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Get away on vacation – *At Home!*

In these tough economic times, the new trend is for people to spend their vacation exploring what their city has to offer, instead of leaving town. “Staycations” became popular during the '08 summer travel season when rising fuel prices made plane tickets or long road trips prohibitively expensive for many people.

So what is a staycation? What should you do? First, don't do anything you wouldn't do on a normal vacation - such as working in the yard, or cleaning the house. Your staycation needs to be fun! Attend to all that stuff before you go, just as you would do in preparing for a traditional vacation.

The editors of the Leewood Times have created a guide for you and your family to use this travel season, with tips and a list of *100 things you can do within 100 miles*, many of them for free! Visit www.leewood.us/100things.pdf for the complete list and links to everything.

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Leewood Clean-up Day '09

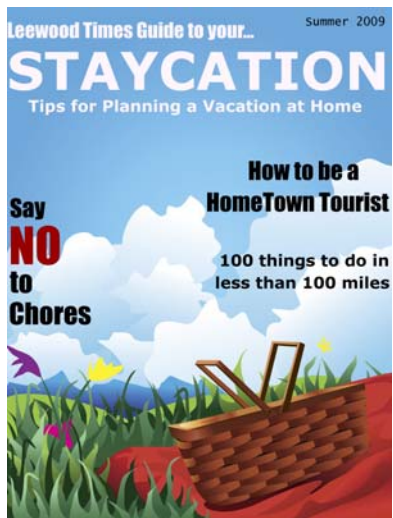
FROM THE BOARD

The spring clean up day was held on April 18, 2009. Nineteen homeowners participated for over three hours and helped clean the wooded area between Bradgen Court, Leebrad Street and Leestone Street, the wooded area at the end of Bradgen Court and the wooded area behind Leestone Street. Two homeowners contributed their pick-up trucks and five loads of debris were taken to the dump.

The debris consisted of naturally falling limbs from trees in these areas. However, it unfortunately included shrubs removed from homeowners' yards and dumped in the woods, fence slats, concrete, patio lights, planting bed borders, chicken wire apparently used to make compost piles in the common area and metal fence posts. It also included large limbs and medium sized trees that had been cut down and dumped in the wooded areas.

We will be mulching the wooded area behind Bradgen, Leebrad and Leestone. We hope that all homeowners will take an interest in Leewood and dispose of yard debris properly so that we can keep our wooded areas clean.

We sincerely appreciate all those who joined clean up day activities and hope that we have as good if not a better turnout for future clean up days.



To View the
Leewood Times
STAYCATION Guide
Visit

www.leewood.us/100things.htm

There's No Place like Home

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Whether you opt to take a staycation rather than a traditional vacation in order to save money, avoid holiday travel, or for any other reason, these staycation strategies can help you plan a staycation that's worthy of a postcard.

Set the Time and Date

Give your staycation a start and end date -- otherwise, it runs the risk of feeling like just another string of nights in front of the tube.

Pack Your Time with Activities

Get input from the entire family and plan a daily activity each day. Make sure that they are fun activities that get you out of the house.

Follow a Staycation Budget

This will help you stay on task and within your means.

Play "Hometown Tourist"

You may be surprised at how much fun it is to be a tourist in your own town.

Say NO to Chores

Don't make the bed, vacuum, clean out the closets, pull weeds. **Nothing.** You're on vacation!

Be a Hotel Guest

It can also be surprisingly relaxing to stay in a nearby hotel.

Put out the NOT WELCOME Mat

This is your time, and if you want to spend it in your pajamas, that's great!

Transport Yourself through the Magic of Books and Movies

Whatever your taste, a staycation is your opportunity to mentally visit other places and times.

Make a Home Spa Night Part of Your Staycation

See the full guide for some tips on how to create a home spa that replicates the experience of a real one.

Take Photos or Videos

Make a record of the time just as you would if you went away from home for your vacation. You'll certainly want to make a permanent record of your staycation to look back upon fondly. Catalogue all the hot spots you hit and interesting people you meet. Visit www.leewood.us/100things.pdf for the complete guide to planning your staycation and for a list and links to 100 things you can do within 100 miles of home.



Aerial Gypsy Moth Spraying Begins in May

Fairfax County will begin its annual aerial spraying program to suppress gypsy moth caterpillars starting in early May. Helicopters will spray a naturally occurring insecticide in 20 infested areas across the county. A detailed map showing these treatment areas is available at all public library branches, county government centers and online. Treatment areas are chosen through an annual county survey of the gypsy moth population. This year the county will treat approximately 1,000 acres.

