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Fall Festivals & Events in our Area

Fall is such a wonderful time of year in our area. The cooler weather, the foliage, and the outdoor festivals make our region a great place to live. The editors of the Leewood Times have created a guide to all the festivals within a short drive from our home. Please visit www.leewood.us/Fall.htm for the complete list with helpful links to the event pages. Here are a couple of our picks for you to check out...

Fall For Fairfax KidsFest - Saturday, October 4th (9:00am - 6:00pm)

Enjoy the best that fall has to offer at the 16th annual FALL FOR FAIRFAX KIDSFEST at the Fairfax County Government Center! There will be a ton of fun things for children of all ages, including hay rides, pony rides, two stages of entertainment, moon bounces, slides and carnival rides. For the adults there will be a public safety area to get helpful information and a local farmers market to shop for the freshest produce money can buy.

Clifton Day - Sunday, October 12th (9:00am – 5:00pm)

Clifton Day is a non-profit event, raising money for a variety of local charities in the beautifully-restored historic town of Clifton, VA. The fair includes crafts and fine arts, antiques, demonstrations, a flea market, events and entertainment, children's activities, live music, and food. (Rain date: Sunday, October 19th)

The Northern Virginia BrewFest - September 27&28th (11am-8pm Saturday, 11am-7pm Sunday)

The BrewFest will feature over 40 of the world's best breweries pouring their beers, and plenty of tasty food at Bull Run Regional Park in Centreville, VA. Musical entertainment from Junkfood, Crowded Streets and many other great local and regional bands will provide a perfect backdrop to a great few days. Tickets for the BrewFest purchased on the day of the event will be \$22. Tickets are available prior to the opening of the event for \$17 through their online provider. Visit www.leewood.us/fall.htm for links to order your tickets.

Waterford Fair - October 3rd, 4th&5th (10 am to 5 pm)

The Award-winning Waterford Homes Tour & Crafts Exhibit Returns for its 65th Year. Waterford, VA is a small village of only some 90 homes and buildings. The entire village is closed to cars giving plenty of room for the 10,000 daily visitors. With hundreds of juried crafts persons exhibiting their wares and demonstrating their skills, the exhibit is an important annual event in our area.

Fairfax County Leads the Region in Job Growth



During the second quarter of 2008, the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA) provided services and resources to 23 businesses that will create 826 jobs in Fairfax County. Combined with totals from the first quarter, the FCEDA has worked this year with nearly 40 companies that will add almost 1,100 jobs to what is one of the country's most vibrant economies.

According to the latest five-year review of the region's economy by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Fairfax County led the region in labor force growth with a gain of 51,959 jobs and led the region in 2007 in new commercial development, with nearly 6.6 million square feet of projects. *Time* magazine called Fairfax County, "one of the great economic success stories of our time." Business growth helps our county fund public services such as a top-ranked public school system and other resources that improve the quality of life.

For links to all the companies please visit www.leewood.us/Jobs.htm

Most of the companies that worked with the FCEDA in the second quarter are American and foreign-owned firms in the information technology and professional services sectors.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2008

Leewood's National Night Out – A Huge Success

For the second year, Leewood participated in The National Night Out on August 5, 2008. Festivities started at 7:30 p.m. in the common area between 7026 and 7018 Leebrad Street. Over 75 residents attended along with four Fairfax County police officers who handed out helpful information and fun items for the children.

Burgers and hot dogs were prepared and served along with chips and soft drinks. Many "door prizes" were given away highlighted by a pair of tickets to a Washington Redskins game. Many thanks go out to all of our residents who made this year's National Night Out a huge success! Plans were made and your LHOA looks forward to many Leewood gatherings to come. Stay tuned for information on future Leewood community gatherings.



Dulles Metrorail is on Track and Underway

The Dulles Metrorail is a new 23-mile Metrorail line extending service from the existing Orange Line at the East Falls Church station in Fairfax County, Virginia, to Route 772/Ryan Road in Loudoun County, Virginia. The corridor encompasses several activity centers, including Tysons Corner, Reston, Herndon and Washington Dulles International Airport, as well as the emerging activity center in eastern Loudoun County. Construction is scheduled to begin this year and when completed, the Metrorail extension will connect Northern Virginia to the rest of the region, permanently linking our business and residential centers creating more options on where we live, work and play without having to sit in traffic.





The Board needs your help...

