



Lafayette Village Community Association

January/February 2008 Newsletter

On January 14th, VDOT had a representative attend the Board meeting to update residents on the latest HOT Lane news. We learned what HOT Lanes were, how they work, how the project is funded, and more about the impending infrastructure. Pre-construction activity will start in the spring. For more details, review the video or the PDF of the presentation on the website. Check out this excellent resource: www.virginiahotlanes.com.

Capital Beltway Project

- Two new lanes in each direction
- First-time introduction of HOV to the Beltway and Tyson's Corner
- Congestion-free network for transit service
- Replacement of more than \$260 million of aging infrastructure, including more than 50 bridges & overpasses
- Doubling sound wall protection for local neighborhoods
- Construction of Springfield Interchange Phase VIII to create a seamless HOV network
- Improved connection for I-66 regular lanes
- Three new access points to the Beltway

What are HOT Lanes?

- Congestion-free lanes for carpools, buses, & those who choose to pay a toll
- Variable pricing: toll prices rise and fall based on real-time traffic levels to manage number of cars in the lanes
- Innovative strategy to deliver congestion relief and new travel choices

How do HOT lanes work?

- Free to HOV-3, buses, motorcycles & emergency vehicles
- Not an every day toll road: motorists choose to pay a toll only when they need a faster, more reliable trip
- Electronic tolling with E-ZPass – no toll booths, stopping or slowing down
- Electronic signs display latest toll rates – decision can be made safely
- Drivers “lock in” toll rates

In this issue...

- *Meeting information*
- *Committee updates*
- *Grounds committee progress*
- *Around the neighborhood*
- *Trash FAQ*
- *Winter Tips*
- *New exterior request form*
- *Valentine's coloring for kids*

- * Total project cost: Approx. \$1.4 billion fixed-price design build contract
- * Expect 5 years of construction
- * Revenue sharing back to the Commonwealth if HOT lanes are successful

The regularly scheduled Board meeting has moved to a different day (for February only). The next Board meeting will be on WEDNESDAY, February 13, 2008 at the Mason District Government Building at 7:00PM. All are encouraged to attend.

Our Community Information...

LVCA Board Members

Joaquin Tremols - President

703-876-0313

tremols@lycos.com

Carl Iddings – Vice President

703-206-0170

Carl_iddings@hotmail.com

Kathie French - Treasurer

703-207-0070

Kfrench22@cox.net

Jay Jarvis - Secretary

703-280-5812

Jay@JCLInsurance.com

Michele Krahn – Member-at-Large

703-573-4180

mokrahn@msn.com

LVCA Committee Chairs

Architectural Control – Susie Lee

703-573-5250

Susielee999@verizon.net

Grounds – Jay Jarvis

703-280-5812

Jay@JCLInsurance.com

Finance – Kathie French

703-207-007

kfrench22@cox.net

Pool & Recreation – Linda Witham

703-698-7455

linda.l.witham@verizon.com

Communications – Kristin Walsh

lafayette_village@yahoo.com

Neighborhood Watch – Open

Klingbeil, Powell and Alrutz Inc. (KPA)

Diane Tschirhart

Dtschirhart@kpamgmt.com

Phone: 703-532-5005

Fax: 703-532-5098

6400 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 700

Falls Church, VA 22042-2336

REMINDER

Second Quarter Assessments are due April 1, 2008.

LAFAYETTE VILLAGE COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

Monthly Meetings

Board Meetings - 2nd Monday of month at 7:00 PM at the Mason District Government Building, 6507 Columbia Pike. (Wed, February 13 and March 10)

Board Working Sessions – 4th Monday of month at 7:30 PM. Please check website

ACC Meetings - 3rd Monday of month at 7:00 PM at the George Mason Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike

Grounds Meetings – 4th Tuesday of month at 7:00PM at 7828 Ashley Glen Rd.

Finance Committee – 4th Thursday of month at 7:00 PM (Contact the Chair for location)

Neighborhood Watch – Please check website

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 makes it easy for you to stay informed! LVCA distributes a newsletter, manages a website and hosts monthly meetings.

Plentiful parking is a perk of living in Lafayette Village. Residents are allotted spaces that are assigned to each house. We also have areas in the neighborhood where *visitor* parking is available, and we have access to public parking on Lafayette Village Drive. As residents, we are expected to leave the *visitor* spaces available for *visitors* only. This privilege should not be abused by residents.

If there is a car parked in your assigned spot, you are encouraged to call Dominion Towing at 703-730-1177.

