THE LYON PARK CITIZEN

NEWSLETTER OF THE LYON PARK CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

November 2026

Upcoming Events

11/11	**LPCA Monthly Meeting** 6:00 p.m. Meeting Start; 9:30 p.m. Meeting End
11/15	**Diwali Celebration** 3:00–6:00 p.m.
11/19	**Lyon Park Woman's Club Potluck Lunch** 12:00 p.m.
11/25	**Open Mic Night** 6:30 p.m.
11/26	**Potluck Thanksgiving** 5:00 p.m.
12/1	**Blood Drive** 12:00–5:00 p.m.
12/4	**Holiday Party** 6:00–8:00 p.m.



Send pics of your favorite Halloween decorations to lyonparkeditor@gmail.com for next month's pictoral!

President's Message

by Natalie U. Roy

It was a sleepy, quiet, October with absolutely nothing going on. Oops, my bad, that was on another planet. This month our community took it up a notch. In addition to an excellent program on voting security, we saw record-breaking crowds vote on whether to expand our community playground or take a pause and scale back the plans. It was gratifying to have a monthly program topic on voting while simultaneously conducting our own mini election. And by the time this newsletter reaches your mailboxes, we will have held our signature community event, Lyon Park's Krispy Kreme donut giveaway and Halloween Bonfire.

Our program topic on voting and election security this past month was timely and excellent. The speakers, Gretchen Reinemeyer, the General Registrar/Director of Elections for Arlington County, and Jeffrey Overland, the Deputy Chief attorney in the Commonwealth Attorney's office, gave informative remarks and answered a ton of questions. Gretchen commented afterwards that the numerous questions showed a very engaged audience. Thanks so much to our VP of Programs, Matt Whitaker, for putting this very worthwhile panel together! Thank you also to the Arlington County Civic Federation and the Ashton Heights Civic Association for partnering on the program and to Peter Roof and Cathi Overton for the PA equipment and set up!

On the playground vote that took place last month, with 417 people participating, by a vote of 55% to 45%, the community approved the estimated $1.352M+ plan to expand and redesign the playground to include an older kid's section, and as proposed by the Playground Committee of the Board of Governors (BOG).

Kudos to all the volunteers from the LPCA, LPWC and the BOG for running a smooth voting process. Now that the vote is done, the real work begins: raising for the necessary funds, determining who owns the playground plans the community approved, conducting a deep dive on stormwater management and permitting issues, developing a public RFP process to identify a qualified playground developer, soliciting comprehensive community buy-in and feedback, and so on. It is a long list. More information on the Playground vote and next steps can be found on pages 8 and 9.

And finally, to my fellow Lyon Parkers, while we might not see eye to eye on everything, (and how boring would that be if we did), I know we can all agree that Lyon Park is a wonderful and special community. See you at one of LPCA's future activities or events. Check out page 13 for a complete list.

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Debbie Kaplan: debbiekaplandk@gmail.com

TEEN SERVICES

Fill out the form on the Teen Services page to get listed here and on the website: [www.lyonpark.org/explore/resources/teen-services]!

Note: all listings have been verified as of August 2026. If your information was removed, and you would like it added back in, please contact lyonparkeditor@gmail.com.

