



The Lyon Village Bulletin

www.LyonVillage.org

Lyon Village Citizen's Association
Arlington VA
Mark Weinress, Editor
markweinress@msn.com

December 2008

Now In Lyon Village

The Latest Lyon Village News & Updated Directory

If you'd like to be kept up to date on the most important Lyon Village updates, such as recent criminal activity, unexpected street closures, events in Clarendon affecting traffic patterns and other late breaking information, please send your email address to maw123@gmail.com for inclusion on the list serve.

In addition, if you haven't submitted your info for the new version of the Lyon Village Directory, please send your updated address, phone and email to martha.moore@verizon.net or to carolineholt@smith.alumnae.net. This handy directory lists the residents of Lyon Village and is a great resource for keeping in touch with your neighbors. Children's names are included (but not their individual phone numbers). Send your info now, before the Directory goes to print.

Tour Lyon Village Homes Decorated For the Holidays
On Thursday, December 11th from 1-4 pm, four beautiful Lyon Village homes, decorated for the holidays, will open their doors for touring. This fundraiser, sponsored by the non-profit Commonwealth Circle of Northern Virginia, will support Nova ScriptsCentral, a collaborative pharmacy providing access to medications for low-income uninsured children and adults throughout Northern Virginia.

The tour will include the homes of Scott & Lisa McElhaney, 3145 N 17th St; Tim & Linda Wallace, 1830 N Herndon; and Mark Weinress & Tom Donegan, 3200 N 19th Street. A gracious afternoon tea will be served in the home of Michael & Lynne Wilson, 1708 N Harvard St. Tickets are available from Lynne Pilot for \$25 at 1815 N Hartford St (703-525-6868), or at the door(s) for \$30 on Dec 11. Zone parking will be lifted for this event. Come out to see the beautiful homes and support a good cause.

Lyon Village 2008-09 Dues
With the start of our fiscal year, we ask that Lyon Village Citizens Association Members make their annual contribution to the neighborhood. Dues are \$7 Individual, \$10 Household. This keeps you an active voting member of the neighborhood. Please mail or deliver your LVCA dues payments to: Carl Mattick, 1428 N. Fillmore St. Call 703-525-0819 or email CarlMattick@verizon.net with any questions. You can now pay your LVCA dues online using PayPal or credit card. Access \$10 or \$7 payment links from our homepage at www.lyonvillage.org.

Have a Wonderful and Safe Holiday Season!

Come to the Lyon Village Holiday Party At the Community House on Sunday, Dec 14

Come to the Lyon Village Community House for the LVCA annual Holiday Party on Sunday, Dec 14 from 4pm to 7pm. Santa will be there and you should too! There will be fun, refreshments, and good cheer! Donations for Toys for Tots will be collected. If you would like to participate, please bring an unwrapped toy for donation. To volunteer to help out, please contact Janice Gallant at janice.gallant@verizon.net.

No Lyon Village General Meeting in December

Our next General Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 12, 2009.

News from our November General Meeting

Our November General meeting featured an update by Captain Brian Berke of the Arlington County Police on recent police activity in and around Lyon Village and Clarendon. He reported that recently there has been no serious crime around Lyon Village and Clarendon but he noted that periodic auto break-ins continue. The perpetrators are seeking electronic equipment like GPS devices, cell phone, and laptops. Captain Berke encouraged us to not leave any valuables in cars, be sure that they are always locked, and keep an eye out for any suspicious activity in the neighborhood. He encouraged people to call police on the non-emergency phone number at 703-558-2222 to report any suspicious activity.

The program also featured an update on Emergency Preparedness by our own Marolyn Hatch, a long-time resident of the Village. She reported that power failures, winter storms, and the flu are events that individually and as neighbors we need to prepare for. She discussed how to get hooked up with emergency alerts. She stressed the importance of preparing for the unexpected, practicing how to escape from your house in case of fire, and discussed how to build a neighborhood support system.

Millions More from County for Project Opposed by Lyon Village Citizens Association

The First Baptist Church of Clarendon and its development affiliate, The Views at Clarendon, are seeking an additional 6.5 million dollars of AHIF funds from the County, for a total of \$13 million in AHIF funds, to move ahead with their project to build a high-rise tower to include a new church, several floors of luxury apartments designed to provide cash flow to the church, and several floors of affordable housing.

