



# Langley Oaks Newsletter

Summer 2008

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## Langley Oaks Homeowners Association

P.O. Box 681, McLean, Va 22101

[www.langleyoaksmclean.com](http://www.langleyoaksmclean.com)

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**LOHA WEBSITE--THE NEIGHBORHOOD ONLINE:** Log on to the LOHA website, [www.langleyoaksmclean.com](http://www.langleyoaksmclean.com), and you'll have access to the Langley Oaks directory, community news, a calendar of events, names and e-mail addresses of the Board members, and more. It's set up for a "classifieds" section if you want to buy, sell or trade, and we have the capability to send e-mail notification about events in the Oaks for all residents who are registered.

The LOHA website is protected for your privacy, so you'll have to create an account, with an ID and password. The registration process is easy and takes just a few minutes. Please be assured that the confidentiality of all information provided is protected.

This is YOUR neighborhood website. If you have relevant articles or information you would like to share with your neighbors, please send it to [ksfischler](mailto:ksfischler).

**THE SIGN OF THINGS TO COME:** As the 2008 Presidential Election gets closer, and the race gets tighter, some neighbors may be tempted to post lawn signs in support of their candidate. As exciting as this election will be, the Board would like to remind you that LOHA covenants prohibit the posting of signs on any lots in the neighborhood, with two exceptions: "For Sale" and "For Rent" signs no larger than two square feet; and a single sign of one square foot or less, permitted and approved per applicable regulations. This mandate applies to signs related to politics, sports, contractors, etc. Please be considerate of your neighbors by adhering to the LOHA covenants.

**RELIEF FROM UNWANTED NEWSPAPERS:** Several neighbors have reported success in getting relief from the delivery of unsubscribed newspapers on their driveways. In particular, The Washington Examiner has a 'Permanent Cancellation' form on its website, [www.examiner.com/delivery](http://www.examiner.com/delivery), which should result in termination of the paper's delivery. If you find, after filing the form, that you're still receiving the paper you can call The Examiner at 703-846-8500 and ask to have a reflective disk put on your mailbox. This disk alerts the paper's delivery person, who's known for blanketing the neighborhood with papers, regardless of whether you've opted out, that you really, really don't want to receive it. We've been told that while this process requires persistence on the homeowner's part, it is well worth the effort.

The Fairfax County Times (formerly the McLean Times) has a residential delivery manager who can be reached at 571-323-6205.

**I'D RATHER BE IN PARIS:** Paris, France, once had a terrible reputation for the overwhelming number of "land mines" left by dog owners on the city's sidewalks. In 2002 a law was passed that incurred a heavy fine on any dog owner caught not cleaning up after Fido or Fifi, and one can now walk the streets of Paris, head up, with great confidence. Would that the same were true in Langley Oaks...remember that spring and summer bring a plethora of barefooted children running around the neighborhood, kids on bikes, families on walks, babies being strolled, etc. Please do your neighbors the courtesy of enabling them to move through the Oaks, head up, with great confidence. Scoop the Poop!

**MAKING CHANGES:** 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, erecting certain fences, or cutting any hardwood trees. Using the form inside the cover of this newsletter will ensure your request contains all the information needed by the ACC to consider your project. It is strongly recommended that you have the form signed by your immediate neighbors, which can expedite the review process. Mail the form to: LOHA ACC, P.O. Box 681, McLean, VA 22101-0681.

**“DISTANT RELATIVES ARE NOT AS IMPORTANT AS NEARBY NEIGHBORS”:** This Chinese proverb encapsulates the importance of knowing your neighbors, and to help you do that, the LOHA Community Activities Committee would like to host a summer picnic. The challenge is: coming up with a public space that could accommodate a large group, to barbeque, play Frisbee, volleyball, etc. If you have an inspired idea for where we can gather, please contact Suzanne Samuels, or Liz Holzapfel,

Also, look for information about a “Back to School” (are you kidding? We’re not even *out* of school yet!!) ice cream social in early September.

Finally, there’s been some interest in starting an annual Langley Oaks 5K and Family Fun Run/Walk. If you have any experience in getting a race established and would like to working on further developing this idea, please contact Liz Holzapfel.

**EARN MONEY WHILE YOU EXERCISE!:** The LOHA Board needs community members to deliver items like the newsletter, Directory, one-time notices about important community news, and so forth. If you are middle-school age or older and would like to earn \$75 for a few hours’ work, please write: LOHA Delivery, P.O. Box 681, McLean, VA 22101-0681,

**MCLEAN REDUX?:** The McLean Planning Committee hosted two public forums in April to (re)open discussions about revitalizing downtown McLean. On April 30 the planning committee held a public meeting to announce the results of its efforts to gather public input. The committee disclosed that, by and large, there is broad public support for the concept of creating a “main street for McLean,” though the idea is not without its detractors.

