

## To submit an article:

- Send us an email
- Be positive and informative
- Deadline December 15<sup>th</sup>

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## Don't Forget to Vote Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>

When all the votes are counted, we will have our next President of the United States. Open any paper, turn on any news program, and the headlines are focused on this heated race. This vote will decide how our country fares for the next four years. Whether you are devoted supporters for the Obama-Biden ticket, or solidly behind the McCain-Palin ticket, your vote can make the difference.

The Editors of the Leewood Times have created a [Voting Guide](#) for you with helpful online links to all the candidate's web pages (*we are voting for more than just the next president*), helpful information on how to beat the crowds by voting absentee in person before the general election, and information and directions to our polling location. Don't let the opportunity to have your voice heard pass you by. When you cast your vote, you will be helping to shape our future rather than let our future shape itself.



What: **General Election**  
When: **Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> 2008**  
Where: **St. John's United Methodist Church**  
**5312 Backlick Road**  
**Springfield, VA 22151**  
**6:00am - 7:00pm**



For More Information on Absentee Voting and Directions visit [www.leewood.us/vote.htm](http://www.leewood.us/vote.htm)

## 345 Money Saving Tips

Every day is the right day to start saving your hard earned money, though it is more important during these tough economic times. The editors of the Leewood Times have scoured the internet and have listed **345** tips that can save you and your family money and help you get out of debt.

Our money saving tips range from everything from budgeting & finance, to transportation & travel and this guide is also a great reminder of how much we waste. To help you develop the habit of spending less than you make, visit [www.leewood.us/save345.htm](http://www.leewood.us/save345.htm). Here are some examples from the guide.

1. Switch your bank accounts to a bank that respects you
55. Get DVDs from the library
88. Exchange a box of toys with friends
160. Print off your documents in draft mode - *It's faster and saves ink*
208. Use the ten second rule - *Whenever you pick up an item in order to add it to your cart or to take it to the checkout, stop for ten seconds*
235. Make your own greeting cards
315. Book the smallest car you need - *Often you can upgrade to a larger car at the rental counter at a rate far less than what you would have paid if you reserved that size. They often have extra cars in a certain class or size and may rent them for even less than the cost of a smaller car*

## Ever Wonder Where Your Lottery Money Goes?

Did you ever wonder where the money goes when you buy a lottery ticket? Here is how it is broken down. When you buy a \$1 scratcher, 55¢ goes to the prizes, 5-6¢ to the retailer, up to 10¢ to operate the lottery, and 33-34¢ to public education.

About two thirds is distributed through a regular state funding formula. Approximately a third goes directly to the localities. Superintendents have some guidelines on how they choose to spend the money. They use it for everything from school buses to computers in the classrooms to new playground equipment.

Scratch games account for roughly 50 percent of all lottery sales. The games cost from \$1 to \$20 and offer a variety of prizes, from free tickets to money prizes of up to \$1 million. Some 40 to 50 different tickets are in play at any one time.

Since 1988, Virginia Lottery has generated more than \$20 billion.

## Credit Repair – *Self Help May Be Best*

You see the advertisements in newspapers, on TV, and on the Internet. You hear them on the radio. You get fliers in the mail, and maybe even calls offering credit repair services. They all make the same claims:

- *“Credit problems? No problem!”*
- *“We can remove bankruptcies, judgments, liens, and bad loans from your credit file forever!”*
- *“We can erase your bad credit — 100% guaranteed.”*
- *“Create a new credit identity — legally.”*

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) says do yourself a favor and save some money, too. Don't believe these claims: they're very likely signs of a scam. Indeed, attorneys at the nation's consumer protection agency say they've never seen a legitimate credit repair operation making those claims. The fact is there's no quick fix for creditworthiness. You can improve your credit report legitimately, but it takes time, a conscious effort, and sticking to a personal debt repayment plan. For more information on how to repair your credit, visit [www.leewood.us/creditfix.htm](http://www.leewood.us/creditfix.htm)

## Telegraph Road Interchange Construction

Highway construction crews are out in force and will be for several years of work to upgrade the Telegraph Road interchange at the beltway, the final major contract of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project. The \$236 million dollar effort to reconstruct the interchange may take drivers a while to get used to the lane shift. Outer loop traffic now begins merging from four lanes down to three lanes about a mile sooner that it used to, at the Eisenhower Avenue connector exit instead of Telegraph Road. Construction will take five years to complete. Building an improved Telegraph Road Interchange is the final component of the overall \$2.52-billion dollar Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project. For more traffic information and links to the status of the project, visit [www.leewood.us/beltway.htm](http://www.leewood.us/beltway.htm)