The LVCA has a committee chair position open. Contact Jay Jarvis!

Community Updates and Recap...

Finance Committee

Fortunately, we received a clean opinion for the 2006 financial statements. We are currently reviewing our new budget and reserve funds for upcoming project allocation.

Architectural Control Committee (ACC)

- We are working with KPA to ensure they have a complete understanding of the ACC guidelines, and will work closely with them during the spring inspections.
- We are updating the ACC guidelines.
- Reminder – trash pickup is Monday and Thursday. Trash should be placed in front of the unit no earlier than 6pm the preceding day.
- Please note that any requests for improvements should now be sent to KPA and the revised form should be used. The new form is available on page 10 and is on the website under Documents.
- We are also working with the Post Office to replace several mailboxes, upright mailboxes that are leaning, and paint mailboxes which are rusted.
- We continue to work with Dominion Power to get a contract to install 3 new lights.
 - Next to mailbox near 3698 Yorktown Village Pass
 - Next to mailbox near 7856 Colonial Village Row
 - At entrance to Butterfield Lane near the end of the first unit backing up to Lafayette Village Drive
- Based on the remaining budget we will review other locations to install lights.

Grounds Committee

- After a number of complaints from residents about the poor job of leaf removal by our grounds maintenance contractor, the committee contacted our contractor. They were notified that the front yards had not been done and that a number of cars had mud and debris blown on them from the last leaf blowing. Workman returned in early January to redo the job at no charge.
- The committee has also had a number of complaints about trash service. These have been passed along to our contractor. Thanks to our new management company, the trash contractor was required to return to empty one trash can they missed recently.
- For the last few months the committee has been developing a short and long range plan for the LVC grounds. The draft was included in the last newsletter seeking input from the community. The final recommendation is posted on the community website and the Board will vote on the proposal at the February Board meeting. After the Board approves the committee's overall plans, the committee will prioritize the many projects that need to be done to make our community look even better.

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee would like you to know that you can submit ads, articles, recipes and comments to the newsletter. All entries will be considered for inclusion. Please submit your entries to lafayette_village@yahoo.com. If you would like to view the newsletter in *color*, sign up for electronic distribution or access the newsletter on the website! The next newsletter will be available April 1, 2008. Entries are due by March 15th.

Neighborhood Watch Committee – Needs a Chair and Volunteers!

More from the Grounds Committee...

The Grounds Committee has been very active the last few months. All of the dead and dying Pine trees have been removed from the "s" curve on Lafayette Village Drive. This spring, new evergreen trees will be planted along the curve.

The steps at the end of Yorktown Village leading from Trammel Road were completed at the end of December giving residents in that area a much safer walkway down the hill. Later, landscaping plants will be added around the steps.

Also completed at the end of December was clearing out an area of vines and a fallen tree next to the wooded area behind the homes at the southwest corner of Peyton Forest Trail. In the spring volunteers will plant grass seed in the area.



Our community has a mini park behind the swimming pool. Soon volunteers will be replacing the top of the picnic table and seats with new plastic lumber. The bench seat and back will be replaced with the same material.



For Your Information...

New on the Website!

The Lafayette Village website (www.lafayettevillage.org) should be your first stop for news and information about our community. Recently, we have added several new documents to the site, including:

- The **electronic debit form** for KPA to automatically deduct your Association fees from your checking account can now be accessed at http://www.lafayettevillage.org/lvca_contacts.htm. This document includes both the form and the electronic debit rules KPA has established.
- An **updated** “ACC Request for Exterior Improvements” form can be downloaded at ACC Documents section of the website located at http://www.lafayettevillage.org/lvca_documents.htm.
- **Searchable** versions of the Lafayette Village Declarations of Covenants, the Bylaws, various Board resolutions and the ACC Guidelines are now available at http://www.lafayettevillage.org/lvca_documents.htm. These documents can be searched using Adobe Acrobat or Acrobat Reader, which will allow you to search for words or phrases that appear in the document. We will be creating searchable versions of the other Association governing documents, so check back frequently!
- **Finally**, the HOT Lanes presentation by VDOT representative Jan Defore can be accessed at [http://www.lafayettevillage.org/HOTLanes/Capital_Beltway_Overview_01-08_draft_rev_3\[1\].pdf](http://www.lafayettevillage.org/HOTLanes/Capital_Beltway_Overview_01-08_draft_rev_3[1].pdf). Check back frequently as we will be developing a page on the website devoted to the HOT Lanes and their impact on Lafayette Village.