Generally, the idea is that the area around Giant and the Old Dominion Shopping Center would become a pedestrian-friendly shopping area with convenient parking and buildings rising to between two and six stories. The new “downtown” would include a mix of uses that should accommodate the local businesses that currently reside in the business district. There is

debate about the fate of the Old Firehouse building, at least in its current form.

How the public feedback will find its way into the final project will be determined over the next few months, as the MPC takes the forum results to landowner Dan Montgomery, who owns most of the property in McLean's Central Business District.

**CORNER OF BALLS HILL RD. AND GEORGETOWN PIKE TO BE VDOT STAGING GROUND:** If you were caught off-guard by the clear-cutting of three acres at the corner of Balls Hill Rd. and Georgetown Pike, you are in good company. Apparently almost no one, except VDOT, who owns the property, and its contractor, Flour-Transurban, was aware that this area was to become a "staging ground" for the HOT lanes being built between Telegraph Road and the Maryland border.

The staging area will be a spot for VDOT to park its construction equipment as it undertakes the five-year initiative to widen the Beltway with "high occupancy toll lanes," to be completed in 2012.

Dranesville Supervisor John Foust (D) was not aware of the transportation department's plan to set up at the site across from Cooper Middle School. He was quoted in the McLean Connection as stating, "This is absolutely the wrong spot...it is the only one in a residential area..." He added that VDOT officials had agreed to consider moving the site but have to consult with its private partners.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors condemned the choice of the site in a letter to VDOT's Northern Virginia District Administrator Morteza Salehi.

Delegate Margi Vanderhuy (D-34) and Senator Janet Howell (D-32) have also contacted VDOT about moving the staging area to another location.

Steve Titunik, VDOT spokesperson, apologized for the lack of communication and committed to doing a much better job in the future.

Public hearings were held on the project on May 20 and 21. Results from those forums were not available at the time the LOHA newsletter went to

press.

Project information can be viewed at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 14685 Avion Parkway, Chantilly, or VDOT's Project Office, 6400 Commerce Street, Springfield, or call toll-free 877-495-VDOT(8368). You may also e-mail your comments to:

[MeetingComments@VDOT@Virginia.gov](mailto:MeetingComments@VDOT@Virginia.gov). Please reference "Capital Beltway HOT Lanes" in the subject heading.

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** The Annual General Membership meeting was held at Langley High School on February 12, 2008. As is the Board's custom, the draft meeting minutes are set out below. These minutes will not become final until approved by a majority vote of the attendees at the next annual meeting in February of 2009.

***DRAFT***

LANGLEY OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
12 FEBRUARY 08

**I Call to Order**

The duly-noticed 2008 Annual General Membership Meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by President Andrew Hirsch in the lobby of Langley High School. Classroom 200 had been reserved, but for some reason, the hallway gate to all second floor classrooms had been locked. Sixteen members representing fourteen lots were present in person and members representing one hundred and five additional lots were present by proxy. Andrew thanked all those present for braving the elements and coming out on such a cold (twenty-nine degrees), rainy and icy evening.

## **II Secretary's Report**

John Speicher distributed the draft minutes from the 2007 General Membership Meeting. Upon motion made and seconded, they were unanimously approved with no corrections.

## **III Treasurer's Report**

John Bender presented the 2007 Financial Statement and 2008 Budget and answered some questions. Upon motions made and seconded, both were approved without change. For the record, the 2008 dues were set by the Board in the Dec quarterly meeting at \$115.

## **IV Committee Reports**

**Architectural Control** - Chairperson Keith Fischler reported the Committee had processed approximately twenty, mostly routine, requests during the year.

**Audit** – Chairperson Keith Fischler reported he was looking for people to serve on this committee to review the Association's financial practices and procedures.

**Community Activities** - Chairperson Suzanne Samuels was unable to attend. Her written report stated the fall Halloween Parade was well attended. Additional events were being planned for the coming year and interested volunteers should contact her.

**County and State Liaison** - Chairperson Gene Bondy was unable to attend and no written report had been submitted.

**Maintenance** - Chairperson Andrew Hirsch reported the Association had

engaged the services of a professional arborist to walk the neighborhood perimeter to identify any common-area, or Fairfax County parkland, trees that posed a danger of falling, especially in severe weather conditions. About fifteen trees were so identified and the Board will discuss appropriate next steps in the Mar quarterly meeting. Andrew also spoke about the County's interest in refurbishing two neighborhood rain-water-collection ponds. One neighbor noted that Ridge Drive pavement was de-laminating in several locations. The County and State Liaison (to be appointed at the Mar quarterly meeting) will contact VDOT regarding repaving possibilities.

**MCA Liaison** – Chairperson Suzanne Samuels was unable to attend. Her written report said the MCA had been very active this past year in 1) resolving the noise problem related to Reagan National Airport, 2) brokering redesign options for remodeling the Dolley Madison Library and 3) monitoring the ongoing Metro to Dulles Airport magillah. She also noted the local Meals on Wheels program was seeking volunteers to help them.

