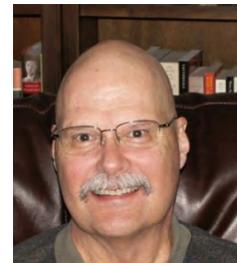
If you are interested, the family has asked that a donation be made in Michele's honor to the Annandale Christian Community for Action food bank (ACCA, 7200 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003) or other charity (Red Cross, Heart Association, Cancer Society).

Contributors to this edition: Thanks to Angela Cutter, Anne Sansbury, Erica Karasiewicz, Fred Saah, Jay Jarvis, John Alexander, Kaye Kory, Kristin Walsh, Matt Cockerham, and Penny Gross. **Special thanks to the distributors:** Carolyn Iddings, Christie Prucker, Larry Dunham, Linda Boone, Nathan Garcia, and Tina Snapp.

A note from the President:

This month, I have a variety of topics I want to address.

First, the Association will be awarding a new trash collection contract in the next two months. If you have any observations about the performance of our current provider, American Disposal Services, please send them to me at president@lafayettevillage.org and I will pass them on to the Board and the Grounds Committee. American Disposal is one of the bidders for our next three-year contract, and we would be interested in hearing about your experiences with the company.



Second, in July, the Board will conduct a mid-year review of Sequoia Management's performance as our new management company. Again, if you have any observations about Sequoia's performance, both good and bad, the Board would like to hear from you. Please send any comments to president@lafayettevillage.org, and I will share them with the Board. I think that Sequoia has made a good start as our management company, but there are definite areas for improvement, so the Board needs to work with Sequoia to ensure these improvements occur.

Third, it's been a busy seven months for the Board, and I want you to know all that we've accomplished during this time. The Board's major focus has been the successful transition to a new management company, Sequoia Management. While we are still working through some growing pains, Sequoia and our community manager, Dale Edwards, have been busy making improvements in Lafayette Village, and conducting a thorough ACC inspection. In addition, your Association has:

- Applied and received two grants totaling \$9500, one to create a second community garden, and one to address the damage done by HOT Lanes construction along Lafayette Village Drive by the S Curve.
- Successfully prosecuted a lawsuit against VDOT, more than doubling the initial offer VDOT made for our property taken during HOT Lanes construction. After expenses, we've netted about \$34,000.
- Completed a major tree maintenance operation, removing dead and dying trees, and pruning trees to allow more sunlight onto our grassy areas.
- Completed a comprehensive ACC annual inspection, and began the enforcement process.
- Repaired all street lights, so for the first time in many years, all our street lights are working correctly.
- Repaired damaged trash cans, and added a new trash can and pet waste bag dispenser on Trammell Road.
- Updated our parking regulations to better manage visitor parking spaces.
- Renegotiated a new towing contract with Dominion Towing to enforce our parking regulations.
- Completed installing a new whitecoat and new waterline tile for our community pool.
- Awarded a contract to resurface the basketball and all-purpose court, and to replace the old basketball backboards and hoops.
- Received another clean audit from our auditors

So, you can see your Board has been hard at work!

Finally, an update: I have been working with VDOT and Supervisor Gross's office to try to get some action on repairing the storm drain catchments on Lafayette Village Drive that were damaged during snow removal in 2010. As you know, these repairs have been a very low priority for VDOT, but I recently learned that the agency was preparing a solicitation for various repairs in northern Virginia. I have worked with contacts at VDOT and with Supervisor Gross's office to make sure VDOT is aware our storm drains need to be included in this solicitation.

Notice to All Absentee Lafayette Village Absentee Homeowners -- If you own rental property in Lafayette Village, please make sure Sequoia Management Company has your correct mailing address so you can be sure you receive all mailings. Some absentee owners have been using the Lafayette Village address as their mailing address, and as a result did not receive the 2012 coupon booklet, for example. One tenant had his vehicles towed as a direct result of this sort of miscommunication. The Association can't mail you timely notices if we don't have your correct address!

If you are using your Lafayette Village address as your mailing address, please correct this as soon as possible by contacting Dale Edwards, our property manager, at dedwards@sequoiamgmt.com.

