



Lafayette Village Community Association

January/February 2009 Newsletter

Lafayette Village Welcomes 2009!

A new year has begun and Lafayette Village welcomes new residents to our association. Please join us the second Monday of every month at our meetings. We are always looking for new faces. This is the ideal time to ask your questions and share your concerns. And to receive breaking news and other LVCA notices, send your email address to lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org.

If you are renting your property, it is your responsibility to make sure that the residents of your property are aware of the Lafayette Village Community rules and regulations. It is expected that all homeowners and renters will remedy any violations of the clearly documented bylaws immediately. It is important that we maintain the beauty and value of our community. (You can find bylaws, covenants, and ACC standards on the website.)



Lafayette Village enjoys the first snow fall of 2009.

In this issue...

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Note from the Editor:

It's been a pleasure putting together the newsletter for the community for the past year. Due to new responsibilities, this will be my last newsletter. If you are interested in volunteering to take over this important task, please send an email to me or the Board. The community really needs a gracious volunteer before April arrives. If you are interested in putting together the LVC newsletter, please send an email to lafayette_village@yahoo.com. Volunteer today!

Our Community Information...

LVCA Board Members

Joaquin Tremols - President

703-876-0313

tremols@lycos.com

Kathie French – Vice President

703-207-0070

Kfrench22@cox.net

Sean Walsh – Treasurer

im_sean@msn.com

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 – Open

Send requests to KPA

Grounds – Jay Jarvis

703-280-5812

Jay@JCLInsurance.com

Finance – Sean Walsh

im_sean@msn.com

Pool & Recreation – Linda Witham

703-698-7455

linda.l.witham@verizon.com

Communications – Open

lafayette_village@yahoo.com

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 are due April 1, 2009.
Don't forget to send in your quarterly coupon with your
payment. Call KPA with questions.**

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. (February 9 and March 9)

ACC Committee - 3rd Monday of month at 7:00 PM at the George Mason Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike (February 16 and March 16)

Grounds Committee – 4th Tuesday of month at 7:00 PM at 7828 Ashley Glen Rd. (February 24 and March 24)

Finance Committee – 4th Thursday of month at 7:00 PM at 3700 Merrimac Trail (February 26 and March 26)

Neighborhood Watch – Tuesday after the Board meeting at 7:30 PM at 3721 Yorktown Village Pass (February 10 and March 10)

All residents, including renters, are invited to attend scheduled meetings. Please check the website for the most current information:

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

Notice Regarding the Fairfax County, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Special Election

Fairfax County will hold a special election on Tuesday, February 3rd, 2009, to fill the vacant seat of the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. The winner will complete the term of Board Chair previously held by Gerry Connolly, our new U.S. Congressional Representative. The polls will be open from 6:00am until 7:00pm. Lafayette Village residents vote in the Hummer Precinct, whose polling location is at the Fred Packard Center, 4030 Hummer Road. The Packard Center is located inside Annandale Community Park.

The candidates on the ballot are:

- Sharon S. Bulova, Democrat
- Patrick S. Herrity, Republican
- Carey C. Campbell, Independent Green
- Christopher F. DeCarlo, Independent

Please exercise your civic responsibility by voting on Tuesday, February 3, 2009.

Committee Updates and Recap...

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met in late January to review the end of year financial statements. More information will be available at the next Board meeting.

Grounds Committee

Sometime during the summer of 2009, Milky Spore, a naturally occurring bacterium of white grubs of Japanese Beetles, will be applied on grassy areas of LVCA. The bacterium will be swallowed by grubs during normal pattern of feeding on roots of our grass. The grubs will die within 7 to 21 days. Milky Spore in the soil is not harmful to people, pets, beneficial insects, birds, or bees. This one application will last for many years.

A tree inventory will be completed this year to identify each tree including its species, size, general health, hazards or flaws, and to assign a number. Recommendations regarding care for each tree will also be determined. The numbering system will correspond to a location on an associated map of the property. The inventory will be used to help design a tree program for 2009 and beyond.

The committee continues to work with a Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District engineer in developing a workable erosion control program for Lafayette Village. Early recommendations suggest moving away from grass on hillsides and under trees, and towards "ground covers," such as Periwinkle. These ground covers provide short green plants that thrive in sun or shade and do not require mowing.

The committee is surveying LVC sidewalks and streets to determine if repairs are needed. Those identified will receive maintenance. The Grounds Committee recommended to the Board that the old volleyball court be converted for basketball use.

