Lafayette Village
Community Association

August/September 2018 Newsletter

Hidden Oaks Nature Interpreter Wins National Recognition

A natural history interpreter from Hidden Oaks Nature Center in Annandale, Virginia, is being honored by the National Association for Interpretation (NAI). To celebrate its 30th anniversary, the organization is recognizing 30 Shining Stars of Interpretation in 2018, and Hidden Oaks Visitor Services Manager Suzanne Holland has been added to the prestigious list.

Each of NAI's 10 geographical regions determined three shining stars – a new interpreter, an established career interpreter, and an esteemed veteran – to represent the region and receive one of NAI's 30 for 30: NAI Shining Star Awards. Holland was chosen as NAI Region 2's Shining Star in the Veteran Category.

"Those of us who've worked with her daily or with projects, or who've had the privilege to have been one of her interpretive students through NAI, have known Suzanne was our interpretive 'secret weapon' here at Hidden Oaks," said Hidden Oaks Manager Michael McDonnell. "This is quite an honor, and we are proud to call her our colleague."

Suzanne Holland,
Visitor Services Manager
Hidden Oaks Nature Center

Holland is credited with increasing programming and visitation at the Fairfax County Park Authority site. She was the driving force behind the *Nature Playce* exploration area, helped to secure funding to provide free programs targeting underserved communities, and conducts training programs for other interpreters. A description of Holland's work and her photo are on display on the NAI website. In addition, in recognition of her excellence in interpretation, Region 2 is awarding Holland a $100 credit to be used toward NAI national or regional workshops or trainings.

Hidden Oaks Nature Center is located at 7701 Royce Street, Annandale, VA. For more information, call 703-941-1065 or visit https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-oaks.

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- *Garden report*
- *What is National Night Out?*

Our Community Information….

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Grounds – Mike Nutbrown
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Pool & Recreation – Lisa Conoly
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EARLY REMINDER: Fourth Quarter Assessments are due October 1, 2018. Make it easy on yourself by signing up for the Direct Debit program, and have your payments automatically paid from your bank account at the beginning of each quarter! Complete the direct payment form at http://www.lafayettevillage.org/docs/AutomaticDebitFormLVCA.pdf and send it to Sequoia Management, 13998 Parkeast Circle, Chantilly, VA 20151-2283, Attention: Dale Edwards

LAFAYETTE VILLAGE COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR
Monthly Meetings (check our website for details)

Board Meetings – Meetings are typically the second Monday of every month at 7 p.m. at Mason Crest Elementary School, 3705 Crest Dr., Annandale, VA 22003

ACC Meetings – 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at 3713 Yorktown Village Pass

Grounds Committee – 4th Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at 7920 Brunswick Forest Pass

Finance Committee – 3rd Tuesday of month at 7:00 p.m. at 7900 Peyton Forest Trail

Neighborhood Watch – TBD

Fairfax Federation – 3rd Thursday of month at 7:30 p.m. at Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Dr, Fairfax

Mason District Council – Contact Donna Jacobson at jacobsond48465@gmail.com

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

2018 Pool Events

Mark your calendars for these exciting events!

End of Summer Cookout..... Saturday, August 25, 4:00-8:00pm
(Rain date Sunday, August 26)

*Always stay within arm's reach of young children and avoid distr**actions when supervising children at the pool, even when lifeguards are present.***

A Note from the President ….

October Elections:

As usual, this October will see two positions on the Board of Directors come up for election. One of those is the role that I currently fill as President of the Board. I have decided not to run for reelection this fall, which means that there will be a vacancy on the Board. If you have an interest in the well-being of the community, community events and a bit of free time, and might be interested in a position on the Board, feel free to email me or a member of the Board and we'd be happy to talk with you about what the Board does. The person who fills this vacancy will not necessarily fill the role of President - the Board will appoint the next President at the October meeting.

Michelle Kloc, President, LVCA Board of Directors

Committee Updates ….

Pool and Recreation Committee – Lisa Conoly, Chair

Our community pool is busier than ever. If you haven't visited the pool, now is the perfect time to see what you've been missing -- come meet our lifeguards, take a relaxing dip, swim laps, take a water fitness class, arrange swimming lessons for the kids, or catch up with your neighbors.

