



# *Lafayette Village Community Association*

## *April/May 2010 Newsletter*

### **SPRING HAS SPRUNG; INSPECTIONS HAVE BEGUN**

“Spring is in the air” and so are the inspections currently being conducted by our management company, KPA. Our contract with KPA requires them to conduct comprehensive inspections in early spring each year. KPA will review each home for compliance under our Architectural Control Committee (ACC) guidelines, available on our website [www.lafayettevillage.org](http://www.lafayettevillage.org). For more details about this process, check out the ACC Committee report on page 6.

### **LVCA Quarterly Fees**

The quarterly Association fees were due **April 1<sup>st</sup>**. Fees are \$328 per quarter for town homes, and \$167 per quarter for detached homes. Your fees pay for such services as twice-weekly trash collection, grounds maintenance, operating and maintenance costs for the swimming pool, and management company services such as the spring inspection. You can view the LVCA budget on the website at [www.lafayettevillage.org](http://www.lafayettevillage.org) – the link is on the home page.

If your payment is received after **April 15<sup>th</sup>**, you will be subject to late fees and possibly other penalties.

**Lafayette Village Swimming Pool Opens May 29<sup>th</sup>!** — Please send in your pool registration by May 10th. Forms received after that date will be subject to a **\$25 late processing fee**. See pages 13 through 15 for many more details.



Cats on spring walk

### ***In this issue...***

- *Semi-Annual Meeting, May 10th*
- *Committee Reports/Schedules*
- *Spring inspections*
- *Community gardening*
- *Traffic Calming*
- *Arbor/Earth Day resolution*
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### **Arbor Day/Earth Day Celebration Saturday, April 24th**

Please join the Lafayette Village Community Association as we celebrate Arbor Day and Earth Day with festivities and tree plantings!

- 10am to noon: **Great Trash Treasure Hunt**. Meet at the pool house to divide into teams and then clean up our community of trash. All trash will be taken to the pool house for counting and sorting for recycling.
- Noon to 12:25: **Clean up** using the pool house rest rooms
- 12:25 to 12:30: **Prizes!** Kids on the team with the most trash collected get to choose prizes first.
- 12:30: **Community cookout** with drinks, hot dogs, (regular and veggie) and chips (Trammell Court park)
- 1:00: **Commemorative Tree Planting** – everyone adds a bit of soil. Short remarks by **LVCA Pres. Jay Jarvis** and **County Supervisor Penny Gross**.

## Our Community Information...

### LVCA Board Members

**Jay Jarvis - President**

703-280-5812

Jay@JCLInsurance.com

**Joaquin Tremols – Vice President**

703-876-0313

tremols@lycos.com

**Sean Walsh – Treasurer**

im\_sean@msn.com

**Michele Krahn - Secretary**

703-573-4180

mokrahn@msn.com

**Shawn Howard – Member-at-Large**

703-560-7109

howardshawn@gmail.com

### LVCA Committee Chairs

**Architectural Control – Mary Coyle**

MaryECoyle@cox.net

**Grounds – John Alexander**

703-208-9614

jmalex14@msn.com

**Finance – Sean Walsh**

im\_sean@msn.com

**Pool & Recreation – Linda Witham**

703-698-7455

linda.l.witham@verizon.com

**Communications – Carl Iddings**

lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org

**Neighborhood Watch – Fred Saah**

703-641-0446

fred300@gmail.com

### Klingbeil, Powell and Alrutz Inc. (KPA)

Diane Tschirhart

Dtschirhart@kpamgmt.com

Phone: 703-532-5005

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6400 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 700

Falls Church, VA 22042-2336

**REMINDER: Second Quarter Assessments were due April 1, 2010. Please enclose the April coupon with your check and make sure you mail your check in time to be received by April 15th.**

### LAFAYETTE VILLAGE COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

#### Monthly Meetings (Check Website for Details)

**Board Meetings** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of month at 7:00 PM at the Mason District Government Building, 6507 Columbia Pike. (April 12 and May 10)

**ACC Meetings** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of month at 7:00 PM at 7882 Hampton Village Pass (April 19 and May 17)

**Grounds Meetings** – 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of month at 7:15 PM at 7900 Peyton Forest Trail. (April 27 and May 25)

**Finance Committee** – 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of month at 7:00 PM (Contact the Chair for location) (April 27 and May 25)

**Neighborhood Watch** – Tuesdays after the Board meeting at 7:30 PM at 3721 Yorktown Village Pass (April 13 and May 11)

**All residents, including renters, are invited to attend scheduled meetings.**

**Please check the website for the most current information:**

**<http://www.lafayettevillage.org/>**

#### **Lafayette Village Renters:**

- \* You are encouraged to attend the monthly HOA meetings.
- \* You are invited to join community activities.
- \* You are responsible for knowing and following the Lafayette Village guidelines (guidelines can be found on website or by contacting KPA).
- \* You are expected to respond to and act on Violation and Citation letters and/or work with the home owner to rectify the citation as quickly as possible.

**Contributors to this edition:** Thanks to Jay Jarvis, Anne Sansbury, Mary Coyle, the Arnettes, Linda Witham, Susan Dudley, Fred Saah, John Alexander, Maria Ugincius, and those who submitted contractor recommendations!

