



The Lyon Village Bulletin

www.lyonvillage.org

March 2008

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Arlington Living Green

All are welcomed to attend the 30th Annual Meeting of Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment on Thurs, March 6; 7 to 9:30pm at the Hilton Arlington, 950 N. Stafford Street, above the Ballston Metro Station. Arlington County Board Chair, Walter Tejada, will host the meeting. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Wasson, Conservation Director of Appalachian Voices, speaking on "Arlington to Appalachia: A virtual tour of the other side of your light switch." Mountaintop removal is a radical form of coal mining where entire mountaintops are literally blown up. It's happening in Virginia on a scale you'll find shocking. The program will also include the kickoff of the 2008 Green Living Challenge, ACE volunteer recognition, exhibits by green vendors, and light refreshments.

Contact:
www.arlingtonenvironment.org or
office@arlingtonenvironment.org or
703-228-6427 for information.

Tax Help

Seniors and others in need can get free federal and state tax preparation from now until April 15, every Tuesday and Friday between 9am and 3pm at the Culpepper Garden Senior Center, 4435 N Pershing Drive, from trained, certified and confidential volunteers. Just come by or avoid waiting by calling for an appointment at 703-228-4403. Bring your 2006 return as well as any documents needed for the 2007 return. Taxaide Counselors are trained through a program of AARP and the Internal Revenue Service. Call 703-228-4403.

Help Out

The annual clean-up of the Four Mile Run corridor is on Saturday, March 8, from 8am to noon. Meet at any of the seven locations beginning at Madison Manor and continuing to Shirlington to help make Arlington a cleaner, greener place. Call 703-525-0168 to volunteer. Last year more than 204 volunteers collected more than 3,100 pounds of trash. Help make a difference!

An Historic Neighborhood

Did you know that Lyon Village is on the National Register of Historic Places? Would you like to place a historical plaque on your house with the date your home was constructed? Contact the Erie Landmark Company at 800-874-7848. They make the "Registry of National Historic Places" plaques for purchase.

Major Construction Slated for Kirkwood Road Dominion Power Installing Substation Cabling

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Come to the General Meeting on Monday, March 10 At 8pm at the Community House For Information

At our General Meeting on Monday, March 10, we will have a presentation from Dominion Virginia Power on the soon to begin construction of three underground electric transmission lines. As part of the project, Dominion will be upgrading several local substations to increase local electrical capacity. As we all know, this area has seen major development over the past years, with much more to come. The construction will run from North Monroe Street, down Fairfax Drive, then along the full length of Kirkwood Rd, turning toward Roslyn at Lee Hwy ending at 19th Street in Roslyn. Construction will take place one block at a time. The work on the lines will begin this Spring and be completed in approximately nine months.

We will also have a presentation from the local police on crime activity and safety concerns in our area. The monthly seminars at the General Meeting take place to keep Lyon Village informed. We hope to see you there!

The Executive Committee Meeting will take place at 8pm on Monday March 3 at the Community House. The April EC meeting will take place on April 7. All are invited to attend these business meetings.

Construction by Dominion Virginia Power on the Way

Our neighborhood will be impacted in a fairly major way by the work Dominion Virginia Power will be completing during the next year to install new underground transmission lines for increased electrical capacity in north Arlington. Since 2000, the population of Arlington has increased by 8%, while demand for energy has grown by 20%. Much of this is due to the increase in commercial space. In order to meet this and future demand, several substations will be rebuilt and linked to provide additional power, mainly in the Roslyn-Ballston corridor.

This work will involve construction along two of our neighborhood borders. The whole length of Kirkwood Road and our entire border with Lee Hwy will be effected by the construction work. Construction will start in early Spring, but will not reach Kirkwood for a few months. The work will take place in 100 foot sections. In order to install the new lines, a trench 5 feet wide will be opened. The top of the lines will be buried at least 42" below ground in most cases. It will not be possible to underground any existing lines during this project due to the heat generated by the new cables.

On Kirkwood Road, they will be digging on both sides of the street up near Washington Blvd, zigzagging from one side to the other to avoid the large amount of utility equipment already buried there. In that portion, where the median is wide and tree planted, they will do their best to avoid damaging the existing plantings.

