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Leewood Times is Going Green – *Subscriptions Available*

Nearly half of the trees cut in North America are made into paper. Every year, over 3.8 million acres of forest are clear-cut, leaving wide strips of stumps.

To make paper, wood is ground, pressed, dried and chlorine bleached, producing over 1,000 different organ chlorines, including the carcinogen dioxin, and mercury. Deforestation destroys wildlife habitat and increases erosion and sedimentation of streams.

Because trees are worth preserving, the editors of the Leewood Times have decided to make the newsletter available in print to **only those who request it**. Your LHOA newsletter will continue to be posted online at www.leewood.us

We understand that holding an actual piece of paper is important to some of our members, and we are aware that some of our members may not have access to the internet. Because of this, we will continue to print and deliver a select number of copies.

To request a subscription of the Leewood Times delivered to your door, please fill out the form at the end of this edition and send it to the address provided.

For more information on how your LHOA is going green, please visit www.leewood.us/green.htm

Go Green with These Eco-Friendly Gardening Tips

Spring is almost here and it's the perfect time for enjoying the outdoors and perhaps doing some gardening. Even though your garden may technically be green in color, it may not be "green" in the sense of being a low-impact garden. Embracing a green lifestyle involves growing a sustainable garden, one that is a thoughtful balance between resources used and results gained.

Whether its cultivating plots of vegetables or a collection of potted herbs and flowers, organic gardeners attribute their success to healthy soil, respect for beneficial insects' work and the use of naturally pest-resistant plants. They use only natural pesticides and organic fertilizers derived from natural materials.

Planting a variety of flowers and shrubs will ensure that you have something in bloom all year long, or as much of the year as possible. This attracts insects and birds to your garden which can limit the health and safety risks associated with conventional pesticide use. Here are some tips to help step into sustainable gardening.

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Some Tips to Keep Your Garden "Greener"



- Trust Mother Nature. Mother Nature never needed to steal sips from a chemical cocktail of pesticides, weed killers, and chemical fertilizers to keep her act together. Nix the poisons and layer on some all-natural compost, instead. Call in beneficial insect reinforcements to wrestle pesky garden pests to the ground.
- Buy recycled. If you don't like the idea of reusing yogurt or takeout containers to house your hydrangeas, check out the myriad of environmentally friendly planters and raised-garden kits now available. It takes less energy to recycle something than to mine virgin materials.
- Go native. Consider using native and indigenous plants already adapted to local conditions, native plants are easy to grow and maintain, generally requiring less fertilizer and water, as well as less effort to rein in pests. For a list of indigenous plants and shrubs recommended for our area log onto www.leewood.us/green.htm
- Harvest rainwater. Adding a rain barrel is an inexpensive and effortless way to capture mineral- and chlorine-free water for watering lawns, yards, and gardens. By harnessing what's literally raining from the sky, you'll not only notice a marked dip in water costs, but also a reduction in storm water runoff, which in turn helps prevent erosion and flooding. Pop a screen on top of your barrel to keep out insects, and debris and make sure to frequently use your water supply to keep it moving and aerated.
- Water with care. Adopting a few smart-watering habits will do much to stretch out your supply, especially during dry, hot spells in the summer. Adding mulch and compost to your soil will retain water and cut down evaporation. Water early in the day so you can avoid evaporation and winds.
- The Four "R"s. Reduce, Recycle, Reuse and Rebuy. You want to reduce your output of waste to ensure you're using materials efficiently. Reusing compost and tree clippings for mulch, or rainwater for watering take up little time and energy, but offer plenty of environmental bang for your buck. Recycling saves resources, while rebuying means seeking products that meet your needs, but are more environmentally friendly than your usual purchases.

For More Tips on Going Green in
your garden and home
Visit www.leewood.us/green.htm



Why Go Green?



- You can save energy and money. Given the astronomical rise in fuel prices in the past few years, it's no surprise that energy efficiency is the top reason consumers choose green. Remodelers favor energy-efficient appliances and water-conserving fixtures. Energy savings from all these techniques usually pay for their higher up-front costs in two to seven years.
- You can save your lungs. Indoor air can be two to five times more polluted than outdoor air. When Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) commonly found in paints, stains and glues dry, they release chemicals and continue to do so for years. This can exacerbate allergies and asthma, and cause headaches and nausea. As a preventive measure, some homeowners opt for "low VOC" paint, natural stains and formaldehyde-free glue, which generally cost a few dollars more per container.
- You can help save the planet. The final reason you might choose to go green is to leave the smallest footprint you can on the planet.