- **Zoe Albert**, 13, Pet Sitting, Babysitter, Mother's Helper, Plant Sitter. Red Cross Cert. Text: (240) 796-6962, Email: zalbertfine@icloud.com.
- **Zoe Bomberger**, 18, Babysitter, Dog Walker, Mother's Helper, Plant Sitter. Red Cross Cert. Available summer & school breaks. Text: (703) 298-3233.
- **Michael Bourque**, 14, Yard work (lawn mowing, weeding, raking, and snow shoveling), and Math Tutor. Text (571) 675-5446.
- **Chiara Ciccone**, 12, Pet Sitter, Tutoring, Yard Work, Dog Walker. Text (202) 321-9964.
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- **Ellie Earle**, 16, Violin/Viola Lessons or Help. Text (703) 314-5303, Email: elisabeth.caterina.earle@gmail.com.
- **Harper Fern**, 15, Babysitting, Dog walker, Plant Sitter, Pet Sitter, Odd Jobs. Text (703) 623-9082.
- **Lily Fine-Albert**, 16, Pet Sitting, Babysitter, Dog Walker, Odd Jobs, Plant Sitter. CPR & Red Cross Cert. Text: (703) 856-5108, Email: lalbertfine@icloud.com.
- **Charlie Larson**, 13, Dog-sitting (in our home), 3D printing services. Email: charlieclaylarson@icloud.com.
- **Ava McElvain**, 14, Party Entertainment (Balloon Animals, Magic Tricks, etc.) for 3–10 Year Olds. Text: (703) 615-0281.
- **Al Metwaly**, 14, Leaf Raking, Snow Shoveling, Mother's Helper, Plant Sitter, Gardening, Groceries, and Car Washing. Call/Text: (571) 689-6748, Email: alaa2020met@gmail.com.
- **Kailee O'Meara**, 17, Babysitter, Pet Sitter, Mother's Helper. Text: (571) 536-8664.
- **Leo Pegoraro**, 16, Babysitter, Mother's Helper, Plant Sitter, Pet Sitter. Scout Certified. Text: (571) 220-6548.
- **Emma Pike**, 15, Babysitter, Mother's Helper, Plant Sitter. Red Cross Cert. Text: (571) 440-6189, Email: emmapike24@icloud.com.
- **Olivia Pike**, 19, Babysitter, Mother's Helper, Plant Sitter. Text: (703) 687-8222, Email: oliviaapikee@gmail.com.
- **Rosalie Reilly**, 17, Plant Sitter, Cat Sitter. Text: (703) 966-3598.
- **Theo Roiniotis & Tyler Hawkins**, 17, Yard work, Cleaning, Sorting, Car Washing, Power Washing, Groceries, Dog Walking, Caulking, Miscellaneous. Text: 571-251-2224, Email: theo.roiniotis@gmail.com.
- **Charlotte Walsh**, 17, Tutor up to 9th grade. Will help with Math, Science and English. (First Session Free.) Text: (571) 351-9452.
- **Josie Whitaker**, 19, Tutoring, Plant Sitter, Dog Walker. Available summer & school breaks. Text: (703) 717-1993.

Sunday, November 15
3pm - 6pm
Lyon Park Community Center

Everyone is invited to our

FREE

FREE

Diwali Celebration

3 – 4pm | Crafts for Kids (Henna, Rangoli, Diya Thali)
4 – 5pm | What is Diwali (Bollywood dance performance with lesson)
5 – 6pm | Outdoor Events (Firepit, Glowsticks, etc.)

Authentic Indian Food and Drinks
available throughout the celebration

For more information or to volunteer,
email LyonParkEvents@gmail.com

JOIN US FOR THE

LYON PARK HOLIDAY PARTY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4TH 6 PM - 8 PM

CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS! ENJOY MUSIC, HOLIDAY TREATS, CHILDREN'S CRAFTS, AND A SPECIAL VISIT FROM SANTA AND HIS ELVES.

Help make the evening special

Bring a treat, snack, or drink to share, lend a hand with setup or cleanup, or share a favorite family holiday tradition. To volunteer or contribute, contact us at lyonparkevents@gmail.com.

We ♥ Lyon Park Weeders!

Many thanks to Bill Anhut, Steve Geiger, Spiro Roiniotis, Elizabeth Sheehy, and Michael Kunkler for pulling the weeds and raking the sand around the play area in the park. The Board of Governors will be refreshing the sand and wood chips later this season as the community fine tunes the playground renovation.





THANKS GIVING Dinner

26 nov 2026 | at 5 pm

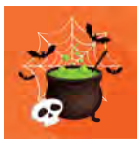
Join your neighbors for our **second annual potluck Thanksgiving**. We'll take care of the turkey and setup, and you bring a favorite dish to share. We had so much fun last year, we're doing it again! It's a great way to celebrate, connect, and enjoy some delicious food together!

Let us know you're coming and if you'd like to help. Send an email to David & Sara Newman at **David.S.Newman@hotmail.com**.















Lyon Park will be holding a Chinese New Year Celebration on Sunday, February 7, 2027.

We need your help to make it happen. If you want to be on the organizing committee, reach out to LyonParkEvents@gmail.com

We can't do it without you!