During the January Board meeting, the Grounds Committee discussed the potential to plant certain types of plants within a specified distance from some utility boxes on common ground. Also discussed was an approval process for deciding whether a homeowner or the association should pay for tree removal for trees that are both on private and community property. More details can be found by contacting the Grounds Committee Chair, Jay Jarvis, or by reviewing the January meeting minutes which should be available on the website in mid-February.

This spring the community garden grounds will be open under the power lines in the area between the swimming pool and the beltway. The area will be plowed, leaf mulch added and the area fenced to prevent wildlife from entering. LVCA will provide water to the area. There currently is a list of homeowners interested in obtaining plots and there is still room for others. There will be a fee, yet to be determined by the Board, but probably about \$50 to help cover some of the costs. Residents who are interested should email, Grounds Committee member, Susan Dudley at susdudley@earthlink.net.

Contracts for trash removal and for grounds maintenance will expire at the end of 2009. The Committee welcomes comments, either positive or negative, that might help in its recommendations for 2010 and beyond. Please send all comments to our management company who will forward them to the committee.

Architectural Control Committee

Spring may seem a long way off, but many are starting to plan projects to improve their property. Please remember that you are required to submit an Architectural Request form (see page 7) to the ACC and you must receive approval, before making any modifications. This process includes changes to doors, fences, windows, landscaping, paint and more. If you need more information about the rules and regulations regarding the community, or if you need a copy of the form, please either contact KPA or refer to the documents that are always available on the Lafayette Village website. The URL can be found on the bottom of each page of the newsletter.

Communications Committee

The next newsletter will be available April 1, 2009. If you would like to view the newsletter in *color*, sign up for electronic distribution (email lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org) or access the newsletter on the website! Please contact the Board if you are interested in volunteering to produce the newsletter!

HOT Lanes Update...

LVCA Testifies at Public Hearing

At the urging of Del. Vivian Watts, your Association testified at a public hearing held by the Commonwealth Transportation Board to consider revisions and cutbacks to the state's Six-Year Improvement Program. Del. Watts told us that we had an opportunity to obtain additional funds for the HOT Lanes project specifically targeted for improvements in noise abatement and landscaping.

At the hearing, held January 13th, 2009, the Association spoke in support of these additional funds, and made the following requests:

- 1. We want a continuous sound barrier along the Beltway between Little River Turnpike and Gallows Road. We believe that design will ensure that the next two points will be met.*
- 2. We want the sound barriers to be redesigned to conform to Fairfax County noise abatement standards for new road construction. Our sound study suggests this can be accomplished with relatively small increases in the height of the proposed sound walls.*
- 3. We want sound abatement measurements to conform to the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL) standard rather than the VDOT loudest-hour sound level standard, particularly with respect to the second and third floor levels of the townhomes in our community.*
- 4. We want sound barrier walls to be landscaped at least on the Lafayette Village side of the barrier, and preferably on both sides. The massive loss of vegetation and especially trees must be replaced as part of the project. This will enhance both the esthetics of the project and will assist in improving the air quality around the project. (full text of testimony is on the website, <http://www.lafayettevillage.org/newsflash.htm>)*

We also noted that Virginia's Secretary of Transportation, Pierce R. Homer, had pledged "to replant the staging areas that have been cleared and to install sound walls beyond minimum federal standards along certain parts of the corridor." We want to hold him to that pledge.

The Association continues to work with Del. Watts to bring about improvements in noise abatement and landscaping as HOT Lanes construction continues. In addition, we are preparing to meet with VDOT and Fluor-Lane officials to discuss the results of our sound study and the changes we proposed in the design of the sound barriers.

We may need another of letter writing from all LVCA residents. If so, we will notify you via our LVCA email list. If you are not already receiving emails from Lafayette Village, please sign up by emailing your request to lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org.

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.

Consider paying your quarterly assessments using direct deposit. Contact KPA or look for the electronic debit form on the LVC website for more information.

Neighborhood Watch News & Notes

Neighborhood Watch Patrols begin

With some early volunteers, the Neighborhood Watch has started to patrol the community during the night hours. The first neighborhood patrol started one late night/early morning in mid-December. While no criminals were encountered, the patrol did get a sense of the sorts of routine activities that occur overnight in Lafayette Village. The log the patrol kept will help future patrols understand what normal activities are and what the patrols need to be on the lookout for.

