



The Lyon Village

Bulletin

November 2003

Lyon Village Citizen's Association
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~Thanksgiving~

American holidays are often seen as commercial ventures as one sale follows another. That may be the public face of American tradition, but we are more connected than that. Thanksgiving is the most traveled holiday of the year.

Families reunite; culinary arts that lay dormant for many working couples during the year become fragrant, creative reminders of how much Americans have for which to be thankful.

LV Holiday Party Planned for December 21

Mark your calendar and join your neighbors at the Holiday Party December 21, 4-6 pm, at the Community House. Bring family and friends to welcome Santa to the Village. There will be entertainment, cookie decorating (and eating!) and holiday punch. A few elves are needed for publicity, setup, baking treats, serving punch or clean up. Please call Mileva Hartman (703) 841-9287 (mhartman@nsf.gov) to volunteer an hour or so of your time to make this a festive event.

Health Note

And not to be Scrooge, but the flu season is upon us. Did you know that, each year, influenza kills an average of 36,000 people and hospitalizes another 110,000? Check with your medical provider to see if he recommends that you get either the flu shot or the new nasal spray form of the vaccine. October and November are the best months for immunizing, but the season runs through January so be prepared. And of course for the more common "flu," lay in a supply of comfort food such as chicken soup and remember the BRAT diet: bananas, rice, apple-sauce and toast.

Community House Cleanup.

Join Tom Harrison in the fall community house cleanup and donut fest: Nov. 15 at 9:30. Make it a family affair.

Meeting Monday Nov. 10, Community House 8 pm

We have two topics:

(1) Community House report and elections. Mary Ann Lilly, chair of the Lyon Village Community House Board of Governors, will present a brief report on the state of the House and the slate of candidates for the Board of Governors and trustees. About 10 minutes.

(2) Preparing for winter and the next power outage. We have invited several knowledgeable people to present ideas on how you can minimize disruptions from the next power outage. What kind of generator to buy, how to hook it into your electrical system, how to stay in hot water, etc.

Meeting main topic: Winter Preparedness

Loss of power for 5 to 9 days in much of the Village after Isabel was a serious inconvenience, but fortunately it occurred during mild weather with still relatively long days. A winter ice storm or heavy wet snow could have far more serious consequences, with loss of heat, frozen pipes, etc.

At our November 10 meeting, we want to explore some of the ways you might minimize the impact of the next power outage. For example, when the power goes out, our home heating systems go down, yet they require only a small amount of power to run fans (for forced air systems) or pumps (for hot water systems); the primary fuel is gas or oil. One way of keeping the system running (as well as well as a few lights and the TV) is to generate your own electricity with a generator. Should you buy one and, if so, what kind, how big, what will it cost, and how would it interface with your electrical system? What kind of gas hot water heater should you buy — some Village residents who lost power maintained hot water, but others did not. Other tips: keep an old fashioned (non-electrical) telephone in the house, and a battery operated radio.

Clarendon Developments

Cheesecake Factory. As of this writing the new restaurant was scheduled to open on November 3. If it is as popular as at other locations, will generate a lot of traffic and parking problems. A certain amount of construction cleanup on the site occurred the other week following comments made at the Lyon Village Candidates' Night program on October 13. As of this writing the street lights still were not working on the block.

Hartford office building. It still has no tenant and none is in the immediate offing. The parking garage operator is selling monthly passes to commuters and guaranteeing spaces for at least 6 months.

BF Saul project on the Hard Times and Clarendon Center blocks. This office-residential project continues to proceed through the County's site plan review public planning process despite the fact that the use does not conform with the County Board's December 7, 2002, resolution on use for the site (primarily office). The project remains more than 60 % residential. A six-story office building would be built on the Hard Times block (the Hard Times building would remain) and 10 and 11 story residential towers on the Clarendon Center block across Clarendon Blvd.

Getting Wired

The Village has had lately more than its share of power outages. During Isabel, those without a "land line" were not able to get messages regarding ice distribution or to call for assistance. Check with your phone service for limited call programs under \$20 a month that could be a life line in an emergency.