Lafayette Village Arbor Day/ Earth Day A Success!

Lafayette Village's 2012 Arbor Day/Earth Day celebrations brought many community members out to help collect trash, enjoy a hot dogs and chips, bounce on the moon bounce, and help plant a tree! Thanks to State Sen. Dave Marsden and Supervisor Penny Gross for their presence to help plant a beautiful crape myrtle in Trammell Park.



Pool Opens Memorial Day Weekend

With summer-like weather this Memorial Day weekend, the Community Pool opening was welcomed by all who took advantage of the pass-free opening weekend



Committee Updates and Recap...

Finance Committee – Jay Jarvis, chair:

The committee members include Shawn Howard, CPA; Kathie French; DJ Terreri, CPA, Hattie Walden; Sean Walsh, CPA, and Jay Jarvis, LVCA Treasurer and Committee Chair.

Since the Annual meeting last year, the committee has met twice. At our last meeting, the committee discussed the Auditor's recommendation on handling funds received for the forced sale of part of LVCA common grounds to the State for widening the Beltway. The committee recommends the Board approve a resolution with wording approved by LVCA legal counsel distributing the funds but with a separate resolution for a special assessment for a similar amount for improvements to community property. The committee recommends consideration be given to using the funds for a "party room" addition to the pool house as a capital improvement expense.

Over the next four years, even after spending funds on capital improvements outlined in the Reserve Study and based on current projections, there will be over \$400,000 that will need to be invested. Shawn Howard and Sean Walsh are reviewing investment options that the committee can recommend to the Board.

In preparation for the 2013 budget, D.J. Terreri will be preparing a review and report for the committee on our homeowner assessments, comparing them with what other similar communities' members pay. D.J. and LVCA Treasurer Jay Jarvis met with the head of the finance department of Sequoia Management last week to review their accounting practices. While there, D.J. obtained a list of HOA fees charged by other Sequoia communities.

The Committee has reviewed a draft of the 2011 audit and forwarded it to the Board. LVCA has received an unqualified audit, the best we could receive. The Audit report includes a note that the 2008 replacement reserve study calls for \$81,671 payment into the 2011 reserve fund with increases each year thereafter. The payment for 2011 was \$71,791. The committee will be reviewing the needed reserve contribution for 2013. The new reserve study is scheduled to be completed in early 2013 and will guide the committee and the Board thereafter.

As of April 30, 2012 LVCA has \$828,927 in assets. We have \$490,929 in our Replacement Reserve Account, \$195,793 in Unappropriated Equity, and \$99,063 in this year's funds not yet spent. Financial reports from the new management company are easy to read and appear well done. The committee had some questions on how Sequoia prepared these financials, so the Jay Jarvis and DJ Terreri met with Sequoia senior financial staff to review their accounting processes.

Grounds Committee – John Alexander, chair:

Arbor Day Celebration

The highlight of the past few months was the Arbor/Earth Day celebration on April 21st. We collected 5 bags of trash in the morning, and then had a cookout next to the Tot Lot that attracted over 50 neighbors. The Moon Bounce was very popular (special thanks to the Asher's for their electricity). In attendance were Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross and State Senator Dave Marsden, who helped plant a crape myrtle between behind the LVC sign at the northern end of the community. Check out the photos on page x of this newsletter!

The Meadows

The Meadows is the Committee's unofficial name for area under the power lines. This area became much more accessible last December with the addition of a beautiful wooden bridge near the community garden. This spring, thanks to two community work days, a walking trail connecting the middle of the Meadows with the SW end of Newport Glen was cleared and then lined with wood chips. I've been back there several times and have noticed many individuals taking advantage of this space.

Ground Projects

The Committee has identified several areas in need of erosion control, including between the 3600 blocks of Yorktown, behind the NE end of Yorktown, between Yorktown and Byrds Nest, down the side of 7842 Butterfield and the swale in the wooded area between Butterfield and Ashley Glen. The Committee will be considering how best to address these problem areas.

Committee Updates and Recap, cont....

