

Lafayette Village Community Association October/November 2010 Newsletter

LVCA Annual Meeting: Del. Vivian Watts to attend

Please join your neighbors and fellow homeowners on **Monday, October 18**th for the Lafayette Village Community Association annual meeting. Associate members will have the opportunity to elect two homeowners to serve three year terms on our Board of Directors. Details of the meeting are found at the bottom of this page. All homeowners should have received a notice of the Annual Meeting, along with an agenda and proxy form. These forms are also available on the Association website.

The Board is pleased to announce that **Delegate Vivian Watts** and **Supervisor Penny Gross** have accepted our invitation to meet with us to update the Association on county and state activities affecting our community. These include HOT lane issues, sound wall barriers, the re-forestation of denuded areas, changes to local law which would protect communities like ours from the harms of foreclosure, and more.

If you cannot attend, please be sure to fill out your proxy vote and give it to a board member or someone who will be attending the meeting. You will find a copy of the proxy on the last page. Once you complete your proxy, call or email a board member or the webmaster (local webmaster (



Del. Vivian Watts



Supr. Penny Gross

RAFFLE RAFFLE - WIN YOUR NEXT ASSOCIATION DUES PAYMENT

As in prior years, homeowners attending the LVCA Annual Meeting will automatically be entered into a raffle. The next quarterly association dues payment will be waived for the winner. Times are tough, budgets are tight, and this is your chance to get a break. Come to the Annual Meeting and you could be the winner!

In this issue...

- LVCA meeting schedules
- Committee updates
- Community news
- Backyard nature habitat
- Traffic calming
- Proxy form

All residents are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting

When: Monday, October 18, 2010

Time: 7:00pm

Where: Mason District Government Center

6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA

The Annual Meeting will be followed by a regular Board meeting.

Our Community Information...

LVCA Board Members

Jav Jarvis - President

703-280-5812

Jay@JCLInsurance.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

Angela Cutter – Member-at-Large

703-560-8306

aicutter@cox.net

LVCA Committee Chairs

Architectural Control – Vacant

(Mary Coyle has resigned effective October 18th)

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

Fax: 703-532-5098

6400 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 700

Falls Church, VA 22042-2336

REMINDER:

Fourth Quarter Assessments were due October 1, 2010.

Payments received after October 15th are late and subject to a late fee.

LAFAYETTE VILLAGE COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

Monthly Meetings (Check Website for Details)

Board Meetings - 2nd Monday of month at 7:00 PM at the Mason District Government Building, 6507 Columbia Pike. (October 18 and November 8) Note: The October18th annual meeting/board meeting was moved to the Monday following Columbus Day.

<u>ACC Committee</u> - 3rd Monday of month at 7:00 PM. (Meeting dates and locations to be determined. Check the website for ACC meeting schedule for the next two months.)

<u>Grounds Committee</u> – 4th Thursday of month at 7:15 PM at 7828 Ashley Glen Rd. (October 28; November meeting TBD – check website)

<u>Finance Committee</u> –7:00 PM Check website for location. (October 26 and November 23)

<u>Neighborhood Watch</u> – Tuesday after the Board meeting at 7:30 PM at 3721 Yorktown Village Pass (October 12 and November 9)

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

Would you like to be a Candidate for the LVCA Board of Directors?

Two Board seats are up for election this year. If you are interested in participating in the governance of your community, if you have good ideas about how the community should be run, then you should submit your name to the Nominating Committee to be added to this fall's election ballot.

The LVCA Board is responsible for directing the affairs of the Lafayette Village Community Association and enforcing the Covenants and Bylaws of the Association. Board members have a fiduciary responsibility to ensure Association funds are managed properly and expended prudently. The Board meets at least once a month. If you would like to participate in managing our Association, contact Sean Walsh at im_sean@msn.com.

Prez Sez: Thoughts and Observations

I wish to thank my fellow Board members and our home owners for their support during the last year. We have accomplished much, but there is much more to do.

