



The Lyon Village Bulletin

www.LyonVillage.org

*Lyon Village Citizen's Association
Arlington VA
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February 2009

Cooperative Playschool

Tender Roots, a cooperative playschool inspired by Reggio Emilia, is now accepting applicants for the 2009-2010 school year. Lyon Village residents have priority. Tender Roots works to provide 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 Root is a place where neighborhood friendships can take root. For further information and to schedule a visit, please e-mail tenderroots@yahoo.com. Student visits are on Friday, Feb 20.

Green Kitchens and Baths

On Tues, Feb 10, 7-8:30pm you can get info make your next bathroom or kitchen remodel beautiful, green, and affordable. The array of product choices and claims can make a person feel overwhelmed. Join Amicus Green Building Center president Jason Holstine as he guides you through the product choices and design principles that will meet your goals and make a difference for the environment—from countertops and cabinets, to lighting, tiles, paints, and appliances. Central Library Auditorium. 1015 N Quincy St, Arlington. Free, no reservations required. For more information, em jkelsch@arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-3599 or 301-571-8590.

Money Talk: A Financial Course for Women

Women have unique financial needs. This course will provide you with information that you need to take charge of your financial future. The course includes five classes: Feb 4 Financial Basics; Feb 11 Insurance Basics; Feb 18 Investing Basics; Feb 25 Investing for Retirement; March 4 Planning for Future Life Events. All classes will be held 7:00-8:45pm at Arlington Central Library at 1015 N Quincy Street. Cost: \$20 for the accompanying textbook. Access the registration brochure at: <http://info.ag.vt.edu/vce/offices/webinfo/files/Money%20Talk%20Brochure7.pdf> or contact: jabel@vt.edu or (703) 228-6417.

Raingardens for Homeowners

Sat, Feb 28, 9:30am-12:30pm. Learn how to properly locate, design, construct and maintain a small-scale rain garden—a landscaped area that is designed to capture rain water and allow it to soak into the ground. Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S Stafford St, Arlington. Free, for more information or to register, email awinquist@arlingtonva.us or call 703.228.3610.

General Meeting for Lyon Village Residents

Monday February 9th at 8pm

At the Lyon Village Community House

Presentation on Local Real-Estate Market

Update on Dominion Virginia Undergrounding Project

At this month's General Meeting we will have local real-estate expert and Lyon Village resident, Ingrid Wooten and possibly others to discuss the state of the Arlington real-estate market with a special focus on Clarendon and Lyon Village. Our area has been very lucky in the midst of the real-estate downturn, with values down only slightly (see article on tax assessments below). There have been subtle shifts in the market, and in the relative strength of single-family versus condominium homes. Come to the meeting to hear what Ingrid sees next for our market and what steps to take if you're looking to eventually buy, sell, or improve a home in the neighborhood.

Also at the February meeting, Carla Pickard of Dominion Virginia Power will provide an update on Dominion's undergrounding project. We've all experienced the construction issues on Kirkwood Road; this will be chance to find out about the schedule and progress on this work. Once this work is complete, we have to hope that the county will repave the portions of Kirkwood not affected by Dominion's construction work. In addition, this presentation will provide an opportunity to get news on the next area of work, Lee Hwy facing Lyon Village. The result of all this work will be 2.5 miles of 69 kV underground lines from both the Nelson Street and Wilson Boulevard substations connecting to the Rosslyn Substation at 1850 N. Moore Street. These are essentially high-tension lines buried underground. These improvements were necessitated by the growing power demands in our locale and will allow for better distribution of electricity.

Lyon Village Executive Committee Meeting

Monday February 2nd at 8pm at the Community House

All Are Invited to Attend the Monthly Executive Committee Meetings

Tax Assessment Time

It's that time of year when we receive our tax assessments. Our neighborhood housing market must be doing well; there are reports of many assessments in Lyon Village going up, a few by large amounts. Some are questioning rising assessments when all we hear about is the continued downturn in the housing market. While most assessments are down, there are cases in and around Lyon Village where increased assessments this year are adding upwards of \$100,000 and even \$200,000 in assessed value to the homeowner's annual tax bill.

Property in Arlington is assessed as of January 1 of each year by the Department of Real Estate Assessments. The Arlington County Board sets the tax rate at the end of April. The rate for tax year 2008 is .848 per \$100 of assessed value. The 2007 rate was .818. Board Chair Barbara Favola, a 12-year veteran of the board, said it would be very hard for the county to stick to its previously stated goal of keeping the average tax bill unchanged. "My guess is that it's not going to be possible," Favola said. "We're probably going to have to ask our residents to pay a little more." The county spends about \$1 billion on county programs and schools.

