



Lafayette Village Community Association

October/November 2016 Newsletter

LVCA Annual Meeting:

Please join your neighbors and fellow homeowners on **Wednesday, October 12th** for the Lafayette Village Community Association annual meeting. Association members will have the opportunity to elect two homeowners to serve a three year term on our Board of Directors. Details of the meeting are found at the bottom of this page. All homeowners should have received a notice of the Annual Meeting, along with an agenda, the draft minutes from the 2015 Annual Meeting and a proxy form. These forms are also available on the Association website at <http://www.lafayettevillage.org/docs/2016Annualnotice.pdf>.

In light of the recent criminal activity occurring in our community, we **have invited a representative from the Fairfax County Police Department to speak** to us about how to make our homes and community more secure. Officer Eduardo Azcarate will speak on crime prevention tips, give us information on how to get a home security assessment, talk about our revamped Neighborhood Watch, and give us a preview of the new Mason District Police department website, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/stations/mason/>. You will have an opportunity to sign up for a home security walkthrough, as well, conducted by a police officer. This will also be a good chance to talk about how our community is patrolled by the County police.

Annual Meeting Highlights:

- Two Board of Directors seats are up for election.
- The Nominating Committee will submit candidates for these seats.
- Nominations can be made from the floor.

If you cannot attend the Annual Meeting, please be sure to fill out your proxy vote and give it to a board member or someone who will be attending the meeting. You will find a copy of the proxy on the website in the Annual Meeting packet. Once completed, call or email a board member to have your proxy form collected.

RAFFLE! RAFFLE! - WIN YOUR NEXT ASSOCIATION DUES PAYMENT

Homeowners attending the LVCA Annual Meeting **in person** will be entered into a raffle. The next quarterly association dues payment will be waived for the winner. Come to the Annual Meeting and you could be the winner!

In this issue...

- *LVCA meeting schedules*
- *Committee updates/annual reports*
- *Leaf Collection Schedule*
- *Around Town updates*
- *Election Day, Nov. 8th*
- *Community ads*
- *Trash collection guidelines*

All residents are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting

When: Wednesday, October 12, 2016

Time: 7:00pm

Where: Mason District Government Center, Main Meeting Room
6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale

Note that only homeowners in good standing can vote on issues that come before the membership.

Our Community Information...

LVCA Board Members

Carl Iddings – President

202-957-1194

President@lafayettevillage.com

John Alexander – Vice President

703-208-9614

jmalex14@msn.com

Kathie French – Secretary

703-207-0070

kfrench22@verizon.net

Jim Franklin - Treasurer

703-205-9087

jim@prodigycapitalconsulting.com

Michelle Kloc – Member-at-Large

michelle.kloc@gmail.com

LVCA Committee Chairs

Architectural Control – Angela

Cutter

aicutter50@gmail.com

Grounds – Mike Nutbrown

grounds@lafayettevillage.org

Finance – Jim Franklin

703-205-9087

jim@prodigycapitalconsulting.com

Pool & Recreation – Lisa Conoly

703-698-7455

lisac_234@hotmail.com

Communications – Carl Iddings

lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org

Neighborhood Watch – Steve

Longstreet

571-328-9837

slongstreet@gmail.com

Sequoia Management Company

Dale Edwards

dedwards@sequoiamgmt.com

Phone: 703-803-9641

Fax: 703-968-0936

Patriot Disposal Services

Phone: 703-257-7100

Dominion Towing

Phone: 703-339-2400

REMINDER:

**Fourth Quarter Assessments were due October 1, 2016.
Payments received after October 15th are late and subject
to a late fee.**

LAFAYETTE VILLAGE COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

Monthly Meetings (Check Website for Details)

Board Meetings – 2nd Monday of month at 7:00 PM in the small meeting room, Mason District Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike (October 12, after the Annual Meeting and November 14)

ACC Committee - 3rd Thursday of month at 7:00 PM at 3711 Yorktown Village Pass (October 20 and November 17)

Grounds Committee – 4th Monday of month at 7:30 PM at 7920 Brunswick Forest Pass. (October 28; November TBD – check the website)

Finance Committee – 3rd Tuesday of month at 7:00pm at 3733 Yorktown Village Pass (October 15 and November 15)

Neighborhood Watch – TBD.