The two big issues this past year have been traffic calming efforts and the HOT Lanes construction adjacent to our property. Our Traffic Calming Committee (Maria Ugincius, Carl Iddings, Linda Boone, Susan Dudley, and Fred Saah) worked closely with county officials to develop a good plan that would reduce the speeding and enhance pedestrian safety on Lafayette Village Drive. And by a vote of our home owners, the plan was



approved. I'm pleased to announce that the county Board of Supervisors approved this plan on Sept. 28. We can expect to see these recommendations implemented soon.

Work continues on the sound barrier, with two sections not yet completed along our property line due to a county water main running under the Beltway. A new water line needed to be tunneled under the Beltway using special boring tools. In turn, this required VDOT to temporarily use more of our land for the drilling equipment, ultimately delaying the completion of the sound barrier along our border with the Beltway.

Our dispute with the state over the value of the land they took from us (to build a new access ramp to the Beltway) may go to court. The state has offered a compensation amount we consider too low, so we have retained an attorney to negotiate with the state on our behalf, and have reserved the right to go to trial to determine the real value of our property. Watch future newsletters for updates on this.

The Architectural Control Committee under the leadership of Mary Coyle has worked with our management company to insure homeowners are in compliance with our ACC Guidelines. As a result, we have a very attractive community of well-maintained homes. Sadly for us, Mary has sold her home, and will be retiring with her cats to North Carolina. The Board will appoint a new ACC chair in October to replace Mary. Thank you, Mary, for your service to the community!

John Alexander heads up our Grounds Committee, which has been very busy this past year. The Committee has arranged to remove a number of trees, and has already purchased a number of replacement trees. The canopy supplied by our trees over the community is more than 10 fold what it was when the community started. The Committee continues to work at replacing the many white pines in the community, which are reaching the end of their normal life span, with a better balance of tree species. The Committee has also coordinated erosion control work, much of which has been completed this fall. The Committee also arranged for new mail boxes on some streets and new street lights on Newport Glen and Butterfield. Under subcommittee Chair Anne Sansbury, we have had a very successful year with the community garden. Lastly, the committee has done preliminary work to create a dog park under the big power lines.

The Pool & Recreation Committee under Linda Witham continues its excellent work in providing a good pool staff, a good pool environment, and proper maintenance of the pool. The Board recently approved the purchase of a new filtration system which will be installed this fall.

Our Neighborhood Watch Committee under Fred Saah has done an outstanding job of watching our community. Criminal incidents have been significantly reduced compared to previous years. And we had the best attended National Night Out event ever.

I am very pleased to report that under the leadership provided by our Treasurer who also serves as Finance Committee Chair, we are on sound financial footing. We continue to transfer a bit more than is required into our reserve fund. The new budget for 2011 will be presented soon (check the website, where it will be posted) and the Board will approve it at the November meeting.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming Annual Meeting, where I will have a slide show of some of our community activities during the past year.

Committee Updates and Recap...

Finance Committee

Please check page 2 for the next meeting dates. The Finance Committee will be presenting the proposed FY2011 Association budget at the annual meeting on October 18.

Neighborhood Watch Committee

This summer went by without any major incidents reported to the Neighborhood Watch. Criminal activity in our community dropped considerably in the past year.

We hope everyone who attended the National Night Out event this past August 3rd enjoyed it. We set a record for attendance this year and hope to continue growing the event in future years. The children enjoyed various activities such as a moon bounce and planting seeds. We were visited by a police officer who let the children get in his patrol car.

A few reminders: It is starting to get darker earlier. If you use a timer to turn on your exterior lights you may want to set them an hour earlier. Also, when daylight savings time ends November 7th, remember to change your smoke detector batteries. This tip can be a lifesaver!

With school back in session please watch out for children walking to and from the bus stops.

Think about what you have in your car. What types of information are you supplying to thieves?

- Mail Contains your name, address, checking and credit card account numbers.
- Old paycheck stubs Social security numbers and place of employment.
- Car repair bills name, address and phone number.
- Garage door opener If stolen, provides easy access to your home. Even if it is not stolen, coding information can be copied for future use.
- Backup set of keys for your house.