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Join LPCA

Lyon Park residents and residence owners are eligible for membership in the LPCA.

Memberships run from October 1st to September 30th of each year. Only members can vote at LPCA meetings. If you have any questions, please email lyonparkpresident@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP DUES: 1 YEAR: $10 | 2 YEARS: $20 | LIFETIME: $250

Fill out the form on our website to join! www.lyonpark.org/connect/join-lpca-volunteer

Lyon Park Woman's Club: Next meeting: November 19th at noon

The Woman's Club is for everyone, women and men. We meet the third Thursday of the month at noon at the community center for a delicious potluck lunch. We have a great time socializing but we also contribute to the community.For more info, contact Elizabeth Wray at ejswray@yahoo.com

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That's Amore! Another Wonderful Lyon Park Spaghetti Dinner



The Lyon Park Woman's Club spearheaded another wonderful event on September 27. Under the enthusiastic leadership of Lindy Love, 19 volunteers from the LPWC and the LPCA set up the tables, boiled pots of water, prepared salads and served up spaghetti, meatballs, and delicious garlic bread for 119 paying customers. This annual event is just one of the many "signature" events that make Lyon Park a very special place to live. Despite the wet weather, neighbors came together to enjoy each other's company, catch up on the latest news, and eat!

Food is a central theme behind the LPWC (cupcakes, spaghetti, chili, luncheons) and we like to say that we raise money one calorie at a time. First and foremost, the Woman's Club is a service organization, as demonstrated by the large number of volunteers in the kitchen. The next meeting is November 19 for potluck lunch at Noon. Please join us!





Rent the Lyon Park Community Center for your Next Event!

Check availability and submit a reservation form at https://lyonpark.info or contact Lori Cruz at LPCCRental@gmail.com for additional information.

	Non-Resident Rates	Lyon Park/Ashton Heights Resident Rates
Monday-Thursday (4–hour minimum)	$125/hour	**$65/hour**
Half Day: Friday, Saturday, Sunday (8:00 a.m.– 2:30 p.m. or 3:30 p.m.–10:00 p.m.)	$1,050	**$400**
Full Day: Friday, Saturday, Sunday (8:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m.)	$1,900	**$750**
Birthday Party (ages 10 and under)	$500	**$200**

Required Cleaning Costs for All Rentals

Monday-Thursday events	$165	**Friday/Saturday/Sunday** events	$275
Friday/Saturday/Sunday (no kitchen use except small kitchen refrigerator)			$200
Birthday Party (ages 10 and under)			$200

Inquire about optional "addon" services, such as furniture set-up and breakdown, at LPCCRental@gmail.com

Neighborhood Controversies: An Historical Perspective

by Elizabeth Sheehy, Lyon Park Historian

Every decade or so, an issue pops up in Lyon Park that captures the emotion of the community. In the 1990s it was the fight against Big Box redevelopment of the Sears Roebuck site in Clarendon. After a messy county-wide battle, the result was the smaller scale shops at Clarendon Crossing. Starting in 2009, there was a disagreement about how best to renovate the 1925 Lyon Park Community House. Scores of Lyon Park residents got involved in various ways, serving on design committees, offering feedback on the revised plans, raising $500,000 over six years, and communicating the progress to the neighborhood.

In 2026, the hot-button issue in Lyon Park (and beyond) is the renovation of the park's playground. There has been interest in updating the play equipment for several years, and in December of 2024, the Board of Governors (BOG) of the Lyon Park Community Center (LPCC) established the Playground Renovation Committee (PRC) "to develop detailed recommendations for BOG consideration." The PRC conducted a survey in April/May of 2025 to better understand the priorities of the community, with 88% of the 147 responses coming from parents of children under age 18. Based on the survey results, plans were developed (paid for by a Lyon Park resident on the committee) and presented to the BOG in March 2026. At that point, though the plan itself was not formally approved, the BOG authorized the playground committee to move forward with fundraising, with the understanding that no work would begin without more community input—and likely a community wide-vote. The BOG also confirmed that no loans would be taken to cover the renovation costs, nor would any work commence before funds were raised to cover completion of the first phase of the project.