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

Fall Leaf Collection Schedule:

Townhomes: Blade Runners will collect leaves from the common areas and townhome front yards on the following schedule, weather permitting:

- Wednesday and Thursday, October 19 and 20
- Wednesday and Thursday, November 16 and 17
- Monday and Tuesday, December 19 and 20

If you are concerned about leaf dust being blown onto your vehicle, please move them before leaf cleanup starts.

Merrimac Trail: Homeowners on Merrimac Trail are responsible for their own leaf cleanup. Please remember that **it's a violation LVCA rules to dispose of your leaves in the common areas behind your homes.** Leaves should be bagged and left for Patriot Disposal to collect on Mondays, or your yard service should dispose of them properly.

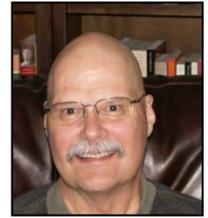
No Trash Collection on Thanksgiving Day

There will be **NO** trash collection on Thanksgiving Day, November 24. Instead, **Patriot Disposal will collect our trash on Saturday, November 26.** Should this change, an email announcement will be sent to all who have subscribed to the list.

Remember do not put your trash out on Thanksgiving Day. Instead, put it out on Saturday, November 26.

A note from the President:

As you recognized from the front page of this newsletter, our Annual Meeting will be held this upcoming Wednesday, October 12. Please plan to attend – our association is made stronger by the active participation of **all our homeowners**. We have an election to fill two expiring Board seats, and we will have a presentation from Officer Eduardo Azcarate



Lights on for Safety: Now for my annual reminder: with the fall season upon us, and daylight waning, I want to encourage you to keep your **houselights on at night for safety and visibility**. It's dark at night on our community streets, even with our streetlights. You can make our neighborhood brighter by turning your outside house light on at dusk and off at dawn. If you use a compact fluorescent or LED bulb, your costs will be just pennies a day. This is an easy way to make the community safer, and make your own walks at night more pleasant! **This advice is especially important for Merrimac Trail homeowners, since you have no streetlights on your street.** The original Merrimac Trail residents agreed amongst themselves that they would always keep their house and garage lights on at night, since those would be the only source of light for the street. So, everyone – do yourself and your neighbors a favor, and keep lights on for safety!

Meals Tax Referendum: On November 8th, voters will be asked to vote “Yes” or “No” to allow the Board of Supervisors to authorize up to a 4% tax on all prepared food and beverages, such as you would get at restaurants, convenience stores, and grocery store salad bars. The County estimates that such a tax would raise \$99 million in revenue in its first year. 70% of this revenue would be dedicated to the school system, with 30% dedicated to county services, capital improvements, and property tax relief. About 30% of the taxes collected would come from our-of-county residents. All surrounding jurisdictions already have a meals tax, ranging from 10% in the District to 2.5% in Herndon.

I support this referendum. Our property values continue to rise in part because we have a world-class school system. It takes money to maintain that sort of excellence, but because the County is forced to rely exclusively on property taxes, without this source of revenue, the County will need to continue raising property taxes to support the school system. This tax provides an additional revenue stream, primarily dedicated to the schools and will relieve the pressure to raise property taxes.

Deer Season: Rutting Season Approaches, so Drive Alertly

Deer breeding season is here and white-tailed deer are on the move. You can expect to see increased numbers of the deer on and near Lafayette Village Drive and Trammell Road. Fairfax County crash data indicates that there have been almost **400 reported deer-vehicle collisions in the past five years**. Deer movements and behaviors are unpredictable and deer-vehicle collisions are a serious public safety concern.



Approximately one-half or more of all deer-vehicle collisions generally occur during the months of October, November, and December. Deer are especially active pre-dawn to mid-morning and late afternoon to early evening. Please drive cautiously during this time and be on the lookout for deer crossing Trammell and Lafayette Village.

