



To submit an article:

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- Be positive and informative
- Deadline February 15th

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Happy New Year from the LHOA

Hard to believe another year has come and gone, and the time to kiss 2008 goodbye is here. Your LHOA would like to thank to everyone who helped make it such a great year for Leewood. This quote from Ann Landers says it all....

Let this coming year be better than all the others. Vow to do some of the things you've always wanted to do but couldn't find the time. Call up a forgotten friend. Drop an old grudge, and replace it with some pleasant memories. Vow not to make a promise you don't think you can keep. Walk tall, and smile more. You'll look ten years younger. Don't be afraid to say, 'I love you'. Say it again. They are the sweetest words in the world.

May the dawning of this New Year, fill your heart with new hopes, open up new horizons and bring for you promises of brighter tomorrows. May you have a great 2009! Your LHOA thanks you for your support throughout 2008 and we wish you and your family all the best for 2009!

Notable 2009 Dates – Time to Mark your Calendars

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** - Monday, January 19th
- Inauguration Day** – Tuesday, January 20th
- Groundhog Day** - Monday, February 2nd
- Valentine's Day** - Saturday, February 14th
- President's Day** - Monday, February 16th
- Mardi Gras**- Tuesday, February 24th
- Ash Wednesday** - Wednesday, February 25th
- Daylight Savings Time starts** - Sunday, March 8th
- Leewood Homeowners Annual Meeting** - Tuesday, March 10th
- St. Patrick's Day**- Tuesday, March 17th
- Easter** - Sunday, April 12th
- Mothers Day** - Sunday, May 10th
- Memorial Day** - Monday, May 25th
- Father's Day** - Sunday, June 21st
- Independence Day** - Saturday, July 4th
- Leewood's 3rd Annual National Night Out** - Tuesday, August 4th
- Labor Day** - Monday, September 7th
- Columbus Day** - Monday, October 12th
- Halloween** - Saturday, October 31st
- Daylight Savings Time Ends** - Sunday, November 1st
- Veteran's Day** - Wednesday, November 11th
- Thanksgiving** - Thursday, November 26th
- Christmas** - Friday, December 25th

Inauguration Weekend 2009 News and Notes

The District of Columbia plays host every four years to the inauguration of the country's president and the related activities such as the inaugural parade, balls and galas and other festive events. Hundreds of thousands of American citizens from across the country will visit the District to take part in this historic event.

The 56th Presidential Inauguration will be a historic one, and the district is expecting tremendous turnout for the events. They are urging spectators to use public transportation and arrive early. The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro) is the area's main source of public transportation. To plan your trip via the Metro, use Metro's Trip Planner at www.wmata.com.

For those who are planning to take the Metro should prepare for fees- WMATA has announced that they will be charging rush-hour rates while providing extended rush hour service. For those who want to park can expect a \$4 fee. Typically fares are reduced and parking is free on Federal holidays- however this is clearly not a typical Federal holiday. WMATA is raising the fees in order to cope with increased costs that will be expected with Inauguration.

For the Swearing-In Ceremony, security checkpoints will open for ticketed guests at 8:00 am and the musical prelude begins at 10 am. The Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies advises arriving no later than 9:00 am to ensure that you are through the checkpoints by the time the program begins. Screening will end when the program begins at 11:30 am and late arrivals will not be able to enter the grounds.

For more information and great links to everything inaugural, please visit www.leewood.us/inauguration2009

Construction projects under way in Northern Virginia

Northern Virginia congestion is the second worst in the country, and improvements and expansions are long overdue. Now that private investors have come forward and funding is available to make these improvements, construction is taking place right away. While this will make it challenging to get around in the short term, the long-term effect will be the biggest improvements to the Northern Virginia transportation system in decades. These mega construction projects will provide innovative solutions to ease congestion by improving multiple modes of transportation - highway, rail and a new network for carpools and buses called HOT lanes.

They include construction of the final two miles of the Fairfax County Parkway from Rolling Road to Fullerton Road, the final phase of the Wilson Bridge project - the I-95 Telegraph Road Interchange, the Dulles Corridor Metrorail, which will link downtown D.C to the Dulles International Airport, High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes on I-95/395 and the Capital Beltway (I-495), and the Defense Department's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

For more traffic information and links to the status of all the projects, visit www.leewood.us/roadwork.htm



All attendees are subject to a thorough security screening before entering the Inaugural parade route, the White House reviewing stand or the Inaugural balls. Please allow for additional time for this security screening, as it is expected that lines may be long.



Thomas Jefferson High Again voted Best in the Nation

U.S. News & World Report has again ranked Fairfax County's Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology as the best high school in the United States. "T.J.", which focuses heavily on math and science education, surpassed more than 21,000 other public high schools for the honor. This is the second year that U.S. News has ranked high schools, and T.J. has captured the honor both times.