Once thieves get your name and social security number they have it made. Take a moment and make sure important information is not left in your vehicle.

We still need volunteers to help on the neighborhood watch committee. Our efforts have made the neighborhood safer but there are still many times when there are no patrols. If interested please contact Fred Saah (fred300@gmail.com).

Architectural Control Committee (ACC)

Mary Coyle, ACC Chair is leaving the community and moving to North Carolina in mid-October. As a result, the ACC will be actively looking for new members at the Annual Meeting on October 18th. The Board of Directors is expected to appoint a new ACC head upon her resignation.

As reported in earlier newsletters the ACC has established a closer working relationship with KPA, our professional management, and to that end has established block captains for each street. New members will be needed to help with this function that serves primarily to assist homeowners with problems, and not to act as policing group. Again, to reiterate, the stated duties of these block captain are as follows:

- Review management company inspection reports for your streets
- Identify any discrepancies on the reports
- Assist homeowners with questions and report back to the ACC chairperson
- Report all queries, suggestions and recommendations to the ACC chairperson
- The ACC chairperson communicates with the management company

The ACC is also planning on reviewing the current guidelines during the coming year with a view toward greater clarification.

Committee Updates and Recap, continued...

TRASH - AN ONGOING PROBLEM

Trash placed outside at inappropriate times - This practice continues to present an ongoing problem and is the source of the most complaints to the ACC. It extremely unfair and frustrating to residents attempting to maintain their properties, and has an adverse effect on the appearance of the neighborhood. Trash placed outside on Sunday morning for the Monday collection is particularly inconsiderate.

Communications Committee

Please submit articles, letters to the editor, advertisements, and especially contractor recommendations to lvcawebmaster@lafayettevillage.org. If you would like to view the newsletter in *color*, sign up for electronic distribution (send your email address to the webmaster) or access the newsletter on the website! The next newsletter will be available December 4th, 2010. Submissions are due by November 27th.

Grounds Committee

As you look around the community, you can see that much of the committee's work in the spring and summer is coming to fruition.

Tree Maintenance

The tree trimming and removal is mostly complete; by spreading the work across a couple of months we were able to save a couple thousand dollars. All evergreens were trimmed up 10 to 12 feet to allow ground cover to grow, as well as to provide more open area, thus increasing safety. In addition, we have purchased 20 trees of 5 varieties, which will be planted in the coming weeks.

Mailboxes and Lights

The 7 mailboxes identified for replacement have arrived and will be installed by the post office over the next month. Several neighbors have reported that the mail carrier has already put their new keys in their old mailbox. The new mailboxes, in addition to looking much nicer, have a large box for parcels and a mail slot for outgoing mail. The new boxes will be installed on Ashley Glenn (2), Butterfield, Byrds Nest Pass, Yorktown Village, Newport Glenn and Brunswick Forest. Other boxes will be replaced next year. The Committee has also coordinated the purchase and installation of two new lights, one for Newport Glen Pass and another on Butterfield Lane.

Erosion

Two smaller projects were completed by BladeRunners in the past month. The dry creek swale at the end of Byrds Nest Pass was cleaned up and extended 8'. A hole forming along the tree line behind Peyton Forest Trail and Newport Glenn Pass was filled with rip rap (rough rocks of similar size) to prevent further erosion. The committee is soliciting additional bids for the repair / replacement of the retaining wall behind Byrds Next Pass, and continues to look for a viable solution for the major runoff and erosion issue between Byrds Nest and Butterfield.

Curb and Sidewalk Repair

The committee reviewed four proposals collected by KPA to repair the sidewalks and curbs around the neighborhood. We are following up with a couple of vendors to clarify the scope of work, and hope to move forward in the next month. Remember, the path between your home and the sidewalk is the responsibility of the home owner. If you would like to replace some of your walk, please contact KPA to coordinate work.