New LPWC members

The design was unveiled in the May 2026 Lyon Park Citizen newsletter, followed by a series of community meetings at the Lyon Park Citizens Association (LPCA) meeting and Lyon Park Woman's Club (LPWC) luncheon. These presentations revealed concerns by some about the expanded play space, the conversion of open areas to synthetic surfaces, and the $1.352 million price tag. In accordance with the LPCC by-laws, the LPCA and LPWC leadership called for a community-wide vote on the plan, which was held Oct 4 (weekend), Oct 14 (evening) and Oct 15 (midday) to provide maximum voting opportunities. The vote was preceded by three information sessions held at the Community House in September.



Voting during the October LPCA Meeting

The question of moving forward with the proposed plan passed 55% to 45% (see the BOG's recap article on page 9), suggesting enthusiasm for a refreshed playground, tempered with concern surrounding certain elements. The BOG plans to research the issues of protecting the tree canopy and land disturbance

concerns, building on the work of the PRC. With 417 votes cast, Lyon Park has set a new record for engagement which will be critical to maintain as the process continues. Raising nearly $1.4 million is no small feat, but one hopes the large voting turnout will translate to greater involvement, both in donations and volunteerism, from Lyon Park residents.

Immediately following the renovation vote in 2009 that created a bitter split within the Lyon Park community, the opposing sides came together to seek common ground and learn the art of listening and compromise. As a result, strong friendships were formed across the divide, smart decisions were made, the community successfully completed an incredible renovation, and all enjoy the results today. That is the Lyon Park legacy we should strive for: listening, learning, and seeking consensus. We've done it before and we will do it again.

Voting Results and Next Steps for the Lyon Park Playground Renovation

by The Lyon Park Community Center Board of Governors

Activism was alive and well in Lyon Park last month, as our community came out to vote on the Playground Committee's proposed design for playground renovation. Thanks are due the Playground Committee, the many community members who have engaged in this effort to date on both sides of the question, the many community members who came out to vote, and four vote counters representing the LPCA and the Woman's Club equally. Here's the final tally of the three days of playground voting:

"Yes" votes:	230
"No" votes:	187
Total votes:	417



Tallying the votes

While the vote was an important step in moving the playground renovation process forward, interested community members and the Board of Governors of the Lyon Park Community Center, working hand-in-hand with the Lyon Park Citizens Association, the Lyon Park Woman's Club, and the Playground Committee, have much more to do. Your chance to get involved is coming soon!

Our highest priorities for next steps include:

- contracting with an independent qualified arborist to advise on the long-term management and health of our trees and how best to protect our trees in connection with work on the playground,
- working with the county on requirements and procedures for storm water mitigation, and
- community engagement to guide further development of the playground renovation design.

The Fundraising Subcommittee of the Playground Committee also will be moving forward on its mission, with guidance from, and reporting to, the LPCC Board of Governors. We look forward to being in touch with you again soon! We'll aim to keep the LyonPark.org website updated with the latest news.

If you're interested in getting involved in any capacity, please email us at **LPCCGovernors@gmail.com**.

We want to hear from you!

Interested in contributing to the newsletter? We are looking for articles (350–400 words) about local spots, highlighting the vibe and food options to encourage readers to try something new. Contact **lyonparkeditor@gmail.com** to offer a submission. Please note: the deadline for the December newsletter is 11/15.



Congratulations to Lyon Park's very own Tom Sheehy and Natalie Roy who took the bronze medal in the top tier (most advanced) mixed doubles group at the 1st Annual Arlington County Pickleball Tournament on September 26 at the NEW public courts at Walter Reed Community Center!





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Restaurant Vibes: Tiger Dumplings

By Andrew Clary









Tiger Dumplings in Clarendon is a great option when you are craving something delicious and quick. The restaurant has a casual, relaxed atmosphere that makes it an easy choice for either lunch or dinner, especially if you do not want a long, drawn-out meal. Service was quick, the food came out fast, and the overall experience felt efficient without sacrificing quality.

My wife and I started with the Sassy Beef Shank Salad, which was one of the more interesting dishes of the meal. The beef shank is marinated with a blend of five spices and served cold. The meat was tender and packed with flavor, with the spice blend giving it a fragrant, savory quality that made it stand out. Serving it chilled also made the dish feel lighter and more refreshing than you might expect from beef shank. It was a strong start and a nice contrast to the dumplings that followed.

