

Friends of Lafayette Park Newsletter

Founded in 1998 to preserve, maintain & improve Lafayette Park

Issue 16, Spring 2007



SPRING HAS SPRUNG!



Annual Spring Clean Up Day
Saturday, April 21, 9 AM – 12:00 PM



(credit F. Van Riper)

FOLP President Jeff Stoiber and FOLP Vice President Kimberly Cestari take a break from the tree-planting to greet Mayor Adrian Fenty.

Lafayette Park's annual Spring Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday, April 21 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. That means you should get ready to grab your tools, roll up your sleeves, and join us in giving something back to the park we love.

Those who have participated before know that our Clean Up days offer an often memorable opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and meet and bond with your neighbors. The Clean Up day last fall was a perfect example of that as the community came together to plant the 30 new trees we received from the Casey Tree Foundation.

Here's what's inside

- President's Letter
- The Amphitheater
- Garden Group Notes
- Tennis Club



On the 21st, we will:

- Assemble a brand new picnic table — purchased with the help of an ANC grant, made of recycled materials, and currently sitting all alone on the old gazebo concrete pad awaiting your capable hands.
- Create a pathway between the berms and the upper playground with flagstone generously donated by neighbor Anna Jhirad.
- Tend to the gardens, clean up the debris, do the general upkeep, and mostly, invest some tender loving care into our neighborhood treasure.



Can you think of a better way to spend a Saturday morning in the spring? Didn't think so. See you on the 21st!



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



After a long winter of temperature extremes, it is finally starting to feel like spring and the activity level at Lafayette Park is surging. The earlier daylight savings date has added precious extra evening hours for our enjoyment in our beloved park.

One of our big projects from last year is beginning to pay dividends. As a result of the refurbishing of the playground at Lafayette Elementary School, we had no signs of the dreaded "Lake Lafayette." The upgraded courts are sure to get plenty of use this spring and summer. Once again we want to thank Steve Agostino and the Lafayette HSA for their partnership. We look forward to similar cooperative projects in the future.

We have had two departures from our Board, Cynthia Baker and Gary Gold, and we want to thank them for all the great contributions they have made to Lafayette Park. Tim McDonough has joined the board as our Treasurer and has already become a valuable asset to the park and the Board.

Following last fall's election, Mayor Fenty appointed a new acting director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, Ms. Wanda Durden. Recently, Kimberly Cestari, our vice president, and I had a chance to meet with Ms. Darden; she seems very committed to the department and to supporting our efforts. We look forward to a fresh new direction at Parks and Recs and continued progress toward maintaining and upgrading Lafayette Park. Look for plenty of activity by DPR at the park this year.

Mr. Stuart Frazier has taken over stewardship of our park for Parks and Recs and has also been a welcome change. Mr. Frazier has worked closely with the Friends of Lafayette Park to identify the park's needs and to develop a strategy for addressing them. In particular, we are expecting big improvements in the ball fields which, sadly, have not been adequately maintained since they were refurbished in 2000.

Once the ball fields are upgraded, we need everyone's help in keeping them in good shape. That means no dog exercise, bicycles or use of the fields in inclement weather. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Happy spring! Enjoy this great time of year in our neighborhood's back yard, Lafayette Park.

Jeff Stoiber
Spring 2007



WEB DESIGNER WANTED

Are you a web designer who, when not in front of a computer, loves spending time outside, specifically at Lafayette Park?

If the answer to those questions is "yes," FOLP is looking for someone to develop the Friends of Lafayette Park website. If you're interested, please contact Jeff Stoiber at:

jstoiber@stoiberandassociates.com.

AMPHITHEATER REPAIRS

Last year, FOLP teamed up with the Lafayette HSA to pave and coat the playground on the north side of the school. The project – which included fixing the drainage problem, replacing the basketball backboards and re-stripping the playground – has been a great success in providing more recreation area while preserving green space.

Now, FOLP and Lafayette HSA are partnering up again, this time to pay for much-needed repairs to the amphitheater overlooking the ball fields.

Johnson's Landscaping Services, who along with TW Perry donated all the materials and labor to build the amphitheater six years ago, will begin the work in the middle of the month.



(credit F. Van Riper)

Volunteers assemble to plant 30 new trees throughout Lafayette Park.

courts and the Lafayette Recreation Center office. I will be running the program so you can contact me at (202) 441-0925 or Ricky Davenport at (202) 282-2206.

Once again, we will also be running the Lafayette Lunchtime Tennis Program for students at the Lafayette Elementary School. Students from 1st grade through 6th come up to the tennis courts during one of their lunchtime recesses to play. Registration information was sent to the students through the school.

We hope to have some fun mixers for tennis players in the community starting in early June. If anyone has any interest in helping with these, please contact me.

Paul Rosenbaum
Lafayette Tennis, Programs Director

A PLEA FOR GARDENING HELP

You've probably driven or walked past Lafayette Park and commented on the beautiful gardens along 33rd Street, Broad Branch and Quesada. They are the result of more than just sunlight and water, namely the dedicated FOLP garden group.

The group is made up of a handful of gardeners, including the constantly working Merrill Hare and Bill Mullan. But they need help! While the gardens have always been concentrated around the periphery of the park, there are other areas in the main part of the park, such as the berm, to try to keep in shape.

If you have a green thumb, or even just think you do, join the group to keep expanding the gardens and beautifying our park.

Just an hour or two would be greatly appreciated. Call Judy Goodman at 362-8103

LAFAYETTE TENNIS NEWS

The tennis courts were busy through the warmer part of early winter, but not after the Valentine's Day storm that left the courts looking more like a hockey rink. All in all, the courts survived the winter. However, the color coating is beginning to wear thin in high activity areas of the courts, like right behind the baseline. We submitted a request to Ricky Davenport, Lafayette Park Site Manager with the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation, to recoat the courts.

The Spring Afternoon Tennis Program starts up on April 9th. This program will offer classes for children, teens and adults. Classes start at 3:30 in the afternoon and continue until 7:30 so that working adults can participate.

Registration will take place up at the



(credit K. Cestari)

Hi, I'm a picnic table. Please come put me together on Clean Up Day, April 21st.

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Friends of Lafayette Park * * * * *

The FRIENDS OF LAFAYETTE PARK want more friends

The middle of April means warmer weather. It means birds chirping. It means kids playing and adults wondering: why didn't I make more tax deductible contributions? Here's your chance. What happens in the garden beds, in the playground, on the courts and on the ball fields, and throughout Lafayette Park really depends on you. You are what make Lafayette Park so special. And Lafayette Park has a lot to do with what makes our neighborhood so special. In fact, studies show that property values of homes near parks, especially in urban areas, are higher. In other words, keep investing in the park — with your love, your labor and, if possible, your contributions. It's worth it. And it's deeply appreciated.



FRIENDS OF LAFAYETTE PARK DONATION FORM

Name: _____ Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

_____ Yes, I will donate \$ _____ to become a member of Friends of Lafayette Park.
(A donation of \$50 or more is requested.)

Check _____ Credit Card _____ Name: _____
(as it appears on credit card)

Credit Card Company/Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____
(We take VISA, Mastercard, American Express) Month/Year

Send donation to Friends of Lafayette Park • 6137 33rd Street N.W. • Washington DC 20015