## Prez Sez: Thoughts and observations

by Jay Jarvis, LVCA President



- The snow has melted, spring is here, and the big clean-up has started. We had many tree limbs broken, many trees downed and a number of spots in our curbs damaged from the snow clean-up. Big Steve's tree service has been through the community to remove most of the larger branches and trees damaged during our back-to-back snow storms. However, more work remains. Please be patient as we get everything back to normal. The curbs and storm drains on Lafayette Village Drive are state property and the state is responsible for repairing the damage. So, while we will be able to clean up the grounds mess, the damaged curbs may take more than a year to be repaired.
- The work on the beltway expansion continues along with construction of the sound barrier. Some time before summer we should see the noise from the beltway reduced as the portion of the sound barrier next to our homes is installed. Unfortunately, the trees and bushes that were removed during construction and relocation of the power lines will take many years to grow back. The power lines added to the east side of Lafayette Village Drive at the S curve will replace those next to the beltway ramp. A sound barrier will be added along the ramp from Little River Turnpike to the beltway. This should help reduce the noise but again it will take years before vegetation returns to the area in a substantial manner.
- For those of you who enjoy fixing up your yard, we have arranged to have leaf mulch delivered to the pool parking lot. It is available to our residents as long as it lasts.
- I have begun discussions with Supervisor Penny Gross' office to have a sidewalk or asphalt trail added to the side of Lafayette Village Drive from our community to Hummer Road. As you probably have noticed the amount of foot traffic on this stretch of Lafayette Village has increased significantly. For the safety of our resident and guests, the new sidewalk has to be a priority. We will keep everyone informed of the progress.
- Please plan to join us for our Semi-Annual meeting on Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. We have invited speakers to update our community on traffic control along Lafayette Village Drive and Congressman Gerry Connolly to update us on the new health care bill. In addition, the attorney we have hired to work on our behalf in dealings with the widening of the beltway will update us on the status of the project and our community's expected income from the sale of a portion of LVCA property.

You can find more information in this newsletter about the Arbor Day/Earth Day resolution which the Board will vote on at its April meeting. I join the Grounds Committee in asking everyone to join us for the community spring clean-up, tree planting, and picnic on our Arbor/Earth Day on April 24<sup>th</sup>.



The last of the snow....and the first flowers of spring!

## *Lafayette Village celebrates Arbor Day, Earth Day & good gardens!....*

### **Proposed Lafayette Village Arbor Day/Earth Day Resolution 2010**

**On Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>,** Lafayette Village will celebrate a combined Arbor Day/Earth Day with a community-wide trash collection, tree planting and cookout! See page 1 for the detailed schedule.

In honor of this day, the LVCA has passed the following resolution:

**Whereas,** Earth Day was founded through the efforts of Senator Gaylord Nelson and first celebrated on April 22, 1970, and

**Whereas,** Earth Day's purpose is to raise recognition and awareness about the earth and how we can better protect our environment, and

**Whereas,** in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and,

**Whereas,** this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and

**Whereas,** Earth Day and Arbor Day are now observed throughout the nation and the world, and

**Whereas,** trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife, and

**Whereas,** trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and

**Whereas,** a clean, tree-filled environment in our community increases property values, enhances the economic vitality of business areas, and beautifies our community,

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved:** that Saturday, April 24, 2010 be observed as Earth Day and Arbor Day in Lafayette Village, all residents being urged to celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our environment including our trees and woodlands, and

**Further;** that all residents are urged to assist LVCA in cleaning our grounds and planting trees in the common area to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.



**Community Garden news:** As the Community Garden recovers from a winter of excessive moisture, all the gardeners are planning out their new gardens and starting their seeds indoors, if they like starting from scratch. Crops like lettuce, spinach, onions, broccoli, cabbages, and kale need to be started indoors between early February through late March, whereas the cool weather crops like peas, radishes and turnips grow best by starting the seeds right in the garden. The most commonly grown "vegetable" (actually a fruit) in the US – the tomato – will grow almost anywhere, any way you plant it, even upside down, although you need an awfully tall pole to hang a topsy-turvy tomato plant.

Because this is our second garden year, we are contemplating crop rotation to prevent disease build-up in the soil and to preserve micro-nutrients. The idea is to rotate crops every year on a four-year plan, so that the same family of vegetables is not planted in the same location twice within four years. Also, some vegetables inhibit the growth of other plants, so we are also careful to avoid planting potatoes right next to tomatoes or squash; beans right next to onions; broccoli right next to tomatoes; and carrots right next to dill.

For the at-home gardener, there are many crops you can grow inside your fence in your own back yard, if you don't mind sharing with small creatures. Vegetables that thrive in containers are tomatoes, eggplants, peppers, carrots, chard, lettuce, beans, peas, and cucumbers. And we can all enjoy growing culinary, medicinal, and ornamental herbs. After all is said and done, one of our best crops last year was multi-colored zinnias. They were absolutely gorgeous, providing bursts of color throughout much of the growing season. Happy gardening to all and bon appétit!!

## Community Updates and Recap...

### Grounds Committee

The Grounds Committee invites you and your family to participate in the Arbor Day celebrations on Saturday, April 24th. As in years past, we will clean up the community, plant a tree and enjoy a cookout with our neighbors. Please see the announcement in the newsletter for additional details.

The Committee met twice during the past two months. Much committee effort was devoted to managing the snow cleanup, a lengthy and painful process, and then planning for the cleanup in the aftermath of the snow. The Committee worked with President Jarvis to bring Big Steve's Tree Service on-site to clean up the major broken branches and remove the downed trees and large tree limbs. This activity has helped restore a more normal appearance to the neighborhood. Unfortunately, many trees in our front yards also took a hit during the storms. These trees are the home owner's responsibility. The Ground Committee can recommend contractors it has worked with if your trees need trimming or removal. Please remember to replace your trees with ones from the list of approved trees found on our website in the Documents section.

