



The Lyon Village Bulletin

www.lyonvillage.org

January 2006

*Lyon Village Citizen's Association
Arlington, VA
Mark Weinress, President
markweinress@msn.com
(703)516-0956*

Easy Access for Reporting Site Plan & Zoning Violations

Problems with construction projects in and adjacent to LV and issues regarding zoning violations can now be easily reported on the internet. Captain Reardon, our Second District Commander has informed us that after working with County staff for a number of months on an online format to report site plan or zoning violations, it can now be done online at the Arlington Police website at <http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/Police/PoliceMain.aspx>.

When reported, a copy goes to Code Enforcement for follow-up.

A Fun Time Was Had by All...

Our neighborhood enjoyed a wonderful Holiday Party last month where much fun and good food was had by all! We want to thank Rick Iglesias and all his elves, including Mrs. Michelle Klandermans and Gloria Melendez, along with all the friends and neighbors for their support and help to make the party possible! Our neighborhood owes a special thanks to all the businesses, Faccia Luna, Hard Times Café, Whitlows On Wilson, Boulevard Wood Grill, Clarendon Grill, Mexicali Blues, Wallace T W Construction, and American Realty Group that generously contributed to the Lyon Village Holiday Party.

LV Directory Updates

Please pencil these changes into your copy of the Directory. The phone number for Dan & Denise Rabun is incorrect. It should be 703.489.9166. And add our new neighbors John Sullivan & Elizabeth Sommerfield at 1612 N Hartford St, 703.528.8338. Please send Directory updates to: markweinress@msn.com.

LV Women's Club Meeting on January 25

The Lyon Village Women's Club will have a short meeting at 7:30 on Wednesday Jan 25, 2006 to discuss the spring itinerary. All are welcome. To be held at the home of Meg MacKenzie at 1800 N. Wayne St, 703-524-4482.

**Check www.lyonvillage.org for
all the latest news and events.**

General Meeting: Monday January 9th Be Involved in Your Neighborhood!

Park Planning in Lyon Village

At Monday's General Meeting we are excited to have Bernadette Grullon, architect for the Arlington County Department of Parks here to discuss the plans for the playground area of the park adjacent to the Lyon Village Community House. The extended planning process for this County Park is finally coming to fruition and construction work has begun! At this meeting, there will be the opportunity to do some final tweaking on the plan for the park. Our neighborhood wants to help insure we get the best possible plan for this County Park in our midst; this is your chance to be involved in the process. Please plan to come to the meeting to provide your input, especially if you have children who will be using the park. One of the exciting features of the park will be a new water play feature for children who use the park. This feature is being added to a number of County Parks for the benefit of our children in Arlington.

Over the last couple of years, a plan to update and improve the playground at the park has been developed by neighbors in Lyon Village working with the County Department of Parks. Ms Grullon is the architect working with our community to design the park. The history of the park planning process goes back about two years. The process was discussed at a General Meeting and members of the LV community were invited to join the committee to help design the park area with the county's architect. At another General Meeting, proposed the plans for the park were discussed. The planning committee met a number of times and developed goals and a general design for the park. After much thought and discussion these ideas were put to work in the architect's design for the park. This process and the progress of the park were reported in our Bulletin. We want to thank those dedicated Lyon Villagers who gave their time and energy to work on the plan for this park. It is people like these who help to make Lyon Village a better place for us all.

Neighborhood input is much appreciated in these planning cycles, of which we have many. At Monday's meeting, we will be requesting input from attendees on brainstorming ideas on how to involve more of our neighbors in the developments and changes that take place in our community. Please do take the time to attend the General Meeting and consider becoming more involved in the Lyon Village process. Also consider attending Executive Committee meetings at 8 pm on the first Monday of the month at the Community House. Finally, be sure to regularly check the Lyon Village website at www.lyonvillage.org. Be an informed and involved citizen of the village!

Hudson Street Improvements

On December 8, the County's Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Advisory Committee voted to recommend to the County Board that the North Hudson Street improvement project be approved. Gaining the Advisory Committee's approval is a critical step in getting NC projects funded. The County Board routinely follows the committee's recommendations. The project includes installation of a 4' concrete sidewalk on the West side of the street, curb and gutter, planted corner nubs and textured crosswalks. Due to funding constraints, the committee recommended that the Carlyle light component of all projects approved at the December 8 meeting be dropped. Doing so reduced the Hudson Street project's cost by \$55,000. As a result, the street will be lighted with the cobra lights currently in use. The county's goal is to complete construction within 29 months of County Board approval, which is expected to occur in January. Lyon Village is hoping to coordinate construction on the Hudson Street project with the first phase of the project to narrow 13th Street between North Ivy and Highland Streets.

