

CHESTERBROOK WOODS CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION

May 2008



Website www.McleanOnline.com - Click on Chesterbrook Woods

E-Mail ChesterbrookWoods@gmail.com

McLean Day is Finally Here Again!

Since 1915, McLean residents have loved to talk about the fun they had at McLean Day and to circle their calendars in eager anticipation of this extremely popular festival. This year's event is set to run from 11 am to 5 pm this Saturday, May 17th, at Lewinsville Park, located at 1659 Chain Bridge Road.

The McLean Community Center's **McLean Day 2008, a Celebration of our Hometown**, is a mix of carnival, concert and community expo. Last year's event attracted over 12,000 attendees - most of them children excited about the magic shows, rock climbing, pony rides, face painting, and carnival rides, teens wanting to participate in the Old Firehouse Teen Center's (OFTC) Annual 8K Fun Run, and adults wishing to cast their votes to elect new members to the 2008-2009 MCC Governing Board.

Additional features include an international food court, interactive displays from the Fairfax County Police and Fire and Rescue, activities presented by the McLean Youth Soccer and Games People Play II, and free green-friendly shopping bags at the Chamber of Commerce booth.

There is free event with a complimentary shuttle service to and from the park, detailed online at <http://www.mcleancenter.org/special-events/mcleanday.asp> or call 703.790.0123 for more info.

CWCA Resident Running for Governing Board of MCC

CWCA resident Neal M. Callander is running for a position on the Governing Board of the McLean Community Center (MCC) and his platform follows:

"While a stay-at-home father of three, I have been deeply involved in a broad range of McLean cultural and educational activities and organizations. This coupled with my background in organizational management (worked at UVA in higher education administration and at various trade/professional associations for 18 years), adult education (a Masters from VTech at the Northern Virginia campus), and cultural journalism (wrote for local arts publications in the 1980s and early 1990s) uniquely qualify me for a role on the Governing Board.

If elected, I intend to continue the long tradition of high quality and varied cultural programming that MCC offers. I also intend to strengthen the fiscal responsibility of operations and facilities and to find and fill the programming gaps so that even more folks can be served through our community's most exciting cultural resource.

I hope I can count on your vote May 17th. Voting occurs primarily at the Mclean Day festivities.

If, for some reason, you cannot attend, you can vote absentee. Complete voting information can be found at www.mcleancenter.org under "Contact us/Governing Board." If you are so inclined, please pass this info on to others who might be interested. Thank you!

Sincerely, Neal Callander, 703.538.5699,
ncallander@cox.net

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McLean Residents Consider Future of Downtown, Provide Survey Data Online



On April 3rd & 4th, Supervisor John W. Foust and the McLean Planning Committee (MPC) coordinated with the McLean Revitalization Corporation and the Fairfax County Office of Community Revitalization and Reinvestment to hold two public forums to discuss the future of downtown McLean, in particular, the revitalization of the portion of the McLean Commercial Business Center bordered by Old Dominion Drive, Chain Bridge Road, Beverly Road and Ingleside Avenue.

The meetings facilitated the solicitation of feedback from downtown McLean stakeholders such as local residents, business owners, and the McLean workforce, while an online survey enabled stakeholders to exercise their voice on key elements being considered.

McLean Main Street Public Forum Follow-up Held April 30th

By Tom Stoll, CWCA MCA Rep

The meeting was sponsored by the Dranesville District Supervisor's Office, the McLean Planning Committee, and the Fairfax County Office of Community Revitalization and Reinvestment. It was very well attended. Using a slide show to illustrate their points, the sponsors of the meeting discussed the need for a "Main Street," the opportunity for one, what that section of town might look like, and feedback they received from citizens.

The speakers all suggested that the downtown area needed a makeover. They maintain that the downtown section of Old Dominion does not leave visitors with a good impression. They also expressed a desire to have a nice place to meet, with restaurants and outside seating, one that would allow residents to walk around without vehicle traffic. As examples, they pointed to photographs of a few such areas including the Market Commons in Clarendon, and a portion of Silver Spring.