This spring, the Committee will continue planning for tree planting this year, and begin addressing damage done to our property by the HOT Lanes construction project.

### Pool and Recreation Committee

The Committee is gearing up for the 2010 Pool Season, starting May 29<sup>th</sup>. This edition of the newsletter contains the pool rules and application for the 2010 season. Please review pages 13 and 14 carefully and make sure your family is aware of the pool rules. All residents and their visitors will be expected to know and follow these rules that will be enforced by the lifeguards on duty.

In order to receive current pool pass stickers, all residents/homeowners must fill out the registration form on page 15 and mail to KPA by May 10<sup>th</sup>. Directions are on the form. Each home will receive 5 passes/stickers that can be picked up on opening day, assuming there are no outstanding payments due on your account.

### Communications Committee

Did you know that you can submit ads, articles, recipes and comments to the newsletter? All submissions will be *considered* for inclusion. Please submit your entries to [lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org](mailto: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 June 1, 2010. Articles and submissions are due by May 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Neighborhood Watch Committee** – The Association has had a relatively crime-free fall and winter, but with the warmer weather arriving, we can expect an uptick in criminal activity. With that in mind, we received the following from the Mason District Crime Prevention Office:

**Vandalized Vehicles in the Mason District area:** Thieves throughout the Mason District area have caused a rash of vehicle tamperings over the past few weeks. These vehicles have been targeted for their GPS systems, iPods, catalytic converters, radios, and money. The thieves gain entry by breaking windows, entering through unlocked doors, and bypassing car alarms. To ensure your vehicle stays secure, please take all valuable items out of your vehicle. Do not leave items in plain sight. Report all suspicious activity to the non-emergency number. (703) 691-2131.

It is important to note that this increase in vehicle tampering has not affected our community as of this newsletter.

Everyone in the community needs to help watch out after each other. With only 7 people volunteering on the committee, it's hard to cover everything. If you would like to help with the committee email Fred Saah, Neighborhood Watch Chair, at [fred300@gmail.com](mailto:fred300@gmail.com). Also, if you are **the victim of crime**, of any sort, send an email to Fred to let him know the circumstances. That information will help the committee better focus its activities.

## *Community Updates and Recap, cont....*

### **Architectural Control Committee (ACC): Spring Inspections 2010 have started:**

LVCA's Professional Management Company, **Klingbeil, Powell and Alrutz Inc. (KPA)** has begun the annual spring inspection of our community homes and private properties. Normal winter weather exacts a toll on the infrastructure of all homes; inspections this spring are especially important due to the uncommonly severe winter weather that we've all just experienced. This past winter has caused extensive damage to our trees, shrubs and in some cases damage to our homes due to the unusually heavy accumulation of ice and snow.

Annual inspections are performed to preserve the property value of our homes and to ensure that Lafayette Village Community remains a beautiful and safe place to live. They help us to maintain property values by notifying each of us about any necessary repairs and improvements to our homes. Further, it benefits the entire community if potential homebuyers see that the homes in our community are in good repair during the busy spring buying season.

If you receive a violation notification, it's important to review the repairs and/or improvements outlined in the violation letter immediately. **Whether or not you choose to do the work yourself or hire a contractor, you must contact KPA via e-mail or by letter to let them know when the work will be done within 30 days of the receipt of the notice.**

The reason for haste in addressing any violation notices is so that you can reach an agreement with KPA regarding how and when the violations will be corrected, and to avoid a second notification and any possible hearing or follow on legal actions due to failure to comply. **If you have a question or problem regarding any of the violations cited, you may consult with your street or block captain\* for assistance in resolving the problem.**

Some homeowners will receive a second violation notice. If you already have completed the repairs, improvements, or steps described in the violation notice, let KPA know right away. If the work will require more time to complete, write or e-mail KPA (Dtschirhart@kpamgmt.com) and let them know when the work will be completed. KPA will be flexible and work with you to establish reasonable time frames.

Please do your best to address any problems you may have as a result of the spring inspection notices, contacting either your ACC block captains\* who are willing to assist you in coming to an agreement or KPA, our management company. The worst thing that you can do would be to ignore the whole process.

It should be noted that all homeowners have agreed to abide by and to comply with the community's bylaws, declarations and covenants, to include the ACC guidelines. Although copies of these documents should have been received at settlement, they are also available on the LVCA website ([www.lafayettevillage.org](http://www.lafayettevillage.org)). Homeowners who ignore all notifications and letters may be summoned to a hearing. Homeowners who do not attend the hearing or fail to reach an arrangement to complete the repairs, improvements, or steps, may be fined \$10 a day up to \$900 per violation. Further such homeowners may incur Association attorney fees and costs, as well as their own. One or more liens may be filed against the property. They may lose swimming pool privileges and their parking privileges may be revoked. Please make these unpleasant and expensive procedures unnecessary.

**\*ACC BLOCK CAPTAINS:** Block Captain \*do not\* police their neighbors. Instead, as members of the ACC, Block Captains have a responsibility to ensure we all adhere to to the ACC rules/guidelines. These guidelines were written to ensure that LVC maintains the integrity of its colonial aesthetics; to ensure that property values continue rise. A pristine community is a welcome environment for future buyers.