Trash Contracts

We are currently reviewing bids for a trash / recycling contract. Our current vendor is American Disposal and our contract expires in August. We have also received bids from Patriot Disposal and Republic Services. Please let us know any feedback you have about the service of any of these vendors.

Basketball Court

At its May meeting, the Board approved a contract to resurface the basketball and volleyball courts. The poles will be removed from volleyball court and it will be left blank for the time being. The Board also approved a contract to replace the backboards, hoops and nets. All of this work will be paid for out of our reserves, not the current budget. If you make your way down there, you'll also notice a new picnic table and the absence of the old, leaning bench. For those who prefer a seat with a back on it, a new bench is being ordered too.



Louie the dog rests by the new picnic table to admire the first step in basketball court resurfacing.

Amenities: Mailboxes and Lights and Trash Cans

A new light has been installed on the north side of Mt. Airey to illuminate a particularly dark area. This is the last new light we have planned to install, though we will be replacing the three extra tall lamp posts with ones of normal height this summer. If you are aware of other areas of need, please let us know. Additionally, the final two mailboxes are on order, to replace the ones nearest 7800 Byrds Nest and 3721 Yorktown. Finally, a new trash can has been added along Trammel Road in an attempt to limit the amount of litter in that area. And shortly, a new dog poop bag dispenser will be installed near the new trash can.

Ground Projects

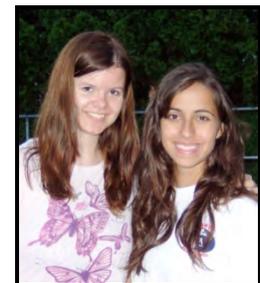
The Committee has identified several areas in need of erosion control, including between the 3600 blocks of Yorktown, behind the NE end of Yorktown, between Yorktown and Byrds Nest, down the side of 7842 Butterfield and the swale in the wooded area between Butterfield and Ashley Glen.

A special thanks to the dedicated current and former committee members, without whom all this would not be possible: Anne Sansbury, Jim Bell, Courtney Graham, Jack Thompson, Jay Jarvis and Carl Iddings

Pool and Recreation Committee – Lisa Conoly, chair:

The pool opened for the 2012 season on Saturday, May 26. We had a hot, sunny weekend that was appreciated by the many residents who came out to enjoy this "free pass" weekend.

Some people had expressed concern that the pool would not be ready on time but our contractor, Atlantic Pools, did significant work to get the pool ready for opening. The pool has a fresh whitecoat and new waterline tile. The whitecoating makes the bottom of the pool much smoother to walk on and fills any cracks that have developed. This work is done every 7-8 years as part of regular maintenance and was within our timeframe to be completed. The new tile was installed at the same time because our former tile had been discontinued some time ago and the reserve had been depleted. By doing the tile work at the same time as the whitecoating, we were able to save some of the labor expense. The pool deck has also been crack-filled and caulked. Additionally, we will be installing baby-changing stations in both changing rooms in the coming weeks.



Andrea and Jackie, two of our lifeguards this summer.

This year, we are issuing new pool passes at no charge. Only these new orange passes will be accepted for admission to the pool. Stickers will not be issued this year but will resume next year, so save your passes for use in future years. Passes are available for pickup at the pool during pool hours. If your pass is not at the pool house, contact Sequoia Management at 703-803-9641 or email Dale Edwards at dedwards@sequoiamgmt.com. If you need to apply for passes, the application is on the website.

Committee Updates and Recap, cont....

Food is not allowed to be eaten in the pool enclosure. However, for those wishing to order pizza or have a picnic, there is a picnic table available in the grassy area behind the deep end of the pool.

Please make sure your family members follow all pool rules.

Communications Committee

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. Lafayette Village makes it easy to stay informed through the newsletter, website and monthly Board meetings. The next newsletter will be available July 28, 2012. Articles and submissions are due by July 24th.

Are you a web designer or graphics artist? We are looking for volunteers who could work on a redesign of our website, www.lafayettevillage.org. While the website contains a lot of great information about Lafayette Village, it could use a user interface redesign. If you have web development skills and would like to volunteer your time on this effort, please send an email to lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org.

