



# The Lyon Village Bulletin

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December 2006

Lyon Village Citizen's Association  
Arlington, VA  
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## Lyon Village Holiday Party Sunday, Dec 10 Volunteers Needed!

Please join us at the Lyon Village Community House for the annual Holiday Party from 4 to 7pm. This event for family and friends welcomes Santa to the Village. This is always a fun time! Donations for Toys for Tots will be collected. If you would like to participate, please bring an unwrapped toy for donation to this terrific organization. We are looking for volunteers and ideas for publicity, setup, baking treats, serving punch or clean up. The party is Potluck (folks can bring cookies or a dish to share), please let us know how you'd like to help and/or what you would like to bring. Please contact Andrea Briere at [abriere@nas.edu](mailto:abriere@nas.edu) to volunteer.

## LVCA Votes to Support Neighbors' Lawsuit

At the LV November General Meeting our community voted unanimously to grant a donation of up to \$5000 from LV funds to support the successful lawsuit against the First Baptist Church's proposed ten-story building planned for the site adjacent to Clarendon Metro in Lyon Village.

This proposed building, approved by the County, violates the County's own zoning laws and would loom over our neighborhood. The approval of this building was called "arbitrary and capricious" by the Virginia Supreme Court in handing down a decision stopping the construction of the proposed Clarendon Views high-rise.

The LVCA voted to authorize up to \$5000 from the treasury to be donated to help cover the \$200,000 in legal fees resulting from the pursuit of this suit against the county. Unlike other jurisdictions, the County is under no obligation to reimburse the plaintiff's legal fees, despite their losing the suit.

It is important for you to do your part in helping cover these legal costs which have resulted in a decision that protects all of us in Lyon Village and the surrounding neighborhoods. Please make checks payable to *Blankingship and Keith* (the law firm handling the neighbors' suit) and deliver to Mary Renkey at 1423 North Highland St. You may call 703.522.3952 for further information.

If each of the 800 households in our neighborhood were to donate \$190, the outstanding legal fees could be covered. Support the preservation of our neighborhood and please give as much as you can.

**There is no General Meeting in December  
Come have fun at the LVCA Holiday Party on  
Sunday December 10!!  
Happy Holidays!**

## Teardowns and Preservation Discussed at November General Meeting

There has been a lot of discussion and concern in our neighborhood about the pace of teardowns and the effect this may be having on the historic fabric of Lyon Village. At our November General Meeting we had a terrific presentation by Michael Leventhal, the County's Historic Affairs Coordinator, about the options that we might have under the County Zoning Ordinance. At our presentation, Michael noted that he had recently made a similar presentation to Lyon Park at the request of their civic association.

Michael described options that homeowners in the neighborhood might want to consider in the effecting of historic guidelines. The discussion focused on some broad ideas primarily aimed at preserving the character of the neighborhood. The audience showed a great deal of interest in pursuing some of the ideas that Michael presented.

In the December 1, 2006 issue of the *Washington Business Journal*, writer Kim Fernandez noted that the DC-based National Association of Home Builders has forecast a smaller number of tear-downs as part of the overall decline in housing starts expected for 2006 and 2007. Another reason for the decline in the number of teardowns could be that many neighborhoods have had enough of watching changes seen as negative and are working to save existing housing, often by adding onto existing homes in a sympathetic manner.

One Montgomery County neighborhood group came up with a plan to communicate the neighborhood's charm and wooded lots to newcomers by emphasizing those features in ads and creating a list of preferred contractors for renovations. To be on the list, a contractor must agree to modify the homes in their original architectural character.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, which ranked tear-downs in older neighborhoods on its list of the *Eleven Most Endangered Historic Places* in 2002, has developed an advocacy program for communities that want to stop the bulldozers. Several Washington-area neighborhoods, including Alexandria and Arlington were on the list of most-endangered neighborhoods. The Trust is trying to publicize alternatives to tear-downs and suggest incentives to promote additions, such as reducing or eliminating building-permit fees for additions.