**Neighborhood Safety** - Chairperson Andrew Hirsch reported the major neighborhood “complaint” was speeding. He opined that, because the Oaks is a cul-de-sac neighborhood, most vehicles on our streets belonged to our friends, neighbors and us! One new neighbor said his mailbox had been destroyed by vandals. Folks were reminded that while generally quiet and peaceful, our neighborhood was not entirely free from occasional crimes or vandalism. Homeowners should always quickly report any and all such acts to the Fairfax County Police Department (703-691-2131 for non-emergencies).

**Newsletter** - Editor Doug Goldhush reported that spring and fall Newsletters were published in 2007. Two more are scheduled for 2008. The spring issue always contains the draft minutes from this meeting as well as the revised Board Member assignment list. He said middle-school-age and older dependents

interested in delivering Newsletters and other Association items for pay should contact the Secretary to be placed on this roster.

**Website** – Chairperson Keith Fischler reported the Langley Oaks website has been up and running for a year. He noted that approximately fifty-five (of three hundred and eight) homeowners have signed up for general mailing purposes. Our web address is [www.LangleyOaksMcLean.com](http://www.LangleyOaksMcLean.com) .

**Welcome** - Chairperson Andrei Quinn-Barabanov was unable to attend. His written report said the welcome wagon had been on the road for a year and all but 3 new families had been visited. Attendees were asked to report any new neighbors, including renters, to a Board member so that they could be properly welcomed to the Oaks.

## **V Old Business**

The visibly-deteriorating condition of one house in the 700 block of Ridge Drive was discussed, as was the continuing nuisance of dog owners who allowed their pets to roam the neighborhood unleashed.

## **VI New Business**

The delivery of unsolicited, free newspapers in the Oaks was discussed. One neighbor felt the Board should instruct the editors to stop all such deliveries on behalf of the neighborhood. Another neighbor was quoted as saying she did not want anyone else deciding what should or could be delivered to her home. President Hirsch suggested that anyone not wanting these deliveries should contact the circulation departments directly.

Secretary John Speicher reported the Nominating Committee, chaired by Suzanne Samuels, who was not present, had identified three new neighbors who were willing to serve, if elected, for the upcoming three year term. They were Liz Holzapfel, Craig Liddell, and Ron Torrence. There were no additional nominations from the floor. President Hirsch called for a vote and they were unanimously elected for the 2008-2011 term. Both Liz and Craig were present and received a warm welcome to the Board.

President Andrew Hirsch thanked out-going Board member Gene Bondy, who was not present, for his long service to the Association. He noted that Gene had completed six, three-year terms in a number of Board assignments including County and State Liaison, Maintenance, MCA Liaison, and Neighborhood Watch. Secretary John Speicher also thanked out-going Board member Andrei Quinn-Barabanov, who also was not present, for his excellent work during the past year as Welcome Chairperson. He said the first notification that a new family had moved into the neighborhood usually came to the Board's attention via this program. John also thanked out-going Board member Andrew Hirsh for his strong leadership as President of the Association during the past two years.

Further, at the Dec quarterly meeting, the Board appointed Andrew Hirsch to serve the one-year balance remaining on the term (ending Feb 09) vacated by Gigi Jarvis. Andrew had informed the Board that he was willing to serve one additional year, but could not commit to serving three more years, if elected, and said he welcomed new folks running for Board office. This action was enthusiastically endorsed by all those present.

## **VII Next Meetings and Adjournment**

Quarterly Board meetings for the next twelve months are scheduled for:

7:30 pm on Tuesdays 4 Mar 08, 3 Jun 08, 23 Sep 08 and 2 Dec 08

The Annual General Membership Meeting for 2009 is scheduled for:

7:30 pm on Tuesday ~ 10 Feb 09 at Langley High School

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

By JCSpeicher ~ Secretary

***END DRAFT MINUTES***

**LANGLEY OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION  
BOARD ASSIGNMENTS~March 2008 through March 2009**

President – Andrew Hirsch ('09)

Vice President – Doug Goldhush ('09)

Secretary – John Speicher ('10)

Treasurer – John Bender ('10)

Architectural Control Chair – Keith Fischler ('09)

Audit Committee Chair – Craig Liddell ('11)

Community Activities Committee – Suzanne Samuels ('10) and Liz  
Holzapfel ('11)

County and State Liaison – Doug Goldhush

Maintenance – Andrew Hirsch and Craig Liddell

McLean Citizens Association – Suzanne Samuels

Neighborhood Safety – Andrew Hirsch

Newsletter Editor – Liz Holzapfel

Website Committee – Keith Fischler

Welcome Committee – Ron Torrence ('11)

**WELCOME TO LANGLEY OAKS:** If you know a new family, or if you are a new family, please contact Board Member and Welcome Chairperson Ron Torrence so he can provide a proper “welcome to the neighborhood.” He also delivers some materials to include the latest Directory, recent newsletters, LOHA documents, bumper ID stickers and the like. This information is also added to the directly, either directly or via updates published in the newsletter.

~~Please welcome:~~