



Lafayette Village Community Association

July/August 2008 Newsletter

RESPECT OUR COMMUNITY

There have been several reports of illegal and unneighborly-like conduct. It is **illegal** to dump motor oil into the ground, storm drains or in your trash. Chemicals, like motor oil, will seep into the water table which could end up in our water supply. It also can kill animals and vegetation. Dumping one gallon of oil can contaminate one million gallons of water. Dumping motor oil is even more hazardous than the ocean oil spills we often hear about because it is not crude oil, it is *refined* oil, which has been processed to serve a different purpose. Used motor oil has heavy metals and harmful ingredients and also contains metal worn away from the engine and other dangerous materials.

You must take the oil to a local recycling center. If you see anyone dumping oil or other toxic chemicals directly into the ground, please notify KPA immediately by phone or email. Be prepared to provide a description (house address, car make/model and license, physical description etc.) See page 7 for more information on a special waste disposal day coming up in Annandale!

Visitor parking is available for **temporary** visitors. It is not for multiple resident renters. Each house (without a garage) is provided two spaces.

Please do not litter. Several months ago many members of our community collected several bags of trash. Already, litter is rearing its ugly head around the neighborhood. We've had a lot of windy days, so always make sure your trash is secure.

Your trash cans, recycling bins, toys and more should not be stored in your front yards.

Thank you for being a good neighbor!

In this issue...

- ***LVCA meeting schedules***
- ***Common grounds information***
- ***Committee updates***
- ***Community news***
- ***Hot lanes update***
- ***Fun for the kids – decorate your own safety badge for National Night Out!***

Join us for National Night Out!

Come join us August 5th at 7:00pm for the National Night Out. Enjoy some refreshments and get to know your neighbors. We will meet at the pool and walk up to the playground. This is a fun activity for the children. Have your child make their own safety badge (on the last page) and wear it to the event!

Our Community Information...

LVCA Board Members

Joaquin Tremols - President

703-876-0313

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Kathie French – Vice President

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Kfrench22@cox.net

Sean Walsh – Treasurer

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Jay Jarvis - Secretary

703-280-5812

Jay@JCLInsurance.com

Michele Krahn – Member-at-Large

703-573-4180

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LVCA Committee Chairs

Architectural Control – Susie Lee

703-573-5250

Susielee999@verizon.net

Grounds – Jay Jarvis

703-280-5812

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Finance – Sean Walsh

im_sean@msn.com

Pool & Recreation – Linda Witham

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Communications – Kristin Walsh

lafayette_village@yahoo.com

Neighborhood Watch – Fred Saah

703-641-0446

fred300@gmail.com

Klingbeil, Powell and Alrutz Inc. (KPA)

Diane Tschirhart

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REMINDER

Fourth Quarter Assessments are due October 1, 2008. Please remember to pay any fees attributed to violations promptly. If you have questions about a violation letter, please contact KPA immediately to discuss.

LAFAYETTE VILLAGE COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

Monthly Meetings (Check Website for Details)

Board Meetings - 2nd Monday of month at 7:00 PM at the Mason District Government Building, 6507 Columbia Pike. (August 11 and September 8)

ACC Committee - 3rd Monday of month at 7:00 PM at the George Mason Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike (August 18 and September 15)

Grounds Committee – 4th Tuesday of month at 7:00 PM at 7828 Ashley Glen Rd. (August 26 and September 23)

Finance Committee – 7:00 PM at 3700 Merrimac Trail (August 28 and September 25)

Neighborhood Watch – Tuesdays after the Board meeting at 7:30 PM at 3721 Yorktown Village Pass (August 12 and September 9)

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

Report Suspicious Activity!

Call the Police Non-Emergency Number (703-691-2131)

Use the non-emergency number to call to let the police know of any suspicious activity, to report crimes that have already occurred or when the suspect is no longer in the area. The non-emergency number is open 24 hours and is used for police, fire and rescue non-emergency reports. You will be asked for your name, address, telephone number. This information is requested in case additional contact with you is needed. You do not need to provide this information if you do not want to. **Any information provided to the police is confidential.**

Call 911 for crimes in progress and events which are life-threatening.

After you have called the police please report the incident or suspicious activity to the Neighborhood Watch Committee.

Grounds Committee Update ...

Common Grounds..... for Common Enjoyment

By Terri Clark, LVCA Grounds Committee Member

The Grounds Committee and several community residents have been working hard to give our aging community a face lift and to enhance and beautify our surroundings. As you walk or drive through the community, you will notice that dead trees have been removed, other trees pruned, and new trees planted! Thanks to the generosity of one resident, two new crepe myrtles were planted on Butterfield. On Peyton Forest, a group of residents put in brick edging and a flower bed on a portion of common area. Two erosion projects have been completed with more scheduled for the future. Invasive bamboo has been cut down behind Byrds Nest Pass with clean up still in the works. Volunteers welcome!!!