Because weather conditions are unpredictable, county officials do not know the exact days when spraying will be conducted. Once spraying begins, it may take 10 days or more to complete, depending on the weather. Typically, spraying is done in the early morning and at dusk. However, it may continue all day if weather conditions permit.

The county will use a naturally occurring bacteria — *Bacillus thuringiensis* or Bt. — as an insecticide. Extensive research has shown that Bt. is not harmful to people, pets, plants or beneficial insects, such as honeybees. The spray will not harm painted surfaces, and residues can be removed with soap and water.

Bt. is registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for use in forests and residential areas. In addition, Bt. is sanctioned by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Virginia Department of Agriculture for use against gypsy moths.

Gypsy moth caterpillars can kill trees by defoliating them. The caterpillars feed on many different types of trees but especially like native hardwoods, such as oak. Because they have few natural predators in this country, the gypsy moth must be suppressed with insecticides. Native to Eurasia, it was accidentally released in the U.S. in the 19th century by a scientist.

More information about the treatment program, affected areas or gypsy moths, can be found online, or call the county's Forest Pest Program at 703-324-5304, TTY 711.

Recycle Building Networks to pick-up your used Appliances & more

A great way to live greener is to recycle your used appliances and building materials, instead of throwing them away. A new company, Recycling Building Network (ReBuild), is a tax exempt nonprofit organization that will gather up your items for resale to assist low-income families. They provide an option for homeowners to donate unwanted building materials, equipment, and supplies, rather than to discard them into a landfill.

Consumers can visit their new warehouse to purchase reclaimed building materials. It is located between Industrial and Electronic Drives in the Edsall Road Industrial Park, 6625-B Iron Place, in Springfield. They are open Tuesday through Sunday from 12:00p.m. – 5:00p.m. extended hours on Saturday (9:00a.m. – 5:00p.m.) and CLOSED on Monday. Proceeds will provide worker training programs in such fields as deconstruction, warehouse management, retail sales, value-added carpentry, and other related fields.

To schedule a pick-up of your unwanted appliances for FREE, and receive a tax deduction, call owner/operator Paul Hughes at 703.658.8840. Most items can be picked up within 24 hours. Reminder: Any special pick-ups must be pre-scheduled and do not place appliances out before the scheduled pick-up date. For more information please visit www.rebuildwarehouse.org/

Leewood Homeowners Association

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www.leewood.us

To submit an article:

Email us at:

LeewoodTimes@cox.net



Trash Collection & Trash Can Storage

TRASH COLLECTION/TRASH CAN STORAGE

Now that we are on daylight savings time, please adjust the time you place trash at the curb for pick-up. Trash should be placed out at dusk the night before trash collection.

Also, please remember to put containers and recycling bins back in your house or backyard no later than the evening of trash pick-up. Lately, there have been containers and bins left out for several days after pick-up. If you are going to be away, please ask a neighbor to put the containers in your backyard.

Some Information about the Swine Flu

The Fairfax County Health Department encourages anyone with influenza like illness to follow these standard guidelines:

- If you get sick, stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- Sneeze and cough into your upper sleeve, not your hands.
- Wash your hands often, scrubbing your hands together for 20 seconds with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

For more information about influenza, or to request educational materials, call the Health Department at 703-246-2411, TTY 703-591-6435 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/flu/swineflu.htm

Getting Rid of Old Styrofoam Peanuts

Ever wonder what to do with all those Styrofoam peanuts that you get when you receive something? Not only are they nonbiodegradable and difficult to recycle, they look awful when they are put out at the curb and blow all over Leewood. Here is an idea to help you get rid of them and keep our community looking beautiful.

First consider reusing them. Most pack-and-ship stores such as [Mailboxes Etc.](#) and [UPS](#) (*across the street*) will accept clean Styrofoam peanuts for reuse in customer shipments. You can also call the Plastic Loose Fill Council's "Peanut Hotline" at 1-800-828-2214 or visit its [Website](#) to find a local outfit that will claim unwanted packing peanuts.

If you must throw them away, make sure that you put them in a garbage bag, free of holes and sealed tight, so that they don't get loose and roam around Leewood, only to have your neighbors pick them up.

Leewood Community Yard Sale

**Saturday, May 23rd
8:00am**

in the common area between
Bradwood Ct. & Bradwood
St. Bring your own table. If
interested, email Rose Weber
at weberr@verizon.net