# Lafayette Village
Community Association

# *Winter 2019 Newsletter*

## Home Sweet Home? Nextdoor Is The Place To Be!

Do you need a reliable contractor? Would you like to sell or give away a possession without leaving home? Are you curious about local concerts and festivals? Would you like to warn neighbors about a potential security problem or notify them about a dog wandering around Lafayette Village? Nextdoor, the private social network, provides all this and more to the neighbors who sign up to use it – for free!

Signing up requires address verification so you can be sure that the people listed for Lafayette Village Community Association (LVCA) are really your neighbors, and there's a directory so we can get to know each other. We also have access to Nearby Neighborhoods and we can choose the types of messages we want to receive, be they Urgent Alerts (emergencies, crimes), Recommendations by category, Events, For Sale or Free ads, or Crime and Safety notices.

You can join Nextdoor on your own or when you receive an invitation from someone who has already joined. Visit nextdoor.com and enter your email address and residential street address. You should be automatically directed to the Lafayette Village section. Complete all the required fields. If you received an invitation, follow the special link on your invitation to create your account and click Sign Up. Then verify your address. You can sign in through Facebook as well, if you want to remember just one password in the future. Signing in through Facebook is entirely optional and will not cause Nextdoor content to be posted to Facebook.

You can also join on an iPhone or an Android – specific instructions abound online. Go to the App Store on your phone and search for Nextdoor.

The rules of Nextdoor are mainly rules of common sense and common courtesy; however, it's a good idea to read about the more technical rules when you sign up. While LVCA has an email distribution service for notices relevant to our community (highly recommended; contact lvca.bod.president@gmail.com and ask to be added to that list), Nextdoor provides a platform for useful communications about dozens of items and notices of interest in and around our neighborhood. Don't be left out in the cold this winter! Join Nextdoor!

***In this issue…***


- ***President's Message***
- ***Meet our Neighbors***
- ***Garden Notes***
- ***Holiday Decorations Contest Winners***

# *Our Community Information….*

**LVCA Board Members**

**Donna Jacobson – President**
lvca.bod.president@gmail.com

**Amy Phipps – Vice President**
akp3719@gmail.com

**John Alexander – Treasurer**
jmalex14@msn.com

**Steve Longstreet – Secretary**
slongstreet@gmail.com

**Bob Rosenbaum – Member-at-Large**
bobrosenbaumjr@gmail.com

**Committee Chairs**

**Architectural Control – Angela Cutter**
aicutter50@gmail.com

**Grounds – Mike Nutbrown**
grounds@lafayettevillage.org

**Finance – John Alexander**
jmalex14@msn.com

**Pool & Recreation – Lisa Conoly**
lisac_234@hotmail.com

**Communications – Donna Jacobson**
lvca.bod.president@gmail.com

**Neighborhood Watch – Vacant**

**Sequoia Management Company**
Dale Edwards
dedwards@sequoiamgmt.com
Phone: 703-803-9641
Fax: 703-968-0936

**Patriot Disposal Services**
www.patriotdisposalservices.com
Phone: 703-257-7100

**Website Manager**
Brittany Dewberry
hello@lafayettevillage.org

**Newsletter Editor**
Cheryl Ryefield
newsletter@lafayettevillage.org

## Consider Electronic Payment for HOA Fees

To avoid hassles with locating your coupon book, remembering to pay your quarterly HOA fees, and dealing with pesky late fees and interest payments, sign up for Automatic Direct Debit payments. The Authorization Agreement for Direct Payments form is on the website at https://lafayettevillage.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Docs/AutomaticDebitFormLVCA.pdf.

## LAFAYETTE VILLAGE COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

**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** – Meetings are held at 3713 Yorktown Village Pass. Date and time is to be determined. If interested in attending contact Angela Cutter at aicutter 50@gmail.com.

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

**Finance Committee** – Meetings are held at 7900 Peyton Forest Trail. Date and time is to be determined. If interested in attending contact John Alexander at jmalex14@msn.com.