We have a large number of deer in our area, so here are some tips for driving during the rutting season:

- Use high-beams when there is no oncoming traffic to improve your view of the road and surrounding areas.
- Watch for eye shine along roadsides. Immediately begin to slow if you spot a deer. Where there's one deer, there are usually more.
- Reduce speed and grasp steering wheel firmly with both hands. You never know when a deer will attempt to cross a road. Deer can be unpredictable animals.
- If deer is frozen on the road, reduce speed and flash your headlights. Deer can become mesmerized or blinded by bright steady lights.

If a deer is injured or killed, immediately report collision to Fairfax County Police Department (non-emergency) at 703-691-2131. Residents can also request an animal removal from the roadway through the VDOT online work request form at <http://www.virginiadot.org/travel/citizen.asp>.

Committee Reports ...

Finance Committee – Jim Franklin, Chair

- **Accomplishments:** The fiscal health of LVCA has improved this past year and we are more than able to sustain our community infrastructure and home values.
 - Financial Health: Challenging year, but financial health was not a problem. Our financial future looks very bright as long as we can count on stable homeowner assessment payments
 - Board Guidance and Budget Adherence: Strong leadership from the board to manage budget within planned limits despite the changes in project requirements and unexpected operations costs particularly snow removal
 - We are ready for the winter, with several proposals for the Board to review in November for improved snow removal for the upcoming season
- **Audit Report:** The 2015 audit was comprehensive and showed a clean bill of health for the community finances.
 - Replacement Reserves: Replacement Reserve accounts now managed by LVCA and we are right on the required funding for planned infrastructure and community projects. A new reserve study has been commissioned and should be complete by year's end
 - Accounting Procedures: Minor changes made with no real impact on operations or funding
 - Bank Account and Funds Management: Sequoia operations account minimization placed the bulk of our Replacement Reserves under the management of Wells Fargo advisors. The investment accounts are well managed and secure
 - Insurance Review: Coverage limits were reviewed and increased slightly in 2015 per audit recommendation and reviewed again this year with no significant changes
- **Financial Statement and Budget Review:** As of August 31, 2016, key financial statements show us to be very healthy and working well within budget planning.
 - Balance Sheet: Our net worth is good with adequate funds to support the required infrastructure improvements. We have an adequate ability to fund any emergencies that might not be covered by insurance, particularly snow and wind related damage. You can see our current balance sheet and income statement on the website at http://www.lafayettevillage.org/lvca_MonthlyFinancials.htm.
 - Cash Flow Prediction: There is adequate cash for operations and contribution to the capital reserve fund. We see no shortfalls assuming assessment collection proceeds on pace.
 - 2017 Budget Discussion: Draft budget for 2017 is much the same as 2016 with no significant changes. Specifically:

▪ Budgeted Revenue	\$402K
▪ Total Expenses	\$399K
▪ Projected Surplus	\$ 3K
- **Capital Reserve Report:**
 - Reserve Study Review: The Reserve Study requires us to have \$524K in reserves by year-end 2017. We project that we will have \$540K in the combined funds by end of year 2017
 - Current Balance: Currently we are contributing \$82K per year to the replacement reserves which is slightly above that recommended by the study
 - We will have a new reserve study by the end of this year or early 2017.

Communications Committee – Carl Iddings, Chair

During the past year, the Communications Committee worked hard to keep the Lafayette Village homeowners and residents informed about the community. It prepared and distributed 5 newsletters totaling 68 pages at a cost of \$1834. It also sent out 42 LVCA Announcements to the Association mailing list, informing everybody about board meetings, community events, criminal activity, Hidden Oaks programs, and Mason District events. If you aren't receiving these announcements (critical during big snow and other weather related events!), you can join the mailing

Committee Reports, continued...

list by sending an email to lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org with a request to be added. Don't miss out on announcements important to Lafayette Village residents and homeowners.

Also, starting last December, the Association began using Nextdoor as another communications vehicle, a free social networking application that allows us not only to communicate with everyone but also lets neighbors talk directly to other neighbors. Nextdoor has proven to be a very useful tool for neighbors to post questions, contractor recommendations, items for sale, etc. We already have 330 members on Nextdoor, across 225 homes, meaning about 71% of all Lafayette Village homes participate. If you haven't yet signed up for Nextdoor, it's easy and free – just go to www.nextdoor.com, enter your name and address, and you're signed up! Let's try to get 100% participation by next year's Annual Meeting.