Community Events: National Night out was such a success, that many of you asked about the next Leewood social event. We would love to have more Leewood community gatherings and some even suggested we try to do something quarterly. The Board agrees...social events are the most positive way to get to know your neighbors and the more we know one another, the more Leewood feels like a community. If you have an idea for an event, or would like to volunteer to help plan an event, please let us know. We are open to any idea or suggestion. Some ideas that have already been suggested are: holding events at different locations throughout Leewood so everyone gets a chance to have one close to home; having some of Leewood's different cultural groups host cultural gatherings so we can all learn more about where everyone comes from; having an outdoor movie night where everyone can pull up their lawn chairs, unpack their picnics and watch a family movie with their neighbors; hosting a traveling pot-luck dinner where groups of residents from each street volunteer to cook and everyone moves from common area to common area trying different courses...appetizers, main dishes, deserts and so on; an ice cream social (we better hurry for that, summer is almost over!). Let us know what you think...e-mail: secretary@leewood.us.

Areas of Concern: As everyone knows, there are some things that happen in Leewood that cause concern for residents. We all want Leewood to look as nice as possible and to be as comfortable as possible for everyone, so we would like to relay some of the concerns that have been shared with us and offer the following reminders:

Security and Safety: There have been several reported incidents of car vandalism and one incident of car theft within Leewood throughout the past year. The Board VP recently shared an incident of the theft of a car belonging to a Leewood homeowner the same day of the sidewalk repair, or the night prior to the repair work. The owner thought we had moved the car, as we did others, so work on the sidewalks could begin. However, after the owner had confirmed that we did not move that particular vehicle, it was determined that it had been stolen. The owner then reported the theft to the police, who eventually recovered the vehicle. The President suggested we look into a Neighborhood Watch Program for Leewood as a way to safeguard our property. The VP volunteered to research how to properly establish the program and will take charge by finding volunteers and coordinating a kick-off meeting. Let us know how you feel about a Leewood Neighborhood Watch and if you would like to participate...e-mail: vicepresident@leewood.us.

Sun Control Devices: During each summer season, when the temperatures are hot and shade is scarce, some homeowners put up sun control, or shade devices in their backyards. Unfortunately, sun control devices are not allowed by our regulations. Section 5.1 of the Leewood Design and Maintenance Standards states "Sun control devices, such as cloth awnings on metal pipe frames or other awning types, are not permitted in rear or front yards, or in the common area. Patio umbrellas are permitted in rear yards but should be kept closed when not in use to prevent damage to the umbrella or to a neighbor's property or the common area should an umbrella become air-born during a wind storm." If you are hosting a special event or there is a special occasion, and you would like to put up a sun control device for that day, please contact the Board for approval. Board member e-mail addresses can be found on the website under Administration at www.leewood.us, or you can e-mail leewood@leewood.us. If you currently have a sun control device set up in your yard, we would appreciate it if you removed it so that you don't receive an ARC notice.

Solicitation: In addition to placing advertisements on our porches, there has been an increasing trend of solicitors placing magnetic business cards on or in our mailboxes. While Leewood does have a "no soliciting" policy, and

FROM THE BOARD - *continued*

posted signs that say so, solicitors often come anyway, during the day, when there are fewer people around, and distribute cards and other materials. While there isn't much we can do about it generally, we can do something about items placed inside our mailboxes. If you find business cards or other solicitation material **inside** your mailbox that has not been delivered by the US Postal Service, please call our Post Office and report it. It is against the law for anyone other than you, your representative, or an authorized postal representative (mailman) to go into, or tamper with, your mailbox. If we report it, the Post Office can take action. The number to our Post Office is: (703) 569-8073.

Trash: The cards discussed above are also causing a trash problem. When they fall off the mailboxes and land under the stands, it becomes unsightly. Because Leewood does not have a volunteer trash detail, we ask that you please take business cards and other advertisements off your box and throw them in your trash when they are distributed, before they fall off.

The Board has also received calls from residents who have seen other residents or their guests cleaning out their cars and leaving the trash in the street. We understand that in the summer many people like to wash their cars at home, but when you do, please be sure to clean up...take the trash from your car and dispose of it properly and ensure your guests do the same. Dumping trash in the common area could result in financial penalties, but if everyone just picks up after themselves, that can be avoided.

Street Work and Towing: We would like to thank all the Leewood residents who moved their cars, as requested, for their cooperation during the recent sidewalk and street repair. Particular thanks go to the residents of Bradgen Court, who were twice affected by this work. We know it was inconvenient, but the streets and sidewalks now look better and are in better repair.

In the past, when it has been necessary to ask that cars be removed to facilitate work, the Association has towed those cars that were not moved. We towed the cars to other areas in Leewood at no cost to the owners of those cars. During the recent sidewalk work, the bill for these relocations came to nearly \$800. This is an expense that Leewood cannot afford and should not have to bear. Because of the number of people who ignore the notices and do not move their cars, in the future when notices are posted that cars, for any reason, need to be moved, the Board will be forced to have the cars that are not moved towed to the impound lot. The owners of the towed vehicles will have to go to the impound lot and pay the towing/impound fee to get their vehicles back. This is expensive, but can be avoided by simply moving vehicles on time, as posted, when it is necessary. If you find that your car has been towed, contact Henry's Wrecker Service at (703) 691- 1544 and they will tell you where the lot is located and how much it will cost to retrieve your vehicle.

