



The Lyon Village Bulletin

www.lyonvillage.org

January 2008

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Lyon Village Dues

At the start of our fiscal year in September 2007, we asked that Lyon Village Citizens Association Members make their annual contribution to the neighborhood. If you've not yet paid, dues are \$7 Individual, \$10 Household. This keeps you an active voting member of the neighborhood. Please mail or deliver your 2005-2006 LVCA dues payments to: Carl Mattick, 1428 N. Fillmore St. Call 703-525-0819 or email cmattick@cmattick.com with any questions.

Tender Roots Enrollment Open!

Tender Roots, a cooperative play-school inspired by Reggio Emilia, is now accepting applicants for the 2008-2009 school year. Lyon Village residents have priority. 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, while also giving support to parents. Tender Roots, a place where neighborhood friendships take root. For further information and to schedule a visit, please e-mail tender-roots@yahoo.com.

Potomac Crescent Waldorf School Open House

Please join us at our open house on Jan 26 from 10am to noon and discover a unique school in Arlington that nourishes a child's imagination and cultivates a love of learning. We offer grades 1-3, early childhood classes (ages 2-6), and afternoon and summer programs. Our educational goal is to foster the development of free-thinking individuals who revere nature, respect fellow beings, and have a lifelong love of learning. For more information, please contact us at 703-624-1309 or visit www.potomaccrescentschool.org.

Volunteers Needed

CrisisLink, Northern Virginia's suicide and crisis intervention hotline welcomes new volunteers. Volunteer training begins February 2nd. Hotline volunteers receive 50+ hours of small group and on-the-job training to handle crisis calls on our 24/7/365 hotlines. No prior experience required. Weekly 3-hour commitment for 1 year required, with shifts available daytime, evenings and weekends. Convenient Lee Highway location. Visit www.crisislink.org for more information or call 703-527-6016.

Have A Wonderful Holiday Season!!

General Meeting Monday Jan 14, 8pm At the Lyon Village Community House

At the start of our General Meeting, Second District Police Officers will provide an update on recent Police activity in and around the Lyon Village and Clarendon area. There will be an opportunity to ask questions after their update. We have found that this is a helpful way to keep the neighborhood informed about police incidents and any recent trends that the police have noticed.

Improving Your Home for Yourself or Resale Staging Houses & Recent Lyon Village Sales Trends

We have invited Long & Foster agent Ingrid Wooten and a professional house stager to provide an overview of recent Lyon Village sales and trends, and to describe house "staging" and the things you can do over the short and long term to make your house more comfortable for your own use and also easier to sell. Our program focuses on how a professional stager views Lyon Village houses and what buyers like to see in them.

With the days of multiple offers and quick sales a distant memory, many realtors, including those with listings in Lyon Village, have turned to professionals who help stage houses before the house is placed on the market. The staging may involve as little as de-cluttering and furniture rearranging, but may extend to kitchen, bath, and other remodeling when time and budget allow, all for the purpose of showing off the best features of the house and making it attractive to buyers. Many of us have seen the TV programs that show what staging can do, and have also noted that some of the sellers in the programs decided to stay instead of sell after they saw how much more livable their houses became after staging.

In particular, the program is intended to provide a list of the 8 or 10 things you might do over the short term (the quick and easy fixes), and the 8 or 10 things you might do over the long term to keep your house current and minimize the work needed when you do decide to sell. We've asked our presenters to identify what they regard as the 5 or so biggest turnoffs in Lyon Village houses for prospective buyers, and the 5 or so things they would strongly advise that you not do to "improve" your house.

There will be information on paint colors, decorating styles (particularly styles to avoid), the types of kitchen and bath renovations that bring the best return, whether costly basement renovations pay off, how to improve "curb appeal," and the importance of landscaping and a deck or patio. We have also asked them to provide some general advice about how to tell when your house is a potential "tear down" and not worth improving beyond meeting your personal needs.

Hope to see you at this month's meeting January 14th!

Letter to the Editor

In November, the Editor published a letter from a senior who had difficulty accessing the Community House for an event. Here is a reply from Mary Ann Lilly, Chairperson, Lyon Village Community House, Board of Directors.

We apologize for the difficulty experienced at our recent spaghetti dinner. Our goal is to have a community dinner which is enjoyed by all who attend. In planning the dinner, our all-volunteer board looks at ways to ensure this goal.

We have Lyon Village volunteers set up, sell tickets, buy food, cook, serve, and clean up. Our local Scout group assists us in selling baked goods and general helping. It is a volunteer team effort. In past years, the side door with access to the handicapped parking has been open to allow folks to enter without having to go around to the front door. Apparently this year we had a snafu with door coverage and this caused a problem. We have discussed this and hope to make senior and handicapped access a priority at our next spaghetti dinner.

