



The Lyon Village Bulletin

www.lyonvillage.org

June/July 2007

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

Independence Day Parade & Picnic!

A Lyon Village 4th of July event, our parade will begin promptly at 11:00am at the corner of Key Blvd and Highland Street. Participants can start lining up at 10:30am on 17th Street to watch the parade. We need volunteers! Let us know if you can help with the parade and/or vintage cars and convertibles show. To volunteer to help or drive your car in the parade please call John Carten at 703-528-3731 or 202-437-8257.

Literature Discussion Group

A Lyon Village literature discussion group, focused primarily on the classics and on short reading selections that can be downloaded and read relatively quickly, is now forming. Peter Costolanski and John Craig have conducted a DC-area literature group for several years, and hope to hold similar meetings in or near Lyon Village - in restaurants or coffee shops, or in private homes. Their small-group discussions have focused on a wide range of authors, from classical writers (Euripides, Virgil, Sappho...) through great writers of the 19th and 20th centuries (from Mark Twain, Joseph Conrad, and Ernest Hemingway to Mary Shelley, Sylvia Plath and Virginia Woolf). They've delved into Shakespeare, Emerson, and Machiavelli, plus modern writers like Milan Kundera and Jorie Graham. No commitment - come when you like. Please contact us to tell us what you would like to read and discuss in a small-group setting! Please contact john.craig@aya.yale.edu 703.340.4377, or pcostolanski@hotmail.com.

Another LV Break-In

On Saturday evening, May 19, between 6pm and 10pm, a residence located on Hartford between 18th St and 18th Rd in Lyon Village was illegally entered through a window. The items taken consisted solely of jewelry located in an upstairs bedroom. Included were irreplaceable items of great sentimental and monetary value. The burglary had the look of a professional job.

Because there was no forced entry, the police assume that a window may have been left unlocked by the owners, and that a second open window could have been purposely or inadvertently left unlocked by window washers who had recently serviced the premises.

There are folks in Lyon Village who barely lock their doors, let alone windows. With burglaries an ever-present threat, it is important to take precautions. Our neighborhood profile continues to grow; there have been 15 section cover-stories on Clarendon in the *Washington Post* over the past ten years. With a higher profile and many stories on the increased value of homes in our area, can come an increase in crime. Please be aware and report suspicious activity. Make sure you have secure locks, let your neighbors know when you're going away, and help keep an eye on your block. The police can be contacted about setting up a neighborhood watch program in your neighbors.

General Meeting on Monday June 11, 8pm At the Lyon Village Community House

13th and Herndon Streets Park Design

The county currently has a design process underway for a mixed-use park at 13th and Herndon Streets (often called the "Dog Park"). Valerie Mosley, the County landscape architect assigned to the project has agreed to provide an overview of the process and the current design thinking at our June General Meeting. Whereas the current temporary use is for a dog park only, the County Board has approved the planning of a mixed-use park on this site. The location and uses considered for this site make the planning of it a challenge because of its proximity to Lyon Village and Clarendon. Members of the Executive Committee participated in a design session that was held in April. The staff analysis will include consideration of an acoustic study of the area.

At Last Month's General Meeting

We were treated to a wonderful presentation by Elizabeth Rives, *Tree Steward for Arlington-Alexandria*, at last month's General Meeting. Ms Rives presented *Right Tree, Right Place, Right Now*. The program, accompanied by a Power Point presentation was entertaining, thoughtful, and informative. The presentation generated many questions from the crowd. Folks were very interested in what they can do to help replenish our rapidly diminishing tree canopy. It is important to plant trees in your yard, particularly trees such as elms, oaks, and maples that fill-in the tree canopy. Evergreens contribute to the canopy as well. The smaller ornamental trees don't contribute to the canopy, but they help to clean our air and beautify our neighborhood. Tree planting season begins in October and runs through most of the winter. Ms Rives may be contacted at: erives@sifma.org. She is featured in the Alexandria-Arlington section of the *Washington Post's* May 31 issue.

LVEC Elected for the 2007-08 Term

At May's General Meeting, the slate of candidates for the Lyon Village Executive Committee was elected to serve for the coming fiscal year's term starting in September. We thank all those neighbors who are willing to take time from their busy schedules to make this important contribution to the community. As a neighbor, please consider attending the monthly meetings and getting more involved. The search is always on for the next term's EC members.