Neighborhood Watch Committee – Fred Saah, chair:

The neighborhood watch committee continues to patrol the streets as often as possible. The efforts made by the volunteers have led to a decent reduction of crime within the community. Currently we are working on the National Night Out which will occur on Tuesday, August 7 at 7:00pm in Trammell Park. The attendance at the National Night Out the last few years has grown each year and we anticipate this being the most successful one yet. This year we have again planned for a moon bounce and snow cones. There will also be a demonstration on how to install an automatic light switch, which we will raffle off to one of the residents attending. We are also looking for a couple of volunteers to monitor the moon bounce to ensure all children have an equal time and can enjoy all the fun.

If anyone has any ideas or would like to volunteer to help for the Neighborhood Watch, please contact Fred Saah at fred300@gmail.com.

Architectural Control Committee (ACC) – Angela Cutter, chair:

The Spring inspection by Sequoia was good but incomplete and the ACC spent a lot of time walking the community in the week following the release of their report. Many more violations were observed and our agent was asked to send out additional letters. Unfortunately it took them three weeks to get those out. (I don't understand why.) And by that time some people had already taken care of the initial problems. I apologize if you were one of those, but I felt strongly that since we'd asked Sequoia to start from scratch, it was important for the inspection to be accurate. It's the only way to make the process fair to all. Those second letters did count as first notices so you still have 30 days to correct, plus 15 days more if needed.

It was particularly frustrating to see people being cited for issues that have been cited repeatedly in the past. Sometimes easy things to fix, like trashcans and house numbers. We've asked Sequoia to be diligent in following up on second notices and fines will begin to apply if things aren't corrected. It's so unfair on the majority who work to keep things looking good if a neighbor feels the rules don't apply to them. Please don't be that neighbor !

Homeowners are still asking for waivers because "it's been like that for years". This is our biggest problem and seems to be particularly true with decorations and fence staining. But, to borrow an analogy from our HOA President, just because you always speed on the Beltway doesn't mean you can't get ticketed when you do get caught.

Please understand that it's difficult to say no to our neighbors and friends, but the ACC is very reluctant to grant these waivers. Waivers multiply and, with almost 300 homes, the guidelines go out the window. Everyone wants their issue to be an exception (believe me; I've tried it myself in the past !) but allowing something to stand sends the wrong message to newcomers. They assume it's okay to do something that actually isn't approved because

Committee Updates and Recap, cont....

they've seen it on another home. If you did get a waiver in the past from the ACC, it's your responsibility to keep a copy of the written approval in your homeowner files.

Of course it's impossible to predict **everything** a person might want to do to the exterior of the home so, if it's not in the guidelines and you're not sure, please contact the ACC.

I'm sorry if this article comes across as abrupt, and we really don't want to be the "bad guys" in the community. But the role of the ACC is to develop and maintain guidelines to keep Lafayette Village looking good and competitive in the market. And in a perfect world we wouldn't have to be the bad guys and everyone would be happy !

On a more positive note, the more relaxed paint guidelines are now available on the website. All colors are from Duron Paint. Selections must be from the approved colors (generally the same as have been used in the past) but you will have more flexibility in the colors you choose for your home. The ACC will no longer dictate what color combination is approved for your house. Again, if you're not sure, please ask us.

And remember, if you can't beat us, join us !!! If you're interested in helping the ACC, let me or Carl know. Our next meeting will be held on June 14th, which is a week earlier than scheduled.

Community Garden update ...

If you've looked in on the garden lately, you've probably noticed the ingenuity of the gardeners – the sticks and netting to discourage birds, the many sorts of weed blockers, the gorgeous lettuce mixes, and herbs all around that provide a variety of functions in addition to culinary.

So far it's been a lousy year for strawberries. We've gotten lots of them, but most have no flavor at all and many have turned to mush. Some herbs and other crops have already bolted and it's not even June yet. So far, it seems that lettuce is a super crop, as is chard (really good stuff, come to find out). Peas are great, potato plants look wonderful, and onions are delicious. All the perennial herbs seem happy – dill, oregano, thyme, mint, not to mention lemon balm and purple basil that will grow anywhere and everywhere.