If you have any ideas about what else you would like to see on the Association website, email lvcawebmaster@hotmaill.com with your suggestions. And remember to email the webmaster to add your email address to the LVCA community mailing list to receive news and notices of interest to our community.

My mailbox lock is broken! What do I do now?

You go out to your mailbox to check your mail and discover that your mailbox lock is broken! You can't get your mail! Or perhaps you've just moved in and would like to change the lock, to ensure no one else has a key.

If you ever encounter this situation, you will need to go to the Annandale Post Office on John Marr Drive (opposite the K Mart) and let the postal clerk know your problem. He or she will give you a simple form to complete. You will need to know your mailbox number – make sure you write that on the form somewhere, since that's not a question the Post Office asks you. You will also need to provide a photo ID that links you to your address – a driver's license will work. Finally, you will need to bring \$20 – that's what the Post Office charges to replace your lock.

Locks are replaced on Tuesdays and Fridays, so you will need to make alternate arrangements to get your mail until the lock is fixed. Letter carriers are not supposed to hand deliver your mail or leave your mail at your door, but if you talk to your carrier, he or she may make an exception. Another alternative is to request that your mail be held at the Post Office until the lock is replaced.

If you will be home the day your lock is replaced, you can ask that the keys – and you will receive three of them – be delivered to you directly. Otherwise, when you see that the lock has been replaced, you will need to return to the Post Office with identification to pick up your new keys. Once again you will have access to your mail in a secure mail box!

Around the Neighborhood...

Your Vote Counts! On Tuesday, February 12, 2008, the Democratic and Republican Parties will conduct Presidential Primary elections in Virginia. Voters in Virginia do not register by political party. Therefore, any registered voter may choose to vote in any party primary. However, when both parties hold a primary at the same time, voters must select whether they wish to vote the Democratic or the Republican ballot. Any registered county resident, age 18 by or on Tuesday, November 4, 2007, may vote in the February primary. Polls open at 6 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. If business or personal travel will prevent you from voting at the polls on February 12, you may vote absentee either by mail or in person.

To request an Absentee Ballot by mail, you must first submit an Absentee Ballot Application to the Office of Elections. After processing of the application, the ballot will be mailed to you. You must complete an Absentee Ballot Application and mail it to the Office of Elections, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323, Fairfax, VA 22035 or fax it to (703) 324-3725. Absentee ballot applications are available at county government centers and libraries. You may choose to use the new online absentee ballot application form, found at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/ABapp_Aug07_fillable.pdf. This form allows you to complete your absentee ballot application form online. Once you have entered the required information into the form, you must then PRINT the form, SIGN the form and then RETURN the form either by mail to the address listed above, or by fax at the number listed above. The deadline to apply for an Absentee Ballot by mail is February 5 at 5 p.m. All mailed Absentee Ballots must be received at the Office of the Electoral Board by 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12, 2008, to be counted. A postmarked date does not apply. If you have any questions, please call the Fairfax County Office of Elections at 703-222-0776.

AARP-TAX AIDE Returns to Mason District! - For years now, AARP has offered FREE tax help to residents at the Mason District Governmental Center. In 2008 the same great service will be available. It is fast, easy, and FREE! If you need assistance with filing your federal and state tax returns, AARP will provide walk-in service at the Mason District Governmental Center from February 1 to April 15, 2008. Hours of operation will be Mondays and Thursdays: 1 to 8 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays: 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Saturdays: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. All returns are filed electronically. Remember to bring with you: last year's tax return, a photo ID, and your Social Security Card. For more information about AARP Tax-Aide, visit www.aarp.org/taxaide, or call 1-888-227-7669. The Mason District Governmental Center is located at 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale, Virginia.

Fairfax County Park Authority to Host Eco-Savvy Symposium: Techniques for Keeping Out Planet Healthy on February 23 - The EcoSavvy Gardening Symposium on Saturday, February 23, from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. will bring together experts to share practical information about environmental issues and show gardeners and homeowners how they can make a difference in environmental health. The 2008 symposium focuses on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and the effect of community upon environment. To register, call Green Spring Gardens, 703-642-5173 (TTY 711). Registration is \$45; boxed lunch is \$11 additional (specify meat or vegetarian).

Construction Continues for Little River Turnpike (Route 236) Spot Improvement Projects - The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is continuing construction on Route 236. All turn lanes at the intersections of Route 236 and Vanda Lane, Prosperity Avenue, and Woodburn Road are open to traffic. Traffic along eastbound Route 236 has been shifted to the median detour from Glenbrook Drive to Woodburn Road. Waterline, drainage work, and reconstruction of side streets are underway from Woodburn Road to Guinea Road.