Tot Lot and Dog Run

The committee would like to replace the wood chips in the Tot Lot, which need replacing every year, with shredded rubber that will not degrade and which will provide a much higher safety rating. The cost of the rubber is much higher than the annual cost of wood chips, but will pay for itself over 3-5 years.

Committee Updates and Recap, continued...

In addition, an area has been mowed beneath the power lines between Colonial Village / Newport Glenn and the beltway. With the large number of dog owners in the community, we thought it might be nice to have a dog run that owners and dogs can walk to. Preliminary plans include a chain link fence with a double gate, a small shelter to provide some shade, poop bags, a trash can and a water barrel.

If you have experience, recommendations or strong feelings about either of these projects, please let us know.

Garden Update: The Committee also manages the community garden, thanks to the efforts of Anne Sansbury. Here is her latest update about the community garden:

This year we've added a new dimension to the sights and flavors of the garden -- the delightful sound of tall corn stalks rustling in the breeze. While our summer garden continues to produce tomatoes, string beans, spaghetti squash, eggplants, peppers, etc., our autumn garden contains some new broccoli, chard, kale, bok choy, and other colder weather crops (which are struggling valiantly through the recent blasts of heat). We learned about vine borers and innocuous little ground hugging weeds last year. This year we battled many varieties of bugs and beetles, along with weeds on steroids. Everybody lost beautiful vegetables to some large creatures that routinely entered the garden with large appetites. Are we discouraged? Never! We continue to plant and nurture our crops as we fend off one attacker after another. See you again in the spring!

If you are interested in participating in the community garden next spring, please send your request to Anne Sansbury at sansbury@cox.net.

Traffic calming—close to becoming a reality!

The Traffic Calming balloting ended August 16th. All homeowners (and rental residents as alternate voters) were sent ballots to approve or reject the Lafayette Village Drive traffic calming plan developed by the Traffic Calming committee. This plan included a speed table just south of Byrds Nest Pass, a raised crosswalk across Lafayette Village Drive by Ashley Glen Road, and a 30 foot x 8 foot raised median on Lafayette Village Drive just south of Hancock Forest Trail. (See the August/September 2010 Newsletter for details.)

Out of 295 households in the ballot area, a minimum of 148 ballots (50%) had to be returned by August 16th, and a minimum of 60% of those ballots, or 89 ballots, had to be "Yes" votes for the plan to be approved. Lafayette Village returned 154 valid ballots, of which 112 indicated a "Yes" vote. We successful approved, by 73 percent, the proposed plan.

On September 28th, the Board of Supervisors approved our traffic calming plan and directed County staff to install the approved plan as soon as possible. The County has assured us that funding for this project is available, and we should begin to see construction in the near future!

This has been a project two years in the making. Special thanks go to the members of the Traffic Calming committee and to the Board of Directors who supported this project, and especially Joaquin Tremols, who as Board President, initiated the project with a letter to Supervisor Gross. We also thank all the Lafayette Village homeowners and residents who read the plans, considered the options, and submitted their ballots in a timely fashion. County staff member Clara Pizana, who worked with the Traffic Committee, commented that our community was one of the best organized she had ever dealt with!

So, in the near future, we can look forward to a calmer and safer Lafayette Village Drive!

Community News...

Mason District Community named an official Certified Wildlife Habitat

A five-year stewardship project to certify the entire Mason District as a Certified Wildlife Habitat culminated September 28th when a National Wildlife Federation representative attended the September county Board of Supervisors meeting to formally award the Mason District its certification. To earn the designation, the project required that 300 homes in the area of about 40,000 homes be certified along with seven schools and five park/church/business areas. Thirteen schools and almost as many park/church/business areas, including Hidden Oaks Park and a number of homes in Lafayette Village, were certified in Mason District by the end of July.

Hidden Oaks Nature Center Assistant Manager Suzanne Holland said the designation shows that "the greater Annandale community has embraced the idea of providing an environmentally-friendly community for wildlife."