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, Nextdoor, community emails and monthly Board meetings. The next newsletter will be available the weekend of December 3, 2016. Articles and submissions are due by November 29th.

The Communications Committee has a number of volunteer distributors, the folks who distribute the newsletter door-to-door. During the past year, these included Kathie French, Mike Loudon, Christie Prucker, Tina Snapp, Linda Boone, DJ Terreri, Nathan Garcia, Greg Johnson, John Wolken, and Larry and Deborah Dunham. A special thanks goes out to these individuals. We welcome assistance with distribution – if you are able to distribute newsletters on your street, please send me an email at lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org.

Neighborhood Watch Committee – Steve Longstreet, Chair

A neighborhood family recently came home from vacation to find their house broken into through the rear sliding door. Any form of home invasion is traumatizing, but this one marks an escalation over the levels of crime we've traditionally seen in Lafayette Village. Now's the time for all of us to review our own home's security and raise our security awareness to help prevent similar actions in the future. Below, I have listed some actions coming from me along with tips for keeping your home secure.

Actions from the Neighborhood Watch:

- Over the next months, we'll be coordinating a few safety campaigns. The focus will be on improving awareness and reducing opportunities for criminal activity.
- We'll kick off the neighborhood watch monthly meeting (look for an event posting on Nextdoor).
- We'll set up Neighborhood watch training, required by Fairfax County police before the watch members can begin patrolling.
- We'll collect and begin implementing suggestions made by you and the neighborhood watch committee.

And here are some ways to keep your home secure:

- Always lock your doors and windows.
- Upgrade your door's security:
 - To secure your entry door: <http://www.familyhandyman.com/home-security/how-to-reinforce-doors-entry-door-and-lock-reinforcements/step-by-step#step1>
 - To secure your sliding door: <https://www.angieslist.com/articles/5-tips-make-your-sliding-door-more-secure.htm>
- When leaving for an extended period of time, give the appearance you're home:
 - If you have a garage, leave a car in the driveway instead of your parking spot.
 - Put some internal lights on timers to simulate activity.
 - Keep curtains drawn near entry ways.
 - Coordinate with your neighbors:
 - Ask them to take in any flyers, packages or other things that end up on your doorstep

Committee Reports, continued...

- Ask them to keep an eye on the place
- Cancel newspaper delivery
- Add a security system. (I'll write more about this in future newsletters.)
- Ask people going door to door for their Fairfax county solicitor's license. People without them should be asked to leave the neighborhood and warned the police will be called –as sometimes these individuals are actually casing the neighborhood.

Here are the crime statistics for the past year. Note that these numbers reflect only crimes that were reported to the police. We know from Nextdoor that there were many more vehicle thefts than were reported. Also, three of the incidents from May were the fallout from a single call to police. The individuals involved in that crime were arrested on drug, disorderly conduct, and unauthorized use of an auto charges.

Type of Crime	Oct	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct
Burglary										1		
Disorderly Conduct							1					
Drugs							1					
Noise Violation	1							1				
Theft from Vehicle		1			5		3				2	
Unauthorized Use -- Auto							1				1	
Vandalism						1	1					

Architectural Control Committee (ACC) – Angela Cutter, Chair

Finally some rain! If you've been waiting to take care of an ACC yard violation, or, if the incredibly dry summer took its toll on your yard, we now have some good weather for planting. The majority of outstanding violations are for missing trees or evergreens in front yards, and this fall is the perfect time to plant new trees! **Please** take care of these. It would be so nice to have them all removed from the files in 2016. Our goal is to clear all current violations before next year's spring inspection. It's never been done before but we're forever hopeful!

If you've ever driven through townhouse communities of comparable age to ours, you've seen how shabby and uncared for they can look. My daughter's community in Centreville is much newer and smaller, but already there's peeling paint, missing trees, back yards full of weeds and trash cans permanently stored in front yards. All because there's no oversight or enforcement.