If you or a group of your neighbors have an idea/suggestion for a common area, or a special project you would like to undertake, please contact a member of the Grounds Committee or a Board member for prior approval. Several sitting benches will be purchased for the community and if you have a project idea for a sitting area, please let the Grounds Committee know. Remember, per LVCA Guidelines, no alterations may be made to common areas without prior approval, but resident input is encouraged and welcomed.

Another way we can all help to beautify our community, without any cost or sweat equity involved, is to remember to throw your trash away in your home trash receptacles. It is not appropriate to dump your household trash in the community trash cans. PLEASE, though, if the community trash receptacle is full, do not leave any trash on the side, or loose on top. Cool breezes, gusts of wind, and our neighborhood friends, the squirrels and birds, send the trash scattering.

Additionally, if you are landscaping or putting up a new fence, please be aware of where your property line is in relation to common ground/LVCA property. Those homeowners who have extended their fences beyond their property lines will receive notice to correct the problem.

Since we are working hard to beautify our surroundings, let's remember that dumping is NOT permitted on common grounds including LVCA property. This includes the dumping of yard debris, trimmings, and the like. Please remind any contractors doing work for you that they need to bag up their debris and remove it, or if part of your agreement, leave it for scheduled trash removal. The woods surrounding many of our homes is not to be used as a dumping grounds!!! Remember, what may be out of YOUR sight is not out of sight of your neighbor!

Would you like a Garden Plot? LVCA Grounds Committee Report

The Grounds Committee is interested in how many residents would take advantage of garden plots next summer in the area under the power lines behind the pool house. We had one homeowner who did a test garden plot for this year and it appears to very successful. If we get enough interest, the area would be tilled and leaf mulch would be added. Water would be available as the area is close to the pool house. Please let the committee know if you would be interested in having a garden plot by sending an email to Susan Dudley at susdudley@earthlink.net

Community Updates and Recap...

Grounds Committee

- * At the last meeting the Committee decided on replacement trees for those that fell during storms this year. A Red Bud tree will be placed in the circle at Butterfield, a Cedar tree in the area next to Hancock Forest and Hampton Village, and an Oak tree & a Serviceberry tree at the end of Brunswick Forest where a Pine and Apple tree fell. The trees will be planted this fall and residents of each street will be asked to come out and help plant them. The exact time and date will be published in the next newsletter.
- * Our monthly Grounds Workdays have been changed to the second Sunday of each month from 4 to 6pm. In August we will meet on Hampton Village to move paver stone from where the old mail boxes were located to new areas in the community. We'll have other projects as well, so please join us.
- * Our Grounds Management Company recently did a soil testing of our community and found the levels were within the normal range.
- * The committee is discussing options on dealing with abuse of the community trash containers placed along the walk ways. Some residents have been dumping their household trash in the containers. This is against LVCA rules and causes the containers to overflow on the ground and makes for a very unsightly mess. The Board has been asked to vigorously enforce the rule and fine violators.
- * Planning for next years work and the budget are under way. The first draft of the Grounds budget was completed at the July Grounds Committee Meeting. The final recommended budget will be sent to the Finance Committee in September.

Pool and Recreation Committee

The pool will close on September 1st.

Finance Committee

The committee is preparing the 2009 budget. The next meeting is August 28th.

Neighborhood Watch Committee

- * Please join us for the annual Neighborhood Night Out on August 5th at 7:00pm. More details are on page 2.
- * While we do live in a safe neighborhood, there have been several minor incidents in recent months. If you notice anything suspicious you should call the Fairfax County Police Non-Emergency number 703-691-2131. You do not have to give your name or address. After calling the police, please call or email your block captain and notify them of the situation so it can be documented with the Neighborhood Watch program. If you do not have a block captain, consider volunteering. We meet once a month for 1 hour.

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 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 October 1, 2008. Entries are due by September 19th.

ENJOY THE REMAINDER OF THE SUMMER!

GET INVOLVED THIS AUTUMN - JOIN A LVCA COMMITTEE

Community Updates and Recap Continued...

Architectural Control Committee (ACC)

Lafayette Village is an association driven community. There have been several concerns brought to the attention of the ACC, so please continue reading for more information on what you can expect regarding the operation of the committee, the role of the committee and the Management Company, and clarification on your role, as a homeowner.

Several concerns have been brought to the attention of the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) from homeowners that were cited for violations, and homeowners that have reported violations.