**Neighborhood Watch** – TBD

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

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

## *Volunteers Needed!*

Volunteers are the lifeblood of Lafayette Village, ensuring the community remains a great place to live, raise a family, and even retire! We rely heavily on a dedicated group of volunteer committee members to accomplish much of the planning and detailed work that makes our community excellent.

While all our committees can use additional members, we especially need volunteers for the **Finance Committee**, the **Grounds Committee** and the **Neighborhood Watch Committee**. If you're interested in contributing to your community, consider volunteering for one of these committees. Send an email to lvca.bod.president@gmail.com for more details. Both homeowners and renters are invited to participate on the committees.

# *A Note from the President…*

Hi, Everyone,

I encourage all residents, renters as well as owners, to read the article in this newsletter concerning the social network site, Nextdoor. The article explains in detail the many uses of Nextdoor and how to sign up for it. I am finding the site an excellent way to get necessary information to residents quickly and would like to see as many residents as possible sign up to use Nextdoor.

In February, I will be sending Nextdoor generated postcards through regular mail, to residents who are not yet signed up on Nextdoor. Please take a minute to read these postcards and sign up. Being a member of Nextdoor will help you stay abreast of what is happening in Lafayette Village, especially during snow storms and emergency situations.

Thank you!

*Donna Jacobson, President*
*LVCA Board of Directors*

## *Let the Stars be your Guide at the Astronomy Festival at Turner Farm*

Take advantage of winter's early evening darkness by exploring the stars at the "Astronomy Festival" at Observatory Park at Turner Farm on Saturday, February 16, 2019.

Enjoy activities such as guided stargazing, looking through a telescope and listening to ancient stories about the constellations around the campfire. There will be additional activities and games throughout the evening, and hot chocolate and snacks will be available for purchase.

The three-hour festival begins at 6 p.m. Register participants age three to adult in advance online for $8 per person. Due to the nature of this program, it will be canceled in the event of rain or snow.

Turner Farm is located at 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls, VA. For more information, call 703-324-8618 or visit Turner Farm (https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turner-farm).

# *Committee Updates ….*

## Architectural Control Committee (ACC) – Angela Cutter, Chair

As lovely as they all were, our guidelines state that all outside holiday decorations should be removed within a month of the holiday.

The Spring Inspection by Sequoia Management will be held in March, allowing time for you to correct any violations before the pool season begins. Please remember that people with outstanding violations will not receive pool passes. Violation letters will give the deadline for work to be completed and there will be reminders on the Lafayette Village website, as well as on Nextdoor.

If you look around the community, you'll see many houses with lots of ugly green mildew, especially on siding. Cleaning siding and bricks is something we all need to take care of as part of the maintenance of our homes. While it's still too early to do exterior work, it's a good idea to look ahead and schedule someone to do power washing early in the spring. Notices will be sent to everyone with mildew stains but the whole region has the same problem, so it may be hard to get someone if you wait too late. Perhaps we could try to get a company to come in and bid on multiple properties for a lower price. Or perhaps we even have a resident with a company that does this work.

If you live on the East (Beltway) side of the community and haven't had your windows replaced, you may still have plastic mullions (grids) on the outside of the windows. Many mullions have cracked and broken off over the years and these will definitely be cited during the inspection. Our LVCA Board President, Donna, has used a California company to order replacement mullions online. It does take some time to order and receive the mullions. If you want to get ahead of the violation deadline, you may want to begin the process now. All mullions must be configured the same as the originals.

The company is: New Panes Creations, www.newpanes.com.

While I understand that winter storms can affect our trash pickup schedule, please use common sense during those times. Do not put out trash if the roads are impassable. Check out the Lafayette Village website for updates if you're not sure if a collection will take place.

One corner of Peyton Forest Trail, between 7906 and 7910 continues to be a real problem area. On Sunday, January 20th at 1:00 p.m. there was again a mound of trash piled near the mailbox, including open grocery store bags containing kitchen waste. Pizza boxes, plastic bottles, fast food containers and recycling were scattered everywhere by the wind.