Lyon Village was added to the National Register of Historic Places several years ago and is also on the Virginia State register of historic places. While both designations provide some tax benefits for homeowners who remodel, particularly at the State level, neither prohibits teardowns nor establishes any architectural or other controls on remodeling or new houses. Being listed however, does make it easier to enact means of preservation for a neighborhood. Protections must be granted by the County.

Exploring options for Historic Preservation in our neighborhood will require volunteers to help kick-off the exploration. If you have an interest in participating in a study group on this subject, please email [maw123@gmail.com](mailto:maw123@gmail.com). Please note if you have an interest in heading up this group.

## Break-In at LV Home – Homeowner at Home

There was a recent attempted robbery at a Lyon Village home in the 1400 block of N. Highland in broad daylight. The home backs to Garfield. A suspect broke a back door window, but was unable to enter because the deadbolt lock is double-keyed. The homeowner was home at the time and the police were called. If you see any suspicious activity, please call the police. If you would like to receive by email crime updates and other news provided by our precinct officer, please notify [markweinress@msn.com](mailto:markweinress@msn.com).

## December Local Outings For Arlington Seniors

Dec events for Seniors-call Arlington County Senior Adult Travel, 703-228-4749: Sun 12/17 Toby's Dinner Theatre, "Miracle on 34th Street," \$48. Tues 12/19 Mount Vernon, lunch & newly opened centers, \$35. Thurs 12/21 National Portrait Gallery & American Art Museum, D.C., \$8. Thurs 12/28 Charles Town Races and Slots, Charles Town, WV, \$26. Sat 12/30 The Kennedy Center, "Light in the Piazza," \$97.

### Scout Christmas Tree Sale

Boy Scouts from local Troop 162 will hold their annual Christmas Tree sale at the Dominion Hills Recreation Association, located at 6000 Wilson Boulevard. Douglas Fir, Frasier Fir, and Scotch Pine trees will be available from Nov 30th until they're sold. All trees are \$50. Hours are Mon to Fri from 3pm to 9pm, Sat from 8:30 am to 9pm, and Sun from 10am to 9pm. Fresh pine wreaths and roping will also be available. Hurry in before they're gone!

### CERT Training

Arlington will hold 4 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes: 1/11; 1/16; 3/22, and 3/27. Each class runs 8 weeks, meets in the evening, and includes an active exam on a Saturday morning. Classes include disaster prep, medical operations, search and rescue, fire suppression, team organization, and terrorism. Candidates must be 18 or older. Primarily CERT would provide neighborhood support during all kinds of events when first responders are unavailable. This is a good way to build your skills and serve your community. Send your name, address, and telephone numbers to [ArlingtonCERT@aol.com](mailto:ArlingtonCERT@aol.com).

### Online with Food & Friends @ Crate & Barrel

From Dec. 7-14, 2006: Need to finish your holiday shopping? Want to redecorate your home? Well, Food & Friends' online event with Crate & Barrel is the perfect way to meet all of your shopping needs while making a difference this season. Visit [www.foodandfriends.org/shoponline](http://www.foodandfriends.org/shoponline), not only can you enter a raffle for the chance to win a \$1,000 gift card to Crate & Barrel, but 10% of all purchases you make will be donated to Food & Friends.

### New Gallery in Clarendon

Consider a visit to the new fine art photography gallery in Clarendon, *The McGuire Collection* at 2622 Wilson Blvd, one block east of Whole Foods. Web: [www.themcguirecollection.com](http://www.themcguirecollection.com).

## Letter to the Neighborhood from a Lyon Village Neighbor

Dear Neighbors,

First and foremost, we would like to thank all our neighbors for their support over the past two years. Our legal battle with the County has not been easy.

As many of you know, we thought long and hard about taking on the lawsuit in the first place and also about pursuing an appeal after we lost in Arlington Circuit Court. We decided to pursue the lawsuit and the appeal because we felt that, if our neighborhood allowed the County to violate the laws that protect us all from overdevelopment, it would have set a terrible precedent allowing high-rise buildings to be built next to neighborhood homes all around the edges of Lyon Village and Clarendon. We were also concerned that such a precedent would have been used to justify overdevelopment not only at the edges of our neighborhood, but even within the neighborhood if non-residential owners (including, but not limited to, churches) wanted to redevelop for commercial purposes and trade extra height for "community benefits".