President: Mark Weinress

1st Vice President: John Carten

2nd Vice President: Martha Moore (LV Directory)

3rd Vice President: Bill Wooten (Bulletin Delivery)

Treasurer: Carl Mattick

Asst. Treasurer: Victoria Arthaud

Recording Secretary: Myra Probasco

Corresponding Secretary: Greg Willis (LyonVillage.org website)

Clerk: Nancy Gaito

Bulletin: Shelly Snook (NCAC work, president will continue to write Bulletin)

Volunteer Coordinator: Janice Gallant

At large: Meg MacKenzie

At large: Joan Rolfling

Immediate Past-President: Bill Gearhart

Executive Committee Meeting on Monday June 4, 8pm At the Community House—All Are Welcome to Attend

Among items for discussion are Bike Racks for the Community House and Park and Committee formation for studying historic covenants for Lyon Village.

Some Good News About Crime Statistics

Crime statistics for 2006 released by the Arlington County Police Department show that Arlington's crime rate is continuing to decline. The crime rate—the number of index crimes per 100,000 people—was 2,212 in 2006, down from 2,447 in 2005. This marks the fifth straight year the crime rate has decreased. In 2006, there were 4,428 index crimes in Arlington, 8.7% fewer than in 2005. Vehicle thefts, which fell by 14.8% in 2006, have experienced a remarkable 71.8% decrease over the last decade. The only crime totals which rose from 2005 to 2006 were robberies (3.1%) and burglaries (0.8%). The current crime rate is Arlington's lowest since 1960.

**There are no General or EC Meetings Scheduled for July
The next Bulletin is the August/September Issue
For Summer News & Updates go to www.LyonVillage.org**

Neighborhood News

Treat Yourself – Have an Adventure & Help A Good Cause

Neighbors in Lyon Village are stepping up to offer their own assets in an effort to help pay the ever-rising legal fees being incurred in our community's fight against illegal zoning. As you likely know, our County Board recently passed an unprecedented zoning regulation that allows the rezoning of R-5 Residential Lots to High-Rise Commercial. Your help is needed to protect our neighborhoods as the battle continues in Court to stop this action! The County uses our tax dollars in the fight, our community must give out of our own pockets. Your Neighbors have Donated the following items to offer in helping the fight:

Lake House Vacation. Enjoy a relaxing week or weekend in a beautiful 4 bdr/3 bath house at Lake of the Woods near Fredericksburg. Game room, hot tub, deck, private dock for swimming or fishing, 2 kayaks, pontoon boat, and use of golf course. Minimum donation: \$1500.00/week (summer wks of 6/23, 7/28, 8/11, 8/18), \$600.00/weekend (owner is flexible on weekend dates and stays in the fall).

Sailing for a Day! Up to four people can enjoy a beautiful day sailing the Chesapeake Bay on a 38 foot sailboat with an experienced and fun-loving sailor. Lunch will be provided. Minimum donation: \$500.00.

Day of Fun at Washington Golf & Country Club. Take a break during a summer or fall weekday for a full round of golf; golf cart, lunch, and drinks included. Offered by a wonderful, adventurous, and interesting neighbor. We guarantee you will have a wonderful time! Minimum donation: \$500.00 per person.

To make a donation and claim one of the above prizes, please contact Mary Renkey at mrenkey@verizon.net.

If you would just like to contribute to the general legal fund, please make your check payable to *Blankingship & Keith* and mail it to Mary Renkey at 1423 N. Highland St., 22201. And, as always, Thank You for your support!

Damaged Street Signs

Recently there have been a number of damaged street signs spotted in the Lyon Village neighborhood. If you see one, please call 703-228-6570 to report it to the County.

Lyon Village Playground Park

During the summer and fall efforts were made to solicit information on neighbors' views of the new park. A survey was hand-delivered to neighbors bordering the park and those who appeared to be impacted by increased parking. This survey also appeared in the Bulletin. The Executive Committee asked Nancy Gaito to meet with Park staff to share the concerns and look for solutions. When this meeting was scheduled neighbors comments were again solicited through email. Nancy met with Park staff; Lisa Grandle, Bernadette Grullon, and Lisa Barb. The following are questions asked at the meeting and the discussion that followed.

What is going on with park fencing? A lot of comments were received on the dangers caused by the lack of gates at the park entrance and the unattractiveness of the chain-link fence. The County is installing new fencing and this should soon be completed. Gates will be located at all existing entries.

What other parks are planning water features? Additional County park water features may lessen the "outside use" of the Lyon Village Park; though we must keep in mind that "our park" is a County facility open to all Arlingtonians. A water feature is under design for the park at Drew (Nauck neighborhood) and expected to open within a year. The North Tract Park may also have a water feature.