*Poorly bagged trash on Peyton Forest Trail*

That same afternoon, Butterfield Lane had 4 homes that had put out trash and recycling far too early.

This is **Regulation 1.18** from the **ACC Guidelines:**

**Trash must be placed in secured containers or in heavy duty, tightly closed, plastic bags (i.e. not in small grocery bags) to avoid being blown around the community and/or attracting animals. Containers should be placed at or near the curb in front of your unit. Our mail carriers have asked that trash not be placed near the mailboxes.**

This regulation applies to owners and renters alike.

All these people on Butterfield and Peyton will receive violation letters from Sequoia. Be aware that after the third violation a resident may be called for a hearing with the Board of Directors, and subsequent incidents will incur a fine of $50.

# *Committee Updates, continued ….*

*Our pool is hibernating for the winter!!*

## Pool and Recreation Committee – Lisa Conoly, Chair

There may be snow on the ground but plans have begun for the upcoming pool season. Look for the 2019 Pool Pass Application form in the Spring issue of the newsletter. Email me at lisac_234@hotmail.com with your comments or suggestions.

## Communications Committee – Donna Jacobson, Chair

**Newsletter**

I hope you are enjoying Lafayette Village's Winter Newsletter. From now on you will be receiving our newsletter four times a year, one for each season! The Winter Newsletter will be issued at the beginning of February. The Spring Newsletter will be issued in the middle of April and will include the signup form for swimming pool passes. The Summer Newsletter will be issued at the beginning of August and the Autumn Newsletter will be issued at the beginning of November.

You'll also find a new feature where we will occasionally highlight some of the interesting neighbors in our community, including adults, children and even pets! Please don't hesitate to reach out and share your accomplishments and stories. I am looking forward to including them in our newsletter.

As always I welcome the opportunity to include your story ideas, photos, ads and more in our upcoming newsletters! You can contact me via email at newsletter@lafayettevillage.org.

## Grounds Committee – Mike Nutbrown, Chair

The grounds committee is starting the New Year with new energy to get jobs going. We're continuing to get quotes for some of the serious drainage and erosion issues in the community. We hope to find a way to get many of these jobs done in early spring before another rainy season. The list is lengthy, but major areas of concern include areas behind houses like behind Colonial Village Row and Newport Glen Pass bordering the meadows, the washed out area between the rows of Yorktown Village Pass, and some existing drains that just aren't doing the job.

We're still deliberating about community lights, but expect to come to a final decision on this in the next month. You should expect to see new LED lights around the community in the coming months. A few example lights are already installed on Hancock Forest Trail as our test case. Have a look and send any feedback to grounds@lafayettevillage.org.

We expect to be changing our landscape contractor (again) this year. If that happens, we'll do our best to communicate instructions as quickly as possible for those of you on the "do-not-touch" list for your front yard shrubs. We also expect that you'll have the opportunity to contract directly with the new contractor if you need your back yard cut.

Turning to spring, I expect we'll be planting new trees and shrubs in the community to replace trees taken out in the fall as well as spots that need a little something added. Of course we'll also be planning for our annual Earth/Arbor Day celebration in just a few months.

A contract was signed last year to have our streets "rejuvenated" early this year. It will be a big deal with the need to move cars on certain streets on certain days similar to a few years ago when the streets were re-paved. More on this as the date approaches.

All this and much more to come in 2019! We're always on the lookout for new members in the committee to give input and get these tasks done. Please reach out if you'd like to join the grounds committee or would like to attend a meeting.