Next were the Chicken Shiitake Dumplings, one of the chef's recommended options. These were soft, tender, and full of flavor. The seasoned chicken paired nicely with the earthy shiitake mushrooms, creating a filling that was savory without being too heavy. The overall dish had a comforting quality that made it easy to keep reaching for another one.

We also tried the Pork Chive Dumplings. These leaned a little more classic, with juicy seasoned pork and fresh chives inside a soft steamed wrapper. The chives added just enough freshness to balance the richness of the pork. They were simple, flavorful, and satisfying.

The standout, in terms of appearance and flavor, was the Tiger Signature Pot Stickers. These come in an order of 10 and are filled with pork, shrimp, and chives. Unlike the steamed dumplings, the pot stickers are pan-seared and presented as a single sheet where you can easily separate each individual dumpling. They have a crisp, golden exterior that adds a great contrast to the juicy filling inside. The pork and shrimp worked well together, while the chives added some freshness. They were easily the highlight of the meal and definitely worth ordering, especially if you are sharing.

Overall, Tiger Dumplings delivered exactly what we hoped for. The food was flavorful, the portions were perfect, and everything came out at a steady pace. The casual setting makes it especially well-suited for a quick lunch, an easy weeknight dinner, or a low-key meal when you want something good without a lot of fuss.

Tiger Dumplings is an easy recommendation for the whole family and a place my wife and I have visited a half-dozen times in the past year. Trust us, once you go, you will be going back over and over again!

Tiger Dumplings (3225 Washington Blvd): Hours of operation are Sundays from 10:30 a.m.–9:00 p.m.; Monday through Thursday from 11:30 a.m.–9:00 p.m.; Friday from 11:30 a.m.–10:00 p.m.; and Saturday from 10:30 a.m.–10:00 p.m. Phone number is 571-970-4512. Visit the website: **https://tiger-dumplings.com/** *for more information.*

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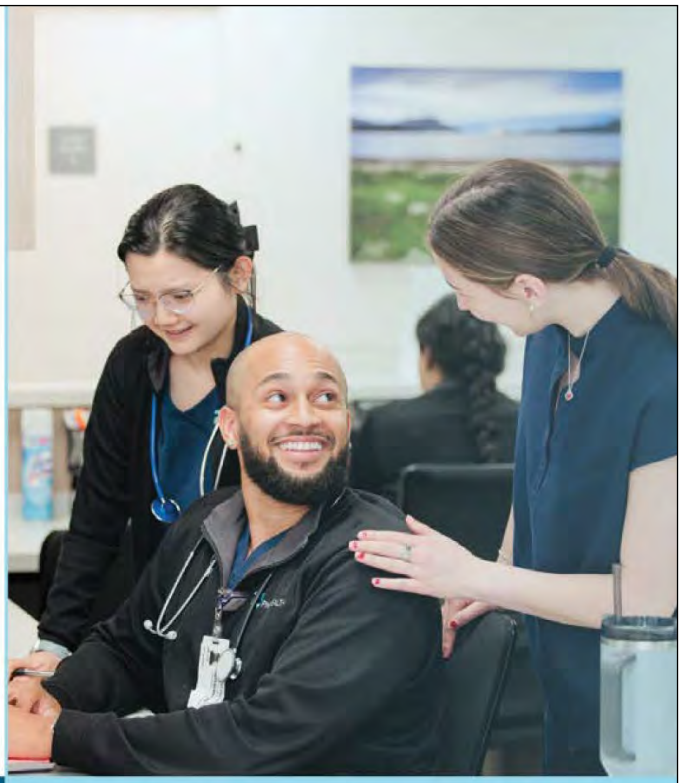
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https://lyonpark.org/explore/resources/lyon-park-newsletters/

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-Elizabeth S. *Patient at PMA Immediate Care*