**DUTIES:** As Block Captains, we: review management company inspection reports for your streets; identify and help to correct any discrepancies on the reports; assist homeowners with questions and report back to the ACC

## *Community Updates and Recap, cont....*

chairperson; report all questions, suggestions and recommendations to the ACC chairperson. Finally, the ACC chairperson communicates with the management company.

### **BLOCK CAPTAIN STREET ASSIGNMENTS**

#### **Hancock Forest Trail, Hampton Village Pass, Brunswick Forest Trail**

Street Captain: Hattie Walden ([hmwalden@mindspring.com](mailto:hmwalden@mindspring.com))

#### **Butterfield Lane, Mt. Airey Lane**

Street Captain *Vacant*: Contact Mary Coyle ([MaryECoyle@cox.net](mailto:MaryECoyle@cox.net))

#### **Ashley Glen Road**

Street Captain: Penny Horsley ([pjhorsley@aol.com](mailto:pjhorsley@aol.com))

#### **Byrds Nest Pass**

Street Captain: Terri Clark ([terri.clark@cox.net](mailto:terri.clark@cox.net))

#### **Colonial Village Row, Peyton Forest Trail**

Street Captain: Tina Snapp ([tLsKippies@gmail.com](mailto:tLsKippies@gmail.com))

#### **Newport Glen Pass, Trammel Court**

Street Captain: Mary Coyle ([MaryECoyle@cox.net](mailto:MaryECoyle@cox.net))

#### **Yorktown Village Pass**

Street Captain: Angela Cutter ([aicutter@cox.net](mailto:aicutter@cox.net))

#### **Merrimac Trail**

Street Captain: Mike Loudon ([Mike.Louden@msn.com](mailto:Mike.Louden@msn.com))

## *The Backyard Habitat in Spring--A Fresh Start*

In spring, plant growth becomes more visible, local deer look forward to ending their winter diet of twigs and bark, and sadly for us, winter birds like the pudgy juncos head back to their northern homes. This is usually the time of year when we get ready to plant spring flowers, clean out the bird bath, re-seed the lawn and put up a nesting box or two.

The effects of this winter's fierce weather are obvious, but take heart: your greenery may be able to recover. Snow insulates plants from lower temperatures and can prevent dehydration. However, if you want to replace damaged plants and attract more wildlife, remember to seek native or non-invasive plants and flowers--dense shrubs provide nesting places and protection from predators, grasses and bushes with certain berries offer food, and of course, flowers with plenty of nectar nourish beneficial birds and pollinators. With the right choices, you can also save water and keep toxins out of the ground and local waterways in one fell swoop!

Green Spring Gardens, just down the road off of Route 236, has a lot to offer, including demonstration gardens, a non-circulating library, a gift shop, and several historic buildings. Starting in April, they'll have some wonderful opportunities like their Eco-Friendly Gardening workshop, Basic Gardening series, and their unique Garden Markets and Garden Gate Plant Shop full of shrubs, trees, wildflowers and grasses that do well in our local growing conditions, plus expert advice for all. The latest information is available in the spring issue of Parktakes magazine, but you can call the gardens at 703-642-5173. Also keep an eye on their website at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp/events.htm>.

You can set up or certify your Backyard Habitat at any time of the year. Getting involved in this nation-wide project can help you create a beautiful, dynamic garden while helping restore balance in the ecosystem, and with the right touch, establish a thriving, self-sustaining retreat.

For more information on the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Habitat program, go to:

<http://www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife/certify.cfm?campaignid=WH09DAAC>

--Kim and Andy Arnette

## ***Front yard challenge: Creating a Grass-Friendly Front Yard!***

Maintaining the lush green front lawn of our dreams has proven challenging for many of us living in Lafayette Village. Too much shade, too-hot summers, too-cold winters, brick-hard clay soil, alternating drought and standing water from poor drainage are some of the ubiquitous enemies of turf grass in Northern Virginia. But these problems *can* be addressed – and often overcome. Here are some suggestions:

- **Let the sun shine in!** As our front yard trees have filled out and flourished, their increasingly dense canopies have intensified the depth and daily duration of the shade underneath them. All grass – even the so-called “shade-tolerant” varieties – needs some sun exposure to thrive. Tree removal is not usually an option, but a *licensed arborist* might be able to prune up to one-third of the canopy of your tree, opening space to allow some light to penetrate to the grass below. This solution is not as cheap as do-it-yourself pruning, but professional arborists know how to manage ladders safely, and they know how much and where to cut without putting the health and life of your tree at risk. Sparing yourself a broken leg and/or the cost of tree replacement a year or two down the road could save you a lot of money in the long run.

- **Get a soil test!** Don’t assume that your soil is going to support grass without some assistance from you. Northern Virginia soil is mostly red clay, which is not an ideal medium for growing modern turf grasses. For \$12, the horticulture laboratory at Virginia Tech will provide you with an extensive analysis of your soil that includes advice about how to correct the pH (acidity) and chemical composition of your soil so that it is more grass-friendly. You can pick up a soil test kit, complete with collection and mailing instructions any time at any Fairfax County library, or in the summer, from the Master Gardeners’ table at area farmers’ markets. Results will be mailed back to you in about 10 days.

- **Feed it!** Turf grasses as well as trees have nutritional needs that are met when roots draw essential chemicals from the ground. Since the vast majority of your tree’s complex root system is located close to the surface of the soil, competition with your grass for nutrients is intense. In true David v. Goliath fashion, the well-established tree has a tremendous advantage over struggling grass unless you take steps to boost the probability that the grass doesn’t starve. Fertilizing, with the right nutrients, in the right proportions, and at the right time of year, can help. Know what kind of grasses you have (or want to have) to figure out an optimal fertilization plan. Tall fescues, ryegrass, and bluegrass need to be fertilized in the fall, while Bermuda grass is best fertilized in spring or summer.