Giant cabbages threaten to take over this plot!

We have a new stone sculpture area outside the garden gate, with a few marigolds for color and a pineapple sage that will have bright red flowers later in the summer. We could use a few more flowers – hint, hint – but the garden is shaping up beautifully so far. Come visit us when you can!

Community Gardens North:

Work on developing the new community gardens behind Colonial Village Row and Trammell Court under the power lines will start up in earnest in the next month. If you are interested in reserving a plot to begin gardening in the spring of 2013, sign up now – send an email to Anne Sansbury at asansbury@gicgroup.com. We will need volunteers to help prepare the garden site and to put up the fence, so when you reserve your spot, we will contact you to ask for help. Much of the funding for Community Gardens North will come from the Neighborhood Enhancement Partnership Program grant the Association was awarded earlier this year.

Mason District Farmer's Market Returns

If you don't have a garden plot, you can still get fresh produce at the Farmer's Market every Thursday morning from 8 a.m. until 12 noon at Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale. As a producer's only market, the Farmer's Market offers locally grown, vine-ripe produce, fresh baked goods, herb plants, and much more for your spring and summer time enjoyment. So until Community Gardens North opens for planting next spring, the Annandale Farmer's Market is your best option for fresh from the garden produce!

Community ads ...

- **Bedroom set for sale:** Includes dresser, bureau with mirror, nightstand, headboard/footboard for queen bed. Furniture is very worn but functional. \$100 OBO. Will sell pieces separately. Please contact kristinmurk@yahoo.com.
- **Tennis anyone?** With the improved weather my husband and I are looking for neighbors interested in playing tennis (men's singles or mixed doubles) at Annandale Community Park or another local Fairfax County Park facility on the weekend or weekday evenings after 6pm. He's USTA 4.0 ranked player and I'm a 2.5. Please contact Erika Karasiewicz (703) 244-8014.

Contractor Recommendations...

Electrician referral: Looking to update those old electrical fixtures or update lighting in your townhome? I recently had recessed lighting installed in our kitchen, living room and basement by Master Electrician Allan Knicely and he did a fantastic job. With over 30 years of experience in both residential and commercial facilities, there is really nothing that he can't handle. He can be reached at 540-729-7206 or allanknicely@gmail.com.

Housekeeper: I'd like to recommend my housekeeper. I've been using Skarlet and her team for three years. My house is a mess and they have been great about working around the mess to ensure my house is getting cleaned regularly. If you need a housekeeper you can trust, contact cleaning.friends@gmail.com or 571-201-4227. If you have any questions you can contact Kristin Walsh at kristinmurk@yahoo.com.

Guidelines for Trash Collection in Lafayette Village...

When is trash collected?

Trash is collected twice weekly, every Monday and Thursday, by American Disposal Service (ADS). Recyclables are collected every Thursday. On Merrimac Trail, grass clippings and yard waste are collected every Wednesday. **If trash and recyclables cannot be collected on a regularly scheduled day, they will be collected on the next possible business day.** For example, since Thanksgiving always falls on a Thursday, our trash and recyclable collection will occur on the Friday following Thanksgiving. Similarly, if a snow storm prevents ADS from collecting trash on a scheduled day, trash (and recyclables) will be picked up on the next possible business day.

When and where should I put out my trash?

Trash should be placed in front of your home near the sidewalk by 6:00 AM every Monday and Thursday **but no earlier than the evening before collection.** Recyclables should be placed with your trash on Thursdays. Trash may be placed in front of your house the evening before collection day as long as it is after 6:00 PM. Your trash should **not** be piled near intersections or mailboxes. **If you put your trash out early, you are likely to receive a violation notice and will be asked to attend a hearing before the Board.**

How do I dispose of bulky items, like furniture or appliances?

American Disposal will collect bulky items such as furniture, mattresses, and other large, non-metallic items (not exceeding two cubic yards, about the size of two washing machines side by side) every Thursday. There will be an extra charge for appliances, such as stoves, refrigerators, hot water heaters, and other bulky metallic items. In either case, you will need to call American Disposal at 703-368-0500 to schedule a pickup. Call at least 24 hours in advance, and if you are disposing of a refrigerator, make sure to remove the refrigerator doors before putting it out on the street for pickup.

