



# The Lyon Village Bulletin

[www.LyonVillage.org](http://www.LyonVillage.org)

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## **Lyon Village 2008-09 Dues Now's the Time**

The time is now to make your annual Lyon Village Citizens Association dues contribution, if you haven't done so already. This contribution to your community preserves your voting rights on Neighborhood Issues and helps fund community activities. Dues are \$7 Individual, \$10 Household. Please mail or deliver your LVCA dues payments to: Carl Mattick, 1428 N. Fillmore St. Call 703-525-0819 or email [cmattick@cmattick.com](mailto:cmattick@cmattick.com) 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](http://www.lyonvillage.org).

## **Volunteer Opportunities Through County Website**

Arlington offers many great volunteer opportunities. Volunteer options, donation needs, and volunteer board opportunities are listed at the Online Volunteer Connection at [www.volunteersolutions.org/acvo/volunteer](http://www.volunteersolutions.org/acvo/volunteer).

## **Naturalist Course From ARMN**

The Virginia Cooperative Extension sponsored Arlington Regional Master Naturalist (ARMN) chapter of Virginia Master Naturalist program is accepting applications for Spring Basic Training. ARMN helps train volunteers to provide education, citizen science and outreach to conserve and manage natural resources and public lands. Training course includes classes and field trips on entomology, herpetology, ornithology, astronomy, wetland class, botany, dendrology, mammalogy, aquatic ecology, invasives, land use urban ecology, geology, soils, forest ecology, biogeography, weather/climate, interpretation, and citizen science; and runs from Feb 24 weekly to June 9, from 7-10 pm, at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd., Arlington. Day-long field trips will run from 9am to 3pm on 3/21, 4/18, 5/2, and 5/16. Cost of \$150 includes all books and guides. Apply at [www.armn.org](http://www.armn.org). Application deadline 01/60/09. Contact the Arlington office of Virginia Cooperative Extension (703) 228-6400/TDD/PC 1-800-1120 with questions.

## **Donate to Arlington Food Attend an Inaugural Gala**

The Grassroots Inaugural Gala and Fund-Raiser for the Arlington Food Assistance Center takes place Sunday, Jan 18, 7:30-11:30pm at the State Theatre in Falls Church at 220 North Washington St. You can help neighbors in need as you celebrate the election of President Barack Obama! The \$50.00 per ticket includes hot hors d'oeuvres, hot live music, and lots of fun people! Dress: Jeans and T-shirts. Order your tickets online from the State Theatre at <http://tickets.thestatetheatre.com> or buy them at the State Theatre box office, tel 703.237.0300. You can bring non-perishable foods to the gala for donation.

**Happy New Year!**

## **Come to the January General Meeting Monday January 12 at 8pm At the Lyon Village Community House Aging, Are You Ready for Act III of Your Life?**

We're all going to get old, and many of us will require care as we age. Many of us have a parents, relative, or sibling who is facing choices on how to enjoy last stages of life. This can include downsizing, relocating to another area, and making decisions for the future now, when planning is easier. This is the topic of our January General Meeting, Act III: How And Where We Want to Conclude Our Lives. The options are great, but can require a spreadsheet to analyze. Among the issues we face are: Aging in Place; Using a Community Support Groups; Moving to a Retirement Community or CCRC; Utilizing Public or Private Care Service; Valuing Various Plans; and What to do if Money Runs Out. Come participate on January 12 meeting and listen to our neighbor Marolyn Hatch, as she shares her research and experience on making choices that you or your family can happily live with. As we know, Marolyn always brings a very helpful and fascinating presentation to share with us. And, this is an important issue for us all.

**Lyon Village Executive Committee Meeting  
Monday January 5 at 8pm at the Community House  
All Are Welcomed to Attend**

## **School Planning Issue Resolved for Now**

Letters and phone calls do work. Those who spoke out or wrote letters opposing the annexation of planning units 2320 and 2320 from the Lyon Village community and Taylor elementary school "team" have met with success. The School Board voted last month against any changes to the planning units. Wilson school site decisions have been tabled for the time being.

The first proposal involved removing "planning units" (which included homes closest to Arlington Science Focus) from the Taylor district to attend a proposed new "neighborhood school". The second proposal would have determined whether Arlington Science Focus School or Arlington Traditional School would move to the Wilson Building in Rosslyn five years from now.