The opportunity for creating a "Main Street" presented itself, they explained, when a single owner purchased adjacent parcels within the downtown area. They hope to work with the new owner as he designs plans for developing the area.

The proposed "Main Street," and new pedestrian area, would be located in the shopping center housing the Old Fire House, McLean Hardware, and Giant, to name a few businesses. The street would extend along the back of the building housing McLean Hardware, running from the end of that building (closest to Beverly Road) and extending to Chain Bridge Road. As a result, the Old Fire House would have to be torn down or moved.

The meeting sponsors received feedback from the community during the two public forums on April 3rd and 4th and via the on-line survey. Comments indicated that residents are in favor of a quaint "Main Street," with a few concerns worthy of mention. While most seemed to agree that there must be parking around the area of Main Street, possibly a parking garage, most wanted the Main Street to provide a place for people to walk, mingle and sit together. The feedback also indicated a need to limit building height to four stories, with restaurants on the ground floor.

The sponsors also took questions and, given a terrific turnout, a lot of questions were asked. Most focused on identifying who will bear the costs of this development, and identifying where residents will park in this new area. Many also stated they liked McLean the way it is.

Those interested can still be heard by filling out the questionnaire on-line at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/survey/dranesville/mainstreetsurvey.htm> . If questions, contact Tom Stoll at 703.237.0026 or tlstoll@cox.net.

CWCA Annual Dues... Do a Lot for Our Community

Ever wonder how the snow gets plowed in our neighborhood? Or how it is that we're able to celebrate Independence Day or help our kids enjoy Halloween in a safe and fun way each year?

Well, it's not because of Santa Claus, Uncle Sam, or even Jack O'Lantern... it's because of the people in our neighborhood who graciously pay their yearly dues.

Dues, currently set at the nominal cost of \$20, fund the cost of the following great services and neighborhood resources for the CWCA fiscal year period April 1, 2008 - March 30, 2009:

Private Snow Removal Service Contract · Annual CWCA Meeting · CWCA Website · Annual Directory · Miscellaneous Office Supplies · Annual July 3rd and Halloween Parties · Neighborhood Watch supplies (cell phone, flash lights, signs, etc.) · Multiple printed Newsletters hand-delivered to 530+ homes · Dues Reminder Letters

Now, that's value! Considering all of the above-referenced benefits to your family and to your neighborhood please be sure to cover your family's share of these costs **today!** It's only through your partnership that we will be able to reduce or eliminate the expense of preparing, printing, and mailing multiple dues reminder letters. **Dues Form is at the end of this e-newsletter.**

So, pass the word - paying **\$20 a year to your Chesterbrook Woods Citizens' Association** yields a high return and helps make this neighborhood such a great place to live.

CWCA Resident Featured in Local Publication

Jim Talens extended a gracious invitation to 15 Algerian diplomats when he hosted an American-style barbeque for a number of commercial attaché students and officials from the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs at his home in late March.

Talens's hospitality and cultural outreach were featured in the local publication, *Connections*. See the attached article to our CWCA email (an Adobe Acrobat .pdf).

Join the CWCA Annual July 3rd Party Planning Committee... Today!

We are seeking one or more people to head up the planning of the second annual Independence Day party (date TBD). Last year, we had over 80 families in attendance at this fun party held on Moss Wood Lane - that's more than 250 neighbors! The 2007 party featured plenty of food and beverages along with a Pie-Baking Contest, Moon Bounce, Balloon Man, Face Painting and a Kid's Bike Parade. And, we had 34 neighborhood volunteers come together to put on the inaugural event.

If you are interested in joining the 2008 Planning Committee and helping to set the date (after all, it doesn't have to be on July 3rd every year) and pin down the remaining details, please contact last year's Co-Chairs - Rachel Deutsch at 703.536.3269 / RDeutsch@2biondi.com or Yvonne Mizusawa at 703.538.5081 / Yvonne.F.Mizusawa@frb.gov.

Canine Companions Inspire Compassion & Caring Behavior

Two concerned residents have recently asked that the CWCA newsletter feature important news regarding the care of our canine companions. The first is a warning about raisin toxicity and the second concerns the legal aspects of animal ownership in Fairfax County.