Continuing along Kirkwood to where the median narrows to a small raised strip, the power company will remove the median and trench down the center of the street. They can then rebuild the median. Lyon Village is looking to get neighbor response to permanently removing this narrow portion of the median, which is too small for any plantings (except the weeds growing there), and is seen by many as encouraging increased traffic speed. Removing this portion of the median could serve as a traffic calming measure by making the street feel less like a divided highway. Please contact maw123@gmail.com with your opinion on removing the Kirkwood median. No portion of the median with trees or street lights would be removed in any case. In preliminary discussions, Dominion Electric and a representative from the County saw no objection to removing the Kirkwood median, if that is what the neighbors would prefer.

Along Lee Highway, the trenching will take place on the Lyon Village side, but the access road will not be effected. The construction work will involve the partial closing of the traffic lane adjacent to Lyon Village. The work along Lee will be hampered by the 3 feet of concrete and rebar under the road. This extra reinforcement was placed under Lee Hwy to allow army tanks to travel the road for defense of the capitol. Dominion intends to restore all areas effected by the construction to their present appearance upon completion of the work. For more information visit www.dom.com, keyword: Arlington, or call 888.291.0190.

Rock for a Cause

The Wellness Community - Greater Washington, DC is a new, community-based, nonprofit organization that provides free programs of emotional support, education and hope to people with cancer and their loved ones. They are holding a "Rock Out Cancer" at the Clarendon Ballroom. This classic rock concert will benefit The Wellness Community & Celebrate the Strides for Hope marathon team. The Johnny Esquire Band will appear. There will be live music, hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, dancing, and an auction. The event takes place Wed, April 2, from 7 - 10pm at the Clarendon Ballroom at 3185 Wilson Blvd. Tickets are \$50. For tickets call 301-493-5002 or purchase online at www.thewellnesscommunity.org/dc.

Great Stuff for Kids

The Arlington Kids Stuff Sale is scheduled for Saturday April 5 from 8am to noon. The sale features used, seasonally appropriate kids clothes, toys and gear, plus maternity clothes, Halloween costumes, books, videos, kids furniture and more. The sale is held at St Andrew's Episcopal Church at the corner of Lee Highway and Lorcom Lane. Plenty of parking; free admission. For more information, go to kidsstuffsale.com.

Senior Ms

The deadline to enter the 2008 Ms Virginia Senior America competition is April 4th. Arlington's Office of Senior Adult Programs is encouraging Arlington women, 60 years of age and older, to enter the competition. Contestants must be a resident of Virginia for at least six months. The state competition/pageant will be held May 30 at the James Lee Community Center, Falls Church. The winner will represent Virginia at the National Pageant, Oct 19-25 in Atlantic City, NJ. For information: www.msvirginiasenior.com or call pageant co-directors, Jackie Bong-Wright, 703-989-1149 or Suzann Howe, 703-425-7258.

Bridge Club

Five LV women have formed an afternoon, friendly bridge group and are looking for 3-4 more men or women to build a second table and sub list. Revive those Goren brain waves for an enjoyable afternoon per month. Email: M_JHatch@msn.com.

Pruning Guidance

Virginia Cooperative Extension's Tree Stewards and Master Gardeners offer guidance on how best to handle pruning in your garden. Join Kirsten Buhls, Extension Agent in Horticulture, and John Noelle, Arborist for the City of Alexandria, at either of two free public workshops. Register for a workshop to be held Saturday, March 8th at Thrifton Hills Park, 2814 23rd Street North in Arlington, or for an Alexandria workshop at Ft. Ward Park, 4301 W. Braddock Road, on Saturday, March 22, 9:30am to noon. For information, registration and directions call: 703-228-6414.

Rental Apartments Considered for Single-Family Properties

The County is considering revising the Zoning Ordinance to allow Accessory Dwellings (ADs) on single-family properties. These could take the form of apartments within a single-family home, dwelling units semi-attached to the home, or as separate accessory buildings on the property. Most civic associations are taking a position on ADs. The issue will be the topic of our General Meeting on Monday, April 14th. Lyon Village will take a position on ADs once the community weighs-in. Please come in April to have your voice heard—mark your calendar.

Supporters say that allowing Accessory Dwellings will: increase affordable housing stock; provide rental income for seniors and others to continue to afford to live in Arlington; provide homes for people coming to Arlington to work; provide in-home living for day-care and elder-care workers; and provide apartments for grown children to live independently. They also note that Arlington is an urban community with suburban housing that should be adapted to provide housing for more people.