As currently structured, it appears virtually the entire project (\$47 million of the \$49 million projected cost) will be paid out of public funds. The Church appears to be seeking \$15,650,000 from VHDA, \$18,500,000 from LIHTC equity, and \$13,100,000 from Arlington County to build its new church building. The Church itself is contributing \$1,950,000.

Many in the community have expressed concern about several aspects of the proposed funding, including whether the government should be bearing almost all of the cost of constructing a new church building/sanctuary, whether the expenditure of public funds is prudent given the extent to which the building is composed of luxury units that are intended to provide a church with future cash flow, and whether the affordable housing portion of the project is a good use of those funds given that millions in funds will be paid out of the project to the Church's advisors and that the units themselves appear targeted not to the families who really need them but to graduate students.

If you have concerns, please contact Ayesha Kahn at Americans United for Separation of Church and State. Her email address is: kahn@au.org and her phone number is 202-466-3234, ext. 211.

You can also contact your Arlington County Board members online, by phone or letter to encourage them to deny this huge additional financial request. Currently, the Board supports this questionable use of County funds, at the same time that our Property Tax rates are being increased. Barbara Favola has been a constant supporter of the Baptist Church project and lives right here in the village. Let's see if we can get our neighbors to support one-another in fighting this poor use of affordable housing funds. The County Board will consider this issue at the December 13 board meeting; let your voice be heard.

New Local Health & Fitness

In mid-December, Synergy Health and Fitness will open its premiere fitness facility at 2000 N 15th St. Synergy is owned by John Johnson, a highly sought personal trainer with clients in the LV neighborhood. Synergy is a high-end, service-oriented fitness and personal training center with a limited number of memberships available. For more info, visit www.synergyfitnessva.com.

Artful Gifts

The Arlington Artists Alliance's "Artful Weekend" takes place on Dec 6, 10am - 5pm & Dec 7, 12 noon - 4pm at the historic Hendry House, Fort CF Smith at 2411 N 24th St, Arlington. The show and sale will feature 39 artists working in oil, pastel, water media, collage, ceramics, wood, and glass. There will be work priced for every budget and suitable as gifts or for home and business. Music will be provided by the Stardust Dance Band. Free parking. More info at www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org.

Free Events at

Arlington Public Library

Author Event: "The Long Road Home" by ABC News correspondent Martha Raddatz on Dec 7, at 3pm, Shirlington Branch Library. ABC News Chief White House Correspondent Martha Raddatz has been to Iraq 12 times since the American invasion. She will discuss her book about a battle that was a turning point in the war, an April 2004 fight in Baghdad's Sadr City.

Classical Music Performance by "Marcolivia" on Dec 9 at 7pm, Central Library Auditorium. The Friends of Arlington Public Library host their annual end-of-the-year meeting followed by a performance by the acclaimed string duo of "Marcolivia," Marc Ramierz and Olivia Hajjoff.

Panel Discussion *Green Transportation: New Energy for Tomorrow's Cars* on Dec 15, 2pm, Central Library Auditorium. The auto industry has been trying to develop, test and market the next generation of cars that will provide breakthrough fuel efficiency, reduction in greenhouse gases, and ultra low emissions. The panel discussion, including officials from General Motors, the Association of International Automobile Manufacturers, the Environmental Protection Agency, and Arlington County, will focus on fuel cell technology while taking advantage of the opportunity to discuss real-world experiences. The Chevy Equinox fuel cell car will be on display.

Author Event, "Bacardi and the Long Fight for Cuba" by NPR News correspondent Tom Gjelten, Dec 17, 7pm at Shirlington Branch Library. NPR correspondent Tom Gjelten reads from and discusses his book, "Bacardi and the Long Fight for Cuba: The Biography of a Cause." Gjelten has wrapped up in one book an enthralling history of Cuba and a moving family story that includes photos of Fidel Castro and the Bacardi family not previously published outside of Cuba.

Cinema event, "The Trap" directed by Srdan Golubović on Dec 18, 6:30pm, Central Library Auditorium. Serbian with English Subtitles/106 minutes, 2006. Not Rated, but contains strong adult content. Set in post Milosevic Belgrade, "The Trap" weaves a complex tale of a father's ethical dilemma. The film is an official selection of the Berlin International Film Festival. See: www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Libraries/LibrariesEvent_s.aspx. And, check out the Library's new events blog: www.arlingtonlibraryevents.blogspot.com/.

