

Langley Oaks Newsletter

Fall 2006



Langley Oaks Homeowners Association
P. O. Box 681, McLean, Va 22101

BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES: Our Association is governed by a Board of Directors. These nine neighbors, who volunteer their time and talents, are elected by the general membership in February to serve three-year terms. The terms of 3 members end each year, and the Board is always looking for new candidates to bring new ideas and perspectives.

Board member Keith Fischler has been appointed Chairman of the Nominating Committee to identify candidates who are willing to serve, if elected, for the 2007-2010 term. Specific committee assignments are always made after the election, but the Board seeks people who are willing to get involved, stay involved, devote some of their time, and help keep Langley Oaks one of the best neighborhoods in the area. Also, the Nominating Committee requires two volunteers who are not members of the Board of Directors, to serve on the committee. If you are interested in being considered for a Board position or to serve on the Nominating Committee, or know someone who is, please contact Keith!

HALLOWEEN PARADE: The Langley Oaks annual Halloween Parade is scheduled for Sunday, October 29th at 3pm. We will be collecting donations to help support our very own McLean Fire Department. Please meet at the end of Heatherbrook Court. Dress in all of your Halloween finery or just come and watch the fun. We will be serving light refreshments after the parade. There is no rain date set. If you have questions please contact Nina Grossman at
We hope to see you there.

Are you looking for a way to meet more of your neighbors? Would you like to be more involved in our community? Several residents have formed a community activities committee to help plan and execute upcoming events. If you would like to help or would like to provide additional ideas for events, please email

ICE CREAM SOCIAL: The community activities committee hosted a very well-attended and successful neighborhood event on September 8. Neighborhood families enjoyed a great evening of ice cream fun. Storm clouds threatened, but the rain stayed away until everyone went home. A good time was had by all. Thank you to Alexis Hirsch and Kerstin Stitt for all their work on this event. We hope to see you at our next event.

MOUNT VERNON TRAIL EXTENSION: As discussed in last Fall's newsletter, and as discussed at the General Membership meeting in February, the National Park Service (NPS) apparently continues to consider a request from the Washington Area Bicyclist Association to extend the Mount Vernon Trail from Roosevelt Island to the American Legion Bridge. This would provide bicycling and hiking access from the American Legion Bridge to Mount Vernon. The Feasibility Report has been issued and can be viewed at: <http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/MgtDocs/MVT-FinalReport.pdf>.

On July 21, 2005, an information meeting on the Environmental Assessment for this project was held at the McLean Community Center. At that time the NPS estimated that another meeting on the Environmental Assessment, with opportunity for citizen comment, would be held late in 2005 or early in 2006. We were told at that time that a further meeting would be held, but none has been scheduled. As of press-time for this newsletter, we were not able to get an update regarding this project. It does not seem to be a priority for the National Park Service, but the Board will continue to monitor this issue. Since one of the alternatives being considered would have a trail travel along Ridge Drive and from Ridge Drive to Langley Oaks Park, Langley Oaks Residents may have particular interest in this item. The NPS Park Planner responsible for this project is Deborah Feldman. She can be contacted at Deborah_Feldman@nps.gov or 703-289-2512.

BACK TO SCHOOL: School has started again, and that means lots of school buses in the neighborhood throughout the day, and lots of our children running to and from their homes. Please drive carefully, obey the laws regarding passing school buses, and observe the 25 mph speed limit. We all want to help keep our children safe.

SPEED CONTROL: The speed limit within the Oaks is 25 miles per hour. The Board continually works with Fairfax County Police in an effort to control speeding in the neighborhood. The Police have reminded us that they will respond to complaints. Therefore, if you observe a car speeding through the

Oaks, all residents are urged to write down the license plate of the vehicle, get a look at the driver, and report the offender to the Fairfax County Police's non-emergency number, 703-691-2131. It is also worthy to note that police and board members have noted that it is often Langley Oaks residents, not always students and visitors, who speed down the road in an unsafe manner. With such a high concentration of children in our neighborhood, the traffic safety laws are especially important.