Thank You! to the Distributors of the Lyon Village Bulletin

The folks of Lyon Village owe a big Thank You to the people who work so hard to get the LV Bulletin to your home. The Executive Committee expresses appreciation for the faithful work, month after month of Bob Park (LVEC) and the Bulletin Distributors for their work of coordinating the Bulletin and getting it out to the neighborhood. Every few blocks in Lyon Village there is a distributor who takes the responsibility of delivering the Bulletin to your doorstep. Every effort is made to get you the Bulletin before our First Monday of the month's General Meeting at the Community House. Please remember that the new monthly Bulletin is always available online at www.lyonvillage.org even before it is printed, so look you can look there first for the latest news and events! If you are interested in serving the neighborhood as a Distributor or if you're ready to give up your term of duty, please contact Bob Park at rbparkfam2003@netscape.net.

Learning and Fun Opportunities for Seniors

Free computer classes for seniors are offered at Lee, Culpepper Garden and Carver Senior Centers. Call 703-228-4744 for more details.

A genealogy group meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Lee Senior Center, 5722 Lee Hwy., from 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Learn more about tracing family roots; share experiences. Call for details, 704-228-0555.

Chess club for seniors meets every Monday at 10:30 a.m., Madison Senior Center, 3829 N. Stafford Street. Instruction available at 10:00 a.m. No fee. Lunch available for \$3. Call for information, 703-228-5285.

Modern approach to low impact aerobics classes for seniors, taught by Kai Bandy, available Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:15 a.m., Aurora Hills Senior Center, 735 S. 18th Street. \$56 for 16 sessions. Call for more information, 703-228-5722.

The Yarn Crafters of Aurora Hills Senior Center make items for Arlington County charitable projects. Looking for more knitters and crocheters to meet every Monday, 10:30 a.m., 735 S. 28th Street. Donations of washable yarn appreciated. Call for details, 703-228-5722.

Happy New Year!!

A Wider I-66 in Our Future?

Lyon Village may be facing the noise of construction followed by more traffic if the proposed widening of I-66 is accomplished as planned. Governor-Elect Kaine has made I-66 a major goal on his agenda. On the morning following Election Day, Kaine pledged to widen I-66 inside the Beltway and build a rail line to Dulles airport. Helping to further this agenda, Congress earmarked \$27.6 million to widen a segment of westbound I-66 as part of the \$286.4 billion highway and mass transit bill passed July 29, 2005. Despite strong objection by Arlington County officials and citizens, a number of regional officials are pushing for the widening of I-66 inside the Beltway. While now facing congestion in both directions, most people agree that any relief from widening would be temporary at best.

As of now, there are no plans to widen the east bound portion of I-66, in large part because the additional traffic would back up at the Roosevelt bridge. Westbound congestion continues to increase as more and more jobs are located beyond the Beltway.

The *Coalition for Smarter Growth* suggests the following mix of solutions should instead be considered for I-66 inside the Beltway:

- High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) for both east and westbound traffic during peak hours
- High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes, which control demand by charging variable rates for driving during peak hours
- More frequent and express bus service to suburban job centers
- Building the proposed Metrorail extension to Tysons Corner
- Focusing new office development and jobs in walkable centers with rail, bus rapid transit and bus service

According to *the Arlington Coalition for Sensible Transportation* (ACST), we were promised a full and fair feasibility study responsive to Arlington's input when "Idea-66" was launched last year to review options for improving the highway. The study included a series of town meetings to gain citizen input. At none of these meetings, did the citizens of Arlington decide that widening I66 was a viable solution. In the end however, the "Idea-66" study incongruously recommended adding a third westbound lane to I-66. This was not substantiated by the study's own findings (Figure 6-2a on page 6-35) and seems manipulated to justify a pre-conceived conclusion. Besides failing to establish any legitimate basis or significant public benefit for widening the highway, the "Idea-66" study actually found that the planned Dulles Rail Extension and restoration of HOV-3 would significantly *decrease* I-66 traffic volumes from current levels. According to the final report, better managing the four existing I-66 lanes was superior to the addition of a third westbound travel lane.

Any added I-66 lanes in Arlington would likely preempt the space needed for third and fourth Metrorail tracks in the I-66 median. These additional tracks are essential for express Metrorail service to the outer suburbs and possibly even for basic Metrorail passenger capacity within Arlington. Without express service, the long and costly proposed Metrorail extensions would likely generate only modest ridership and require higher annual operating subsidies. Regrettably, the I-66 feasibility study failed to adequately consider the long-term needs for effective public transit operations in the I-66 corridor or to recommend any viable long-term plan to manage I-66 traffic congestion.

This is an issue that directly impacts us in Lyon Village. Many homes in Lyon Village have windows facing onto I-66 and many others can hear traffic noise. In addition, a good part of what makes Clarendon so desirable is our Metrorail accessibility. If as predicted, the Orange line faces gridlock in the near future, the quality of life and the value of our homes is likely to suffer. For further information, and to take action contact the *Coalition for Smarter Growth* at www.smartergrowth.net or 202.244.4408 and the *Arlington Coalition for Sensible Transportation* at www.acstnet.org or 703.271.0895. Please contact markweiness@msn.com if you are interested in working on a task force to address this issue.