Please plan to join us in the pool parking lot for our ***End of Summer cookout*** on Saturday, August 25 (Rain date Sunday, August 26). We'll light the grills from 4:00-6:00pm and the pool will remain open until 8:00pm. The Association will provide burgers, hot dogs, condiments, chips and bottled water. Neighbors are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. If you have a grill we can borrow (preferably gas) or are willing to serve as a grill master please email me at lisac_234@hotmail.com.

In June we had our first ***"Swim Under the Stars"*** night of the summer. There was a good turnout for this popular pool event. In July we hosted our fourth annual ***Wine and Cheese Party***. It's the one night of the summer that the pool is open to adults only. About 50 of our neighbors came out to socialize, have an adult beverage and a snack. The pool was open for swimming, although since it was a mild evening, nobody opted to take a swim. The Association provided the snacks and beverages. Many thanks to Angela Cutter, Anne Sansbury, Amy Phipps and Mike Darr for their help with the event. And a very special thank you to massage therapist and Lafayette Village resident, Sawyer Smith, for providing free chair massages during the party.

We are continuing our ***Water Fitness*** classes twice a week: Tuesdays at noon, and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. It's not too late to join us; classes are drop-in and cost $10 per class, cash or check. No advance reservation required. Water shoes are recommended but not required.

The picnic pad is available for residents to reserve for small gatherings at no charge. A reservation includes wristbands allowing admission to the pool for 10 people, in addition to your family's pool passes. The reservation form is available at www.lafayettevillage.org/pool.htm.

Stop by our ***Book Exchange*** bookcase in the pool house to find your latest read. If you see a book you'd like to read, take it. If you have a book you've finished and would like to share, leave it. We have books for all ages. If you have books you'd like to donate, bring them to the pool house during pool hours or email me at lisac_234@hotmail.com.

A reminder: due to fair housing rulings, the period from 45 minutes past the hour to the top of the hour previously known as "break" or "adult swim", has become "lap swim". The period is now open to swimmers of any age, able to pass

Committee Updates, continued ….

a swim test, who want to swim laps or water walk. Swimmers may not play games, float, dip in to cool off, or do anything other than swim laps or water walk during this period. The diving board will be closed during "lap swim". Although we now have a "lap swim" period every hour instead of a traditional "break", it is important to take regular rest breaks and stay hydrated. Please also make sure your children take regular rest breaks.

Signs are now posted in the pool parking lot advising that during the pool season, parking in the pool parking lot is restricted during pool hours to pool patrons and community gardeners. You (or your household guests) can park your vehicle in the parking lot after the pool closes (8:30 p.m. weekdays, 8:00 p.m. weekends and holidays), but you must move your vehicle before the pool opens the next morning (11:30 a.m. weekdays, 11:00 a.m. weekends and holidays). Violators may be ticketed, and repeat violators may be towed. Please advise your guests of this policy, as well.

The pool will remain open through Labor Day, Monday, September 3. Please contact me at lisac_234@hotmail.com with comments or suggestions.

Committee Updates, continued ….

Grounds Committee – Mike Nutbrown, Chair

The grounds committee has been working on a lot of things that will probably all come together right around the same time. We're hoping to see new street lights on our community streets this fall as well as crack fill and seal coating of the streets.

We're always in need of new members of the community who have an interest in the maintenance and beautification of our grounds to join the grounds committee and help make it a better place for everyone. If you have any interest in improving our common areas, please send me an email at grounds@lafayettevillage.org. The more members we have to work on projects the more we can get done for everyone and the less we have to push off to future years when these projects will only be more expensive to complete. A reminder that all of the committee and board members in our community are unpaid volunteers.

Architectural Control Committee (ACC) – Angela Cutter, Chair

We continue to receive a steady stream of requests from home owners looking to improve their property – fences, siding, garage doors, and painting, amongst others. And we love the applications that give details of the planned improvement – we can get an answer to you much quicker if you include as much information as possible. The overall condition of a neighborhood is a big factor when people are choosing where to buy a home, and, given that Lafayette Village homes are selling quickly, it's clear that things are looking quite good.