T.J. and three other Fairfax County high schools (Langley, McLean and Woodson), received "gold" rankings as four of the 100 best U.S. high schools. Seven others (Chantilly, Lake Braddock, Madison, Marshall, Oakton, Robinson and Stuart) received "silver" rankings from the magazine. Fairfax County has more gold- and silver-ranked schools in the U.S. News rankings than do 31 states.

The rankings are highlighted in the December 8 issue of the magazine. U.S. News ranked those schools across the country with the highest college readiness index scores and placed the top 100 in the "gold" category. The next 504 top-performing schools earned a "silver" designation. For the list of 100 schools that performed the best in their three-step America's Best High Schools analysis and links to all of America's best schools, visit www.usnews.com/articles/education/high-schools/2008/12/04/best-high-schools-gold-medal-list.html

Fairfax County's County's projected deficit climbs to \$650 million

Elected officials confirmed that the county's projected deficit is to be around \$650 million, \$220 million more than they had initially predicted last summer. The increased projection will mean significantly deeper cuts than the county has already discussed. It also reflects the extent to which the county's home values have declined. Real estate taxes make up the bulk of the county's revenue and officials had not accounted for the degree of deterioration that has taken place in the county's residential and commercial real estate markets. "We have also seen a decrease in commercial property values. We had thought the commercial property values were going to stay flat but there was actually a bit of a decline," said Supervisor Sharon Bulova (D-Braddock), who is head of the county budget committee. She added that the county's other large sources of revenue like the sales tax and business and professional licensing fees have also dropped.

Report: November 2008 Area Home Sales

The Northern Virginia Association of Realtors reported on home sales activity in our area. They include sales of homes in Fairfax and Arlington counties, the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church and the towns of Vienna, Herndon and Clifton.

A total of 1,100 homes sold in November 2008, which was slightly more than November 2007, with home sales of 1,065. At the end of November, there were 1,458 sales contracts pending in Northern Virginia, a 28.35 percent increase over the 1,136 contracts pending in November 2007. Active listings decreased by 13.81 percent from last year, with 8,369 active listings in November, compared with 9,710 homes available in November 2007. The average days on market (DOM) for homes in November 2008 decreased slightly at 91 days, compared with 99 days on the market in November 2007.

Sales prices continue to remain lower than those realized last year. The average sales price in November fell by 17.68 percent from November 2007, to \$423,088, compared with last November's average of \$513,930. The median price of homes sold in Northern Virginia in November was \$335,000, which is a decline of 21.18 percent compared with November 2007's median price of \$425,000.

"Now really is a great time to buy a home. Inventory is high, prices are down and mortgage rates are near 50-year lows. We have to unclog the system and let people achieve and hold on to the dream of homeownership," said NAR President Charles McMillan

Leewood Homeowners Association

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Email us at:

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**Christmas Tree
Pick-up
Wednesday
Morning
January 14th**

Please put out trees the night
before, free of ornaments,
lights, tinsel, ect



FROM THE BOARD

Electric Sundays

County residents can recycle televisions, computers and electronic peripherals at the I-66 Transfer Station from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the upcoming Electric Sunday events: Jan. 11, Feb. 8 and March 8. The Transfer Station is located at 4618 West Ox Road in Fairfax. There is no cost to Fairfax County residents for this service.

This event is limited to the collection of televisions, computers and peripheral electronic devices - including keyboards, speakers, printers, external drives and other such materials. Residents should not bring small or large kitchen appliances, CDs, DVDs, video cassettes or stereo equipment to these events. Equipment brought to these events do not need to be in working order.

To print an event reminder for yourself, visit
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/electric.pdf

Off Leash Dog Areas in FF County

The Fairfax County Park Authority has always welcomed leashed dogs in all of its parks. Now, for owners of well-mannered canines who enjoy a good run or a friendly romp, there's the additional option of dog parks - fenced areas where unleashed dogs can have free play. At present, there are seven established dog parks. Additional off-leash dog areas are in the planning stage. All of the dog parks are public/private partnerships, developed in cooperation with sponsoring organizations of pet owners. The hours of operation of all off-leash dog areas are dawn to dusk, unless posted otherwise.

The off-leash areas are: Baron Cameron Park - 11300 Baron Cameron Avenue, Reston. Blake Lane Park - 10033 Blake Lane, Oakton. Chandon Park - 900 Palmer Drive, Herndon. Grist Mill Park - 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy, Alexandria. Quinn Farm Park - 5150 Old Lee Rd., Chantilly. Mason District Park - Intersection of Alpine Drive & Pinecrest Parkway, Annandale. South Run Park - 7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield.

For more information, visit [www.http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/offleash.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/offleash.htm)

Special Election: Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

February 3, 2009

Because Gerald Connolly was elected to the House of Representatives 11th District, Fairfax County is left without a Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, a Special Election for Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will be held. All qualified voters in Fairfax County are eligible to vote in this election. The polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Leewood residents will use our polling place, Precinct 531:LEEWOOD - St. John's United Methodist Church, 5312 Backlick Road, Springfield, VA.

For more information about this election and how to vote absentee, visit

www.leewood.us/vote.htm