



The Lyon Village Bulletin

www.lyonvillage.org

February 2006

*Lyon Village Citizen's Association
Arlington, VA
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LV Women's Club Meeting

The LV Women's Club will be meeting for High Tea at the Georgetown 4 Seasons on Friday Feb 24 at 2 pm. Cost will be \$32 per person. Anyone interested in attending, please call Meg MacKenzie at 703-524-4482.

Benefit Auction

Come join us at the *Doorways for Women and Families* annual Benefit Auction, "Building Hope, Rebuilding Lives" on Sunday, March 12, 2006 from 2:00-4:30pm at the Ritz-Carlton, Pentagon City. Help us celebrate the planned rebuilding of our Emergency Family Shelter. Enjoy great food, champagne and a fantastic silent auction, featuring items from retailers and organizations such as Coach, L'Occitane, Sony Style, Sephora and the Washington Performing Arts Society. Tickets are \$100 per person, \$900 for a table of ten. Please contact Meg MacKenzie 703-524-4482 to book or for further information.

LV Directory Update

Please pencil our new neighbors Jeff and Karina Krilla into your copy of the LV Directory. Their address is 2625 N 18th St. Please send Directory updates to markweinress@msn.com.

Make Summer Miracles Come True

Kidsave International needs host families and volunteers for its upcoming Summer Miracles Program. The Summer Miracles Program serving DC, Northern Virginia and Maryland brings older children ages 7-15 from orphanages in Colombia and Russia to the U.S., where they spend six weeks living with American families. During this time spent together, families and children get to know one another in a comfortable, relaxed, nurturing environment. Over 90% of Summer Miracles children have found parents by participating in this program. If you would like to make a difference in these children's lives, please email kidsavedcsm@cox.net. For more information see the web site at www.kidsave.org.

General Meeting Monday February 13 at 8pm At the Lyon Village Community House

Planning for the Future of Lyon Village: Zoning, Land Use and Development

If you have not been taking advantage of the information available at our monthly General Meetings, this month's meeting on Planning for the Future of Lyon Village is the time to start.

At this month's General Meeting we will have the first in a series of three meetings focusing on Lyon Village and the development, zoning and land-use in our community. The first meeting will focus primarily on the effect of the proposed Clarendon Sector Plan on our neighborhood and our borders.

The Sector Plan proposal will be coming before the County Board in the next month or so. Our last Sector Plan was developed twenty years ago and resulted in the nearby dense high-rise urban development we have today. It is important to understand the greater density and development that the new plan may bring. At Monday's meeting we will see where Lyon Village falls within the Sector Plan area and what homes border it.

We will also look at the other edges of Lyon Village. There are changes coming to the zoning and General Land Use Plan (GLUP) on our Lee Highway border. Currently, proposals exist to create denser development along our side of Lee Highway; it has been suggested by County Staff that the service road that borders Lyon Village be removed to allow high-rise development up to the sidewalk line. This will have a great effect on any blocks in the Village that open to Lee and any houses that back to properties along the highway. There are currently conflicts in the zoning and the GLUP that further complicate this issue. Our neighborhood is looking to come up with solutions on how this may be resolved.

We will also see that there are homes within Lyon Village that are zoned for denser development, particularly at our edges. These homes could be replaced by townhouses or multi-family dwellings. It is very important that homeowners in the Village understand the repercussions of this and its potential impact on their property values. There will be maps presented at the meeting. This is a meeting everyone in the Village should plan to attend.

Coming up in March, we will look more closely at zoning, the GLUP and what the community might do within a revised Neighborhood Conservation (NCAC) plan. There will be an overview of what County Staff has suggested thus far. We will look at what has occurred along Lee Highway in other civic associations and how this impacts us. In addition, we will be working on the process of creating a Neighborhood Survey to present to County Staff for the purpose of providing guidance on what the homeowners of Lyon Village would like to see for our future and how this might be accomplished through our Neighborhood Conservation plan.

In a third meeting, later this year, we will review the results of the Neighborhood Survey as it helps determine what we recommend for Lyon Village along with looking at suggestions from County Staff.

This series of meetings will help you to understand your neighborhood, make educated decisions on what course you would like to see taken in its future development, and provide information to the County on those proposals. It is your future; please do not miss these important meetings on our neighborhood.

**Executive Committee Meeting on Monday Feb 6, 8pm at the
Community House—All Are Welcome to Attend**

Relay For Life

Relay for Life, an American Cancer Society event, is the culmination of months of fund raising efforts done by numerous teams throughout a community. Teams form in many different ways, and as this is a community-wide event, there will be groups covering all ages and types of organizations. This year's event will be held in mid-June, 2006. During the event there will be games, bands, contests, along with other entertainment. The event is not actually a race, but simply team members walking/running the track in the spirit of a traditional relay. Last year, *Relay for Life* raised over \$3 million in the National Capitol Region. For further information see the web site at http://americancancersociety.org/docroot/PAR/Content/PAR_1_Relay_For_Life.asp. The annual kickoff event will take place in late February. Please contact Allison Marie if you have interest in these events: marie.allison@gmail.com.