Critics say that allowing Accessory Dwellings will: change neighborhood character; lead to more crowding, noise, and parking problems; not be affordable because the Housing Commission recommendation does not require them to be; lead to more occupancy violations; and will not be successfully enforced.

To prepare for this proposition, a subcommittee of the Arlington Housing Commission met for about two years to study the feasibility of allowing Accessory Dwellings and to look at what other localities had experienced. The Housing Commission report was presented to the Civic Federation in January, 2008. The Federation's response to the report was mixed. Two Civic Federation Committees, the CivFed Planning & Zoning Committee (co-chaired by Bill Gearhart and Martha Moore) and the CivFed Housing Committee were then asked to develop a joint resolution on the issue.

In February, these Civic Federation committees presented a summary of what is currently allowed, a proposed resolution, and a timeline for a decision. (See the Civic Federation's website at www.civfed.org for the summary. The Arlington Housing Commission Report and its Executive Summary are available respectively at: www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/CPHD/housing/pdf/page60104.pdf; and www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/CPHD/housing/pdf/page60105.pdf.)

The County Board held a work session on Accessory Dwellings and asked staff member Fran Lunney, to meet with the public to share the Housing Commission's report and gather input. She is meeting with civic associations and other groups. She will be at our April 14 General Meeting.

There are many complex issues associated with Accessory Dwellings. Currently, they are not legal, but exist all across Arlington including Lyon Village. It is estimated that there are between 1,000 and 1,400 illegal units in the county. The Accessory Dwelling proposal will provide a way for some of those to become legal, but there may not be much incentive to do so.

These illegal units violate both zoning and building codes. It is currently illegal to have walled-off rooms with separate cooking facilities in a home. It is also unlawful to have more than four people in a home unless they are all legally related. In some parts of Arlington, the Accessory Dwellings are not considered a problem. Other areas in the county are experiencing serious occupancy problems. As a result, there are disagreements about how aggressively Arlington should go after illegal Accessory Dwellings or occupancy violations.

Despite complaints, Code Enforcement has been unable to control illegal ADs and occupancy violations. This is mainly due to the difficulty in getting access to inspect; the Code Enforcers must be invited in. Many are skeptical whether this will improve with a new zoning ordinance. In any case, requiring entry to private homes to inspect potentially illegal units might not be allowed by the courts.

The Arlington County Housing Commission is recommending that both interior and exterior ADs be allowed, including garage apartments. Interior units would be allowed by-right. Exterior units would be by special use permit. Allowing Accessory Dwelling units would represent a major zoning change in Arlington. Citizens should think long and hard before considering this change. The proposal could help increase affordable housing in the county and help some earn extra income and keep their homes. The zoning rules however, would have to be rigorously enforced to prevent problems.

Village Market

LG 18x External Super Multi DVD Rewriter for sale. Compatible with DVD formats DVD+/-R, DVD+/-RW, DVD RAM. Record up to 4 hours of high quality video/MPEG-2. Includes NERO, Cyberlink and LightScribe software. Also 20 Dynex 16x 120 min new DVD disks. \$50. Backup your files, videos, photos. 703-522-9074.

House Cleaning: Excellent, reliable house cleaner is looking for additional clients on Mondays in Lyon Village. Has worked for many LV families for many years. Excellent references. Call Marty Maher for more information: 703-524-7209.

Reading Tutors Needed: Help at-risk first and second graders become successful in school! Hoffman-Boston Elementary needs reading tutors for Book Buddies Program, before school twice a week. Research-based, effective program. Lyon Village volunteers can tell you all about it. Call Marty Maher for more information: 703-524-7209.

Full size Gafiano Cello \$1300 or BO in excellent condition (purchased at Foxes Music Company for \$2100). Please call 703.243.3631.

Wireless Adapter: NETGEAR 108 MBPS, box unopened, \$20 or best offer. Please call 703.243.3631.

Seeking Nanny for our newborn starting April 2008. We are interested in any recommendations you may have, or in sharing a nanny with a local family. Please contact shirleetan@hotmail.com.

Wanted: GI Joe toy figures and vehicles. Call 703-527-7729.