There's no General Meeting in December, but don't forget the Lyon Village Holiday Party on Dec 14th

School Board Proposals with Negative Implication for Lyon Village To be Voted at Dec 18 Meeting

There are two independent proposals slated for vote by the School Board on December 18th, which will highly impact our neighborhood. The first proposal will determine whether Arlington Science Focus School or Arlington Traditional School (off of George Mason) will move to the Wilson building in Rosslyn five years from now. The vacated building would become the new "neighborhood school" for a portion of Lyon Village. If ASFS moves to Rosslyn, many feel we would be losing a fantastic, easily walkable school serving many children in our community. Moving ATS to Rosslyn could mean that some in our neighborhood (dependent on the passage of the second proposal noted below) may have to be bused to the other side of Glebe.

The second proposal is that two "planning units" (the homes closest to Arlington Science Focus) could be cleaved from the Taylor district to attend that new "neighborhood school". Currently, Lyon Village families can choose from Taylor, Key School, Jamestown, or Science Focus, based on family preference and school openings. This proposal would mean that many in our neighborhood would lose choices. Cleaving this part of the neighborhood would fragment our school population and eliminate much school choice for those in the western section of the Lyon Village. The boundaries of those two units are roughly west of 17th St/Franklin Road up to Wilson Blvd and out to Kirkwood Rd.

If you have/will have children who would be impacted, please consider joining concerned Lyon Villagers at the School Board's public hearing on December 4th. If you do not have school-aged children, consider sending an email to a School Board representative expressing your opinion on the issues prior to December 17th. School Board members are Abby Raphael, Ed Fendly, Sally Baird, Libby Garvey, and Frank Wilson. Contact them at schoolbd@arlington.k12.va.us.

Contest a Parking Ticket, Go to Court!

The County has made dubious changes to the process of contesting parking tickets (such as when the meter is broken). This change was codified in a modification of Arlington County Code 14.2-95. Citizens must now request a court date and appear before the Arlington County General District Court in order to contest a parking ticket.

To contest a ticket, you must first request a court date by appearing in person at the Arlington County Police Department Customer Service Counter at 1425 N Courthouse Road, Monday-Friday, 8am-3pm, making it difficult for people who work to contest a ticket at all.

On the day of your hearing, you must report by 9am to the Arlington County General District Court at 1425 N Courthouse Road. If found guilty, you must pay the fine and the court cost, at \$61 per citation. Should you decide to prepay the ticket once a court date has been set, you must go to the Clerk of the General District Court, where you will still be required to pay the court cost of \$61, in addition to your fine. Failure to pay may result in the suspension of your driving privileges. Failure to appear will result in the trial being conducted in your absence.

The result is that it will cost more in time and money to contest a ticket than pay it. Let you county officials know how you feel about this change in procedure by contacting www.arlingtonva.us. That, at least, can be done on the internet.

Live in Arlington, Save on Your Commute

Arlington may not all be as walkable as some DC neighborhoods, but we do have shorter commutes than DC residents who travel to NoVa's plentiful high-tech and defense contracting jobs. Households in Arlington drive 13,000 fewer miles per year than those in Gainesville, VA. In fact, monthly transit costs here are cheaper than in large sections of the nation's capital. Owning a home in a walkable neighborhood saves residents \$300 to \$400 a month on gas expenses alone according to research by the Congress for the New Urbanism.

Village Market

Seeking Piano Lessons: We are interested in finding a teacher for beginning piano lessons in Lyon Village. Please email Eileen Smith at eileenwsmith1@gmail.com.

Nanny Share or Part-time Nanny: Lyon Village couple is looking to share a nanny with another neighborhood family or to find a part-time nanny for our newborn son. We are looking for care for our son 2 to 3 days a week, starting around February 1, when our son will be 4 months old. Please let us know if you are interested in a nanny share or if you can recommend the services of a local nanny who can work part-time. Please contact Kirsten or Lee Crank at 703.582.6313, or kej36@yahoo.com.

Pet Care: Going out of town? For pet care during the day or evening, during the week or on weekends call Ben, Abby and Katherine at 703-528-3731 or cell 202-437-8257. We can feed and walk your pets all hours of the day.

House to Rent for Inauguration Weekend: If you know of someone who needs a place to stay, call Katie at 703.627.0123. Date/Rates are negotiable.

Builder Remodeler: Answer to requested recommendation for a professional, reasonable, neat and timely remodeling builder: Joe Ware of JPW & Assoc, 703-537-0017. On time and on schedule. Marolyn Hatch.