Full Circle Montessori School Opens in Ballston

Full Circle is a brand new Montessori school in the heart of Ballston at 1031 N Vermont Street, serving children 2-1/2 to 5 years of age. They are currently accepting applications for immediate and fall enrollment. For further information contact the Head of School, Tatjana Vichnevsky, at 202.207.4965 or tvichnevsky@fullcirclemontessori.com.

Free Gun Safety Locks for Home Use

The recent shooting of a child in Montgomery County with a handgun that was brought into the school, is another reminder of how dangerous firearms can be. The Arlington County Police have obtained gun locks that will be distributed free of charge through the Civic Associations. The locks are from *Project ChildSafe* which provides a safety kit that includes a cable-style gun locking device and safety education materials that remind gun owners to properly store firearms in the home. Please contact markweinress@msn.com if you would like to take advantage of this offer.



Neighborhoods and County Agree to Changes in the Proposed Clarendon Sector Plan

In a series of meeting in mid-January, a community group convened by County Board Chairman Chris Zimmerman supported significant reductions in the proposed increases in heights and densities in Clarendon in the draft plans submitted by County consultants and County staff. If implemented, these reductions would essentially hold heights and densities on the blocks between 13th Street and Wilson to those in the current plan, and reduce heights and densities on the Mexicali Blues—Faccia Luna block to encourage historic preservation. Both the draft plans and the community group proposals would reduce heights (but not necessarily densities) on the blocks between Wilson and Clarendon Blvd east of Highland St. Elements of community group agreement were affirmed by the County Board in special work session on January 23.

The group that Chairman Zimmerman convened includes representatives of the five Clarendon area civic associations (including Lyon Village), the Clarendon Alliance, and several County advisory bodies (the Planning, Transportation, Housing, and Economic Development Commissions). Both the consultants' draft issued in December 2004 and the staff draft issued in September 2005 called for a substantial increase in heights and densities in Clarendon over those in the current plan, and substantial bonus density for a number of community "benefits," including more offices. The draft plans also call for some less controversial changes, including preservation of some older Clarendon buildings, open space changes, and street and pedestrian improvements, including the Wilson and Washington Blvd intersection. The five neighborhood associations, in joint letters last spring and again in November, expressed opposition to many elements in the draft plans, particularly to the increased heights and densities and several of bonus density categories.

Focusing on the areas close to Lyon Village, beginning with the blocks between 13th Street and Wilson Blvd., the community group would leave the heights and densities of the current plan largely in place. The draft plans would have lowered the height allowed along the 13th Street edge, but then allowed greater heights just beyond, and a new maximum height of 128 feet just beyond the middle of the block. We opposed the draft plans because they would have brought more height and density closer to Lyon Village and increased the overall amount of height and density allowed on these blocks, including blocks already developed.

The community group proposed that the height on the DHS Building block remain at 75 feet (the height of the current building). The consultant and staff plans would have raised the maximum height to 102 feet.

Moving further to the east, the community group proposed that the height be limited to two stories on the Mexicali—Faccia Luna block, with provision for density transfer for building preservation to an offsite location. It called for a height limit of 45 feet on the other blocks east to Danville. The draft plans also called for full building preservation on the Mexicali Blues—Faccia Luna block, but otherwise for building heights of up to 45 feet on the blocks between Garfield and Danville Streets.

The community group rejected a number of the bonus densities called for in the draft plans. Specifically, it opposed the proposed bonuses densities for office (as unnecessary), small tenant retention (site plan conditions would be a better approach), and public art (no standards had been set). The community group supported bonus density for historic building preservation, with the amount of bonus still to be worked out. It recommended that bonuses for affordable housing and LEEDs score (environmentally efficient buildings) follow adopted County policy and not be a separate item in the Clarendon plan. The community group also supported removal of the bonus density for residential construction that is in the current sector plan.

As of this writing, community group meetings are ongoing. These meetings are open to the public.

Update: A Wider I66 in Arlington?

Many in Lyon Village are concerned about the construction noise, possible encroachment and environmental issues associated with the addition of a third west-bound lane to I-66. The advocacy of the Arlington Coalition for Sensible Transportation (ACST), the regional Sierra Club and the Coalition for Smarter Growth has led VDOT to substantially clarify its study proposal for the adding of a third west-bound lane to I66 in Arlington County. Board Chairman, Chris Zimmerman has had the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority and the TPB to incorporate several key conditions into their authorizations. Among these are requirements that keep "any proposed construction...within the existing right-of-way", "maintain any adjacent parkland or the Custis Trail", and not "degrade safety" or "preclude a third Metrorail track and express bus operations." Currently, \$50.5 million is earmarked for fiscal year 2007 to construct a a third westbound lane for I-66. For further information see the following web sites: For the revised VDOT Study Proposal of 1/12/06 see <http://www.mwcoq.org/uploads/committee-documents/vFpeVls20060112164111.pdf>; for the TPB resolution authorizing a \$9.6 million study of I-66, on 1/16/06 see <http://www.mwcoq.org/uploads/committee-documents/ulpdV1k20060119134743.pdf>. To contact Allen Muchnick of ACST email: info@acstnet.org or tel 703-271-0895. ACST's web site is <http://www.acstnet.org>.