## **Vacuum Leaf Collection Has Ended for the Season Time to Bag Your Leaves**

The County has completed their two vacuum truck passes through Lyon Village. In order to recycle your remaining leaves, you must place the leaves in County-provided biodegradable bags. Do not use plastic bags, these cannot be recycled. In Lyon Village, leaf bags will be collected on the next business day after your regular trash collection day through Thursday, January 15, 2009. Please note that with our trash collection taking place on Wednesdays, Thursday is our leaf collection day. The biodegradable bags will not be collected again until the spring cleanup season. Get free leaf bags at several locations around the county through January 9, while supplies last. Please do not continue to rake leaves into the street as these will not be collected by the County and will create a hazard for your neighbors.

## **Come Out to Free Arlington Public Library Events**

Looking for an afternoon or evening out without expense? Our Arlington Public Libraries offer many opportunities for learning and for fun.

Jan 11, 3pm - Author Event; "American Presidents Attend the Theatre: The Playgoing Experiences of Each Chief Executive" by Thomas A. Bogar at Shirlington Branch Library. Surveying 255 years, Bogar examines presidential theatre-going as it reflects shifting popular tastes in America.

Jan 12, 7pm - Author Event; "Michelle" by Washington Post Magazine Writer Liza Mundy at Arlington Central Library Auditorium, 1015 N Quincy St. To mark the inauguration of the 44th president of the United States, author, Arlington resident, and Washington Post Magazine writer Liza Mundy discusses her new biography of the next first lady, Michelle Obama.

Jan 13, 7pm - Author Event; "Obama: The Historic Campaign in Photographs" by Washington Post Assistant Managing Editor Kevin Merida at Arlington Central Library Auditorium. To mark the inauguration of the 44th president of the United States, Kevin Merida will discuss the text and photographs in his new book which he compiled with photo historian Deborah Willis.

Jan. 15, 6:30pm - Cross-Cultural Cinema/Author Event; Charlie Chaplin's "The Kid" [1921] with Overview by Author Stephen M. Weissman at Arlington Central Library Auditorium. Chaplin's film will be screened in and Dr. Stephen M. Weissman, author of "Chaplin: A Life," will offer commentary on the film and Charlie Chaplin before and after the screening.

Jan 26, 7pm - Author Event; An Evening with George Pelecanos at Arlington Central Library Auditorium. Esquire magazine calls George Pelecanos "the poet laureate of the D.C. crime world." Join him for a discussion of his work including his latest crime noir, "The Turnaround." Pelecanos also wrote extensively for the critically hailed HBO series "The Wire."

## Most Expensive Schools in Washington, DC Suburbs

The new numbers are out from the *Washington Area Boards of Education* (WABE). Arlington has jumped ahead of Alexandria as the most expensive school district in the Washington DC area, on a cost-per-student basis. Here are the numbers by County/City with the 2009 figure first, followed by the 2008 figure, and the percentage change:

Arlington County: \$19,538, \$18,563, 5.25%.

Alexandria: \$19,078, \$19,341, -1.36%.

Falls Church: \$18,311, \$18,474, -0.88%.

Montgomery: \$15,252m \$14,705, 3.72%.

Fairfax County: \$13,340, \$13,407, -0.50%.

Manassas City: \$13,105, \$12,067, 8.60%.

Loudoun: \$12,780, \$12,751, 0.23%.

Prince George's: \$12,517, \$12,107, 3.39%.

Prince William: \$10,776, \$10,429, 3.33%.

Arlington has great public schools; sometimes better does cost more. However, given the cost-per-student difference between Arlington County and highly rated Fairfax County at \$6,198 per student, or \$118 million, it is important to be sure those funds are being used to the best benefit. The fiscal year 2009 *WABE Guide* is available at the Fairfax County Public Schools website.