Clarendon Park at 13th and Hartford

As most readers know from earlier stories in the Bulletin, the County-owned space along 13th Street between Hartford and Herndon Streets has been undergoing a planning process. The park is currently used mostly as a dog run, but that is only a transitional use. The ultimate plan is to have a mixed-use park.

County staff recently presented a plan for the park which incorporates a dog run area, open green space, and other areas for non-canine use. The Clarendon Sector Plan, approved in December 2006 notes that "approximately one half of the space should be improved for use as a community canine area and the other half improved to support passive use by neighborhood residents and visitors."

The plan drawn up by staff shows slightly over half of the overall site as a fenced-in canine area occupying the central portion of the site. The space for general-use sidewalks and the screening of the dog run area has been subtracted from the remaining half of the park, with two portions designated as open green space. The two open green space areas are located in unconnected sections on either side of the canine area, one next to the Hartford condo building and the other along 13th Street. At this point in planning, the larger of the two open green spaces total about 2,400 square feet. The dog run area as planned, is about 15,500 square feet. The entire area of the proposed park totals a bit over 30,000 square feet.

When the staff park plan was considered by the County Board at its meeting on December 15, a majority of speakers spoke in favor of a modest reduction in the size of the canine area to allow for an expansion of the green space. The LVEC, the County's Parks & Recreation Commission, and the adjacent Hartford condominium home-owners association (the building is within LVCA boundaries) shared a similar view that the space allocation in the County staff plan did not appear to meet the spirit of the allocation called for in the sector plan. The County Board approved the general concept of the staff plan, but directed that County staff continue to work with the community in refining the plan, including with respect to the space allocations, location of entrances to the canine area, and the landscaping of the space next to the Hartford condo building. All who spoke at the meeting were satisfied with the general layout of the park.

Master Transportation Plan Map

On December 18, the County Board approved a new Master Transportation Plan Map as part of the County's update of its Master Transportation Plan. We were partially successful in convincing County staff to correct the labeling on the map for three arterial streets on our borders.

The County is doing its first major update to the Master Transportation Plan since 1986, and in the new plan proposes to place all of the arterial streets in the County into six "typologies" reflecting adjacent land uses. Each of the typologies shows a street cross section and includes a proposed sidewalk width. On the draft staff maps, Lee Highway and Veitch Street along our borders were shown as "urban mixed use," with 10-12 foot sidewalks plus a 6 foot furniture/tree pit zone. The designations not only were inconsistent with the existing County land use plan on our portions of those streets (mostly low density residential and no commercial), but the proposed 10-12 foot sidewalk widths and additional furniture/tree pit zone, if implemented, would have consumed the better part of most front yards along the two streets.

In response to our concerns, staff changed much of Veitch Street to the "primarily single family" category, which shows 5-6 sidewalks (the minimum under the plan), and changed Lee Highway to the "primarily townhouse/garden apartment" category, which shows 6-8 foot sidewalks. The land use plan for most of our side of Lee Highway is low density residential, but the land use plan for the north side is low-medium density residential, which would allow townhouse and garden apartment zoning. The part of Kirkwood Road between 13th Street and 15th Street was reclassified from "townhouse/garden apartment" to "primarily single family," reflecting the current low density residential designation in the County's land use plan for both sides of the street in that area.

Village Market

Free Dollhouse: Nice dollhouse with assorted furniture. Free. 703-525-0765.

Pet Sitting: 10 yr old experienced, caring pet sitter available to look after you pet while you're away, call 703-524-6662.

Mentoring Opportunity: For 14 years, as a neighbor, I have been helping a wonderful young person with education and life-management. She is now 23 years old. My inquiry seeks a member of the Association (perhaps retired from teaching, or otherwise blessed with free hours) who could coach her in reading on an elementary-grade level. Times would of course be at the convenience of the volunteer. Knowing her very well, I can promise a rewarding experience. Please send along any questions to chromatics@operamail.com. Steve (Washington-Lee H.S. 1966)

Lyon Village Playground Park Survey

The following survey is being conducted to gain information on people's use of the park at Highland St and Lee Hwy and their interest in some of the features and possible features. Please return the survey in the enclosed addressed envelope. One survey per address, please.

- 1). What is your address (street number and street name): _____
- 2). How often do you/your guests use the park? (check one):
 never 1-5 per year more than 5 times per year
- 3). The water feature hours are from 10AM to 8 PM. I think these hours are (check one):
 just right too long too short
- 4). I would be delighted ambivalent dismayed to have restroom/sanitation facilities at the park, because: _____

- 5). Other concerns/thought/ideas/ regarding the park:

- 6.) Are you eligible to vote as a member of the Lyon Village Citizen's Association? In order to vote you must be up to date in dues' payment. See previous page for dues payment info. Yes No

Go to www.LyonVillage.org for the latest neighborhood news, updates and the LV Bulletin (including back issues).

Bulletin items due by **January 20th** to: markweinress@msn.com * Please no tabs in copy*