The role of the (ACC) is to ensure that homeowners adhere to ACC Guidelines, maintain their property in accordance with the ACC guidelines and the Lafayette Village Community by-laws. Maintaining LVC property value is extremely important to all of us.

The ACC role is to enforce these rules. Please understand that it is not a "personal" attack when a citation is issued. Our spring inspection fell short in identifying "all" violations. KPA, at the time, was new to our community. Our previous management company failed us in this area also. The ACC is working diligently with KPA to be consistent in identifying violations, notifying the homeowner in a timely manner and conducting follow-up inspections.

Following are steps **YOU** should take when you receive a citation:

* Respond in writing to our management company, KPA, immediately acknowledging the violation cited; inform them when the violation will be corrected. Time allowance is in place for major repair, i.e. siding, roof, fences, etc. However, you must request an extension in writing outlining a reasonable timeline for the repairs.

* If you are not in agreement with the citation, contact KPA in writing immediately protesting the violation. Further steps will be taken to investigate your claim. Please **do not** ignore citations. The ACC is available to listen to your concerns. Please keep in mind that sending an email or a letter is a better form of documentation than a voicemail or message. Keep a copy for your own records.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A COPY OF THE ACC GUIDELINES, BY-LAWS AND COVENANTS, THE DOCUMENTS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE www.lafayettevillage.org. YOU CAN ALSO CONTACT OUR MANAGEMENT AGENT, DIANE, AT dtschirhart@kpamgmt.com.



Hampton Village residents held a Block Party on June 22nd. Neighbors used the opportunity to plant a tree in memory of their neighbor, Pat Petosa, who worked so hard to make the community a better place. Remarks were given on behalf of the neighborhood by Verne Walden. Pat's widow, Nancy Petosa, and children are shown accepting a paper weight with the same wording posted next to the tree; "**Kousa Dogwood Tree**, Planted in Memory of, **Pat (Pascale) Petosa**, June, 2008, Fond Memories of You, Your Neighbors"

Website Information and National Night Out Word Find...

What's 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 updated the NewsFlash page (www.lafayettevillage.org/newsflash.htm) to be a source for all sorts of relevant news and information about the Beltway HOT Lanes project and our Association's efforts to obtain effective, continuous sound barriers along the Beltway adjacent to our community.

The website presents other important information for Lafayette Village residents:

- The home page, <http://www.lafayettevillage.org>, contains a schedule of meetings and events, including Board meetings, committee meetings and other events like the upcoming National Night Out. There is also a list of community contacts for you to contact.
- An **updated** "ACC Request for Exterior Improvements" form can be downloaded at the ACC Documents section of the website located at http://www.lafayettevillage.org/lvca_documents.htm.
- The approved minutes for each Board of Directors meeting can be found on the website on the documents page at http://www.lafayettevillage.org/lvca_documents.htm. Just follow the page links for "Minutes."

We recently moved the website to a new hosting environment, so response time should be faster. Unfortunately, during the move, the message board broke and no longer works. It will be replaced in the near future with an improved, more secure message board, so watch this space!

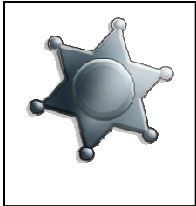
If you have any ideas about what else you would like to see on the Association website, email lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org with your suggestions. And remember to email the webmaster to add your email address to the LVCA community mailing list to receive news and notices of interest to our community.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL NIGHT OUT!
Find the following words in the bubble above!

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| FRIENDLY | PROTECT |
| FIRE FIGHTER | SAFE |
| POLICE | BLOCK PARTY |
| DOG | PREPARE |
| FUN | COMMUNITY |
| NEIGHBORS | PLAN |

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**Kids,
Try your
luck at this
Word
Find,
celebrating
National
Night-Out.**



Community News...

Perspectives from Penny - Foreclosure is not a four-letter word, but it seems to have some of the same implications these days as the impacts of foreclosure continue to grow. Driven by subprime mortgages and speculative activity, the impacts of foreclosure activity are widespread. From a local government perspective, the loss of property tax revenues has a severe effect on the budget for schools, public safety, human services, and public works projects. Foreclosed properties often remain vacant for long periods, and can fall into disrepair which, in turn, may attract vermin or criminal activity, creating valid concerns for the neighborhood. Foreclosure damages the owner's credit rating and also hurts the mortgage lender and servicer who cannot collect the valid debts owed to them. Economic and emotional disruptions bring unanticipated consequences, too - job loss, breakup of families who still need housing, children who become rootless when moving from school to school.