- **Water it!** Don’t rely on Mother Nature for rainfall. Until your lawn is well-established, competition with your tree’s roots is very likely to leave your grass the loser. Soaker hoses are among the best ways to get water to the roots of your grass while minimizing both evaporation and wasteful runoff. Grass needs a soaking to one inch depth at least every 7-10 days. The best time to water is early in the day – but at least an hour *after* sunrise – so that the grass blades are not damp when the sun is down. Don’t let standing water accumulate over your grass.

- **Let it breathe!** Grass and other plants breathe oxygen to stay alive, just as animals do. But plants take their oxygen out of the ground, not out of the atmosphere. Unfortunately, Northern Virginia’s heavy clay soil is composed of extremely fine particles that clump together so tightly that there isn’t much space for air, and this can literally suffocate grass. Making a bad situation worse, heavy foot traffic further compacts the soil and reduces oxygen availability even more. You can amend the soil by adding an inch or two of topsoil or shredded leaf mulch, and carefully working it in – but don’t get carried away with this solution or you risk damaging your tree’s roots and its trunk (which should never be covered with extra soil or mulch). Aeration (systematically poking small-diameter holes a few inches deep and at intervals of a few inches around your yard) can help to open spaces for oxygen to infiltrate the soil. Try to avoid walking on the aerated area or your work will have been in vain.

- **Mix it up!** Our hot, dry summers and cold winters make a complex proposition out of grass selection, since only a mixture of warm- season varieties (like Bermuda grass) and cool-season varieties (like Kentucky bluegrass, tall

## ***Front yard challenge: Creating a Grass-Friendly Front Yard!, ctd.***

fescue, or perennial rye) have a chance of producing green lawns for most of the year. Reputable garden centers are a good source for high quality seed that is locally mixed, bagged, and certified specifically for the growing conditions in Northern Virginia. These may cost more than the national brands on sale at the big-box outlets, but in the end, they often prove more economical because germination rates and survivability are higher, while weed seed contamination is usually lower.

- **Watch the calendar!** No matter how sincere your efforts, if they are applied at the wrong time of year, they are doomed to fail. Learn when is best for planting, fertilizing, or applying weed or insect killers to the grass varieties in your yard and stick to the schedule.

We all know that doing nothing and waiting for a miracle, or doing again the same thing that didn't work last year aren't likely to produce the lawn successes we're after. If the solutions listed above don't work for you, or if you want to get more information about optimal strategies for growing turf grass, you can contact the Fairfax County Extension Office (703-324-8556), stop by one of the Fairfax County Master Gardeners plant clinics (look for our booths at county libraries and farmers' markets throughout the summer) , or visit [www.fairfaxmastergardeners.org](http://www.fairfaxmastergardeners.org). If all this fails, get in touch with the LVCA ACC to get their advice on approved alternative ground covers for your front yard.

**Traffic Calming Plan Update:** In 2009, Lafayette Village Drive was the scene of at least three dangerous traffic incidents. As a result of these accidents, speeding and other traffic problems, the Lafayette Village traffic calming task force was formed. Bill Harrell, traffic engineer from Fairfax County Department of Transportation will be presenting several traffic calming plans to the task force in April. The task force will then agree on a final traffic calming plan to present to the community at the Homeowners Association meeting on May 10th for review and feedback. If the feedback is positive, there will be a community mail-in ballot, limited to LVCA residents and home owners. There has to be a 50% response rate, and of those responding, 60% have to be in favor of the plan. If the plan passes, VDOT implements the plan for Lafayette Village.

Please plan to attend the May 10<sup>th</sup> Homeowners Association meeting to share your views on the community traffic calming plan. If you would like to become involved in traffic calming efforts please email Jay Jarvis at [Jay@JCLInsurance.com](mailto:Jay@JCLInsurance.com).

### ***Traffic Calming – Frequently Asked Questions***

**Do traffic calming measures affect emergency response times?**

Studies have shown that certain traffic calming measures, especially vertical measures such as speed humps and raised crosswalks, can slow fire trucks and other emergency vehicles by about 3 to 10 seconds each.

**Do speed humps affect snow removal?**

Speed humps and raised crosswalks are gradually sloped so that snow plow blades go over without damage to them or the pavement surface.

**Do speed humps create additional noise levels?**

Studies have shown that some noise levels increase where the total percent of heavy truck traffic volume is 20% or greater. This does not pertain to our community.

**Do traffic calming measures affect property values?**

There is no evidence to suggest that traffic calming measures either raise or lower residential property values. It is likely that for every person who feels they detract from the value of a property, there is another who feels their safety benefits add to the value of a property.

**Can the speed humps on our street be made higher or lower?**

Speed humps (and raised crosswalks) in Fairfax County are 12 feet and 22 feet long respectively, and 3 inches high. Research has found these dimensions to be the best compromise to slow most vehicles without affecting emergency response times.