## *And the Holiday Decorations Contest Winners are ….*

### 1st Place

*3711 Merrimac Trail*

### 2nd Place

*7859 Newport Glen Pass*

### 3rd Place

*7843 Ashley Glen Road*

### Honorable Mention

*7831 Byrds Nest Pass*

### Honorable Mention

*7932 Peyton Forest Trail*

# *Notes on the Community Garden ….*

***By Anne Sansbury, LVCA's Garden Sage***

So, it's cold and nasty out, and the LVCA community garden probably looks forlorn and raggedy, but a committed gardener never stops thinking about the plants and configurations for next season's crops. Will you plant in rows running east-west or north-south? Or will you plant in boxed off sections? Will you put in three tomato plants or five this year? Heirloom tomatoes? Cherry tomatoes? One potato, two potatoes, red potatoes, blue potatoes? Or plain old brown ones? Will you plant marigolds to keep the bad bugs away? How much compost will you add? Do you need to add any topsoil? How many bags of mulch will you need, and where will you get it?

These questions are fun for gardeners to ponder, but what if you don't have a garden plot and your back yard is too shady for growing crops? Please send an email to asansbury@gicgroup.com and get yourself on the garden plot waiting list. Unfortunately, we usually lose some of our beloved gardeners each year and we frequently end up with an extra plot or two to rent. The Board will be reviewing the garden contract and rental fee soon, so you should also email if you just want this information when it's available. Meanwhile, enjoy these chuckles.

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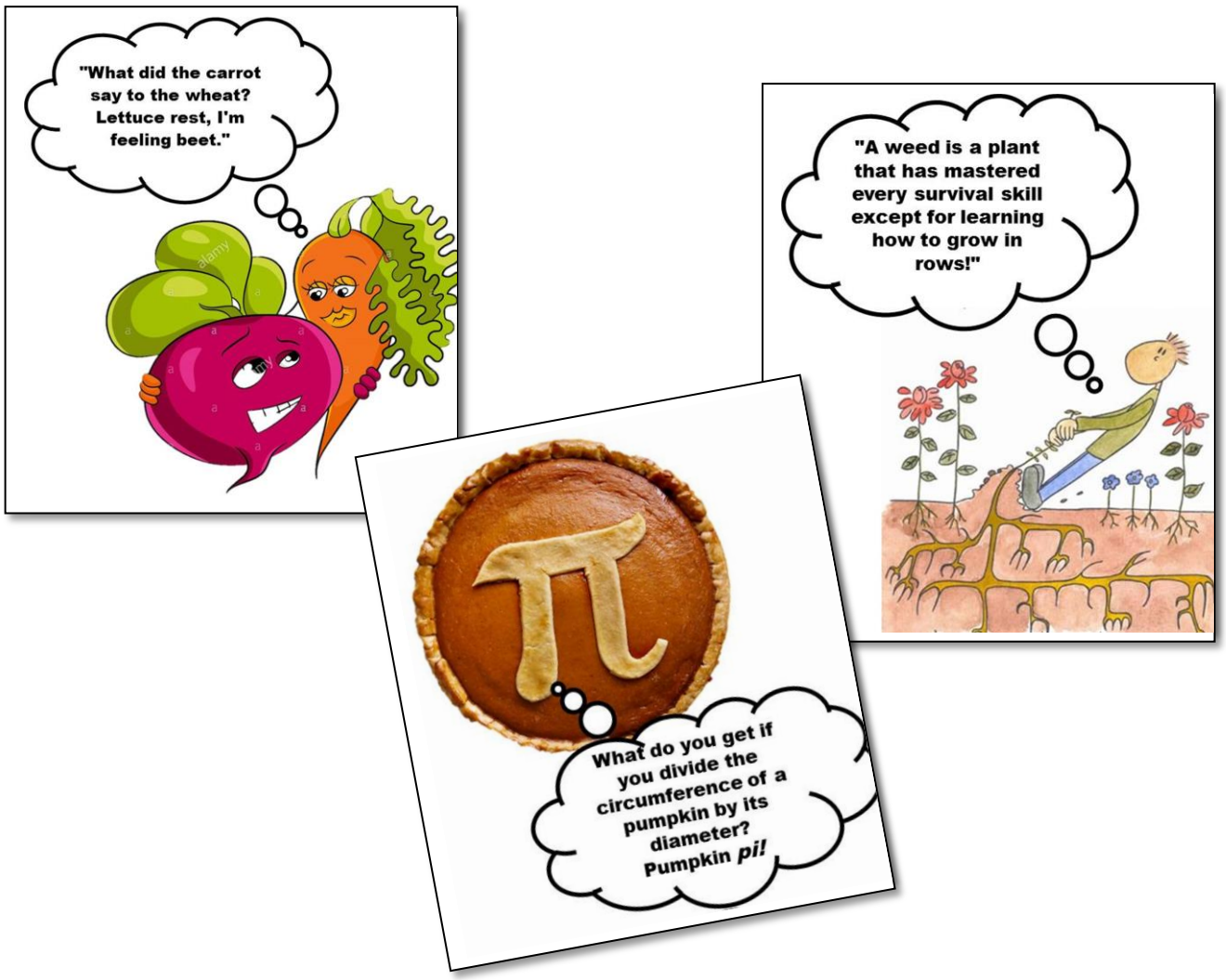