Despite the gloomy news, the Washington metropolitan region's economy is fundamentally strong and is more resilient because of our position as the nation's capital. High wage jobs, especially in business and professional services, are still being added, although job growth overall is more moderate now. In Mason District, by the end of May 2008, there were 191 foreclosures, spread throughout the district, which had not been resold by the lender. There are about 40,000 residential units in Mason District, so the percentage of foreclosures is extremely small. If you, or someone you know, are facing foreclosure issues, housing counselors may be helpful. Log on to the homepage at www.fairfaxcounty.gov, and click on "Foreclosed and Vacant Properties" in the middle of the page for more information.

The Board Corner: Perspectives from Penny - For all those times you noticed someone parking in an accessible parking space reserved for the disabled without a hanging placard or license plate with a wheelchair symbol, and hoped a ticket could be issued, this violation just got more expensive! During the July 21 Board of Supervisors meeting, the Board approved an increase to the fine for parking in an accessible space reserved for disabled drivers. The previous fine was \$250; effective Tuesday, July 22, 2008, the fine doubles to \$500. Nearly 600 citations were issued in Fairfax County last year to drivers who parked in accessible spaces without the proper documentation. Perhaps the new fine will deter violators and keep accessible parking available for those with legitimate health or disability conditions. Coincidentally, this action was approved just days before the 18th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which was signed into law on July 26, 1990. ADA is comprehensive civil rights legislation at the federal level that protects the rights of people with disabilities.

Community Clean Up Event

Saturday, September 6, 2008

9:00am - 2:00pm

Mason District Government Center - 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA

You have an opportunity to drop off hazardous waste, computer monitors and personal documents that need shredding during this event. Here are the items that you can dispose:

- * Computers (This is a subsidized program paid for by Covanta Fairfax, Inc. and is **Free** on this day.)
- * Lead paint, batteries, pesticides, and other toxic chemicals - **Free** of charge.
- * You can bring up to (5) boxes of personal documents to be shredded on site - **Free** of charge.

HOT Lanes Update...

HOT Lanes Construction Begins

Construction activities for the Beltway HOT Lanes project has started. In a news release distributed to some Lafayette Village residents, VDOT announced that beginning the week of July 28th, there would be partial lane closures on the Beltway at Little River Turnpike in preparation for construction. At the same time, construction would begin on a staging area between Little River Turnpike and Gallows Road on the south-bound Beltway opposite Lafayette Village.

We can expect some construction activity on our portion of the Beltway to begin in August. VDOT will start erecting the partial sound barrier during this initial construction phase. This sound barrier will extend from before the Little River Turnpike north-bound exit to the Beltway (by the service road) to a point opposite the townhomes on Peyton Forest Trail. At this time, there will be no other sound barriers erected adjacent to Lafayette Village – the sound barrier restarts at a point opposite Thor Drive, past the last houses on Trammell Court. VDOT has said that the partial sound barriers will be complete before actually HOT Lanes construction starts.

VDOT Outlines Construction Plans:

At a meeting on July 8th, attended by about 50 people including many Lafayette Village residents, VDOT outlined the HOT Lane construction phases. The first phase would include the start of construction on the replacement Little River Turnpike bridge over the Beltway and the building of sound barriers, including the partial sound barrier for Lafayette Village. The second phase would complete the new bridge, while the third phase removes the old bridge. These three phases will take about three years to complete. While the bridge is being reconstructed, additional Beltway Lanes will be constructed, two on each side of the Beltway. These lanes will be constructed within the existing VDOT right-of-way. Once the bridge is completed in 2011, construction of the actual HOT Lanes will begin. You can find additional HOT Lanes construction information and updates on the website at www.lafayettevillage.org/newsflash.htm.

VDOT Responds to Lafayette Village concerns:

VDOT did respond to the many letters our community submitted in response to the HOT Lanes public hearing and other events residents responded to. VDOT's detailed response is on the website at www.lafayettevillage.org/HOTLanes/VDOT_Detailed_Response.pdf. VDOT remained unswayed by our arguments, instead responding that the "hill" provided a natural sound barrier, and the proposed sound barrier in conjunction with the "hill" gave Lafayette Village an appropriate level of Beltway noise reduction. The Lafayette Village Board of Directors is still considering how best to respond to VDOT's rejection of our arguments.

Website remains best source of HOT Lane information relating to Lafayette Village:

The website will be updated regularly with any HOT Lanes information relating to Lafayette Village. This information will be maintained on www.lafayettevillage.org/newsflash.htm, with the most recent information at the top of the page. In addition, the webmaster sends out email announcements about the HOT Lanes as they affect Lafayette Village residents. To be added to the mailing list, send an email to lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org and ask to be added to the LVCA mailing list.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT SAFETY BADGES

Kids can do their part to make the neighborhood more friendly. Color, write your name and cut out your safety badge.



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