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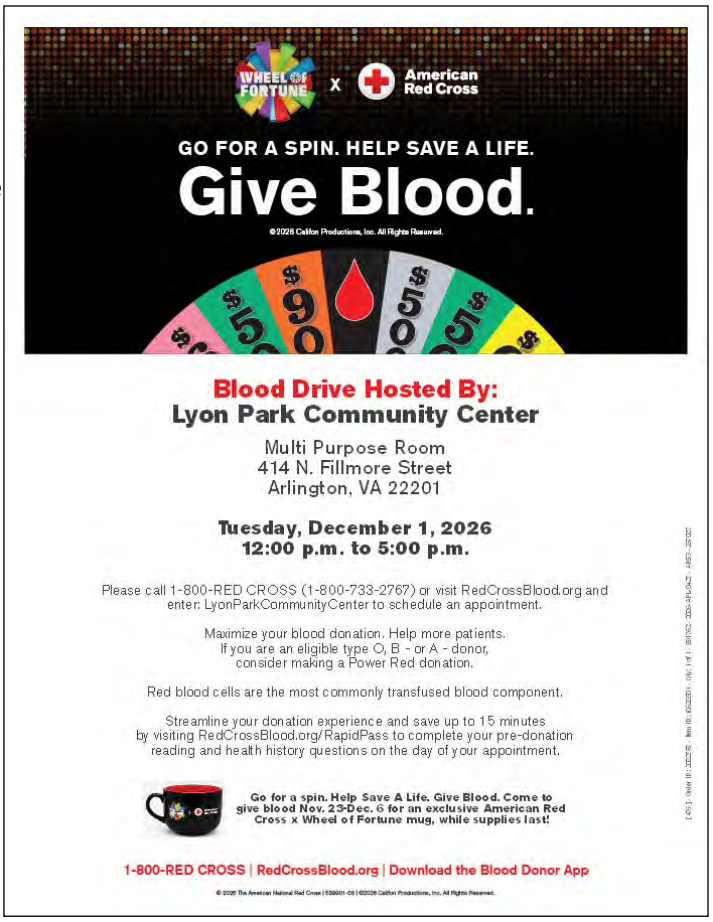


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Upcoming Events in Lyon Park!

- November 25th will be another open mic night at the LPCC (check page 15 for more information)
- The second annual potluck thanksgiving will take place on November 26th (see page 9 for details)
- The next LPCA blood drive is scheduled for Tuesday, December 1 from 12:00–5:00 p.m. at the Lyon Park Community Center. Please consider donating and helping save lives.
- LPCA Holiday Party is December 4th
- LPCA Holiday Meeting December 9th
- Lyon Park Pancake Breakfast in January, (sponsored by the LPWC and LPCA)
- Chinese New Year Celebration, February 7, 2027
- LPCA Valentine's Dance (NEW)—stay tuned for details.
- LPWC-Annual Valentine's Day Cupcake sale
- Lyon Park Chili Cook-off (Sponsored by the LPCA and LPWC) —March
- LPCA PorchFest—stay tuned for details—Spring
- LPCA Home and Garden Tour—stay tuned for details—Spring



We need your help to make these events happen! Please email LyonParkEvents@lyonpark.org or events@lyonpark.org to volunteer to help out!

What's NEW at Columbia Gardens?

A Pair of Sphere Columbaria

Designed with a completely smooth façade of morning rose granite, the columbaria are free of visible hardware. A jet-black granite sphere crowns each structure in a striking contrast. Each columbaria offers 96 niches in varied sizes to hold one, two or more urns. They are an elegant addition to our Reflection Garden.

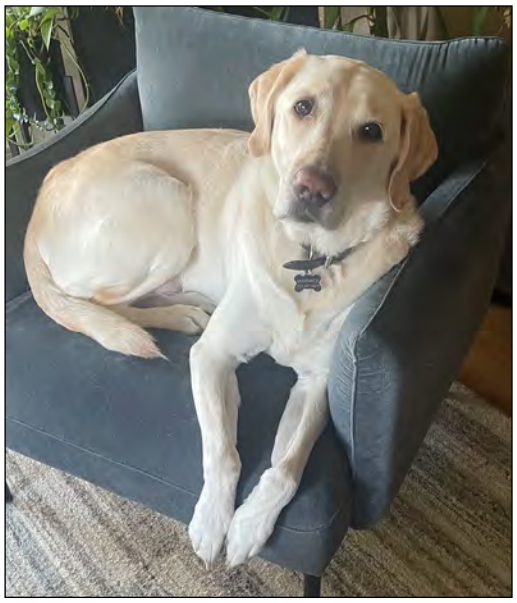


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The Pets of Lyon Park

By Kerin Seward



Meet Whiskey, a wonderful and sweet little love bug (yellow lab) who helps keep the neighborhood safe through his diligent neighborhood watch duties, and fed through his generous treat box for good doggies. Mike and Jackie Lynn have had Whiskey since he was born in 2018, and his favorite activities are swimming, playing with his alligator toy, belly rubs, and taking strolls around the neighborhood. Next time you're on 9th Street south of Washington Blvd., be sure to say hi to this 75-pound hunk of love!