And speaking of lines, the Village's colorful extension cords from house to house after Isabel were an admirable demonstration of Village community spirit. According to the experts, they were also dangerous.

Dulles Electric and Supply, which made your editor a heavy duty, 200' connecting cord, shared the following information.

Extension cords aren't designed to withstand vehicles driving over them. Extension cords should not be overloaded by multiple connections. The power decreases as it passes from one cord to the next, and the result is reduced electricity at the far end. This under powers the motors of your appliances and can cause costly damage later.

What to do? Buy a single cord of appropriate length and gauge. Consider carefully an alternative power source, such as a generator. Before you buy, know your appliance power needs both at start up and while running. And never run a generator indoors.

As winter moves in, consider restocking your wood pile. Look for dry, hard wood and know that a cord is measured as 128 cubic feet or a stack 4' x 4' x 8'.

Lyon Village Dues

If you have mailed in your 2003-04 dues, please send checks payable to "LVCA" to

LVCA Treasurer Carl Mattick
1428 N. Fillmore St.
Arlington, VA. 22201

Or drop in Carl's mail slot.

Dues are \$10 per household, \$7 for an individual.

Clarendon Sector Plan. The Sector Plan Review task force continues to meet. The most recent focus has been on streets and traffic. It has been suggested that traffic lanes on the arterial streets should be reduced to 10 feet from the current 11-12 feet. Narrower streets can have a traffic calming effect and reduce pedestrian crossing distances. However, trucks and buses generally need 11 foot lanes. A Lyon Village concern is that the arterial streets need to work; if they don't, drivers will seek out neighborhood streets.

The group is also looking at side street widths both in the commercial area and on streets that enter the neighborhoods. There are proposals to narrow the side streets in the commercial area (e.g., Fillmore and Garfield) to one travel lane in each direction, with a parking lane on each side. Highland, however, would mostly be two travel lanes in each direction, but only one lane in each direction north of Wilson Blvd. There would be nubs at the corners to tighten the intersections and reduce pedestrian crossing distances.

Lyon Village Web Page and Email List

Lyon Village webmaster Jo-Anne Fouad is working on a new Lyon Village web page which we hope to have up and running by January. We will provide you with further details and things progress.

However, we maintain an extensive email list of Lyon Village residents, which we use to remind people of monthly meetings and other matters of interest. For example, we used the email list to advise that the DHS building garage could be used for overnight parking the night of Isabel.

To sign up for the LV email list, email lvbulletin@hotmail.com with the subject line "subscribe". Please remember to add lvbulletin@hotmail.com to any 'exceptions' list or filters you are using.

Parents Homework Seminar

Doug Ridenhour, Director of the Huntington Learning Center, will present A Parent's Survival Guide: Handling Homework for Children in K-12 on Nov. 17, 7:30 at the Community House. This free seminar is sponsored by the LV Women's Club. Dessert will follow. For information on the event or club, contact Meg at 703-524-4482 or at LVWC@comcast.net.

Free Vocal Lessons

Potomac Harmony Chorus, the 2002 Blue Ridge Regional Champions in Sweet Adelines International, is offering **5 free vocal lessons** to women who like to sing. The lessons are from 7-8 PM on the following Monday evenings: Nov. 17, 24, Dec. 1, 8, and 15. Registration is from 6:30-7:30 PM at the Social Hall of the Faith Lutheran Church, located at the corner of N. Jackson St. and Route 50 in Arlington. Participants will be eligible to sing with the Chorus at a Holiday performance at Ballston Common Mall, Wed. Dec. 17.

For information call 703-764-3896, www.potomacharmony.org or potomacharmony@yahoo.com.

When Technology Fails...

Apologies for the difficulty that you had this month sending your Market items via email. The web address was blocked due to a problem that took MSN almost a whole day to correct belatedly! The address below is working, and we hope you will send in lots of items for the next issue.

Bulletin items due by **November 20th** to: Marolyn Hatch **NEW EMAIL: lvbulletin04_3@msn.com**