Raisin & Grape Toxicity

According to data referenced by the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center and confirmed on Snopes.com, as few as seven raisins or grapes could be toxic to dogs. Key symptoms of raisin or grape poisoning can include vomiting, diarrhea and shaking. Acute renal failure can also occur.

Quick action is critical to a positive outcome, so dog owners are urged to *immediately* contact their local vet and/or veterinary ER center if they suspect that raisins or grapes have been ingested.

To learn more about this topic, visit the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center website at <http://www.asPCA.org/site/DocServer/grapes.pdf?docID=189>, consult your vet, refer to veterinary medical resources and journals, or perhaps even read the article posted on Snopes by visiting <http://www.snopes.com/critters/crusader/raisins.asp>

With this in mind, please be sure to advise all members of the family - especially the younger ones - that Rover can't eat raisins or grapes (nor can he eat onions, chocolate, coca, and macadamia nuts); but, if he does, that *any* exposure should be an immediate concern and that a grownup must be told so they can get him the medical care he needs right away.

It's About Being Neighborly ... and it's the Law

We've all heard the popular phrase, *Be Kind, Rewind* and know that although it only takes a moment to do, the benefits are such that we all appreciate the extra care and courtesy. Likewise, the simple act of scooping up after our dogs is much appreciated... but, it's also the law.

Thus, residents are reminded that it is unlawful to allow animals to trespass upon, destroy or damage another person's property and, in particular, animals must not frequently and habitually make loud and objectionable noises or be kept in such a manner as to cause unsanitary conditions.

Bottom line... please understand and abide by the Fairfax County Code concerning pet waste that states

"The owner or custodian of any dog shall be responsible for the removal of excreta deposited by such dog on the property of another, including public areas ("pooper scooper" regulation)."

Ref: *County Code Section 41-1-2, Section 108-5-2 and Section 41-2-6* or online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animalservices/legal.htm>.

Keys to Safety... A Handy Tip for Us All

Block Captain **Bill Howard** recently passed along a very handy tip from a CWCA neighborhood watch coordinator:

Putting our car keys at our bedside at night will prove useful if we park in our driveway or garage and if we hear a suspicious noise outside our home or someone trying to get in our house.

A quick press of the panic button on many of our car keys will set off our car alarm and the horn will continue to sound until either we turn it off or the car battery dies, thereby, scaring away potential predators and alerting neighbors to the safety situation.

If the car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break into your house, odds are the burglar won't stick around... and, after a few seconds all of the neighbors will be looking out their windows to see who is out there. Something that the criminal surely won't want!

And, last, but not least... we should remember to carry our keys while walking to our car in a parking lot. The alarm will work the same way there.

And, like all good tips, this message is one that should be shared with everyone.

Green Ideas Blossoming in our Neighborhood

As the beauty of spring surrounds us, we are reminded that there are many ways in which we can make our community greener. Inspired by the success of the Scottish town of Selkirk going 'plastic bag-free' (see the story featured at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/04/03144758>), CWCA resident **Rose Wells** has volunteered to kick off the collection of ideas from our neighborhood and initiate an informal community dialogue about ways in which we can make Chesterbrook Woods greener, whether one house at a time or as a local community.



In particular, Wells would like to gauge neighborhood interest in establishing an edible organic gardening group in which members would trade know-how, plants, seeds, and excess harvests.

"Vancouver has a City Farmer program with a website (www.cityfarmer.org) that has lots of information," noted Wells. "Urban agriculture is an idea that is gaining traction as a way to locally produce what we eat in an ecologically sustainable way. This is the ideal time of year to begin!"

A longtime feature of the Annual Metro Washington, DC Tour of Solar Homes and Buildings, Well's home showcases myriad ways in which we can each make our homes greener. If you're interested in these initiatives or in finding out more about the distinctive features of her home, please contact Rose directly at 703.538.1008 or wellsr@sec.gov.