The Greater Mason District Community is the largest Community Wildlife Habitat in Virginia, the 44th community to earn the designation, the country's second-largest volunteer/community-coordinated certification project, and the fourth-largest certified area in the nation. Other local certified areas include Arlington, Great Falls, Reston and the City of Falls Church. More than 133,000 backyards or balconies are certified nationwide.

About Backyard Habitats:

The National Wildlife Federation created the Backyard Habitat program more than 35 years ago to help create healthy and diverse sanctuaries for animals. If you provide food, water, shelter, and a place for raising young, you can get certified and join the network of thousands helping to offset the habitat loss that threatens native wildlife all over the country. It's easier than you might think. To get more ideas and details about the program, log onto:

https://secure.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife/certify.cfm?campaignid=WH09ASLP



Backyard habitat in Lafayette Village—water, food, and shelter provide an enticing environment for birds

http://www.enature.com/backyardwildlife/nwf_bwh_home.asp

--submitted by Kim Arnette



Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, November 7th

Don't forget – when you turn your clocks back one hour on November 7th, also change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors throughout your home.

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

Community News...

Election Day

....is right around the corner. Be sure to cast your vote on (or before – see below) **November 2, 2010** for the 11th District Congressional member, the seat currently held by Gerry Connolly. There are also three constitutional amendments on the ballot, as well as a Fairfax County Bond referendum.

All Lafayette Village residents vote in the Hummer Precinct (519), located at the Packard Center in Annandale Community Park, 4030 Hummer Road. The polls are open from 6:00am to 7:00pm.

Important Dates:

<u>Tuesday, October 12</u> – Final day to register to vote. If you are registered at your current address, you do not need to register again. To verify your voter registration status, call the General Registrar's office at 703-222-0776. You will need register in person on Oct. 12th to meet the deadline. Details are at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/vregis.htm.

<u>Monday, October 18</u> – In-person absentee voting begins: Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale, Monday through Friday, 2:30 - 7:30 p.m; Saturdays, 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

<u>Tuesday</u>, <u>October 26</u> – Final day to apply for an absentee ballot by mail.

<u>Saturday</u>, <u>October 30</u> – Final day to vote absentee in person. For more information about absentee voting, go to http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/absentee.htm.

Community Etiquette...

Living in a townhouse community, as most of us do, means we live in close proximity to our neighbors. In turn, this requires more sensitivity to the impact our actions have on our community. Several recent incidents and one ongoing situation highlight this requirement:

Tot Lot behavior: There have been several recent incidents of adults loudly cursing in the vicinity of the tot lot. This behavior ruins children's playtime at the tot lot, and is really not appropriate. Please be aware of your surroundings before you share your colorful language with the community.

Pet management: Some neighbors are allowing their dogs to run free in the community, defecating where they like and annoying, if not actually scaring, residents. Please remember, it is against our covenants and bylaws, to which all home owners have agreed, to allow pets to roam freely. All dogs are to be leashed and controlled by their owners when they are out of the house. Please be a good neighbor and control your animals!

Animal waste: Dog poop continues to accumulate in the community. When you are walking your dog, you need to collect any animal waste your dog produces. This is not only a courtesy to your neighbors, but also a county law requiring you to clean up after your pet. There is a doggy bag station on Lafayette Village Drive that dispenses plastic animal waste bags, and many public trash cans where you can dispose of this waste. Please be a good neighbor and pet owner, and scoop your animal's poop!

Around Town...

Annandale Fall Festival and Parade: Saturday, October 23rd

It's Bigger and Better than Ever: Now Held in the Heart of Annandale!

The **Annual Annandale Parade** will be held along Columbia Pike from 10:00AM to Noon.

Annandale Fall Festival: On Saturday, October 23rd, the Annandale Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Annandale will sponsor a spectacular Fall Festival in the Safeway parking lot on Little River Turnpike. From 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, the festival includes

- Costumed international dancers
- local bands and a D.J.
- "The Taste of Annandale" with food from many culinary cuisines.
- The Kid's Zone will delight and challenge with, 24' Dual Slides, Bungee Jump, Bungee Run, a Sticky Wall and a Climbing Wall, a Treasure Hunt, Moon Bounce, a musical petting zoo, and interactive games for toddlers to teens. Mark your calendars. This will be a day of Family Fun not to be missed.