SIDEWALKS AND BUSHES: Langley Oaks has about a mile-and-a-half of sidewalk along Ridge Drive. This sidewalk is used by many residents of all ages, from babies in carriers to those old enough to have to walk for health. It is a positive feature of our neighborhood. The use of this sidewalk is more pleasant when adjacent residents keep the bushes and trees trimmed to keep the walkway clear. If you live along the sidewalk you can help by making the extra effort to frequently trim any of your shrubs, bushes, and trees that encroach on the sidewalk. It keeps the sidewalk accessible for all. The people pushing double-wide twin, or triple-wide triplet child carriers will particularly appreciate being able to stay on the sidewalk with their precious cargo. And incidentally, if you live on one of our shared common driveways, pruning your shrubs, bushes, and trees to keep the full width of the driveway clear will be greatly appreciated by your neighbors and by the police and fire departments.

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT: At its quarterly meeting in September, the Board voted to increase the authorized maximum amount of the annual dues that may be assessed in 2007 from \$105 to \$110. After the budgeting process is completed in December, the actual amount will be determined and an assessment notice and general meeting announcement will be mailed to each property owner in mid-January. Dues are overdue if not paid by the end of February. Assessment monies collected are used for such items as: snow removal, mowing, watering and lighting the front entrance; printing the Directory and Newsletter; insuring the Association, its Directors and its Officers; and buying paint to cover up graffiti.

VANDALISM: Most of you noticed that our front entrance and many parking signs were vandalized with spray paint after an event at Langley High School on September 28. This happens periodically, and the board is working with the school, the police, the County, and private contractors to have the necessary repair and cleaning work performed. Whenever the perpetrators are identified, it is our custom to press charges and to cooperate fully with the police. This most recent incident is still under active investigation. For the

record, any person who defaces property has committed a crime, not a prank. All such acts should be quickly reported to the Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131. Depending on the dollar amount of the damage, fines can range up to \$2,500, and the charges in some cases can be a felony rather than a misdemeanor.

WEB PAGE: The Board is making steady progress with the development of a web page. It is working on developing a cost-effective site that would contain news and current events in the neighborhood, ACC Change Request information, the Newsletter, and other content that would be helpful for all residents of the Oaks. Ellen Fischler has been donating a significant amount of her time and talents on this project, and we all owe her a big "thank you" for her efforts. As of yet, there is no schedule set for the page going "live." As with any website, content will take some time to develop.

FIREWOOD: Each year at this time, door-to-door salespersons cruise the Oaks selling firewood. The FCPD reminds homeowners to exercise caution in dealing with these people. Door to door salespeople are required to obtain a vendor's license and should furnish a written sales invoice/delivery ticket specifying the name and address of the vendor, the name and address of the purchaser, the date delivered, the quantity of wood delivered (measured by the use of the word cord - not words like face cord, rack, pile, load, etc), and the purchase price. It is also advisable to have the peddler's license number on the receipt.

NO TRESPASSING: Several residents have complained about trespassers taking shortcuts across their property. Please remind your children and their friends that travel through Langley Oaks, whether to Langley High School, friend's houses, or elsewhere, should be limited to the public sidewalks and public roads, not private yards or private drives. Also, everyone is reminded that there is NEVER any parking permitted on private common driveways (also referred to as private drives or pipestems).

CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG; IT'S MORE THAN JUST COMMON DECENCY, IT'S THE LAW: All dog walkers are required to pick up after their animals - it is the law (aka the pooper-scooper law)! Your neighbors would really appreciate dog walkers showing some *common courtesy and responsibility* in this area. We are a small yet concentrated neighborhood with many pets and many small children. Leaving dog waste for children to step in, fall on, or play with, is not only rude, but also illegal. If you

see someone leaving a mess after their dog, please feel free to ask them to pick it up, or to report them to Fairfax County Police through the non-emergency number at 703-691-2131.

