



The Lyon Village Bulletin

SEPTEMBER 2020

Lyon Village Citizens' Association (LVCA)
Arlington, VA

www.lyonvillage.org

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Calendar

Sept. 14: LVCA Meeting Online

Curbside Yard Waste Collection Resumes

Residential curbside yard waste collection resumed on August 31. During the first week, residents were asked to limit yard waste to the green cart and up to five paper organics bags. The county's temporary yard waste drop-off locations have now closed. Curbside collection of larger yard waste material like brush and limbs remains available by appointment. The county will be issuing a \$10.77 credit for the time when pickup was discontinued.

Early In-Person Voting Begins Sept. 18

Early voting will begin on Sept 18 at 2200 Clarendon Blvd, Suite R140 (the former Wells Fargo space). This is the closest location to Lyon Village. Four other locations are planned to open in October. All registered voters are eligible to vote early in the Nov. 3 election.

Residential Permit Parking Enforcement Resumes

On September 16, Arlington County will resume enforcement of Residential Permit Parking (RPP) rules. Enforcement was temporarily suspended in March due to the pandemic. If you park on the street in a zoned area, make sure your permits/passes are properly displayed. If you have not applied for 2021 permits/passes, the fastest way to get them is online.

Libraries Remain Closed

Library staff shares Arlington's belief that the library is a cornerstone of our community and acknowledges the hardship it causes to many when its physical spaces are closed. However, since COVID-19 cases remain above target thresholds and Arlington continues to experience community spread, the library and its branches will remain closed for the time being. Library staff believes it is of paramount importance to protect the safety of Library patrons and staff, and that slowing community spread of the COVID-19 virus is a community-wide effort. The status of the library will be reevaluated in October. During this time books placed on hold can be picked up at the main Quincey Street Branch.

Sept. 14 LVCA Meeting-Online

Due to the Covid-19 virus, the September Lyon Village meeting will be held via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81950856749>

Police Update: The meeting will start with an update on recent police activity in and around Lyon Village and Clarendon.

Real Estate Update: Our annual real estate update has been very popular in past years. As the virus cancelled the annual real estate update that was scheduled in May, Lyon Village residents and real estate agents Ruth Boyer O'Dea of TTR Sotheby's International Realty and Billy Buck of Buck & Associates, Inc. will present in September. They will discuss the effects of Covid-19 on the market, as well as the real estate market and sales trends in Lyon Village; how to prepare your house for market; and why it makes sense to talk to a real estate agent when thinking about selling your home. Come prepared with questions.

To participate in the meeting, use the Zoom link. Please start to sign on at 7:50pm so we can admit everyone by 8:00pm and the meeting can begin on time.

Court House Site Plan Application

The county recently accepted a new site plan application for the redevelopment of the Landmark Block in the Courthouse neighborhood. The site has seven parcels and is located directly adjacent to the Courthouse Metro station—the site of the former Cosi, Mattress Warehouse, and Summers restaurant. The applicant proposes to demolish the existing buildings and redevelop the site with a 20-story, 418-unit residential apartment building with an underground parking garage and ground floor retail.

Lyon Village Fourth of July Parade Recap

The great 50-year tradition of the Lyon Village Fourth of July Parade continued this year in spite of Covid-19. The parade was much longer than usual, travelling a total of 1.6 miles from west to east and back again. The parade included antique cars and police and fire vehicles. We want to thank all of our volunteers who helped make the parade such a big success.

As a special treat this year, we honored Col. Ed Brant, who has had one or two of his antique cars in the parade every year for as many years as we can remember. He was an Air Force pilot who flew B24s during WWII. He and his wife Gin moved to Lyon Village in 1963. Col. Brant is now 99 years old and moving a little slowly, but he joined us in the parade as the honorary Parade Grand Marshall riding in his Model T Ford driven by his son in law.

Lyon Village Food Drive a Success

Lyon Village delivered almost 1,000 pounds of food to AFAC at the end of June. The food drive was enthusiastically organized by the Lyon Village Women's Club. The Lyon Village Women's Club, Citizens Association, and individuals also contributed cash donations totaling \$2,500. LVWC, LVCA, and AFAC thank everybody who helped make the food drive such a big success.