*In fiscal year 2008, the VA lottery generated \$455 million. It accounts for about six percent of the state's budget for education*



## How To Test for Carbon Monoxide in the Home

Without question the most common safety issue in homes is the presence of a silent killer called Carbon Monoxide (CO). CO is an odorless poisonous gas produced as a by product of burning fossil fuels. Fortunately, you can easily test for the presence of this gas in your home for less than \$5. Here's how:

First, purchase a passive CO test kit (detector badge) at your local hardware or building supply store. Next, write the date of the test on the front of the test badge. Following the manufacturer's instructions, place the test badge in a location where you are concerned about CO gas. This may be the furnace room, near a gas fireplace, the garage, and so on. Make sure you locate the badge away from direct exposure to sunlight, ammonia, solvents or cleaners. Check for CO. Within 15 minutes or so the badge will darken if it detects any carbon monoxide. Even if the badge changes color slightly, this is a problem.

**If the badge changes color at all and detects any carbon monoxide, immediately find the cause and correct the problem.** If no CO is detected, you can leave the badge in place for 60 - 90 days as recommended by the manufacturer.

Tip: Locate the badge away from ammonia, solvents and cleaners. These may prevent an accurate reading.

## Fallin' For Leewood 2008

It's a great time of year to get out and walk in our community! Check out some of the beautiful fall foliage and harvest decorations in Leewood. For more information on fall activities in our area, visit [www.leewood.us](http://www.leewood.us).



## Leewood Homeowners Association

P.O. Box 1421  
Springfield, VA 22151

### Our Board

President –  
**Janet Rourke**  
president@leewood.us

Vice President –  
**Ramanuj Chilakamarri**  
vicepresident@leewood.us

Secretary –  
**Rose Weber**  
secretary@leewood.us

Treasurer –  
**Maggie Pitotti**  
treasurer@leewood.us

At Large –  
**Vacant**  
atlarge@leewood.us

Entire board email:  
board@leewood.us

Leewood's Official  
Website!

[www.leewood.us](http://www.leewood.us)

To submit an article:

*Email us at:*

[LeewoodTimes@cox.net](mailto:LeewoodTimes@cox.net)

### **Holiday Trash Pick-up Schedule 2008:**

Thanksgiving – NORMAL  
Christmas – NORMAL  
New Year's Day - NORMAL

- **Christmas Tree Pick-ups -**  
WEDNESDAY Morning  
**January 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Put out your trees the night before



## FROM THE BOARD

### Halloween Safety Tips for your Home

When most people think of Halloween they think of trick or treating or having fun at a party with friends, enjoying an interesting night of characters, jack-o-lanterns, and Halloween fun. No one thinks about vandalism like toilet papered houses, broken windows, theft, or any other violation of one's personal property. Unfortunately bad things do happen, so it's better to be safe than sorry.

Here are some tips to ensure your house is kept safe from vandalism and theft on Halloween Night.

- Stay Home – This is the easiest way to prevent the possibility of vandalism or theft in the home.
- Take all expensive Halloween decorations that are outdoors inside.
- If you go out, leave some lights on inside the house to give the illusion that someone is home.
- Keep the entire area around the house well lit. This will prevent vandals or thieves from trying anything, as neighbors can easily see everything going on.
- Talk to your neighbor's and have them keep an eye on your house while you're out. They can do this while passing out candy.

### Daylight Saving Time Ends Sunday, November 2nd

In much of the United States, Daylight Saving Time (DST) began on the second Sunday of March (*this year it was March 9, 2008*), which is several weeks earlier than in years prior to 2007. DST will end on the first Sunday of November (*November 2, 2008*). This new DST period is approximately three to four weeks longer than in years prior to 2007. Don't forget to change your clocks. This is also a great time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

### Hazardous Waste Collection & Shredding Event

Fairfax County will hold its last household hazardous waste collection and document shredding event of the year in our area Saturday, November 1 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Only household hazardous waste from Fairfax County residents will be accepted and proof of residency is required (*ex: utility bill, driver's license*). Examples of what to bring: acids, gasoline, fluorescent bulbs, fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, mercury products, oil-based paint, paint thinner, pesticides, poisons, & rechargeable batteries (*no automobile batteries*). This is a free service made available to all county residents. It's an ideal opportunity to securely destroy personal and sensitive documents such as old tax documents, credit information, expired contracts, etc. Protect yourself from identity theft and protect our environment through recycling – all at once! Up to 5 medium-sized boxes of paper per household will be accepted at NO CHARGE! For more information visit you LHOA website [www.leewood.us](http://www.leewood.us)