Guidelines for Trash Collection in Lafayette Village, cont....

What can I recycle?

American Disposal has recently instituted a program called "Single Stream Recycling," which has greatly expanded the waste products that can be recycled. With this new program, Lafayette Village residents no longer need to separate out recyclables – all can go into the same container, a process called "commingling." Later, when the recyclables are transferred to the recycling center, they will be screened and sorted by various electro-mechanical means: magnets for ferrous metals, eddy currents for non-ferrous metals, air jets for plastic containers, heavy duty rotating screens for corrugated cardboard, etc. The resultant separated materials are ready for baling & shipping to factories to be re-manufactured into new & useful products.

Because of this new program, Lafayette Village residents can recycle a wider range of waste products. In addition to cans, bottles, jars, and paper goods, we can now recycle milk and juice cartons, all plastic bottles and jugs, wide mouth plastic containers, aluminum foil and trays, empty aerosol cans, pizza boxes, and other items you may previously thrown into your trash.

Who do I call with a trash collection complaint?

If you experience a problem with the way your trash is being collected, contact our community manager, Dale Edwards at dedwards@sequoiamgmt.com or call him at 703-803-9641. Also copy president@lafayettevillage.org, who will forward your problem to the Grounds Committee.

Community News

Fairfax County Bicycle Transportation Plan Public Meeting, June 6 at 6:00pm:

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) will hold the second of two public meetings for residents to review and comment on the Draft Countywide Bicycle Transportation Master Plan on Wednesday, June 6, 6-8:30 p.m. at the George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike in Annandale. Proposed policy and program ideas will also be presented. You can find details of the plan at www.tooledesign.com/fairfax.

If you are a cyclist, this is your chance to make your opinions heard!

Spotlight by Starlight Summer Concert Series Returns

Mason District now offers two venues featuring live entertainment for your summertime enjoyment! The Spotlight by Starlight concert series returns to Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale, with nearly 50 performances scheduled for this season. Enjoy a variety of free entertainment on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, beginning June 1 through August 31, 2012! Ossian Hall Park, located at 7900 Heritage Drive in Annandale, is the newest concert venue in Mason District, and features performances on Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. To obtain the 2012 Spotlight by Starlight schedule, visit the Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/spotlight.htm.

Flag Day, June 14

On August 3, 1949, President Harry S Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14 of each year as National Flag Day. Situated almost halfway between Memorial Day and Independence Day, Flag Day may not be as well-known as the other holidays associated with time off from work, but it is a time we can reflect, once again, about the significance of our flag, those who served and died under it, and say a quiet "thank you" every time we see Old Glory in all its glory.

If your American flag is worn or damaged, and you are unsure about how to handle it properly, the Fairfax County Police Honor Guard will dispose of unserviceable flags in accordance with U.S. Code Title 36, Chapter 10, Section 176(k). Flags that are damaged, soiled, or no longer suitable for display may be placed in the white collection box in the lobby of the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. State and local flags also are accepted. A similar service is provided by American Legion Post 1976, which has a big red, white, and blue mailbox adjacent to the entrance at 4206 Daniels Avenue in Annandale. Just drop your used flag into the mail slot for proper disposal. There is no charge for these services.

Renter Responsibilities....

If you are renting a home in Lafayette Village, this article is for you. First, welcome to our community! We are proud of Lafayette Village, its distinctive look and ambience, and hope you enjoy it as much as the homeowners do. You should know that Lafayette Village is a covenanted homeowners association, governed by a set of documents including our covenants, bylaws, and ACC guidelines. The Association itself enforces these governing documents.