Night Lighting

One home crime prevention tip is universal: **keep your home well lit**, both outside and in. When you leave your home for the evening, keep a television or radio on, as well as some inside lights. And get into the habit of turning on your porch light in the evening, and keeping it on all night. In Lafayette Village, **it costs less than seven cents a day to keep a 60-watt outside light burning all night**. Crime prevention experts agree that keeping a porch light on at night is one of the most cost effective crime prevention steps you can take as a home owner.

Home security check

Another cost-effective crime-prevention step you can take is to request a home security check by a qualified, trained Fairfax County Police officer. The officer will inspect the locks, doors and windows of your home with you. He or she will also review the exterior lighting, landscaping and other factors affecting your home's resistance to burglary. The officer will then make recommendations for improving your home security. You can arrange for a **free** inspection at your convenience by calling the Mason District Station at 703-256-8035.

Volunteer for Neighborhood Watch

Community patrols are an effective way of discouraging criminals from visiting our neighborhood – they would much rather practice their trade in some other, less organized community. The Neighborhood Watch committee will provide you with training, magnetic placards for your vehicle, a spiffy Neighborhood Watch vest, and the appreciation of your neighbors and community. You will agree to patrol the community on a regular basis, at least monthly, during the evening and early morning hours. Once we establish a regular schedule of patrols, we expect the criminals plaguing Lafayette Village will either be arrested or will move on to other neighborhoods.

If you are interested in helping the Neighborhood Watch committee with this important undertaking, please email Fred Saah at fred300@gmail.com with your contact information. When we have a sufficient core of volunteers, we will schedule training and begin regular patrols.

During this time of economic decline, more homes are subject to foreclosure. Please keep an eye on your surroundings to make sure that no one is breaking into homes or that other suspicious activity is not occurring. If you see anything, or suspect anything, please contact the Fairfax County Police Department's non-emergency telephone number at 703-691-2131. You should also contact our management company, KPA, if you have any other questions about activity within the neighborhood. Please be sure to contact our Neighborhood Watch Committee Chair as well so all issues can be logged.

Receive LVCA news and notices by email: send your request to lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org

Community News...

Dog Poop Inundates Lafayette Village!

For a while last year, our neighborhood was sparkling! Dog owners took to heart their responsibilities to clean up after their dogs. But now, some of our neighbors are backsliding, and the dog poop piles are returning with a vengeance! And now the rest of us have more messes to deal with.

What's particularly ironic is that a lot of the dog poop is located within 100 feet of our doggie bag dispenser. But the issue is very simple: if you own a dog and haven't trained it to pick up after itself, **you are responsible for cleaning up after your dog**. Most Lafayette Village dog owners understand this and behave responsibly. But there are a few who refuse.

What are the facts?

It is against Fairfax County law to leave your dog waste. The law states that "The owner or custodian of any dog shall be responsible for the removal of excreta deposited by such dog on the property of another, including public areas ("pooper scooper" regulation)" (*County Code Section 41-1-2, Section 108-5-2 and Section 41-2-6*).

It is against the Lafayette Village Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions to keep pets in the community that are a source of annoyance or nuisance to the neighborhood. All homeowners agree to this Declaration of Covenants when they purchase their homes.

Dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs are violating Fairfax County law and our Declaration of Covenants.

If you see someone failing to clean up his or her dog's poop, let them know what their responsibilities are. If you can identify these people, contact a Board member, and we will contact these scofflaws.

What are the alternatives?

So far, we have avoided the alternative of **hiring someone** to pick up dog waste, at an annual cost of **\$3000** or more. This would cost every home owner at least \$10 a year, **to clean up after someone else**. And we have more pressing needs in our aging community!

So please – if you are a dog owner, pick up after your dog. If you see dog owners failing to clean up their dog's waste, talk to them. If you feel more comfortable, call or contact a Board member, and we will talk to them. It's our community! We deserve, expect and demand a clean, well-kept neighborhood!

Is your TV Ready for the Switch?

Soon all full-power broadcast television stations in the United States will stop broadcasting on analog airwaves and begin broadcasting only in digital. Congress mandated that the last day for full-power television stations to broadcast in analog will be **February 17, 2009**, over-the-air TV broadcasts will be in digital only after that date. The potential extension announced this week did **NOT** pass, although it may still happen. If you have one or more televisions that receive free over-the-air television programming (with a roof-top antenna or "rabbit ears" on the TV), the type of TV you own is very important. A digital television (a TV with an internal digital tuner) will allow you to continue to watch free over-the-air programming after the transition date. However, if you have an analog television, you will need a digital-to-analog converter box to continue to watch broadcast television on that set. This converter box will also enable you to see any additional multicast programming that your local stations are offering.

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