Over the past year, county statistics show overall real-estate values in Arlington as essentially flat. In Arlington, the average value of a single-family home declined by 2% to \$520,100 from \$530,800. Commercial properties in the county increased in value by 2.3%.

Given the 2% decline in single-family home values, most Arlington residents saw a decrease in their county tax assessment, as would be expected. Assessed value declined for 65% of Arlington homeowners. Of those, 52% saw a decline of 2% or more. The remaining 45% saw no change or an increase in their assessment. Some 16% of homes had no change, while the remainder showed an increase.

Of the properties with an increased assessment, 13% increased up to 3%. There were 6.5% that saw an increase of more than 3% in their assessment, with some seeing increases of over 20% despite making no improvement to their property over the past year. Overall, residential assessments decreased an average of 1.2%, with a 2.1% decline for existing properties offset by a 0.9% increase for new construction/conversions.

The first step in challenging an assessment is to phone the Department of Real Estate Assessments and ask to speak to the appraiser assigned to your neighborhood. If not satisfied after speaking with the appraiser, an appeal form, provided by the Department of Real Estate Assessments may be filed. The form provides a formal request for the appraiser to reconsider the value determination.

If the departmental review doesn't provide satisfaction, an appeal may be filed with the Board of Equalization of Real Estate Assessments. This is a five-member citizens' group appointed by the County Board to mediate differences of opinion between property owners and the Department of Real Estate Assessments.

Once the Appeals of Board of Equalization decision has been rendered, the next option is to file an appeal with the Circuit Court of Arlington. For further information, contact the Department of Real Estate Assessments at 703-228-3920.

TSA Updates

The Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) will be making some changes to security procedures in the next few months. Important among these changes is that your name on your ticket must appear exactly as it appears on your driver's license or passport. Previously, so long as your first and last name was correct, that was enough. With the new changes, if your driver's license says John Q. Smith – then the ticket will have to read John Q. Smith, not just John Smith. For those who travel often and have frequent-flier numbers, make sure that they are in the exact same name as on your driver's license and passport. You will now also be required to provide your date of birth and your gender (thank you to Joan Porte, CTC at www.joanstravelpartners.com for providing this information). For TSA updates go to www.tsa.gov/travelers/index.shtm.

Arlington Artists Alliance

Member Shows in February

East Meets West, a culturally-themed show and sale will be featured Feb 1-29, at Century 21 Redwood Realty, 1711 Wilson Blvd, Arlington. Opening reception, Friday, Feb 6, 6:30-8:30pm. Exhibit hours: Mon-Fri, 10am - 4 pm. Phone to confirm weekend hours, 703-528-8195. The exhibit will be juried by Wilford W. Scott of the National Gallery of Art.

Art Warms the Heart is the February Alliance exhibit at the Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N Quaker Lane, Alexandria. The show runs Feb 2-27. More than 20 artists will exhibit work in a variety of styles and media, including oil, pastel, water media, collage, and more. All items for sale. Hours: Mon-Thurs, 9am-5pm, and by appointment. For info: 703-998-6260. Website: www.arlingtonartistsalliance.com.

Internet Gardening

Get guidance on how to access reliable, science-based information on the Internet about gardening and the environment. Workshop takes place at Arlington Central Library's ComputerLab, presented by Virginia Cooperative Extension's Master Gardeners. Free and open to the public on Fri, Feb 20, from 10am to noon. Arlington Central Library is at 1015 North Quincy Street. For information call: 703.228.6414.

Try A Local Hair Salon

A Lyon Village neighbor tells us that the *Clarendon Barber and Hair Stylist*, under new ownership, is a local business worth supporting. Sarah and her staff offer complete hair dressing services for women, men and children. Her prices for haircuts, blow-dry, permanents, coloring and other treatments are very reasonable (see www.clarendonhairshop.com for price list). Sarah is at the shop daily except Thursdays. Just walk in to 1407 Garfield Street (near the corner of Wilson) or call 703.527.5588 for an appointment.

Upcoming Meetings on the County Budget

Arlingtonians are encouraged to attend and speak up at these meetings. The following Public Hearings will take place in relation to the County's financial planning.

March 24-25: County Board Budget Hearings.

March 26: County Board Tax Rate Hearing.

April 25: County Board Adopts Budget & Tax Rates.