Metro to Dulles Derailed

The Federal Transit Administration rejected funding for the Metro to Dulles project. FTA head James S. Simpson sent a letter to Gov. Kaine formally rejecting the plan. The reasons for the rejection are:



- The project receives only a "Medium-Low" rating, making it "ineligible to advance into Final Design."
- "Even if MWAA were able to improve the New Starts rating, however, other factors have led FTA to doubt that there is a "reasonable likelihood" that the Project in its current form would...meet the statutory criteria in the future."
- "FTA is concerned that the cumulative risks and uncertainties that characterize the Dulles Project in its current form are extremely likely to result in further cost escalation and schedule delays."
- "The Dulles Project...has encountered an extraordinarily large set of challenges including changes in mode and sponsorship, a revised termination point, a dramatically escalating budget, delays in the development of the public-private contract, local dissension about the design of the project, and lawsuits."
- "...the sheer number and magnitude of the current Project's technical, financial, and institutional risks and uncertainties are unprecedented for a candidate New Starts project..."

In other words, the Metro to Dulles project is REJECTED...at least for now. For more information and to view a copy of the FTA rejection letter, visit www.Leewood.us/derailed.htm

Identity Theft – *America's fastest-growing crime. A message from the U.S.P.S*

Last year alone, more than 9.9 million Americans were victims of identity theft, a crime that cost them roughly \$5 billion dollars. The number of ID theft victims and their total losses are probably much higher. It's hard to pin down, because law enforcement agencies may classify ID theft differently--it can involve credit card fraud, Internet fraud, or mail theft, among other crimes. The FTC reported that only four percent of victims cited stolen mail as the source of personal information. Even so, U.S. Postal Inspectors, charged with protecting the nation's mail system from criminal misuse, are leaders in the fight against identity theft. Postal Inspectors provide these ID theft tips:

- Learn about how identity thieves can steal your name and your money.
- Review your consumer credit reports annually.
- Shred and destroy unwanted documents that contain personal information.
- Deposit mail in U.S. Postal Service collection boxes.
- Don't leave mail in your mailbox overnight or on weekends.
- If you're a victim of identity theft and the U.S. Mail is involved, call your nearest Postal Inspection Service office and local police or report identity theft on-line.

For more information on identity theft and for helpful links, visit www.leewood.us/IDtheft.htm

**Leewood
Homeowners
Association**

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To submit an article:

Email us at:

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FROM THE BOARD

2008 Homeowners Meeting – Tuesday March 11th 8:00pm

Our 2008 annual meeting will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11, 2008 in room 412 (Student Union Center) at Immanuel Bible Church on the southeast corner of Backlick and Braddock Road.

In addition to having a chance to meet your neighbors, serious issues will be discussed and community business will be transacted. Come as early as 7:30 p.m. to chat with your neighbors. A meeting packet was mailed to each homeowner that contains information about your community and the annual meeting. Updates on several projects, including drainage and locking mailboxes are included in the pack and will be discussed at the meeting.

See you there!

Soffits Can Effectively Draw Air

The attic vents behind your soffit which is under your gutter should not be painted over. These vents are there to keep dampness and heat from building up in your attic causing damage. Fascia Boards are the vertical boards on a house, and soffits are horizontal.

When you have your house painted, you should ask the painter to replace those vents or to remove the paint from them so that the holes are not clogged. These are necessary for the ventilation of your attic.

For more information and for pictures of your soffits and fascia boards please visit <http://www.leewood.us/arc/houseparts.htm>

Leewood Times Subscription Form

Please cut out this form and mail to the address below if you want a printed edition

I wish to continue to receive a printed edition of the Leewood Times delivered to my door.

Name:

Address:

Leewood Homeowners Association Attn: Leewood Times

P.O. Box 1421

Springfield, VA 22151



**LEEWOOD
CLEAN-UP DAY – 4/5**

Leewood's First Clean-Up Day of 2008 is Saturday, April 5th, at 9:00 a.m. We will all meet at corner of Leebrad and Leestone Court. Lots of volunteers needed. Bring gloves, rakes, pruners and saws. If you have any questions, please email a Board member.