# *Meet Our Neighbors ….*

*Lafayette Village resident David Duncan recently answered some questions about his experience competing in the Cozumel Ironman Triathlon Race this past November.*

**1. How long have you lived in Lafayette Village?**

I moved in to my place on Mount Airey Lane in February 2011, it's hard to believe it has been 8 years but I love my neighbors and Lafayette Village!

**2. Why and when did you decide to do an Ironman triathlon race?**

Ten years ago I got divorced and was starting over again. I started working out, lost 60 pounds and reignited my interest in sports/fitness. I think in some way I was trying to regain control over my life again. There are so many things in life that we have no control over, but I am the master of my body and fitness/exercise is one way that I get to exercise that control. In November of 2011 I was watching the NBC special on Ironman Kona, which is the championship race in Hawaii every October. I was seeing the professionals yes, but also so many regular people including people in their 80's, people with disabilities, and even people missing arms and legs doing the race. I was so inspired that I made a decision that day that I was going to do one. In 2011 I ran a 5k race, then did a sprint triathlon, then Olympic distance triathlon, Spartan races, 1/2 marathon, century bike ride (100 miles), etc..... culminating in the Ironman. I have always enjoyed pushing myself to accomplish something a little more challenging physically. I obviously took my time working my way up to it (7 years) but finally took the leap and signed up.

**3. How and how long did you prepare for the event?**

I was in pretty good shape to start with but spent 3 months training for a Half Ironman in June and then did 3 more months training for the full distance race. Training was typically 8-12 hours/week.

**4. Why did you choose the Cozumel Ironman?**

A couple of reasons: 1) it is a beautiful, scenic race and not knowing whether or not I would ever do another one this one needed to be special, 2) nothing better than being able to spend a week on the beach after you complete your race LOL, 3) the race date gave me the time to train for it.

**5. I know you finished, *YAY!* How did you rank?**

I did not rank very high for my age group but every time you do a new distance race the goal is just to finish! If you finish, that is a success and then you can start working on improving that personal best. Although you compete with many others out there, unless you are one of the top 0.1% of athletes in the world competing for the championship, it is still very much a personal race. Everyone has their own goals and is just trying to do a little better than they did last time, called a PR (Personal Record).

# *Meet Our Neighbors, continued ….*

**6. Did you ever doubt you would finish?**

It is a funny thing; you start out training for this thinking "How am I ever going to do this?" It seems like an impossible goal, but the further you go in training, the longer your rides and runs get, the more attainable it starts to feel. I was lucky, I was able to finish out my training plan without major interruption, e.g. I didn't get injured or sick. Once you have put in 6 months of work and you know you have the fitness you start worrying about all of the logistics of nutrition, timing, pacing..... There really is a science to just keeping your body going for 14 hours and everyone needs to figure out their formula. I knew I was fit enough to finish, but there are never any guarantees on race day!