LOOKING FOR DEPENDENTS TO DELIVER LOHA

PUBLICATIONS: From time to time, the Board needs reliable dependents to deliver items like the Newsletter, Directory, one-time notices about neighborhood safety, biting dogs, and so forth. If you are middle-school age or older and would like to earn \$50 for a couple hours' work, please provide your name, age, and contact information to: LOHA Delivery, PO Box 681, McLean, VA 22101.

MAKING CHANGES TO YOUR PROPERTY: All property in the Oaks is subject to LOHA's Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions. This document requires that property owners obtain *written approval* from the Architectural Control Committee before constructing or altering any structure or cutting any hardwood trees. Using the form inside the cover of this Newsletter and at the centerfold of the Directory will ensure your request contains all the information needed by the ACC to consider your project. Any fences must be approved by the ACC, as noted above. The covenants and by-laws also provide numerous restrictions on fence locations. If you are considering a fence (or any other boundary-related construction), please carefully review and follow our Association covenants and by-laws, please consult and follow local laws and ordinances, and we strongly suggest a boundary survey to ensure that you are constructing in the proper place. Placing a fence, driveway, or other improvements on the wrong side of a boundary could have numerous legal ramifications for you and for the adjacent landowner, and tend not to help in the "neighbor relations" department.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The Annual General Membership meeting will be held at Langley High School at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, February 6, 2007. If for any reason Fairfax County schools are closed (i.e. due to snow), the alternate date is Tuesday February 13, 2007, same time and place. Quarterly Board of Directors meetings for the coming 12 months are scheduled for 7:30 pm on December 5, 2006, March 6, 2007, June 5, 2007, and September 25, 2007, at locations to be announced. All meetings are always open to any LO property owner or resident.

A FOND FAREWELL, AND A BIG WELCOME: Tom Moore, who served on the Board and who has lived in Langley Oaks for many years, has resigned from the Board and has moved out of the Oaks. In his many years of

service, Tom served on and chaired numerous committees, and also notably served as President of the Association. Tom's experience and expertise have been invaluable, and he is sorely missed. Thank you, Tom.

We are pleased that Andrei Quinn-Barabanov accepted a nomination by the Board to fill the unexpired remainder of Tom's three-year term. Thank you, Andrei.

2006/2007 BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: The LOHA Board Officers and committee assignments for 2006/2007 are:

President – Andrew Hirsch
Vice President – Douglas Goldhush
Secretary – John Speicher
Treasurer – John Bender

ACC Chairman- Suzanne Seigel
Member and Alternate Chair - Douglas Goldhush
Members - Andrew Hirsch and Keith Fischler

Audit Committee – Keith Fischler

Community Activities – Suzanne Seigel

County and State Liaison – Gene Bondy

Maintenance – Gigi Jarvis

MCA Liaison – Keith Fischler

Newsletter – Doug Goldhush

Neighborhood Safety – Andrew Hirsch

Welcome – Andrei Quinn-Barabanov

DISCLOSURE PACKET: When selling your home, if the prospective buyer requests a copy of the Property Owners Disclosure Packet, send a *written request* to our Treasurer at P.O. Box 681, McLean, VA 22101 together with a check for \$100 made out to LOHA. The Treasurer will prepare this document within the two weeks stipulated by Virginia law.

2006 DIRECTORY: The Board is pleased to announce that the 2006 edition of the Langley Oaks Directory with the names and addresses of most residents has been published and distributed. If you need an additional copy or have any changes or corrections, please write LOHA Directory, P.O. Box 681, McLean, VA 22101.

WELCOME TO LANGLEY OAKS: It has been a busy transition year here in Langley Oaks. There have been many moving vans spotted in the neighborhood. Please welcome the following families. If you are new to the neighborhood and have not received a visit from the welcome committee, please contact Andrei Quinn-Barabanov at . He has a welcome package containing a neighborhood directory, Langley Oaks parking stickers, recent newsletters, and copies of our rules and regulations.

If you know of any other new neighbors who do not appear on this list, please contact Andrei so that he can provide a proper welcome to the neighborhood.