Electric Sundays continue through November

Electric Sundays provide county residents with an opportunity to recycle televisions, computers, monitors and peripheral electronic devices such as printers, scanners, speakers, keyboards, mice and external drives. Residents also may recycle their fluorescent light bulbs at these events. Better yet, *Electric Sunday* events are a free service for Fairfax County residents! These 2010 events are held at the county's Recycling and Disposal Centers at the I-66 Transfer Station in Fairfax (4618 West Ox Road) and the I-95 Landfill Complex in Lorton (9850 Furnace Road), from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on the following dates and locations: October 24 (I-95); November 21 (I-66). For more information, contact the Fairfax County Division of Solid Waste Collection and Recycling at 703-324-5230, TTY 711, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/recycling.

George Mason Regional Library Book Sale – The Friends of the George Mason Regional Library will host its popular semi-annual book sale for four days, starting October 21. Hours are: 10/21 from 5 to 9pm; 10/22 from 10am to 6pm; 10/23 from 10am to 5pm; 10/24 from 12 to 5pm. Recorded books, rare books, CDs, DVDs, videos available. The book sale will be held at the library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, in Annandale. For more information, call 703-254-3800 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/gm.

Need a notary public? Notary services are available at Supervisor Penny Gross's office Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 5:00. For more information, call 703-256-7717.

Did you know? You can recycle ink-jet printer cartridges at Supervisor Gross's office, as well. Her office staff maintains an ink-jet cartridge recycling box at the front desk.



LVCA

Yard Sale, Yard Sale! Lafayette Village Community-Wide Yard Sale Saturday, Oct. 9th, 8am – 12 pm

Our community-wide yard sale is scheduled for Saturday, October 9th, 8am to 12 pm. Sell from your front yard, driveway, Lafayette Village Drive or the pool parking lot!

Make plans now to clean out your storage areas and make some cash!

We'll advertise this yard sale in the Post and elsewhere in the Annandale area. We'll post signs throughout the neighborhood Saturday morning.

Join your neighbors in the LVCA Community-Wide Yard Sale!

Contact Carl Iddings (703-206-0170, email carl_iddings@hotmail.com) or Christie Prucker (571-830-6492, email wizardmom416@gmail.com)

LAFAYETTE VILLAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PROXY/ABSENTEE BALLOT

KNOW BY ALL BY THOSE PRESENT, that the undersigned Unit Owner(s) of Lafayette Village Community Association does/do hereby constitute and appoint: (MUST FILL IN NAME OF PERSON WHO **WILL ACT AS YOUR PROXY** - DO NOT FILL IN YOUR OWN NAME): as the true and lawful voting representative, proxy and stead of the undersigned and the undersigned's unit in the Lafayette Village Community Association, as further identified below, to act, based upon the ownership standing in the name of the undersigned, at the Annual Meeting of the Association to be held at 7:00 p.m. on October 18, 2010, and any continuances thereof.. My above-named proxy shall have full authority to vote upon any and all matters which may be presented, considered and voted upon at such meeting, pursuant to the ByLaws and in accordance with the instruction set forth below as fully and with the same effects the undersigned could have if personally present at said meeting. The undersigned hereby ratifies and confirms all that the proxy may lawful do or cause to be done by virtue itself. (An uninstructed proxy allows the holder of the Proxy to vote in place of the unit owner on all matters that come before the meeting.) ************************************* The undersigned has executed this Proxy this ____ day of ______, 2010 Owner's Signature On Site (Unit) Address Expressed Instructions: I/we do expressly direct and instruct my/our proxy to vote as indicated below: Mark One: () I/we instruct my/our proxy to be counted for **quorum purposes** only. I/we instruct my/our proxy to be counted for quorum purposes and to cast my vote for any matters that may be presented at the Annual Meeting.