As a renter, you are not responsible for much of the physical upkeep and maintenance of your residence, things that are covered by our governing documents – your landlord takes care of those details. However, there are some community rules that do apply to you, and failure to follow them could result in fines being issued to your landlord. These rules include:

- **Trash collection** – Trash is collected every Monday and Thursday, with recyclables collected on Thursdays as well. If Thursday falls on a holiday or a snow emergency, trash will be collected the next business day. On Merrimac Trail, yard waste is collected on Wednesdays. Trash and recyclables should be placed curbside in front of your home **no earlier than the evening before trash collection day**. All trash containers must be returned to your home or back yard the same day after the trash or recyclables have been collected. Trash and recycle containers **cannot** be stored in your front yard.
- **Back yard maintenance** – While the Association provides front yard maintenance services to the town homes, you are responsible for maintaining your back yard. This means grass needs to be mowed, weeds pulled, and any loose trash, animal waste, and other refuse needs to be collected and put out with your trash.
- **Pet Waste** – Although this should go without saying, you are responsible for cleaning up after your pet. The Association has bag holders and trash cans throughout the community for your use when picking up dog poop.
- **ACC Guidelines** – The ACC Guidelines, available on our website, detail a comprehensive set of requirements for all homes in Lafayette Village must adhere to. Some of these guidelines are directly relevant to you as a tenant. For instance, all windows visible from the street must have appropriate window treatments. Yard ornaments are prohibited. Yard plantings are controlled, as well, so if you want to do some front yard beautification, please read the guidelines before proceeding with your project.
- **Mailings from Sequoia Management to your landlord** – If you receive mail from our management company to your landlord, please make sure he or she receives the mailing. While Sequoia makes every effort to identify your landlord's actual mailing address, on occasion mail is addressed to his or her property in Lafayette Village. It is important that such mailings actually reach your landlord – one tenant found his vehicles had been towed because his landlord had not received a set of letters warning that vehicle towing could happen. The tenant ended up having to pay a stiff towing fee.

We want your time living in Lafayette Village to be an enjoyable experience for you and your neighbors. Following the relevant Association rules and guidelines will help ensure that. For more information, you can review all Association governing documents on our website, www.lafayettevillage.org/lvca_documents.htm.

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Capital Beltway Express Lanes Update....

VDOT Releases Draft Express Lanes Landscape Plan

VDOT released its long-awaited Draft Express Lanes (formerly HOT Lanes) landscape plan on May 17 for public review and comment. The Virginia General Assembly, with the support of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, allocated \$5 million to prepare and implement the landscape plan to repair the damage done during the 495 Express Lanes construction and to address a number of special impact areas. This draft plan, which you can view at <http://www.vamegaprojects.com/about-megaprojects/i495-hot-lanes/495-express-lanes-corridor-wide-landscapingreforestation-plan/>, focuses primarily on plantings within the cloverleaf exit and entrance ramps, with some plantings along either side of the Beltway between the sound barrier walls, where space allows. The trees and shrubs selected for the project are all native species. The trees to be planted will initially look like sticks or twigs – they are called “whips” – and VDOT expects only 50% of the trees to survive. The shrubs will be more substantial, and VDOT will include a watering program to ensure their survival.

How the plan affects Lafayette Village: The Grounds Committee reviewed the draft plan and will present its comments to the Board at the June Board meeting. **One specific concern** the Committee had with the plan is its failure to provide plantings at the sound barrier gap behind Colonial Village Row and Trammell Court. As we’ve learned, the so-called “hill” that VDOT assured us would provide a natural noise barrier for our Association does no such thing. Planting trees and shrubs on the hillside should help reduce the Beltway noise impact on our community. **We encourage all residents of Lafayette Village to review the plan for our area (it is contained in “Exhibit 3” on the Megaprojects website), and submit comments to VDOT support our position that shrubs and trees must be planted on our exposed hillside.**

Special Impact Areas: The access road from Hummer to Lafayette Village Drive has been designated as a “special impact area” by VDOT, and will receive special attention during the planning and implementation phase. Carl Iddings met with Ellen Vogel, VDOT’s Landscape Architect for Northern Virginia, and Jamie Breme, a VDOT Public Affairs Manager, on May 18 to walk the special impact area and our property along the S curve, to begin planning a landscape treatment for this area that was decimated by the HOT Lanes construction. They identified three goals for the landscape design in this area:

1. Soften the harshness of the sound barrier wall by planting native species vines and climbing plants to eventually cover the walls.
2. Hide the view we now have of the Beltway and the Little River Turnpike bridge as much as possible by planting native trees where feasible.
3. Create an attractive entry way to Lafayette Village along the access road by planting native shrubs and grasses where the available ground space is too narrow to support planting trees.