We're very lucky to have a great Board of Directors, (and management company), that keep LV in such good shape, financially and physically. And you can see the results in recent sale prices – Lafayette Village is a desirable community because we all take such good care of our homes and yards.

So, just a couple of reminders:

- It's against LV guidelines to put out trash before the evening prior to a pickup. No one wants to see trash on the street all weekend. No containers may be stored in front yards or outside fences.
- Nothing may be stored by your steps - gardening supplies, recycling bins, kid's toys, etc. should be removed. Keeping your yard clear costs nothing except a little effort and your neighbors really appreciate it.
- Almost all exterior work requires prior approval. You can find the form on the LV website and submit it to me electronically at aicutter50@gmail.com. I'll forward your request to the rest of the committee for their comments and approval and, unless we need further details, you can expect a reply within a couple of days.

You can also help by explaining the guidelines to any families renting next to you. They don't always get the information from the owner and may just not know what's okay and what isn't.

Committee Reports, continued...

Grounds Committee – Mike Nutbrown, Chair

We had some pretty hot and dry periods this summer that took a toll on some of the plantings from last fall and this spring, but for the most part things are looking healthy. Some of the grasses at the meadows bridge really took off and are looking quite nice as we head into fall. We've applied to mark this area as a Certified Wildlife Habitat from the National Wildlife Federation. And since it's also time for planting and pre-winter tree pruning and removal, we hope to plant new trees and shrubs in October and prune or remove trees in November.



Grasses and other plantings at the Meadows bridge

The retaining walls between Butterfield Lane and Byrds Nest Pass were replaced and we added a retaining wall around the corner of 7811 Butterfield Lane and running along to the utility box. We expect to add stepping stones to the new wall and the one just up the hill from there soon to make easier walking through the gravel. This would also more closely match the wall between Yorktown Village Pass and Byrds Nest Pass. The committee is aware of a good number of erosion issues throughout the community, and has a goal to create a minimum walking distance behind townhome fences so all residents have the ability to walk behind their homes without risking personal injury due to steep hillsides or erosion. Expect more erosion projects to be on the list to complete this year.

Several rock swales around the neighborhood were overgrown with vegetation and became less functional. We arranged with Blade Runners to have these cleaned out, making them functional again. Some other areas behind Mount Airey and Byrds Nest were cleaned up as well.

We're always open for new members of the community who have an interest in the maintenance and beautification of our grounds to join the Grounds Committee and help make our community a better place for everyone. If you are interested, please send me an email at grounds@lafayettevillage.org.

Pool and Recreation Committee – Lisa Conoly, Chair

The pool closed on Labor Day after a busy and fun-filled summer. We had a wonderful lifeguard staff this summer made up of Kevin, Jordan, Petr, and Alex.

In the spring we completed a project inside the pool house to freshen it up and some new plantings were installed in front of the pool house.

We had several successful events again this year at the pool: two cookouts, with the Association providing burgers, hot dogs, chips, condiments, and water; two "Swim Under the Stars" nights when we kept the pool open late and turned up the music; and our second Adult Wine and Cheese Mixer, the one night during the summer where the pool is open to adults only. All of these events continue to be popular occasions to meet our neighbors. Thank you to the many people who volunteered their time and talents to help make all of these events possible.



Grillmasters Larry Dunham and John Grant hard at work at the End of Summer party

This summer we began a water aerobics program. The twice-a-week drop in program grew in popularity throughout the summer. We are planning to continue the program next year.

This year, several residents took advantage of the opportunity to reserve the pool picnic pad for small parties. This opportunity is available during the pool season to all residents in good standing.

Committee Reports, continued...

The pool continues to be a great gathering place for the community. We hope to continue to make improvements and add events to enhance this wonderful resource. If you have comments or suggestions regarding the pool, please email me at lisac_234@hotmail.com.

Thank you to everyone for helping to make this a safe and enjoyable pool season for all of us.



Enjoying the End of Summer BBQ

Community Ads and Notices.....

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

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

Organizing & Decorating: Contact Betty Harmon, resident in Lafayette Village, for a professional organizer and interior decorator to help you love your home space again. For a free estimate, call 703-217-4707.