Website

Webmaster Ellie LeBaron manages www.McleanOnline.com (click on *Chesterbrook Woods*). Be sure to add our Web Address to your *Favorites* list and surf by anytime to access the latest info on Upcoming Activities, Event Photos, Neighborhood Watch, Snow Removal, Block Captains, Dues Form, Bulletin Board, Contractors List, Young Entrepreneurs List/Sign-Up, Current/Past Newsletters, and more!

Email Address

ChesterbrookWoods@gmail.com

Email Manager Jonathan Salkoff maintains our ever-growing private list of e-mails. If you are not already on this list, please contact us to get added so that you will start receiving the Monthly E-Newsletters with the the most timely information. Given the cost, time and manpower required to produce and deliver printed newsletters to 530 homes, CWCA encourages all residents with email access to get added to our Email list - where we can get messages out ASAP re: security breaches and other hot neighborhood topics. Currently, the CWCA List has 520+ Emails representing 425+ homes (many have both spouses on our list) or 80%+ of our 523 occupied homes.

& Newsletter

If you have any newsletter ideas or an article to share, contact Newsletter Manager Sylvia Pierson.

Chesterbrook Woods Citizens Association

Steering Committee

April 2008 - March 2009

Lori Boerner	President	538-1711	lboerner@yahoo.com
Kevin Connelly	Vice-President	855-7403	kconnelly@bbandt.com
Nicki Watts	Secretary	532-8296	nicki.watts@verizon.net
Charles Hoyt	Treasurer	534-6266	cdhoyt@aol.com
John Glowacki	Security Director	533-0717	joke4kiki@yahoo.com
Ione Braswell	Neighborhood Watch Co-Chair	536-1681	idbraswell@cox.net
Virginia Dillon	Neighborhood Watch Co-Chair	536-8729	vhdill@yahoo.com
Edie Ashton	Welcome Committee Chair	534-3743	edie.ashton@gmail.com
Roger Nucho	Snow Removal Co-Chair	237-3646	jessjame@verizon.net
Dave Stevens	Snow Removal Co-Chair	531-0558	karstens5@verizon.net
Sylvia Pierson	Newsletter Manager	532-1982	piersons@usa.net
Jonathan Salkoff	Email Manager	538-1093	ChesterbrookWoods@gmail.com
Ellie LeBaron	Webmaster	elebaron@gmail.com	webmaster@mcleanonline.com
Tom Stoll	McLean Citizens Association Rep	237-0026	tlstoll@cox.net

CHESTERBROOK WOODS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION CWCA \$20 ANNUAL DUES

Covering services from April 2008 - March 2009

CWCA Dues provides the following services to you and your neighbors:

- Private Snow Removal Service Contract
- Neighborhood Watch supplies (cell phone, flash lights, signs, etc.)
- Annual July 3rd and Halloween Parties
- Multiple printed Newsletters hand-delivered to 530+ homes
- Dues Reminder Letters (Please Note: We hope to remove this expense this year by having people pay promptly without multiple postal mail notices. Please help us eliminate or reduce this expense.)
- Annual CWCA Meeting
- CWCA Website
- Annual Directory
- Miscellaneous Office Supplies

Please pay \$20 now to cover your family's share for these valuable neighborhood services for the year ahead.

Given the very low cost of dues, each year some residents send in more than the minimum amount and CWCA thanks those residents for their generosity.

Print this form, cut below along dotted line & mail in bottom portion with your check to CWCA.

CWCA \$20 ANNUAL FAMILY DUES NOTICE

Covering services from April 2008 - March 2009

Please submit a check to "CWCA" for \$20 (or more) along with this form & send to:
Charles Hoyt, CWCA, 1532 Woodacre Drive, McLean, VA 22101

If you have not yet paid last year's (2007) \$15 Dues, please add that in for a total of \$35.

NAME(S) (Please print) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL _____ DUES AMOUNT \$ _____

- a) Does your current Directory listing need to be revised with any info above? YES NO
- b) If you are not in the current Directory, do you want to be added? YES NO
- c) If you want separate listings for adults with different surnames, list the names above, referencing any different phone numbers, email addresses, etc. and check here.
- d) If you want to be on the CWCA Email List ONLY and do NOT want your email printed in the Annual Directory - check here: On Email List Only