*At the Finish Line!!*

Photos courtesy of David Duncan

**7. How has your life changed since you competed?**

I think I have calmed down a little. I am glad I did an Ironman but have at least partially quenched that need to prove something to myself. I have my weekends back too, LOL. Training took up a lot of time.

**8. Do you think you'll compete in an Ironman again?**

Definitely, I have so many triathlete friends now; they are part of my community. I might be picky about which ones and how many I do though, it is a big time commitment.

**9. Do you have any stories you'd like to share about your experience?**

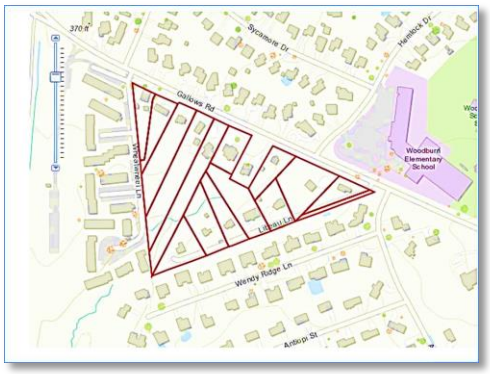
You mean like 4 hour bike rides in the cold rain, or having to run for 2 hours on the treadmill because of the weather LOL? Mostly how touched I was by how many people were so encouraging: my fellow triathletes, friends, family, and neighbors… so many who really cared and wished me well! Especially my wife who gave me the time and space to prepare for this, she is a saint!

**10. Do you have any advice for someone who might be interested in competing in an Ironman triathlon race?**

It is a big commitment but DO IT! It will completely change what you believe about yourself and what you think you are capable of. Almost anyone can do this if you are willing to put in the effort. It is a process but everyone in the Ironman community wants to help, so lean on them and learn.

# *News from the Mason District Council*

***By Donna Jacobson, LVCA's representative to the Mason District Council***




*Proposed Woodburn Manor development.*

**SE#2018-MA-005; Woodburn Manor**

The Planning Commission is expected to have a final vote on this proposed development on **Wednesday, February 6th.** After that, the proposal will be heard by the Board of Supervisors. If you have concerns about this proposal, now is the time to voice your concerns to the Planning Commissioners and the Board of Supervisors. Make sure to reference proposal SE#2018-MA-005 on any comments which you submit.

You can contact the Planning Commissioners at Plancom@fairfaxcounty.gov and ask that the clerk distribute your email to all commissioners.

You can also contact the following County Supervisors with your comments:

Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Board of Supervisors at chairman@fairfaxcounty.org

Penny Gross, Mason District County Supervisor at mason@fairfaxcounty.org

**Virginia Senate Bill 1701; Short-Term Rentals**

January 29th, the Virginia Senate Committee on Local Government passed the STR bill sponsored by Senator Ebbin, SB 1701, by a 9 to 4 vote. This bill targets Fairfax County's new STL ordinance and allows the state government in Richmond to dictate local government regulations. This bill is being proposed just three months after Fairfax County had lengthy discussions and followed all necessary procedures to come up with a reasonable STL policy for the County. Specific to Fairfax county Senators on the committee, Senators Marsden and Favola voted against the bill. Senator Surovell of the Mt. Vernon area voted in favor, along with Senator Ebbin, who sponsored the bill.

The bill now goes to the Senate floor to be heard **Monday, February 4th.** If you have concerns about this bill, you need to contact Senator Saslaw (head of the minority caucus) as soon as possible and voice your concerns. Senator Saslaw's contact information is as follows: district354@senate.virginia.gov or 703-978-0200.