Math Tutoring Services: As a long-time resident of Lafayette Village, I have tutored students in math out of my home for the past seven years. Currently a stay-at-home mother, my background includes a B.S. in mathematics from Duke University, as well as professional experience in predictive modeling and data analysis.

I tutor all levels of high school math, pre-algebra through calculus. If your child could benefit from math tutoring, please contact me, Katharine Kraft, by phone (703.560.2836) or email (katharine@oskrafts.org). References available upon request.

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

An advertisement for "Fall Free Days" featuring a black and white photo of two women in athletic wear. The text reads: "Fall FREE DAYS OCTOBER 1-31 GET 7 DAYS FREE WITH OUR Fall FITNESS PASS". Below this, it says "11 Classes Weekly at Jewish Community Center of NoVA 8900 Little River Turnpike Fairfax, VA 22031 202-758-6946 maloneylynn@hotmail.com". At the bottom, it says "START TODAY! JAZZERCISE.COM/FALLFREE • 800.FIT.IS.IT" and "THE NEW JAZZERCISE" with a logo.

Election Information: Election Day is Tuesday, November 8....

What you'll be voting for: Election Day is soon approaching. Candidates for President and House of Representatives will be on the ballot. There will also be two proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot, along with four Fairfax County referendum and bond issues for you to vote on. More information about what's on the ballot is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections, or through the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area, www.lwv-fairfax.org. The ballot is long; a few minutes spent reviewing the ballot questions now will speed your way through the lines at your polling place.

Where you will vote: All residents of Lafayette Village reside in Hummer Precinct, and vote at the Packard Center at 4022 Hummer Road. The polling site will be open from 6:00am to 7:00pm on Tuesday, November 8. If for some reason, you know you'll be unable to vote during polling hours, you can instead vote by absentee ballot. You can find out more about absentee voting at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.htm>. You can also vote early at Mason District Government Center daily except Sunday starting October 17.

Early voting: If you know you won't be able to vote at our Packard Center polling place on Election Day, you can still vote "absentee in person" at the Mason District Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike. You can vote Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 7:00pm and Saturdays from 9:00am to 5:00pm starting October 17. You will need a photo ID in order to vote. In-person absentee voting ends Saturday, November 5. If you want to vote absentee by mail, this website will provide you the information you need:

<http://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/index.html>.

New photo ID requirements: You will need to show an acceptable photo ID before you will be allowed to vote. These photo IDs are acceptable:

- Valid Virginia driver's license, even if it has your old address.
- Military photo ID.
- Federal, Virginia, or local government-issued ID, including a passport.
- Employer-issued photo ID.
- Virginia college or university student photo ID.
- Tribal enrollment or other tribal ID.

For voting purposes, an expired ID remains valid for 12 months after its expiration date.

If you don't have a photo ID when you come to vote, you will be required to vote a provisional ballot. In order for it to count, you will then have until noon on the Friday after the election (Nov. 11) to deliver a copy of acceptable photo ID identification to the Fairfax County Electoral Board at the Office of Elections in the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

Verify your voter registration: You can verify your registration information at the Virginia Board of Elections website, <https://www.vote.virginia.gov/> and make any necessary changes then.

Expressing support for your favorite candidate: Our ACC Guidelines allow you to display one sign pertaining to the current political season. You must remove the sign immediately following the election.



This is the voting machine you will use to record your paper ballot in the upcoming election.

Remember to Vote on Tuesday, November 8th!

Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, November 6th

Don't forget – when you turn your clocks back one hour on November 1st also change the batteries in your smoke alarms throughout your home, and check the expiration date on your carbon monoxide detector.

This simple act could save you and your family's lives!

Community News...

Notes from the Garden:

Now that we have cooler temperatures, it's not so brutal to work in the garden for hours on end. This is great, because there's a lot to harvest around this time of year and still plenty of fall planting you can do if you want to. In October and November, you can plant garlic and shallot cloves that will be ready to harvest next spring. And this is the time to plant kale, mustard, radish and other cool weather crops. There are plenty of websites that list crops you can plant each month in the mid-Atlantic region, even in Annandale itself. I particularly like this website that gives planting times for each zone from Zone 5 to Zone 8. <http://www.ufseeds.com/Virginia-Vegetable-Planting-Calendar.html> If we get overnight temperatures near freezing, just throw an old sheet over your seeds to protect them.