Except when it comes to garbage days! Yes, it's time to talk trash again. This is the main problem the ACC hears about and there just isn't an easy solution. We all seem to be generating more trash than ever and, with the increase in scavengers, it's a dirty, ugly problem. The ACC has given a lot of consideration to making the use of trash cans mandatory, and this would seem to be the logical solution. But, while this might be fairly easy for people with garages and/or end unit townhomes, it can be really difficult for people in interior units to carry a heavy garbage can around to the curb. Especially when it's dark and erosion has created steep slopes - and some of us aren't so young anymore. Therefore, we don't feel it's feasible to require everyone to use a hard container.

If there's any way you can possibly do it, please use a covered trash can – it could greatly reduce the amount of garbage scattered around. (Perhaps you could even offer to help a neighbor with their trash can.) If you can't manage that, at least use heavy duty trash bags. No little grocery store bags or flimsy dollar store products, please ! They're the worst as far as animals are concerned, and on windy days can blow everywhere.

The second part of the problem is where trash is being placed. Over the years it's become a habit for people to put their trash in piles near street corners. This has worked very well for many of us and I'm a fan of it myself. However, the people who live closest to these collection points are now dealing with the mess that's left when animals rip open bags. (And just the sheer volume of trash can make it hard for people to get to their cars.) The ACC voted to require all trash to be placed in front of your own home, or your own parking spaces. That way if bags are torn open it's easy to tell whose they are, and who should be cleaning up the mess.

Patriot is contracted to pick up from in front of our houses and they encourage everyone to label the containers with your house number so they don't get mixed up. Masking or painters tape works well, or spray paint your number directly on the containers. We need your help to inform/remind your neighbors that this is how things are to be done going forward. ACC Guidelines will be amended to reflect this change, but expect there to be a period of adjustment and make allowances for that. Not everyone reads the Newsletters or the Guidelines, so we'll allow time for word to spread before asking Sequoia to send violation notices. If you have neighbors who don't speak English, try reaching out to other residents to explain. Any help you can give with this is really appreciated.

Trash regulations are important. But they're also extremely difficult to enforce and the ACC can't watch almost 300 houses 4 days a week to see who's not being a good neighbor. There have been some postings online that seem to pit neighbor against neighbor, which is really disappointing. I'd like to think that's not who we are. Instead we can all step

up and attack the problem together. And if you've never volunteered in Lafayette Village this can be your way of contributing. Realistically, there's always going to be trash that gets blown around or that animals manage to scatter. And it may not be your trash, but it is your neighborhood, so please help keep it clean and attractive.

Recycling

Previously recycling could be put into clear plastic bags. The rules changed this year and all items must now be in your recycling bin, in cardboard boxes or in paper bags. Anything in a plastic bag will still be picked up, but the contents will not be recycled, which defeats the purpose. Most of us have far more recycling than waste so you may want to consider buying a larger plastic container and clearly labelling it "Recycling" and with your house number. Patriot will sell you one for about $50 but you can probably pick one up for less at a home improvement store.

All containers must be kept inside your house or fenced yard outside of collection times. Unmarked bins left on the street more than 24 hours after collection day may be removed. If you're going out of town please ask a neighbor to assist you.

Hearings

Homeowners who still have outstanding violations will be called to hearings with the Board of Directors. This is your chance to explain why you aren't in compliance and, if you're not there, the Board of Directors will reach a decision without your input. Landlords are held responsible for all tenant violations and should attend the hearing as the owner of the property.

If you're a tenant and aren't sure what the rules are in the community, please ask a neighbor or check out the Lafayette Village website (www.lafayettevillage.org) and familiarize yourself with the ACC Guidelines. If you still have questions after doing this, you can email me at the address on the front of the Newsletter and I'll try to help.

Communications Committee

We need your ads, articles, photos, contractor recommendations, and comments for our newsletter! All submissions will be considered for inclusion. Please send your entries to newsletter@lafayettevillage.org. The next newsletter will be available in October 2018. All articles, letters to the editor, contractor recommendations, and ads (free to residents and homeowners!) and other submissions need to be sent in by October 1.

Notes on the Community Garden ….