Order a Historical Lyon Park House Plaque (scan this QR code):

- **Cost:**
  $275–$286 for each 7"x5" Bronze Plaque, which includes shipping
  - » $286 by PayPal: @payLPCC (covers the transaction fee)
  - » $275 by check: make payable to Lyon Park Community Center
  - » Send application to:
    Lyon Park Community Center
    PO Box 100191, Arlington, VA 22210
- **Questions**:
  Contact lyonparkhistory@gmail.com



November Events at the Friday Morning Music Club

By John Earle

Please join us at St. George's Episcopal Church (915 N Oakland Street) on Fridays at noon. Concerts are free, with no tickets necessary. Free-will donations for FMMC are collected. Performers are professional and semi-professional musicians.

Friday, November 6, 2026, noon
Brahms: Cello Sonata No. 2. Ken Ding, cello; Jaewon Lee, piano
Beethoven: Violin Sonata No. 8 in G Major, op. 30, no. 3. Yun Kang, violin; John Sutherland Earle, piano

Friday, November 13, 2026, noon
Wolf: Lieder. Daryl Yoder, bass-baritone; Jung-Yoon Lee, piano
Dvořák: Piano Trio No. 4 in E Minor, op. 90 ("Dumky"). Yun Kang, violin; David Boyle, cello; John Sutherland Earle, piano

For more information and future programs, see www.fmmc.org and www.earle.gmu.edu/music

Delicious Family Fun!





It's dinnertime, the kids are bored and everyone is getting hungry? Why not get a DIY Pizza from Troy's Italian Kitchen? Located just around the corner at 2710 Washington Blvd in Lyon Park, Troy's is known for its ready-to-eat pies, but the DIY Pizza Kit lets you create the perfect pizza at home, adding an element of fun to your dinner preparation.

The DIY Pizza Kit can be found at the bottom of the pizza options on the website menu. For $16.99, the kit contains:

- pizza dough for two pizzas (size depends on how thin you prefer your crust)
- flour for rolling out the dough
- Troy's fabulous pizza sauce
- 2 bags of pizza cheese
- Your choice of two toppings
- Easy-to-follow instructions
- An official pizza box in which to serve your creation

Troy's owner, Neel Vaidya, encourages patrons to post photos of their creations on his Instagram – what a fun opportunity to showcase your creativity! And then you get to enjoy delicious pizza, too!

For the truly adventurous pizza chefs out there, you can also buy pizza items a la carte, such as dough balls for $1.99 (calzones, anyone?) and a variety of sauces. Be bold and have fun.

And thank you, troysitaliankitchen.com, for your support of our community through the years!

Free Concerts at the Lyon Park Community Center

Have you enjoyed free concerts at the Lyon Park Community Center? We hope so, because there's more to come!

On **November 25**, the eve of Thanksgiving, we'll host another open mic night starting at 6:30 pm. There are still open slots for more performers, so let us know if you're ready to face the crowd! Maybe you know talented college students who will be home for Thanksgiving and maybe itching to share their talents with family and friends? On **December 6**, starting at 6:30, we're excited to host two local groups, duos performing acoustic music ranging from Americana to country, folk and rock, featuring both original and classic songs. On **January 24, 2027**, we'll kick off the new year with some serious Bluegrass - a performance by The Big Howdy!

Keep your eyes on the Lyon Park list serv and on "upcoming events" on LyonPark.org. If you want to perform at the Open Mic on 11/25 or want to suggest future performers, contact us at LPCCGovernors@gmail.com.

Put our energy to work for you!

Our team is committed to getting every client to the finish line with a smile on their face.



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