**Who develops and who has final approval of the traffic calming plan?**

The development of a traffic calming plan is a community-driven process under the leadership of a traffic calming task force and the overall direction of the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT). The community task force has a significant role in the project approval. The community votes on the plan via a ballot process, to ensure that the traffic calming plan has widespread support across the community. (Source: *Fairfax County Department of Transportation*)

## Community News...

### Volunteers Needed For Invasive Plant Removal Day

**Join hundreds of Fairfax County residents in Fairfax County's Invasive Plant Removal Day, Saturday May 1<sup>st</sup>!**

Again this year, we are looking for volunteers who would like to spend a bit of time restoring the habitat in Hidden Oaks/Annandale Community Park. This year will start by removing particularly nasty invasive weeds – garlic mustard – from our neighborhood resource.

We will meet 9:00am Saturday morning, May 1<sup>st</sup>, along the S-curve on Lafayette Village Drive as part of Fairfax County's Invasive Plant Removal Day. If you would like to be part of this effort to greatly improve the appearance of our community, call Carl Iddings at 703-206-0170 or email [carl\\_iddings@hotmail.com](mailto:carl_iddings@hotmail.com).

### Mark your calendar – Free Document Shredding!

The Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program will host a **document shredding event** at the Mason District Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale, on **Saturday, May 22, 2010** from 9 am to 2 pm.

### Native Seedlings Sale for Spring Planting!

The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District is holding its **2010 seedling sale**. The species in this year's collection offer bright winter berries, color spring and summer blooms, and brilliant fall foliage. New for 2010 – separate tree and shrub packages available. Order six bare-root trees for \$10.95 or 10 bare-root shrubs for \$15.95. Place your pre-paid order by **April 12**, or while supplies last. For more information, call 703-324-1460 or visit the website at [www.fairfaxcountv.gov/nvswcd](http://www.fairfaxcountv.gov/nvswcd)

### Remodeling? What to do with your old furniture....

Neighbors helping Neighbors! ACCA (Annandale Christian Community for Action) a volunteer driven community organization needs your help in serving needy neighbors seeking assistance with food, rent, utility bills, medical assistance, and furniture. To donate food, please deliver nonperishables to 7200 Columbia Pike in Annandale. To donate furniture, call 703-256-9513 and ACCA will pick up your donated furniture and give you a tax deductible receipt. Mattresses/box springs (single, double, and queen size) sofas, kitchen/dining tables and chairs, chests of drawers/dressers, and microwaves are most requested and needed items.

### Annandale Chamber of Congress Spring Carnival!

The Annandale Chamber of Commerce will also host their **Annual Spring Carnival** in the parking lot of K-Mart from May 13-23. Bring the family and enjoy food, fun, midway games and rides. Monday-Thursday 5-11 PM. Friday 4 PM to Midnight. Saturday NOON to Midnight and Sunday 4 PM to Midnight. For more information: [www.annandalechamber.com](http://www.annandalechamber.com)

### Lafayette Village Spring Yard Sale – Volunteers needed!

The Pool and Recreation Committee needs to know if you are interested in participating in a late spring Lafayette Village community yard sale. Last year's yard sale had just a scattering of sellers and sparse buyers. If you are interested in participating in a community-wide yard sale to be held in early June, please contact Christie Prucker at [My2kids7@cox.net](mailto:My2kids7@cox.net) or Carl Iddings at [carl\\_iddings@hotmail.com](mailto:carl_iddings@hotmail.com) by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## *A note from Congressman Gerry Connolly...*

### **Potholes! After the winter cleanup, the next problem is potholes: Thoughts from Cong. Connolly:**

Hit a pothole recently? Had to replace a flat tire or bent rim? Need a wheel alignment or major front end repair after driving to your local grocery store? If so, you're not alone, and Congressman Gerry Connolly wants to make sure that VDOT knows *exactly* where those pesky, bone-jarring potholes are located in Northern Virginia.

Connolly is asking Northern Virginia residents to report the exact locations of those car-eating craters on his official website and he will personally communicate those locations to state transportation officials."

Residents can report pothole locations by accessing Congressman Connolly's website at [connolly.house.gov/reportapothole](http://connolly.house.gov/reportapothole) or they can email the locations to [pothole@mail.house.gov](mailto:pothole@mail.house.gov). Connolly's office will then add the reported pothole locations to the website's interactive map and submit all information directly to VDOT.

"Potholes are more than a nuisance. They can be downright dangerous to your car's health and expensive for your pocketbook," Connolly said. "Let's help VDOT find them so they are fixed as soon as possible."

In a letter to Virginia Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton, Connolly informed him that he would be providing him with pothole locations on a weekly basis. He also thanked Governor Bob McDonnell and Connaughton for their commitment to repairing Northern Virginia potholes.

At a time when the state and local governments have little funding to improve roads, Connolly noted he has been successful in steering more than \$69 million in federal funding to Fairfax and Prince William for transportation projects, including repaving for segments of Routes 1, 28, 29, and 234. "It is my sincere hope that these funds will help in the efforts to improve the condition of roadway surfaces following these historic storms," he told Connaughton.

Connolly noted that he will be identifying potholes himself as he travels through Northern Virginia everyday to attend meetings, visit with constituents, and commute to his Capitol Hill office. "Every day, I have to thread my way around the same potholes that my constituents do," he said. "It is a challenge in heavy traffic. We need to get them fixed."