In other words, we believed that the First Baptist Church's proposed ten-story building would have been the beginning of direct encroachment of high-rise development into our neighborhood and eventually other neighborhoods in Arlington, and so we decided to oppose it.

Fortunately, the Virginia Supreme Court unanimously agreed with us (9-0) that the County acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner in rezoning the FBCC property. As a consequence, since that time, the Arlington Circuit Court has entered an order granting the relief we sought when we first filed our complaint and held that both the R-5 to C-R rezoning and the original site plan sought by the Church and approved by the County are void and of no effect. We believe this unanimous decision by the Virginia Supreme Court has greatly benefited Lyon Village as well as other neighborhoods in Arlington and will help to protect and preserve the viability of all our neighborhoods.

While the County was able to use our own tax money to defend their own illegal conduct and even to defray certain of the Church's expenses, we were forced to spend a great deal of money simply to hold them accountable and require them to follow the law.

Here is a breakdown of our expenses:

Amount billed by law firm to date: \$200,000

Amount funded by plaintiffs, and raised through raffle, yard sale and individual contributions: \$52,832.50

We regret asking for further financial support, especially when so many people have already given so generously. But, we hope each of our neighbors will consider giving something to help compensate the law firm that has helped us all, even if you have already given. Truly, every check helps.

Please make checks payable to Blankingship & Keith and send to Mary Renkey in the envelope enclosed with your copy of the Bulletin.

Thank you in advance for your support!!

Mary Renkey

### Faison Site on 13th Street Sold

Faison, the development company that obtained County Board permission last fall to build a major 10-story residential project in Clarendon along Irving St, between Washington Blvd and 13th St. (their original proposal contained a Harris Teeter grocery store but this was later dropped), has recently sold the property. We do not know the details of the sale or the intentions of the new owner.

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**Please send letters to the Editor for possible publication in the Lyon Village Bulletin to [markweinress@msn.com](mailto:markweinress@msn.com).**

## Village Market

**Paris France Apartment**, 7th Arr. available for rent over Christmas, New Year's and into the winter/spring 2007. Cozy, fully furnished 3-room apartment in the best neighborhood in Paris, 1 block from the Rodin Museum and walking distance to everything else! \$900 per week (plus cleaning fee) for 1-2 people, \$1,100 per week for 3-4. Lyon Village residents have stayed there and loved it. Call Lee at 202-349-8032 or email [alnesq@yahoo.com](mailto:alnesq@yahoo.com).

**Need stitches?** holes patched \* buttons sewed \* no job too small \* don't bawl \* call! H)703.525.1274 C)804.366.2323 Email) [makmay0201@hotmail.com](mailto:makmay0201@hotmail.com).

**New hard cover kids books:** Call of the Wild + White Fang (\$6.88); Laura Ingalls Wilder: The House Treasury (\$13); Secret Garden (\$8); Knights and castles soft back Time Traveler book and pop-up Castle (\$20 ages 8-10). Great holiday gifts! Marolyn @ 703-522-9074.

**Old-Time Clarendon Photos Needed:** Lyon Village neighbors are searching for old photos of downtown Clarendon or other parts of Arlington from the early 1900's through the 1950's to decorate a new upcoming Clarendon restaurant called The Liberty Tavern at 3195 Wilson Blvd, opening early 2007 and owned and operated by two Lyon Village families. Please contact Chris Normile at [cnormile@comcast.net](mailto:cnormile@comcast.net) or 703-622-9140 if you have any old photos we could copy, or have other suggestions on finding old Clarendon photos. Thanks.

**Early 1960's classic teak Scandinavian Modern Furniture:** Made and bought in Sweden. One dining room sideboard with two sliding doors, 75" long, 30.5" high and 17.5" deep, \$550 or best offer. One telephone table with one drawer and one cubby-hole, \$100 or best offer. Folding magazine racks - teak & cloth construction, \$25 for best offer. Units could be used in the same room - same color and finish. Call 703-522-5610 and ask for Lois or leave a message.

**Pet Care:** Going out of town over the holidays? Call Abby or Katherine for pet feeding, dog walking or other pet care at 703-528-3731.