Can something be done about the loss of shade in the park? Trees were lost due to both the placement of the equipment and damage during construction. During planning, some neighbors complained that the County intended too many new trees, minimizing open-space. Shade around the sandbox is currently of particular concern. The County has a Park Enhancement Grant that may be available to build a shade structure over the sandbox. Patrick Wegeng, Landscape Supervisor for Parks and Natural Resources Division (PRCR), has noted that more shade trees and shrubs are to be planted along the "hill" to screen homes from the playground.

Can something be done about the drainage from the water feature that runs across the green space to the basketball court? The County tried temporary measures to correct this last year. They are bringing in a contractor to raise and extend the curb to solve the problem.

What about sanitation in and around the water feature? Park staff has met with the Health Department about expressed concerns. A sign will go up with water play (sprayground) area guidelines. The sign will include statements such as: Adult Supervision Required, Appropriate Swimwear Required, Diaper Age Children Must Wear a Swim Diaper, No Climbing Or Horseplay Allowed, Avoid Drinking The Water, Keep Glass Containers, Skateboards & Bikes & In-Line Skates Off The Sprayground, No Food Or Drink Allowed, No Pets Allowed, and Have Fun! It was also noted that the water spray feature uses only fresh water, not re-circulated. It is up to park users to help enforce the rules.

What about the loss of water? A spread sheet will be kept on water usage. According to the manufacturer, if the feature is on light spray continuously for 4 hours, it uses 9,300 gallons. On full-capacity spray, it uses 21,000 gallons. A number of neighbors expressed concern about the environmental impact of this. Currently, County management supports water features in parks and notes that they are well-liked. With this as the case, ecological/environmental concerns may perhaps best be expressed to the County Board.

What hours will the park be open and what is its season? The water feature is the most controversial element of the redesigned park. The two most cited problems are overcrowding and the feature itself (noise, the parking problems, etc). The RPF for the park redesign stated that the park is a small 1.5 acre park serving the residential community. Last summer, the park attracted people from outside the neighboring area, upsetting some residents. In 2006, the water was on from 8am to 8pm. This year, it will run from 9:30am to 8pm. Usage is to be monitored at peak hours. The season is Memorial Day to Labor Day. Neighbors who remain unhappy with these hours may want to evaluate usage, overcrowding, and evidence of the park being used by non-Arlingtonians, though this use is legal. This Summer's plan has been set, but it can be changed next year. If neighbors are interested in changing the schedule, they may want to gather clear information on any problems, such as those caused by overcrowding, parking, and usage by non-Arlingtonians. Please contact maw123@gmail.com with any ideas.

Water Conservation at Home

Saturday, June 9th - 2 - 3:30 PM. Are you interested in learning how to conserve water at home and in your yard? Saving water can also reduce your energy bill as energy is required to heat the water. This workshop will include discussion and examples of water conservation techniques, including opportunities to examine water saving devices like low flow showerheads, faucet aerators, and rain barrels.

Attendees will receive a free water conservation kit including some water saving devices. Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Rd, Arlington, VA. To find out more or to register, 703-228-3403.

Kill-A-Watt Meters Available at Branch Libraries!

All Arlington branch libraries now have Kill-A-Watt electricity usage meters available for check-out. Check your appliances and other electrical equipment at home to see how much energy they use! Patrons may reserve one of the meters through the normal online catalog. The meters are listed under "kill-a-watt" and "electricity usage meters." The devices measure the amount of electricity being used by home appliances. You simply plug the meter into the electrical outlet, plug the appliance into the meter, and take a reading after one hour. Web page: www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/Libraries/sites/LibrariesSitesEnvironment.aspx.

Get FitArlington

"I know I should get more exercise, but I just don't know what's available that I'd enjoy." That's the bane of health promotion professionals nationwide and that's what Arlington County is combating in the FitArlington initiative. The first phase of the FitArlington website has been launched. Just go to www.arlingtonva.us/FitArlington to find County programs and facilities that provide opportunities for residents to get fit. There's something for every age and interest. For more information contact Susan Kalish at 703-228-3330 or email skalish@arlingtonva.us.

Have a Fun Summer!

Village Market

Pet Care: Need someone to feed and exercise your pets while you are out of town, call Lydia, Abby or Katherine at 703-528-3731 or 202-437-8257. LV students with references available.

Neighborhood Handyman: Lyon Village resident for 22 years. Well experienced at fixing a wide variety of household problems. Quality workmanship on all installations and repairs. Small and large jobs accepted. Please call Rob Crabtree at 703-201-5758, email robsrestorations@comcast.net.

Guitar Teacher Wanted: To give 1/2 hour lesson to 7 1/2-year-old once a week in our home. Please call 703-465-8027.