Community Information...

Invasive Weed Management Program continues in 2008

This year we will again be seeking volunteers to participate in the invasive weed management program in Annandale Community Park. We were so successful last year at removing invasive weeds from the park that our target list for weed removal has increased substantially!



Photo by Jav Jarvis

This photo shows how successful last year's effort was – the areas showing new native grasses used to be covered with porcelain berry, oriental bittersweet, multiflora rose, and autumn olive, all invasive species that drive out native plants and create a less wholesome environment for local birds and animals. A special thanks to all who volunteered last year – over a dozen residents and neighbors regularly showed up to pull weeds and learn about the environment.

While working, the volunteers learned more about how invasive weeds frequently start out as plantings in back yard gardens that spread to local wilderness areas, eventually taking them over. These forest invaders can severely degrade our local environment, resulting in fewer native plants,

less healthy wildlife, and a less attractive forest, as we see daily on Lafayette Village Drive.

If you would like to be part of this effort to greatly improve the appearance of our community and enhance our local park, contact Carl Iddings at carl_iddings@hotmail.com or call him at 703-206-0170. If you are a high school student seeking community service hours, this work qualifies and you will be contributing to the improvement of your neighborhood. If you lead a troop of Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts or a church youth group, Carl can set up work dates specifically for your group.

For more information, the Fairfax County Park Authority website has an excellent website about the Invasive weeds management program at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/ima/>.

FYI: New traffic pattern on Guinea Road – Caution in work zone is advised!

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will implement a new Traffic Pattern on Northbound Guinea Road starting January 23, 2008. This change in traffic pattern is necessary to facilitate reconstruction, lowering and widening of the Guinea Road and tie-in to the mainline Route 236.

Under this new traffic pattern on Northbound Guinea Road approaching the Route 236, the left turn lane for 236 Westbound traffic straight thru lane and the two right turn lanes for the 236 Eastbound traffic will be split approximately 300 ft south of the intersection to make room for construction in the middle of Guinea Road. This lane divide will enable the contractor to maintain a total of 3 lanes in the northbound direction and one lane in the southbound direction as usual until completion of the construction on Guinea Road.

Frequently Asked Questions About LVCA Trash Collection...

1. When is trash collected?

Trash is collected twice weekly, every Monday and Thursday by American Disposal Service, our trash company paid for out of your HOA fees. Trash is not collected on Thanksgiving Day or on Christmas when it falls on a Monday or Thursday.

2. 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. 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 the intersections or mailboxes.

3. Are there special trash collections?

Yes, the trash company will collect moving boxes and small pieces of furniture during the regular collection service. Contact the trash company for a date and time for pickup of large pieces of furniture, such as couches, mattresses or appliances. Sometimes there is an extra charge for a special collection, depending on the items being disposed. American Disposal Service, our trash company can be reached at 703-368-0500.

4. Can I put my trash in the public trash cans?

No! These are community trash cans that are placed for the convenience of the community. If you put your trash bags in these cans, you make them unavailable for use by the rest of our residents.

5. Where can I store my trash can?

You should store your trash can in your backyard or garage. **You cannot store your trash can in your front yard** – that is a violation of ACC guidelines and you will be cited and fined. Currently, fines for trash can violations are \$50 per violation.

6. Who do I call to complain about trash collection?

If you have a complaint about the way your trash is being collected, contact our management agent Diane Tschirhart at 703-532-5005 or email her at dtschirhart@kpamgmt.com.

Look out for more exciting information about recycling in the next newsletter!



Stay Safe And Be Prepared This Winter...



Although it has been cold, we haven't seen much snow this year yet. If Mother Nature should bestow the white stuff upon us, please remember these important tips to stay safe on the road...

1. Restrict travel until road crews have had a chance to clear roads.
2. Keep vehicle windows, mirrors, roofs, and lights clear of snow and ice.
3. Wear your seat belt.
4. Allow extra travel time.
5. Know the road surface. Black ice is invisible and could be present.
6. Be alert to potentially icy areas like shady spots and bridges.
7. Keep a safe distance of at least 5 car lengths behind other vehicles.
8. Stay behind the snow plow. The road behind the snow plow is safer.
9. Never cut between a caravan of snow plows.
10. When snow is forecast try not to park on your subdivision street, particularly in a cul-de-sac.
11. Keep an emergency winter driving kit in your vehicle.