By Anne Sansbury, LVCA's Garden Sage

Happy string beans

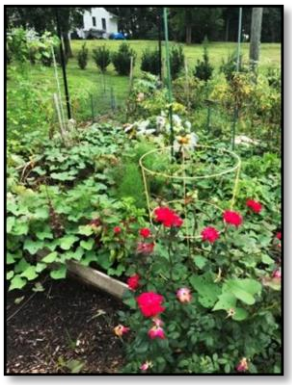
In northern Virginia, it's so hard to predict which plants will grow and which will get burned up by the heat or washed out by the rain. This year we've learned a lot about both of those instances. Only the weeds thrive in every type of weather. Still, every gardener has grown wonderful looking plants, and we have to assume, wonderful crops to go with them. For sure, one of our gardeners got a good crop of peas this year, while some of us planted too late and our pea plants burned up. I learned from Katharine this year that good peas are not just a matter of using good seeds, having good soil, and planting at the perfect moment. She let me in on her secret: her son kisses every pea seed and wishes it good luck before it gets planted! I had no idea, but I will surely use this technique next year. That said, Don got a great crop of peas, and he didn't mention kissing the seeds. He did plant them in memory of Thomas Jefferson, who loved peas so maybe that had something to do with his success.

Two crops that usually do well – zucchini and yellow crookneck – are doing even better this year. They apparently enjoy unmitigated heat and unrelenting deluges, because we've already grown some HUGE squashes this summer. Cucumbers are also super happy this year – and Easy Refrigerator Dill Pickles (see allrecipes.com) are as delicious as ever. Last year, one of our gardeners grew 60 pounds of sweet potatoes, and she is aiming to beat that record this year; however, she has competition from across the aisle (across the main path that is), so we'll have to let you know if a new record is set in 2018.

A marine garden

One big disappointment is eggplant. Both Don and I have had bad luck with eggplant this year. Maybe the rain is too much for their gorgeous purple blossoms.

Remember, if you want the excitement and challenge of gardening right here at Lafayette Village, please send me an email to that effect and I will put you on the waiting list for a garden plot. Send to asansbury@gicgroup.com.



Sweet potato farm

Corn that's as high as an elephant's eye!

Gorgeous okra blossoms

National Night Out in Lafayette Village

August 7, 2018

Around Our Community ….

What Is National Night Out?

(excerpted from https://natw.org/)

National Night Out (NNO) is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

Millions of neighbors take part in National Night Out across thousands of communities from all fifty states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide on the first Tuesday in August (Texas celebrates on the first Tuesday in October). Neighborhoods host block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts and various other community events with safety demonstrations, seminars, youth events, visits from emergency personnel, exhibits and much, much more.

NNO's History

Late 1970's: Matt Peskin, founder and executive director of National Association of Town Watch [est. 1981] introduced the National Night Out program in 1984.

Rewind seven years. It begins in the western suburbs of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Peskin spent several years volunteering for the Lower Merion Community Watch program, who works in cooperation with the Lower Merion Police Department. During his tenure of volunteer work in the township, he often patrolled his neighborhood, assisted in patrol dispatch and shortly thereafter introduced the program's newsletter.

The newsletter became a representation of the success that took place within the organization and the volunteer work put forth by over one thousand neighbors. Opportunity to publish new and creative content became more and more difficult as each month passed. Peskin began to reach out to surrounding townships and communities for assistance.

And that's where it all began. Peskin realized that hundreds of community watch groups existed without a platform or association to connect them together.

Early 1981: The National Association of Town Watch (NATW) was founded only a few years later to provide community watch groups the necessary resources and assets to stay informed, interested, involved, and motivated within the community. Neighbors and local law enforcement across the nation supported the association as it steadily grew for the next three years. However, Peskin knew something more was needed.

August 1984: NATW introduced National Night Out in August of 1984 through an already established network of law enforcement agencies, neighborhood watch groups, civic groups, state and regional crime prevention associations and volunteers across the nation. The first annual National Night Out involved 2.5 million neighbors across 400 communities in 23 states. However, the event soon grew to a celebration beyond just front porch vigils.

Neighborhoods across the nation began to host block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts and various other community events with safety demonstrations, seminars, youth events, visits from emergency personnel, exhibits and much, much more. Today, 38 million neighbors in 16 thousand communities across the nation take part in National Night Out.

To find out more about NNO, follow them on Facebook at http://facebook.com/nationalnightout.

Community Ads….

Land and Cruise Planners in the neighborhood! Specialized in all cruise lines, land, tour, all-inclusive vacations around the USA, Caribbean, Europe, Asia and Africa – All around the world. Specialized in individual and groups travel, family or high school reunions, meeting and corporate incentive travels, weddings and honeymoons. For your family travel or vacation needs, please email me at pascasie.adedze@cruiseplanners.com or visit passycruisevacation.com or call 703-559-3626 (home) and 217-721-5152 (cell).