### **Annandale Chamber of Commerce fundraiser – Saturday, March 15th:**

The **Annual Hospital Bed Race** will be held on Saturday, May 15, 2010 on John Marr Drive in front of K-Mart at 10:00 AM. The Bed Race is a fundraiser for Virginia Special Olympics Virginia and the Annandale Chamber of Commerce, organized in cooperation with the Fairfax County Police Department. Beds are provided, and teams of five decorate and "race" their bed through a course on John Marr Drive in a timed competition. Prizes are awarded in several categories – with the overall bed race winner receiving a trophy. **For further information, please contact:** Carol Zach Reuss, Annandale Chamber of Commerce: 703-447-7128 or [carolzach@verizon.net](mailto:carolzach@verizon.net) or Michelle Gates, Special Olympics Virginia, 703-359-4301 or [mgates@specialolympicsva.org](mailto:mgates@specialolympicsva.org)

## Contractor Recommendations

### Remodeling:

Elstan Painting (Residential - Custom Painting) Tel: 703 862-3356 Email: <a href="mailto:elstanpainting@yahoo.com">elstanpainting@yahoo.com</a>	Completely redid interior of our townhouse with wallpaper removal, wall preparation, crown molding install, then re-painted throughout and re-papered as needed (see next).
F.L.Emory & Son 301 937-7813	Wallpaper hanging
Mark Rhodes 703-560-8329	Interior painting. Lives in Lafayette Village. Free estimates.

### Plumbing:

Quick-Fix Residential Services LLC <a href="http://www.quickfixresidential.com">www.quickfixresidential.com</a> 703.405.9893	We had a top-floor toilet leak down to our basement. The repairman was responsive, polite and very competent. The repair was done at a reasonable price. We would definitely use this company again and recommend it to others.
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### Exterior work:

WGI Roofers 866-855-5669 <a href="http://www.wgiroofing.com">www.wgiroofing.com</a>	Replaced my roof efficiently and quickly, and at a good price, too.
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### Handyman Services:

Tu Ngo, Pro Home Repair 703-922-6254	Installed new attic fan, did a beautiful job painting all the outside trim including some repairs, and even ceramic tile work.
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## HOT Lane Construction News

The first of our sound barriers were installed during the last 10 days of March 2010, with stanchions having been erected for the remaining walls. VDOT anticipates most sound barrier construction will be complete by summer.

The new Little River Turnpike bridge over the Beltway should be completed by mid-April 2010. When that happens, VDOT and Fluor/TransUrban now plan to shift **all traffic** on Little River Turnpike to the new bridge. Then, both old bridges will be demolished, and construction of the second new bridge will begin.

What does this mean?

First, the new bridge will hold **five** lanes of traffic, two lanes westbound toward NOVA and three lanes eastbound towards downtown Annandale, with temporary roads connecting existing Rte. 236 to the new bridge. These lanes will be narrower than normal – 11' instead of a normal 12' or more per lane, and will not have a median separating traffic by direction. So, travelling across the bridge will be slower and more congested – somewhat like the current Braddock Road bridge over the Beltway. In addition, the merge lanes off of the Beltway in both directions will be removed, requiring a "Yield" sign to control access onto Little River Turnpike.

Second, by demolishing **both** bridges at the same time, construction of the HOT Lanes can be accelerated, saving up to a year of construction time. This saving occurs by combining both phase 2 and phase 3 into a single phase which demolishing both bridges allows. For more details, go to [www.VAMegaprojects.com](http://www.VAMegaprojects.com).



First sound barriers erected for Lafayette Village

## ***2010 LVCA Pool Rules and Regulations***

The following rules are designed for your protection and safety. The Pool Committee has attempted to keep them short, simple and clear. Ultimately, however, we rely on your good judgment and consideration for the rights of other residents. Keep the pool safe, clean and enjoyable for everyone -- observe these rules and see that **ALL** members of your household and your guests do, too. You are fully responsible for the activities of your children at the pool. Be sure that they obey the rules and the instructions of all pool management staff members.

The careful observance of these rules by the residents will keep our pool in compliance with Fairfax County regulations and the provisions of our insurance coverage. Violations of Fairfax County regulations can lead to immediate closing of the facility. Unannounced inspections by County officials will take place on a frequent basis.

All residents use the pool at their own risk and are liable for any property damage incurred by themselves or their guests. The pool management staff and the LVCA are not responsible for loss of personal property.

### **POOL MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL**

Atlantic Pool Service, Inc. is the pool management company for the 2010 pool season. The pool manager functions as the agent of the LVCA Board of Directors and is responsible for operating the pool in a safe, hygienic and orderly manner, supervising all personnel, and enforcing all rules and regulations. The pool manager is authorized to make on-the-spot decisions regarding all rules and regulations, as well as their enforcement. This authority includes the expulsion or exclusion of any resident or guest as necessary. Any expulsion or exclusion will be reported in writing to the LVCA Board of Directors within 24 hours of the action.

**SEASON:** SATURDAY, MAY 29, 2010 through MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2010

**HOURS:**

Weekdays	11:30 AM - 8:30 PM
Weekends, Holiday	11:00 AM - 8:00 PM
School Days—Weekdays	4:00 PM - 8:30 PM

### **POOL PASS CONTROL - ADMISSION TO THE POOL**

Five passes have been issued to each household with the property address indicated. These are to be used by residents and/or their guests. Passes must be given to the lifeguard to enter the pool area. The guard will return the passes upon exit from the pool. Each person entering the pool, **including children**, will require a pass.

### **CHILDREN**

- A person 16 years of age or older must supervise children 11 years of age or younger at all times. Children over age 11 must pass a swimming test.
- A person 15 years or younger must be accompanied by an adult relative after 6:00 P.M. daily.
- Strollers must be kept well away from edge of pool. Children in strollers must have personal and direct adult supervision.
- Babies wearing diapers must also wear rubber pants or swim diapers while in either pool.
- There will be a 15 minute rest period from 45 minutes to the top of each hour for children under 16. This period will be signaled by a long blast of the lifeguard whistle at its beginning and end.