## County Board Approves Millions More for Project Opposed by Lyon Village Citizens Association

The First Baptist Church of Clarendon and its development affiliate, The Views at Clarendon, have been granted millions more in AHIF funds from the County to move ahead with their plan to build a high-rise tower to include a new church, luxury apartments designed to provide cash flow to the church, and sorely needed affordable housing units. This project, which was failing and required a bail-out in order to continue, is a poor use Arlington taxpayer dollars. The cost per unit is extreme and the financial viability of the project is questionable. Yet, our County Board voted unanimously to throw more money at it. This is occurring at a time of financial crisis when the County Board is planning not just to raise our property tax rate, but to increase the overall taxpayer burden as well.

The Lyon Village Citizens Association has consistently approved of affordable housing for this site; however this project and the drastic zoning changes required to allow it, have not been supported by the neighborhood. It is notable that the two County Board members living within Lyon Village voted in favor of the additional funding. Was our County Board elected by district, it is very unlikely that a member representing the area including Lyon Village would have supported this project. With the entire County Board voted "at large", no member has to answer to any neighborhood within the County.

Many in the community have expressed concern about aspects of the funding for the proposed high-rise, including whether the government should be bearing almost all of the cost of constructing a new church, whether the expenditure of public funds is prudent given the extent to which the building is composed of luxury units that are required to provide a church with 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 the grad student population that is frequently the beneficiary of affordable housing in Arlington.

These concerns of our neighborhood have been tarred with the tag "nimby". Claims that Lyon Village does not want affordable housing in its backyard is a cop-out and shows an ignorance of the real issues surrounding this poor use of our tax dollars.

## Rain...Old Pipes...and Flooded Basements

How many of you held your breath, checked your batteries and homeowner's policies at the mere speculation of rain, much less hurricanes or snow melt? A properly installed sump-pump and drain system can all but eliminate the problems with flooded basements and the subsequent water damage to home and personal belongings.

When considering basement water dampness, installing a sump pump will address the initial problems. Depending on the terrain of your land, a correctly placed pump and discharge pipe can dramatically reduce the hazards of basement water without the time, mess and extensive costs of water-proofing.

A sump pit should always be a manufactured fiberglass bucket and the pump should always be made of cast-iron with no less than one-third horsepower. Virginia code requires a check-valve on the discharge pipe. The drain water from a sump system is not sewage and is required to be pumped to an exterior location that runs along grade away from the home and property.

Also, if your home is built before 1970 and has a basement stairwell, it can be equally important to have an adequately sized drain strainer that allows the water to physically run into the drain pipe. Quite often, the grid basket is far too small and can easily become covered with leaves, dirt and debris, allowing rain water to flood the staircase and overflow into the basement. This problem can usually be corrected by breaking the concrete around the existing drain and adapting a larger drain grid to the pipe in order to allow a greater storm water volume.

By addressing these issues concerning your home and the rain/ground water aggressively, the headaches with soaked basements and ruined carpeting can be resolved.

Information provided by Lyman Stutzman, Arlington home and business owner.

### Clarification

In the article "Millions More from County for Project Opposed by LVCA" seen in the December 2008 Lyon Village Bulletin, contact information for Ayesha Kahn at *Americans United for Separation of Church and State* was provided. This contact information should not be used. Instead, readers having a concern about the separation of church and state should contact *Americans United for Separation of Church and State* through filing a complaint at [www.au.org](http://www.au.org) or by calling their main switchboard. *Americans United* is not currently involved with the issues noted in the article.

Go to [www.LyonVillage.org](http://www.LyonVillage.org) for the latest neighborhood news and the Lyon Village Bulletin.

### Village Market

**Great Renovator/Handyman Services:** Joe Ware comes with recommendation from your neighbors. Call 571-274-4040.

**Lyon Village Nanny:** Qualified and caring woman seeks 5-day-a-week position in Lyon Village. Eleven year job reference. Call 571-224-7610.

**Rental Apartments in Paris and Chile:** Lyon Village owner offers rental units in Paris, France and Santiago, Chile. Both units are centrally located, modern and fully furnished. For photos and descriptions see [www.vrbo.com](http://www.vrbo.com), listing #192210 for Paris; #192790 for Santiago. Reasonable rents for perfectly maintained apartments. Lyon Village references!

**Companion Care Needed for Elderly Lyon Village Resident:** My 84-year-old mother needs someone for one hour each day to help her with some basic strengthening exercises and to fix her a simple lunch. So, if you are in the neighborhood and have a little free time to earn some extra spending money, please call 703 850-5010.