Interior Painting: Contact Mark Rhodes, Lafayette Village resident and a skilled interior painter, for free estimates. Call or text Mark at 571-236-5634. Landline is 703-560-8329. Recommendations on the Nextdoor app.

Day Care Provider: Kids First day care for kids 0-11years old. State and County Licensed daycare provider, trained in CPR and First Aid. Lafayette Village location. For more information, please call Maha at 703-347-2876 (9 a.m. – 5 p.m.) or send an email to maha_kidsfirst@yahoo.com.

Interior Decorator and Home Organizer: I'm a professional organizer and interior decorator living in Lafayette Village. Let me help you achieve your goals in 2018! We can start as small as a single room to achieve results you will be proud of. If interested, please call me at 703-217-4707 or email me at betty.marie.harmon@gmail.com for more information and to receive an estimate.

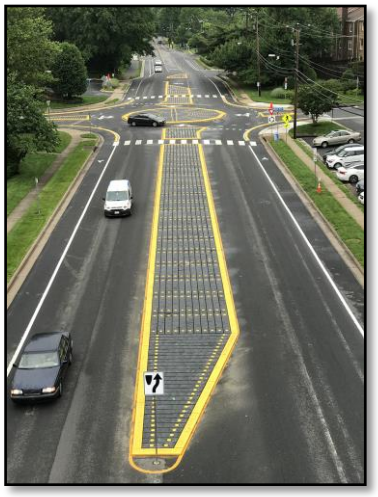
Recycling in Fairfax County … did you know?

Question: *Are yogurt cups recyclable in Fairfax County?*

The quick answer is ***no***. Here's why … traditional "blue bin" recyclables in this region all end up at one of a handful of processing centers in the DC metro region. At this time, none of them have found a buyer for the resin type of which yogurt cups are typically made. Please discard yogurt cups with the rest of your refuse. Hopefully, you will find some comfort in the knowledge that Fairfax waste ends up at the Covanta waste-to-energy plant in Lorton, where the energy from combusting waste is used to generate enough electricity to power approximately 75,000 homes.

For more information about Fairfax County's recycling program, go to https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-and-trash.

Mason District News ….



Getting Around a Roundabout – Drivers on Ravensworth Road now have a new traffic pattern at the intersection of Jayhawk Street in Annandale. Construction of a new modular mini-roundabout, a pilot project with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), was completed in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). Roundabouts can effectively control speed in residential neighborhoods. Here are some things to remember when driving through roundabouts:

- You must yield to the traffic already in the roundabout.
- Use your right-turn signal as you approach the exit you wish to use.
- Always yield to pedestrians who may be crossing the road on your approach to the roundabout.

Pedestrians, bicycle riders and motorcyclists are often hard to see, so please watch for them.

Save the Date: Capitol Steps at Mason District Park – The very popular Capitol Steps free concert, originally scheduled for Sunday, July 22, 2018 at the Mason District Park amphitheater was cancelled because of weather. A new, special date, has been arranged for the Capitol Steps to perform this fall. Plan to attend the rescheduled free concert on **Friday, September 7, at 7:30 p.m.**, at Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale.

Mark Your Calendar for the 33rd Annual Begonia Show and Sale – Green Spring Gardens Park, 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria, welcomes the Potomac branch of the American Begonia Society, sponsors of this annual event, on Saturday, August 25 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Sunday, August 26, 2018, from noon to 3:30 p.m. The sale offers a wide variety of begonias, including subtropical species. Admission is free. Call 703-642-5173 for more information about this or other upcoming events, or visit the website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring.

Zoning: In order to address recent staff comments, Christopher Land LLC, the applicant for the zoning application off of Gallows Road and Libeau Lane in Annandale, has requested to postpone their presentation before the Mason District Land Use Committee until September. That meeting will take place on Tuesday September 25th 2018 at 7:30pm. The meeting is open to the public and will take place in the main community room of the Mason District Governmental Center located at 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, Virginia 22003. An agenda for that meeting will be forthcoming. Any questions can be directed to Land Use and Development Aide, Office of Supervisor Penny Gross, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, Virginia 22003, 703-256-7717.