# *Snow days around Lafayette Village ….*

*Snow bunny!*

*LVCA's first snowman!*

*Where's the fire hydrant?!*

*Mystery solved thanks to an assist from Mount Airey Lane neighbor Dustin Nguyen!*

*The young men of Mount Airey Lane clearing snow around the mail boxes.*

*Be sure to say "thank you" to Kyle, Evan, Johnnie and Justin for being good neighbors!*

*Lovely even at night.*

*A special thanks to all who submitted photos for this issue: Donna Jacobson, Amy Phipps, Angela Cutter, Carl Iddings, and Lisa Conoly!*

# *Fairfax County and Mason District information ….*

**Disposal of Unused/Expired Medications Available Year-Round** – The Fairfax County Police Department has NEW Prescription Medication Drug Take Back Boxes at its eight district stations throughout Fairfax County, adding to the 12 other sites currently available in the county. Look for the big green box in the stations' lobbies. Guidance for the safe disposal of medicines is available at the Health Department's website www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/drug-disposal. Questions? Contact the Police Department's Property and Evidence Section, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 703-246-2786. Additional information and collection boxes statewide also can be found at https://knowrx.org/

**Tax Preparation Available in Mason District** – AARP volunteers are providing free tax assistance through Monday, April 15, 2019 (federal tax returns), at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. File Virginia taxes before the deadline on Wednesday, May 1. AARP volunteers provide walk-in service on Mondays and Thursdays from 1 to 8 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.; Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Please note: No Tax-Aide service on President's Day, Monday, February 18, 2019. All returns are filed electronically. Bring documents, such as last year's tax return, a photo ID, and all Social Security cards. Residents with illnesses or infirmities, which confine them to their homes, may schedule appointments with AARP for tax preparation services by calling 571-766-6268. For more information about AARP Tax-Aide, visit www.aarp.org/taxaide, or call 1-888-227-7669

**VDOT Is Ready for Snow this Winter** – The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has resources available during snow season, which include plow-tracking technology, and online resources for residents to use. More than 2,500 VDOT crewmembers, in addition to contractors, are available for snow removal statewide. Visit www.virginiadot.org/novaemergency to access all of VDOT's online information resources, including important messages and updates, news releases, and links to the customer service center, 511, and vdotplows.org.

**Stuff the Bus and Help ACCA Help Feed Fairfax County Families** – During the winter, community food pantries run low on non-perishable food to assist individuals and families in need within our community. On Saturday, February 9, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., the "Stuff the Bus" program will be at the Annandale Giant, 7137 Columbia Pike, and will benefit the Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA). Additional "Stuff the Bus" events are scheduled through Monday, February 18, 2019, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at local grocery stores. For more information, and a list of donation sites, collection dates, and times, call 703-222-9764; TTY 711, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/stuff-the-bus.

## *Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 10th*

Don’t forget – when you turn your clocks forward one hour on March 10th, also **change the batteries in your smoke alarms throughout your home** and check the expiration date on your carbon monoxide detector.

This simple act could save your family’s life!

It’s easy to replace the hard-wired smoke detectors in our homes – step-by-step instructions can be found at:

https://lafayettevillage.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/How-to-Replace-Your-Lafayette-Village-Smoke-Alarm.pdf

# *Community Ads ….*

**Interior Decorator and Home Organizer:** I'm a professional organizer and interior decorator living in Lafayette Village. A New Year is here, let's declutter and put some spark back in your home! We can start as a small project or the entire house 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.

**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.

## *Fairfax County's Bicycle Map*

There are many trails and bike routes throughout Fairfax County that are suitable for all ages and abilities. Whether you are going for a spin around the neighborhood, biking to work or school, or enjoying your local park on two wheels, the Fairfax County Bike Map can help you find the best and most enjoyable route to your destination.

You can obtain a free copy of the print version of this map at a variety of locations around the County, including local bike shops, the information desk at the Fairfax County Government Center, any district supervisor's office and the Fairfax County Department of Transportation office. For any of these locations, FCDOT recommends calling ahead to make sure they have printed versions in stock.

The Bike Fairfax Interactive Map displays the same useful information found on the printed version of the Fairfax County Bicycle Map in an interactive online format. The map can be viewed on a smart phone without an app! For the most current road and construction information, please visit VDOT's Virginia Traffic Information.