Community Updates:

The Board has been busy with various projects to help maintain and improve our community. We have heard from many of you concerning these projects and know you are interested. The following updates are provided to keep you abreast of what we are doing:

Sidewalk Repair: As everyone knows, many sections of our sidewalks were recently repaired. Those sections that were repaired were considered to be the worst trip hazards along the main walks. In all, 1,826 square feet of concrete was replaced! There are still some areas that need repaired along the inner walks and circles, and they will get done, but not this year. We noticed several homeowners took advantage of the work being done by Brothers Paving & Concrete on the common sidewalks and had Brothers do their private walks as well...public and private, they all look great and we thank those homeowners who took the initiative to have their walks done.

Street Repair: Of course you know we had the streets repaired shortly after the sidewalks. First, Brothers Paving & Concrete filled 6,000 linear feet of cracks throughout Leewood streets with *CrackSeal*. This joint sealant will ensure the fine cracks that had developed in our streets don't get bigger and it will also help

Leewood Homeowners Association

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Email us at:

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Keep Our Common Areas Happy:

During the hot and dry part of the summer, the trees, plants, and grass in our common area get thirsty. If your home is near a common area, keep them happy and green – please water!

FROM THE BOARD - *continued*

keep potholes from forming in the winter by keeping moisture that can freeze out of the cracks. The other street work completed was to apply two coats of sealer to Bradgen Court because it was developing a bad case of “alligatoring” or “spidering,” meaning the small cracks were so predominant they were all running together, creating an alligator or spider-web look on the asphalt. This preventive maintenance should keep our streets in good repair for some time.

Drainage: Over the past year, we have had our landscaping contractor, J&M, repair numerous areas where poor drainage was a problem. Most recently they worked on the alley behind lower Leestone Street, from 7011 to 7029 and also the area behind 7031-7037 Leestone Street.

Mailboxes: We continue to work with the United States Postal Service (USPS) concerning the installation of locking mailboxes. Locking mailboxes are one way that we can protect ourselves against mail and identity theft. Several residents have reported incidents of “missing” mail, and we know many of you are anxious to have locking boxes installed...we’re trying! The USPS encourages all communities to use locking cluster boxes because they safeguard private mail and because they are more efficient and cost effective for the USPS. Because of this, the USPS will often provide the boxes and have them installed at no cost. We’ve worked with our local postal Station Master and are currently in the process of formalizing our request to the Postmaster General. We know that some of our current mailbox shelters are in need of repair, and we ask for your patience...we’d like to delay investing in those repairs until we have some indication of what the USPS will be able to do regarding installation of new locking boxes. However, for those of you whose individual boxes are missing doors or broken in some other way that leaves your mail unprotected, please let the Board know so we can get them repaired or replaced. E-mail secretary@leewood.us.

Left Turn Lane: Many of you may remember we took a poll some time ago to see who was in favor of trying to get a left turn lane installed on Backlick Road where you turn left onto Leestone Street. After much communication with the County, we did convince them to contact the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to request a traffic study be done on that intersection. VDOT did finally conduct the study, but unfortunately, they determined not enough traffic turned left from Backlick onto Leestone to justify a marked left turn lane. A copy of the study has been requested, and once it is received, we will post it for all to see. If enough of us disagree with the study, we will appeal the decision and start a petition in favor of having a left turn lane installed. It’s not over ‘till it’s over!

Leewood Trees: Another area of concern to many homeowners in Leewood is the condition of some of our older and larger trees and the older, larger trees that border our property just outside our property lines. Many of our trees have come down in storms over the last few years and many look as though they could come down at any time. All, or part, of some of them appear dead, while others appear to have some type of blight or disease. Damage to common and personal property is a concern for Leewood and those who live in the communities that border ours. We have had several homes damaged in Leewood and our trees have also fallen in the yards of neighboring homes. Because tree removal is so expensive, we cannot afford to have someone come in and remove all the trees people have specifically expressed concern over. We are trying to get a certified arborist to come and assess our trees and those along our property line to determine which of them pose an actual threat and to prioritize those identified by which are the most likely to come down, which need removed, but not immediately, and which can be treated and hopefully saved. When we asked the County to do the assessment, they could not, or would not, and the County Tree Commission was booked for some time. Now that the constant onslaught of thunderstorms seems to have abated, we will contact the Tree Commission again. To save some costs, Board members did recently remove several trees, and pruned some others themselves. If anyone in Leewood, or anyone you know, such as a family member, has experience, or is in the business of tree removal, we’d sure like to talk to you! If you think you can help, please contact the Board Secretary at secretary@leewood.us.