Green beans awaiting harvesting and the dinner pot!

This is also a good time to collect grass and leaf clippings to use for making mulch. It should compost before spring, when the compost will attract earthworms that help fertilize and aerate the soil. It also creates microbes that provide nutrition to the soil. According to the Soil Division of the Maryland Department of Agriculture, the population of microbes in a handful of healthy soil exceeds the world's population of people.

Now, here's something surprising – don't till the soil in your garden! Just pile your garden plot with compost and let the microbes and earthworms do their magic. This also helps reduce run-off and loss of topsoil from wind. In order to prepare for next year's garden, put four to five layers of black and white newspapers down over the whole area. Cover this with grass clippings and shredded leaves. Add rotted manure (NOT dog or cat poop!) to the mix if you can. At the beginning of March 2017, cover the plot with a tarp of black plastic to heat up the soil. Later in the spring, take off the plastic and you should have a nice plot waiting for you.

Also in the spring, the Grounds Committee will ask all the current gardeners if they wish to rent their plots again in 2017. If anybody drops out of the Garden Group, we will then advertise for new gardeners. If you would like to be on our waiting list, please contact Anne Sansbury at asansbury@gicgroup.com any time between now and next February.

Deer Hunting in Lafayette Village – Annual Update: Anyone who walks or runs throughout our neighborhood in the early morning or at night has noticed that we have an increasing number of deer living in our midst, eating our plantings and destroying young trees and other desirable vegetation in our woods and parks. Many years ago, the Board invited Suburban Whitetail Management of Northern Virginia to perform **controlled bow-and-arrow hunts** on our property in an effort to better control the deer population. This year, starting in early September, hunters from Suburban Whitetail Management have conducted a number of hunts and have taken three deer so far.

Note that the Association does not allow hunting on Association property during fawning season. During hunting season, the deer are removed from our property and butchered elsewhere. The venison is normally donated to local food banks, although the hunter has the option of keeping the meat for himself.

FRASER FIR WREATHS FOR SALE

FROM *Nutbrown's* EST. 1958
CHRISTMAS TREE FARM

* 20" WREATH = \$30 * 26" WREATH = \$35

He can't bring trees back from the farm with him, but Mike Nutbrown is selling fresh Fraser Fir wreaths complete with pine cones and a hand-made, weather-resistant bow. Available for front door delivery the Monday after Thanksgiving. Please contact him at mr.nutbrown@gmail.com by October 28 to place your order.

Around Town...

Annandale Parade: Saturday, October 22nd, 10:00am

It's Bigger and Better than Ever: Family Fun in the Heart of Annandale!

The popular Annandale Parade will be held on Saturday, October 22, 2016 beginning at 10:00 am. Marching along Columbia Pike from the historic white church and the Annandale Shopping Center near Gallows Road, all the way to the Bowling Alley-Safeway, thousands of participants from Clowns, Storybook Characters, and Marching Bands to Antique & Military Cars, Fire Trucks, Civic Organizations, Scouts, and beautifully costumed International Dancers will parade before the residents of Greater Annandale. Children are invited to wear their Halloween costumes while celebrating community.

Got Drugs? Cleanout Medicine Cabinets of Unused and Expired Prescriptions: On Saturday, October 22, 2016, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., the Fairfax County Police Department, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration Diversion Control Division, will take **back unused and expired medications** for proper disposal. You can drop off your old or unused prescription medications at the **Mason District Station**, 6507 Columbia Pike, but you will need to avoid the Annandale Parade to get to the police station. **Only prescriptions in liquid or pill form may be dropped off. No needles or pressurized canisters will be accepted.** Disposal is free, safe, convenient, and confidential. Information about year-round proper disposal of medications is available on-line at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/dontflush, or by calling the Health Department at 703-246-2411; TTY 711.