VDOT will provide funds for the landscaping on their property, while the Association will use its Transurban-Fluor Lane grant money to continue the plantings on our property. Ms. Vogel will prepare a draft plan for this special impact area and provide it to us for review at the end of July or beginning of August. And when we get the plan, it will be posted on the website for everyone to consider. Once we agree to a final plan, planting will begin next spring.

Planning to sell your Lafayette Village home?

Check out www.LafayetteVillageSOLD.com

Get a FREE step-by-step plan for preparing your home for sale. Call or visit 'LafayetteVillageSOLD.com' to schedule your no obligation Home Value Audit today.

Matt Cockerham, Lafayette Village Homeowner and Resident

Home Sale Expert, Real Estate Broker

Re/Max 100

(703)849-1313

A message from Delegate Kaye Kory....

Transparency + Accountability + Responsiveness = Political Integrity

'Transparency' and 'accountability' are words that we hear constantly in speeches made by politicians and citizen advocates alike. In fact we hear these words so often that they have lost much value and impact. If a politician is not espousing transparency and accountability these days, she or he seems vaguely dishonest.



Del. Kaye Kory

So, the question is: while we are talking the talk, are we walking the walk? I define 'walking the walk' to include not only transparency and accountability in government, but to also include responsiveness. The responsiveness of our elected officials is key to ensuring real transparency and accountability. Institutions and government processes can be transparent and seemingly accountable, but those characteristics have no import if our elected officials are not responsive to constituents.

The State Risk of Corruption Report Card is a good framework to use when searching for transparency, accountability and responsiveness in government. This report comes from the State Integrity Investigation ("Keeping Government Honest") published by the Center for Public Integrity, Public Radio International and the Global Integrity Institute. Virginia received an 'F' overall in state integrity, which means that the risk of corruption is high. Virginia ranks 47th among 50 states on this index. Categories that are directly related to transparency, accountability and responsiveness are Public Access to Information and Political Financing; for all of which Virginia received an 'F'. Key questions asked by researchers were:

- Do citizens have a legal right of access to information?
- Is that right to access effective?

The Report Card acknowledges that Virginia does give citizens some rights of access to information, however the effectiveness of this legal access is limited. Essentially, Virginia's state government is sorely lacking in institutional recourse for citizens who are denied access. Furthermore, evaluation or monitoring is not mandated in law or regulation. These two deficiencies render 'freedom of information' processes frustrating and often unproductive for Virginians seeking information that should be easily available to them. Obviously, the responsiveness of elected officials can make all the difference in the actual transparency and accountability of our state and local governments.

And mentioning our officials' responsiveness brings me to the most powerful tool of accountability: Political Financing. Virginia receives an 'F' here as well.

The 'F' is deserved because in Virginia there are no limits to the dollar amount of individual contributions to a candidate, no limits to contributions from corporations, no limits to contributions from PAC's, and no limits to contributions from lobbyists. We do not regulate personal use of campaign funds, and do not require campaign fund audits. A candidate must report all contributions of more than \$100 to the State Board of Elections which is legally charged with monitoring campaign finance reports. However, since there are no laws requiring audits of campaign funds, and no laws prohibiting personal use of campaign funds, the State Board of Elections is severely limited in its ability to monitor political financing.

In Virginia government and politics we rely heavily on the integrity of our politicians and because our laws are so lax, we must assume that our elected leaders will behave with honesty. But Virginians have no recourse to ensure accountability, transparency or honesty except the ballot box. As mighty a tool as the ballot box is, its strength is greatly diminished because of the weak or nonexistent laws governing political financing.

Happily, I do not know a single elected official or candidate who has acted in any way that could be called 'corrupt'. We Virginians are fortunate that to date, scandal does not dominate our political news. But our laws do not protect us from corruption and scandal in what has become an increasing warlike, ideological and partisan political arena. It is time to institutionalize political integrity and ensure a future government free from corruption.

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)