



The Lyon Village Bulletin

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www.lyonvillage.org

January 2007

Lyon Village Citizen's Association
Arlington, VA
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Terrific Holiday Party!

We all owe a big "Thank You" to Andrea Briere (our Events Coordinator) and to Michelle Klanderman for all the work they did to put on a wonderful Holiday Party for us. It was a very fun event, with lots and lots of kids in attendance and fabulous food and refreshments. Thanks also to: Steve Natrella, strolling violinist; Tom Klanderman, Santa Claus; the clean-up crew - Melanie Cummings, Tania Downing, Scott Hall, Kim Heckler, Rose Holliday, Heidi Morrison, and Michael Weissmuller. Special thanks go to Billy Buck and Buck & Associates for their financial contribution. Please thank the restaurants who donated food with your patronage: Clarendon Grill, Lebanese Taverna (courtesy of Eunice Mazloon), and Whitlow's.

Better Backyard Habitat!

Wed, Jan 31, 2007, 7-9pm at Arlington Central Library Auditorium, 1015 N. Quincy St. If you're interested in some tips for making your backyard wildlife-friendly or if you already have a National Wildlife Federation-certified backyard habitat and want to learn more, join the Arlington Community Wildlife Habitat team and three local experts in native plants, Virginia habitats and wildlife for an educational seminar. The program will cover creating residential meadow habitats, tips for a beautiful backyard habitat year round, new and wonderful Virginia native plants, and the strategic importance of backyard habitats to a healthy urban environment. The program is free and refreshments will be served. For more info: 703-575-7608 or scwilkinson@netzero.net.

Update Your LV Directory

Jay and Lynn Brodsky, along with their young girls Sofia and Julia have recently moved to 2831 N Franklin and re-landscaped the red brick Tudor at the corner of Franklin and Fillmore. Let's welcome them to LV! If you're new to the neighborhood and want to let folks know so they can update their LV Directory, please send the info to markweinress@msn.com.

Arlington Seniors in Action!

Arlington's *Seniors in Action!* program offers a tremendous number of activities every month for those 55 years of age and older. Seniors may participate in lectures, classes, local outings, theatre, music, dancing, health information and many other events. Simply register with the Office of Senior Adult Programs (\$10 annual fee). Applications are available by calling 703-228-4744 or visiting a senior center. And, you can be as young as 55 to participate!

There is no General Meeting in January

The Executive Committee Meeting is on Monday Jan 8th, 8pm
at the Community House

All Are Welcome to Attend

Lyon Village Website

Go to www.lyonvillage.org to see our newly renovated Lyon Village website. Thanks go to Executive Committee member Greg Willis for his continuing work on the site. Greg created the new design and features you'll see, and there's more to come. Soon, you will be able to pay your LV dues online.

Our website is the place to go for the latest community news and events. In addition, the Lyon Village Bulletin appears on the website *before* it is published and delivered to your home. It's a place where you can learn about the history of our neighborhood. You can also sign up to receive email notices of Lyon Village events, date changes, and other important news at the website.

Please note that the site www.lyonvillage.com is not affiliated with the LVCA and is primarily an advertising site.

Big Houses Bothering You?

Questions keep coming about new homes and renovations in the neighborhood. Recently, a question was received regarding the impact of the lot restrictions enacted by the county not long ago. The question focused on why after the new coverage regulations, the new houses still look so big.

It's a sad fact that the new "restrictions" on home size were not well thought-out. The lot coverage restrictions limit the amount of property on which you can build. For our neighborhood, with its relatively small lots, this can result in an incentive to do teardowns and build taller houses. If people can't build out and spread the footprint of their home with an addition, the only alternative is to build up. Most homes in Lyon Village are below the maximum zoned height of 35 feet to the MIDDLE of the roofline. This means that houses can be 40 feet or more to the PEAK of the roof. The County is not looking at revising this rule, which in fact was fairly recently revised. After the dubious results of the past year's coverage restrictions, this may be just as well.