Election Officers Needed! – Fairfax County needs Election Officers a few days a year, including the upcoming General Election on **Tuesday, November 8, 2016**, to run the polls and assist the voters at each of the 240 precincts in Fairfax County. Election officers must be registered voters in Virginia and complete required forms and training. The Election Officer Training Schedule is accessible at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/eotraining.htm. Election Officers are offered a **stipend of \$175** for serving a full day. Bilingual citizens are urged to serve, as language assistance is needed in many precincts. Residency in Fairfax County is not required. For more information, visit the Office of Elections Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/working.htm, send an e-mail to elect@fairfaxcounty.gov, or call 703-324-4735; TTY 711.

Observe Fire Prevention Week October 9 – 16 – Plan to attend an Open House at a Fire Station near you on **Saturday, October 15**, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. This year's theme is "Don't Wait, Check the Date. Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years." Educational efforts are focused on the importance of having working smoke alarms, checking the dates on smoke alarms, and replacing smoke alarms every 10 years. For more information about fire prevention and safety, and community outreach programs, visit the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Web site at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/>.



Reminder: Trash Collection Guidelines.....

For those new to Lafayette Village and as a reminder to long-term residents, here are the guidelines for our trash collection service:

- **Patriot Disposal Services is the company providing our trash collection service.** Their phone number is 703-257-7100 and their website is <http://www.patriotdisposalservices.com/index.html>.
- **Trash is collected every Monday and Thursday.** You can place your trash cans or plastic bags of trash in front of your house after 6:00pm the evening before trash is collected. You will need to bring in your trash can Monday or Thursday evenings.
- **Recycling will be collected on Monday each week.** Recyclable materials that will be collected include newspaper, mixed paper, flattened cardboard no larger than 4' x 4', glass, aluminum and metal food and beverage containers, and plastic bottles, jugs and containers. Recyclable materials may be co-mingled.
- **Yard debris will be collected on Monday each week.** Yard debris is defined as grass clippings, leaves and hedge trimmings. Yard debris must be placed at the curb in **paper yard waste bags**, or in a **separate container clearly marked "yard waste."** Brush must be less than 4-inches in diameter, cut into 4-foot lengths, and tied in small bundles or bagged. Yard debris does not include stumps, whole trees, or clean-up from storm damage. Collection of these items may be provided for an additional charge.
- **Special items will be collected at the curb each week.** Special items include appliances, small pieces of furniture, mattresses, and other large items. Special items that will be collected and recycled include scrap metal (grills, bicycles, swings, chairs), small electronics (computers, monitors, small TVs, small printers, VCRs, DVD/CD players, etc.), motor oil, and car batteries. **Advance notice is required for the collection of all special items, with the exception of small furniture and mattresses,** which may be placed at the curb with the regular trash. This service is limited to two items per week. **You will need to schedule such pick-ups in advance by calling Patriot at 703-257-7100.**
- **Additional items, or items that are extremely large or heavy, will be collected for a minimum fee of \$25.00.** TVs or monitors larger than 19" will be picked up for a minimum fee of \$25.00; tires will be picked up for a minimum fee of \$20.00 each. Carpeting will be priced for pickup on a case-by-case basis, depending on the quantity. Special items scheduled for pickup that are not out on the scheduled pickup day will be re-scheduled for pickup at the request of the homeowner for a \$25.00 fee. All fees for special pickups must be prepaid by the homeowner prior to removal.
- **Patriot will collect packing boxes of new residents,** from the curb, along with ordinary household trash.

How Not to Put your Trash out in Plastic Bags

Many of us like the convenience of using plastic bags to put our trash out for collection. However, as the photo to the right shows, using a thin white plastic kitchen bag just invites neighborhood critters to chow down on your trash. This trash bag could have been slashed open by any of a number of wild animals – foxes, crows, rats, even inquisitive dogs. Patriot will not clean up a mess like this, leaving the trash to blow about the neighborhood!

If you put your trash out in a heavy duty yard waste bag, like the black bag to the rear of flimsy white plastic bag, animals will most likely leave your trash alone, and you won't have a mess to clean up.