### **WADING POOL**

- Only children 4 years and under may use the wading pool.
- An adult within the wading pool enclosure must supervise children in the wading pool at all times.

## ***2010 LVCA Pool Rules and Regulations continued...***

### **RESTRICTED ADMISSION/POOL CLOSING**

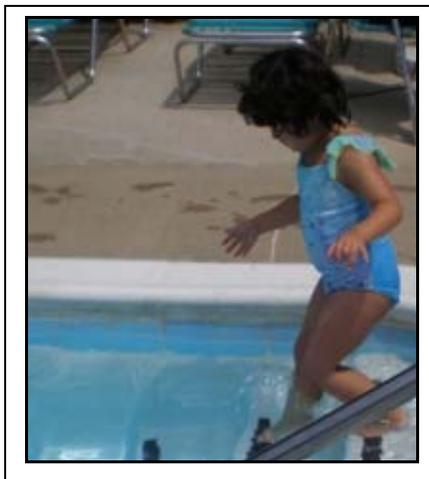
- If the pool becomes overcrowded, the pool management staff may restrict admission.
- The pool management staff is authorized to close the pool for any reason it deems fit, including: electrical storms, equipment breakdowns and pool chemical problems.

### **CONDUCT, HEALTH & SAFETY**

- **No food** (including chewing gum) or glass containers are allowed within the pool enclosure.
- No alcoholic beverages or intoxicants of any kind are allowed in the pool area.
- Smoking is not allowed anywhere within the pool enclosure, including the pool house.
- Boisterous or unsafe behavior, including running, pushing, splashing, dunking, rough play or profanity is not allowed in the pools or on the pool grounds.
- Rafts or toys that may be harmful to others will be allowed at the discretion of pool management staff.
- Musical devices may be played at a low volume, so as not to disturb others.
- Sunbathers must shower before entering the pool.
- No person may swim with large bandages, open wounds or skin disorders.
- No cut-off shorts and/or T-shirts may be used as swimsuits.
- Litter must be disposed of properly.
- No pets are allowed within the pool enclosure.
- Anyone unable to pass a swimming test is not permitted in deep water.
- Diving off the sides of the pool is not permitted. This includes both the shallow and deep ends. Diving is also not permitted off the sides of the diving board.
- A lap lane will be designated for the exclusive use of lap swimming on a first come, first served basis.

### **PENALTIES**

- Anyone entering the pool enclosure before or after operating hours, without permission, may be barred from using the pool and is subject to prosecution for trespassing.
- Residents in violation of the above rules and regulations may have their pool privileges suspended for up to sixty (60) days. See Bylaws Article VII, Section 1 (b).
- The Board of Directors reserves the right to amend these rules/regulations at any time.



## LVCA POOL REGISTRATION FORM - 2010 APPLICATION

<b>OWNER:</b>	<b>RENTER:</b>
<b>ADDRESS:</b>	<b>ADDRESS:</b>
<b>PHONE: (H)</b>	<b>PHONE: (H)</b>
<b>(W)</b>	<b>(W)</b>
<b>(C)</b>	<b>(C)</b>

FAMILY MEMBER'S NAMES	Ages of Children (A=Adult)
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

*Choose whether you need stickers, new homeowner passes, or replacement passes:*

Stickers	New Homeowner Passes	Replacement Passes
<b>Number requested =</b> _____	<b>Number requested =</b> _____	<b>No. requested =</b> _____ <b>x \$5</b>
Late processing fee for applications submitted after May 10 <sup>th</sup> (\$25)		Late fee: _____
		Total Enclosed = \$ _____

Each household may have up to five passes (not dependent on how many people actually live in your home). If you are new homeowner, your first five passes are provided at no charge. Passes should be kept and reused each year. (Stickers for the current year will be provided to all residents at no charge, and are required in addition to the passes for pool admission.) If you lose your passes, replacements cost \$5 each. Please send your check made payable to Lafayette Village Community Association with your application.

I/we and our invited guests agree to abide by all rules and regulations related to the use of the pool facility. I/we and our guests agree to hold harmless the Lafayette Village Board of Directors, KPA, Inc. and their employees and Atlantic Pool Service and their employees for any injuries or losses while at the pool facilities.

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
**SIGNATURE** **DATE**

Registration form must be returned by May 10, 2010 to insure passes for pool opening.  
 Passes and 2010 stickers will be available for pickup at the pool beginning May 29, 2010.  
 Passes/stickers will not be mailed to homeowners.

**THERE IS A \$25 LATE PROCESSING FEE FOR ALL REGISTRATION FORMS RECEIVED  
 AFTER MAY 10, 2010.**

SEND THIS FORM TO:  
**LVCA POOL REGISTRATION**  
 C/O KPA, Inc.  
 6400 Arlington Blvd. Suite 700  
 Falls Church VA 22042-2336

Email: [Dtschirhart@kpamgmt.com](mailto:Dtschirhart@kpamgmt.com) (You can include the information requested on this form or fill out the form posted on the LVCA website. Put LVCA Pool Pass Registration in subject line)

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 FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY:  
 ASSESSMENTS PAID: \_\_\_\_\_ IN GOOD STANDING W/ACC \_\_\_\_\_ NEW HOMEOWNER \_\_\_\_\_