For more information:
www.virginiaDOT.org



How does VDOT prepare for the snow and ice season?

Throughout the year, VDOT employees get ready for snow removal by stockpiling thousands of tons of salt, sand and chemicals at 20 strategically located maintenance areas throughout Northern Virginia. Equipment is continually tested, employees are given special training, snow routes are driven, and private individuals and companies with heavy equipment are contracted to help as needed.

Which roads are cleared first?

VDOT has a dedicated fleet of equipment for high volume roads as well as a fleet for subdivision streets. With more than 9,000 lane miles of subdivision streets in Northern VA, VDOT begins clearing subdivisions in the early stages of a storm.

When do crews begin clearing roads?

When snow or ice is forecast, trucks are loaded with salt and sand and deployed to staging areas on assigned routes. Crews begin treating the roads as soon as precipitation begins, and begin plowing at about two inches. They work 12-hour shifts, around the clock, until all roads are clear.

What does VDOT use to clear roads?

Interstates, primary roads and high volume secondary roads are treated with a mixture of salt and liquid calcium or magnesium chloride. Subdivisions and low volume roads are plowed as needed.

Does VDOT lift HOV restrictions when it snows?

Lifting HOV restrictions is a joint decision made by VDOT and Virginia State Police. Restrictions are lifted during snow storms only when needed to improve traffic flow on the regular lanes.

Can VDOT treat the roads before it snows?

Putting salt on roads prior to snowfall wastes time and money because the salt blows off the roadway. Below 20 degrees, salt is mixed with sand for traction. Liquid calcium chloride or magnesium is used to melt the snow and ice. Salt is most effective after snow has accumulated about an inch and the temperature is 20 degrees or higher. Under these conditions, the salt and snow mix, melting the snow into a slush that can be plowed off the pavement.

REQUEST FOR EXTERIOR IMPROVEMENT FORM

To: Chair, Architectural Control ACC
Lafayette Village Community Association
c/o KPA, Attn. Diane Tschirhart
6400 Arlington Blvd., Suite 700
Falls Church, VA 22042-2336

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 ACC

Michele Krahn Appointed to LVCA Board of Directors

At the January Board meeting, the LVCA Board of Directors appointed Michele Krahn to fill the unexpired three year Member-At-Large position on the board. Michele has been an active member of the Finance Committee.

When asked to tell us a little about herself, Michele said, "Like many inside the Beltway, I am a transplant to the area. My position with the American Red Cross was transferred to the DC area about 11 years ago. During my housing hunting experience, I was entranced by the neighborhood feeling of Lafayette Village, and was reminded of my childhood tree-lined street in Philly. I am a graduate of Drexel University in Philadelphia and was most recently employed at Marriott." *Please welcome Michele to the Board!*

Place your orders by 2/10/08

Cakes by Megan

Valentine's Treats

Order your sweetheart something sweet!
Choose from any of our Valentine's Specials

*Assorted Cut-Out Cookies— A variety of Valentine's Shapes with special decoration. \$8.50 a dozen

*Jumbo Cut-Out Cookies with Royal Icing— Heart shape. \$3.00 each

*9" - Heart Chocolate Truffle Cake— Layers of devil's food infused with raspberry and a dark truffle filling. \$35.00

*9" - Heart Strawberry Shortcake— Layers of yellow sponge with Grand Marnier, whipped cream & strawberries. \$35.00

*Assorted Truffles:

Milk Chocolate - \$0.90 each

Dark Chocolate- \$1.00 each

Peanut Butter Chocolates- \$1.10 each

Passion Fruit Chocolates- \$1.30 each

Raspberry Truffles-\$1.20 each

White Chocolate- \$0.95 each

Caramels- \$1.10 each

Raspberry Hearts- \$1.20 each

Almond Truffles- \$1.10 each

Grand Marnier Truffles-\$1.20 each

Chocolate Dipped Toffee- \$8.00 per 1/2 pound

Coconut Rum Truffles- \$ 1.30 each

Dulce de Leche Chocolates- \$1.20 each

Peppermint Swirls- \$1.20 each

Pre-Boxed Assortments:

4 pieces- \$6.00

12 pieces- \$15.00

24 pieces- \$28.00

Cakes By Megan

7914 Peyton Forest Trail
Annandale, VA 22003

Phone: 703-624-3531

Email: cakesbymegan@aol.com

Website: www.cakesbymegan.biz

LVCA Kids, Design this Valentine for a special person in your life.