Village Market

Seeking premier lot. Family seeking a premier lot to build their dream home. Ready to buy directly from owners at market rate in cash. Please reach out to thefinalbubble@gmail.com if you are considering selling your home in the near future. No solicitations from realtors or builders, please.

Lyon Village residents are invited to send their notices of garage sales, nanny searches, and more to the Village Market by the end of the 3rd week of the month.

Real Estate Corner: Do I Need to Spend Time & Money on Repairs and Staging in This Sellers' Market?

Short answer: Yes, even in our current sellers' market. Days on market are lower and the potential number of interested buyers increases exponentially when buyers see a home looking its best. But what is staging? Staging is simply ensuring that your home makes its best first impression. This can entail no cost de-cluttering and de-personalizing to hiring a professional stager to furnish and decorate. Some rules to consider when staging:

Curb Appeal. Spruce up the entrance to the home. At a minimum, consider mowing the lawn, raking leaves, mulching beds and planting fresh flowers. Apply fresh paint to the front door; replace worn house numbers; install a lock set that works well; and replace the old mat.

De-Clutter and De-Personalize. Less is definitely more, as clutter makes a home seem small and disorganized. If every surface is covered, and closets and drawers exploding, a buyer will wonder if there's enough room for their things. A buyer should also be able to envision themselves in the spaces, so you need to remove personal photos, as well as political and religious items.

Color & Light. Neutral and welcoming doesn't mean beige and boring. There are many neutral colors that include warm shades. Use art and accessories as color accents in rooms. Clean windows and remove screens to let the light in. Consider layering lighting (ambient, task and accent lighting).

Honey-Do List. We all learn to live with the little things in our home, like a cabinet door not closing, a door needing to be jiggled or lifted or pushed to catch, a window that doesn't open - so we open another instead. It's time to repair these items around the house so that buyers see a home that is cared for and well-maintained.

Floors, Fixtures & Furnishings. Most of us have too much furniture – so it's time to let your rooms breathe. Maximize walkable square footage. Your square footage is your most valuable commodity! You want to ensure you have good flow in the rooms, while showing new owners the potential in the spaces. Consider updating fixtures. Make the floors shine.

Some final points to consider: (1) it is best to have your beloved pets stay elsewhere during showings. This minimizes pet stress, minimizes smells, and minimizes agent/buyer fear. Some people are afraid or allergic to pets and your home certainly won't appeal to them if they cannot walk through without sneezing; and (2) have a good friend give their honest opinion about how the home looks and smells. Ask them where their eye travels in each room. Are there issues you still need to address?

Remember that it's all about showing your home to its best advantage to its new owner. It is certainly worth the time and the effort.

– This article is presented by Ruth Boyer O'Dea of TTR Sotheby's International Realty and Billy Buck of Buck and Associates, Inc. Ruth and Billy can also be reached at lyonvillagerealestate@gmail.com

Love for Our Elders Seeks Volunteers

LVCA neighbor Sabine Strattman writes:

I was wondering if it would be possible to post on the Lyon Village newsletter about the opportunity to write to the isolated elderly via the organization Love for Our Elders: <https://loveforourelthers.org/>. This organization allows you to mail one- way letters written for the elderly to the Love for Our Elders mailbox. The organization then sends the letters to isolated elderly nationwide. In these letters, you can be as creative as you would like. You can include jokes, anecdotes about your day, drawings --- whatever you would like to receive in a letter. Writing and sending these letters are extremely rewarding, especially because those who receive the letters find hope and joy in them.

Report Potholes, Downed Signs

Be sure to report any potholes that you see in the neighborhood to the County. You can call 703-228-6570 or go online to <https://topics.arlingtonva.us/reportproblem/>

Latest Lyon Village News

For the latest Lyon Village and Arlington County news and events, please check out the Lyon Village website: LyonVillage.org. It is updated daily by our webmaster, Tom Piwowar.

Please submit items for the OCTOBER *Bulletin* by Sept. 25 to adam@ksaplus.com.