The result is that we will likely continue to see tall new homes with front-loading garages (driveways count as lot coverage and the new restrictions have the effect of discouraging the preferred rear lot garages traditional to our neighborhood). So, four-story houses, fully legal under county zoning, is what we'll likely see more of. The new Fire Code contributes to this because it requires habitable basements to have low interior sills for easy exit; this leads to basements that are primarily above ground, adding to the total height of the home.

Another question often asked is, "who is buying these large homes?" Today's families tend to desire more space than in past decades. Kids are more carefully supervised and spend less time outdoors due to increased dangers. Even couples without children are looking for more space these days. The fact is, many of the new homes built here are purchased by Lyon Villager's looking to stay in the neighborhood while gaining more space. This is part of a national trend and not specific to our area. Do we really need all this space? The answer seems to be that we need as much space as we think we need. Our cars have grown too; your neighbor's SUV has a lot more interior space than mom's station wagon did. It is also true that before the 1930's, homes in the US did tend to be larger than after WWII.

There has been interest shown in forming a group of neighbors to discuss setting some building guidelines for Lyon Village based on our listing as a National Historic Site (which in itself provides no protection to existing homes). Please contact maw123@gmail.com if you would like to participate on this committee. We need volunteers!

Thanks for LV Auction Items

We want to give belated thanks to those who donated to our 2006 Silent Auction in October at the Spaghetti Dinner raising \$2500 for the Lyon Village Community House. The following businesses deserve your patronage for their generous donation of auction items: a.k.a. Spot (pet supplies shop on Franklin at Wilson Blvd); Arlington Gift & Garden on Wilson; Earl's (donation of cookies and bowls of fruit); Giant Supermarket and The Italian Store at Lyon Village Shopping Center; Jake McGuire of Wilson Gallery, Mexicali Blues restaurant, Sala Thai Restaurant, Teal Center for Therapeutic Massage; Ingrid Wooten at Long & Foster; Griffin Head Renovation & Design; and Agnes Davis at American Realty who generously donated stays at five different vacation homes. We also need to thank our neighbors Clare Brewster, Mary Carney, Liz Resek, and Laura Steele who also donated auction items. And, special thanks to Sharon Snyder for coordinating this event.

Lyon Village Study Group

Interested in listening to *Teaching Company* tapes and CDs in a small group? A Lyon Villager has access to many of them and would like to share these with others interested in some very good lectures on great topics. Check out the options www.teach12.com and if you are interested send an email to WritersInc@msn.com.

Tender Roots Open House

A cooperative playgroup serving Lyon Village and surrounding neighborhoods will be hosting an Open House on January 21st at 4PM. Tender Roots provides an engaging environment for one and two year old children, while in the security of their parent/caregiver. Teachers guide the day, giving parents time to nurture friendships. Tender Roots, a place where neighborhood friendships take root. Those interested in becoming involved please come to the Open House – Location at the Community United Methodist Church, 1701 N. Bryan Street. Contact Dusty Rummer at tender-roots@yahoo.com for further questions.

Money Talk: A Financial Course for Women

Women have unique financial needs. Most will at some time be on their own financially. This course will provide you with information that you need to take charge of your financial future. The course includes five classes beginning on January 16. Topics include: Financial Basics; Insurance Basics; Investing Basics; Investing for Retirement; and Planning for Future Life Events. All classes will be held 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the auditorium at the Arlington Central Library, 1015 N Quincy Street. Cost: \$20 (for the accompanying textbook). To register call (703) 228-6417. This program is sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Arlington Dept. of Libraries. For further info contact Jennifer Abel, AFC Extension Agent at: jabel@vt.edu or visit <http://offices.ext.vt.edu/arlington>.