Black History Month at the Arlington Public Library

Black History Month Film: *It's Just Me...The Integration of the Arlington Public Schools*; Mon Feb 2, 7pm; Arlington Central Library Auditorium 1015 N Quincy Street in Ballston. On Feb. 2, 1959, four seventh graders who were black began attending Stratford Junior High School in Arlington, leading the way in integrating Virginia public schools. Arlington Public Library marks the 50th anniversary of that moment with a showing of the award-winning documentary. Total running time: 58 minutes.

Black History Month Author Event: National Book Award Winner Annette Gordon-Reed; Thu Feb 5, 7pm; Arlington Central Library Auditorium. Professor Annette Gordon-Reed of New York Law School and Rutgers University discusses *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family*, winner of the 2008 National Book Award for Nonfiction. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Author Event: "The Lincolns" by Daniel Mark Epstein; Sun Feb 8, 3pm; Arlington Central Library Auditorium. Arlington Public Library marks the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth with an appearance by Daniel Mark Epstein, who will discuss his critically hailed look at the union between Abraham and Mary Todd. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Author Event: *The Last Lincoln Conspirator, John Surratt's Flight from the Gallows* by Andrew C.A. Jampoler; Sun Feb 15, 3pm; Arlington Central Library Auditorium. Arlington Public Library celebrates the Abraham Lincoln bicentennial with a talk by the author whose book offers a gripping narrative of John Surratt, who escaped capture for 2 years after the assassination. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Come To www.LyonVillage.org

Have you visited the Lyon Village website lately? Come to www.lyonvillage.org and take a look. This is the first place you'll find the latest issue of the Lyon Village Bulletin. The Bulletin is sent to the website the day it goes to print. In addition, all the latest news and notices will appear on the website. Have you paid Lyon Village your annual dues this year? Well, it's easy, just got to the Lyon Village website and pay online!

A Lyon Village Neighbor's Hard-Drive Saga

This saga begins with the dreaded hard-drive crash of a computer belonging to one of our Lyon Village neighbors. In search of the lost information, the Lyon Villager first took the computer hard-drive to a company that evaluated it for \$100. Our neighbor then received a text file with over 29,000 pages of file listings from the company, along with the information that they could recover 29GB of data for about \$1,625, plus a new drive to put it on.

It took our neighbor many hours to look through the pages the company had provided, only to discover that the information was mostly application programs and utilities that would be unusable from the files the company could provide. Our poor neighbor just wanted some lost documents and email. For the quoted \$1,625, documents could be recovered, but likely not email.

Next the Lyon Villager contacted a computer geek and learned that the cost would be \$150 per hour to try to recover the lost data.

Finally, a friend intervened and suggested that our neighbor go to someplace like Best Buy to purchase a Hard Drive Enclosure. Our neighbor could then put the non-working drive into this device, connect it to a new computer, and move the files. The happy Lyon Villager was in fact, able to borrow a Hard Drive Enclosure from a friendly neighbor and recover the files. Cost for this solution: \$0. Editor's note: a Hard Drive Enclosure can be found Amazon and other websites for under \$25.

Be friendly with your Lyon Village neighbors; you never know what you can learn!

Village Market

Bracelet Found: A bracelet was found on a Franklin St sidewalk on approximately Jan 19. Please contact 703.5252.7417 and provide a detailed description to claim.

Nanny: Lyon Village couple looking to find a part-time nanny or to share a nanny with another neighborhood family. We are looking for care for our son 2 to 3 days a week, beginning mid-March, when our son will be 6 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 Angela and Jim via email (angelamuehr@hotmail.com) or phone (703-528-7642).

Lyon Village Mom: Looking for another LV mom to schedule weekly play dates so I can exercise. Ideally I would watch your kids for an hour M-W-F and you do the same the next hour, but I am flexible. My kids are 3 and 1. Please email if you would be interested: nfeinsot@verizon.net.

Pearl Drum Set for sale for \$400.00. Excellent condition. Call 703-57-7729.

Lyon Village Home for Rent: 4 bedroom, 3 bath home for rent, \$4,250 month. Includes all lawn and garden care. Remodeled with modern updates. Great home for a family. 1819 North Herndon Street. Please call 703-919-3928.

Exceptional Nanny Available: Energetic, fun, creative, responsible, and loving nanny available late summer for full-time employment. Glowing references available. Please contact Gladys at 571-216-8375.

Laser Toner Cartridge: used casually one week before printer died. TN-430 Original price \$45, yours for \$10. Marolyn 703.522.9074.

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.