Arlington Architecture Speaker Series

Arlington County is seeking to increase public awareness of current and rising trends in architecture by involving its citizenry in a series of talks by architects, architectural critics, and other design professionals. Sponsored by the County and titled the *Architecture Speaker Series: achieving design excellence for Arlington*, presentations will continue into 2007. The primary goal of the series is to explore elements of fine architectural design and discuss ways to elevate the quality of commercial, public and residential architecture in Arlington.

The next lecture in the series is at 7pm on Wednesday, Jan 17, at the NRECA Conference Center (National Rural Electric Cooperative Association) at 4301 Wilson Blvd. The session is titled: *Security Design: Achieving High Quality Architecture While Meeting Security Needs*. The speaker, Barbara Nadel, FAIA, a leading U.S. expert on security design in the built environment is editor in chief of *Building Security: Handbook for Architectural Planning and Design*, an award winning book that AIArchitect called the last word in security design. Over the years, safety and security concerns have become more fundamental aspects of the design, construction, and management of buildings. Nader will discuss how we can achieve high quality architecture in our built environment while meeting security and safety needs.

All presentations in the series are free. Future presentations will focus on other areas of architecture particularly relevant to Arlington, specifically sustainable and universal design. The next presentation, on *Excellent Sustainable Design* is being planned for April. For more information contact Anthony Fusarelli, 703-228-3548, afusarelli@arlingtonva.us, or visit the Architecture Speaker Series web page: http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/CPHD/forums/architecture/CPHDForumsArch_Series.aspx. Directions at: <http://conferencesolution.com/location.html>.

Letter to the Editor

We wanted to take a moment to express our sincere appreciation to all of our neighbors who have already contributed to help fight overdevelopment in our community. We are also grateful for the kind words of support we have received from so many of you. Knowing that so many of our neighbors are with us continues to strengthen our resolve. We have already received over \$10,000 since the December bulletin went out. While we still have a long way to go, we know we can reach our goal. Thanks again to all of you who consider helping this cause.

Please make checks payable to Blankingship & Keith and send or drop at the home of Mary Renkey at 1423 North Highland St. You may call 703.522.3952 for further information.

Thank you for your continued support!!
Mary Renkey

Please send your letters to maw123@gmail.com for possible publication in the Lyon Village bulletin. Thank you!

More Arlington Police Officers

On Dec 21 2006, twenty new Arlington County police officers were sworn in and received their badges in a ceremony at the Arlington Justice Center. This large recruit class will help the Arlington Police Department reach its full authorized strength. The 16 men and 4 women joining the force are part of the 115th Session of the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy. The Arlington police force has been chronically understaffed for many years due to the difficulty in obtaining and retaining recruits.

With another recruit class ready to enter the Academy in February, the ACPD is within reach of its goal of filling all 365 authorized police officer positions. The Department has worked hard to accomplish this by offering a more competitive compensation package, which has attracted more applicants and helped reduce attrition from the force. "Our efforts are paying off. That's clear from the number of highly qualified candidates who are coming to work in Arlington," said Police Chief M. Douglas Scott. "Many of them are still in training, so it will take some time to truly reap the benefits, but when the new officers are all patrolling the streets we will be able to offer our residents even better public safety service."

County Acquires Petco Site

The County recently purchased the Petco site at 3200 North Washington Blvd. This property, located at the intersection Fairfax Dr and Washington Blvd is important to the county's transportation plans for the improvement of this treacherous intersection where five roads meet. The county has developed a plan for greatly improving this dysfunction junction as part of the Clarendon Sector Plan. The plan calls for taking some property from the Petco site along with creating additional green space. The acquisition of this property will help the project to move forward. This, along with the purchase of the Bam Bam Auto site (since torn down) at the corner of 13th and Hartford Streets bodes well for future improvements to our community. There are no funds currently budgeted for the intersection or the "dog park," but at least the necessary property has been acquired.

Village Market

Housecleaner Needed: Lyon Village resident looking for a person to clean my home. Please contact Liz at 703-465-5496 after 7pm on weekdays and anytime on the weekend.