



To submit an article:

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- Deadline April 15th - tax day!

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Have a Happy,
Safe and
Enjoyable St.
Patrick's Day!

Leewood Annual Meeting – Tuesday March 9th, 8:00pm

For those of you who could not join us at the meeting last week, here are a few highlights of what was discussed:

- 2010 Goals as reported by our President include – printed community phonebook and update the Leewood handbook
- Tom Harvat will be taking over ARC (walk-through will take place in late March)
- Melinda Ford informed us the 5yr-tree plan will be revised; many trees were taken care of in 2009; shrubs will be planted in new mailboxes areas
- Residents in attendance complimented the Board on the snow removal work – which cost in excess of \$5,000
- Great news regarding \$10,000 being transferred to reserves was shared
- Janet Rourke and Lynda Flynn were voted into the Board; tax resolution passed

Want more details? Attend the next meeting taking place **April 13th**!

It's Tax Season! – New from the IRS!

Certain Cash Contributions for Haiti Relief Can Be Deducted on Your 2009 Tax Return

A new law allows you to choose to deduct certain charitable contributions of money on your 2009 tax return instead of your 2010 return. The contributions must have been made after January 11, 2010, and before March 1, 2010, for the relief of victims in areas affected by the January 12, 2010, earthquake in Haiti.

Contributions of money include contributions made by cash, check, money order, credit card, charge card, debit card, or via cell phone.

The new law was enacted after the 2009 forms, instructions, and publications had already been printed. When preparing your 2009 tax return, you may complete the forms as if these contributions were made on December 31, 2009, instead of in 2010. To deduct your charitable contributions, you must itemize deductions on Schedule A (Form 1040) or Schedule A (Form 1040NR).

The contribution must be made to a qualified organization and meet all other requirements for charitable contribution deductions. However, if you made the contribution by phone or text message, a telephone bill showing the name of the donee organization, the date of the contribution, and the amount of the contribution will satisfy the recordkeeping requirement. Therefore, for example, if you made a \$10 charitable contribution by text message that was charged to your telephone or wireless account, a bill from your telecommunications company containing this information satisfies the recordkeeping requirement.

For more details on filing your taxes, visit www.irs.gov. Remember to file by April 15th!

Census 2010 – turn it in!

Remember that Census Day is **April 1, 2010**. The information you provide on the census form is confidential and not shared with any other government agency. The information collected will be used to allocate more than \$400 billion dollars in funding to local, state, and tribal governments each year.

The data collected by the census also help determine the number of seats your state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In March of 2010, census forms will be delivered to every residence in the United States and Puerto Rico. When you receive yours, just answer the 10 short questions and then mail the form back in the postage-paid envelope provided. If you don't mail the form back, you may receive a visit from a census taker, who will ask you the questions from the form.

Visit www.2010census.gov for more details.

Happening in our area

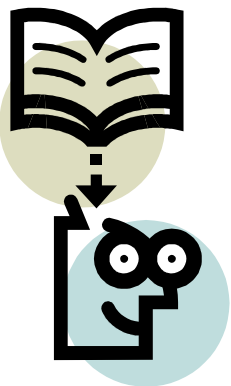
The Fairfax County Park Authority, the Friends of Mason District Park, and the Friends of Hidden Oaks Nature Center will host a Spring Egg Hunt on **April 3**, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (rain or shine) at the park, 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale. Children, ages 1- 9, may participate; admission is \$7 per child. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m.; admission includes candy, eggs, a special drawing, and one free ride. Children must bring their own baskets. For more information, call the park at 703-941-1730.

The Friends of the George Mason Regional Library will hold its popular, semi-annual book sale on April 29, 5 - 9 p.m.; April 30, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; **May 1**, 10 a. m. - 5 p.m.; and May 2, 12 - 5 p.m. The book sale will be at the library, 7001 Little River Turnpike in Annandale.

The Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program will host a document shredding event at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale, on Saturday, **May 22**, 2010, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Additional information about this and other recycling events is available by visiting the Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/calendar.htm.

United States
**Census
2010**
IT'S IN OUR HANDS

Fairfax County
VIRGINIA





Mark your calendars for Spring Clean-up!

Not only is spring a time for revival, but it is also a time for Leewood's Annual Spring Clean-up! Please join your neighbors on **Saturday, April 10th at 10am** (rain date April 17th) and let's get our community looking immaculate again.

Dead branches that were broken during our many winter storms need to be picked up and ready for trash collection. As your perennials come up, see how far they have migrated – you might want to trim some of them back so that other plants get some ground to grow.

Of course along with the delight of perennials coming back, those uninvited weeds are also reappearing. Sometimes it seems as though the weeds grow into mature flowering beasts overnight. This is particularly troublesome, as the average weed seems to set thousands of seeds, and distribute them, in a matter of just days.

Snowfall Aftermath

Unfortunately, all of the heavy snow we have had this winter has resulted in damage to shrubs and trees. Several trees came down in the common area. We are still assessing damage to the shrubs. We have accepted an estimate to remove the damaged trees.

Some homeowners have lamented that the shrubs in their planting beds have suffered major damage. Once all of the snow disappears, homeowners should survey their shrubs and decide the best course of action. Some shrubs and trees may be saved with proper pruning. Others will probably need to be removed and replaced. Tall evergreens are particularly susceptible to breakage or uprooting. A lot of these cannot be salvaged.

The ARC normally cites shrubs and trees that need pruning or replacing. The Committee will do so again this year. However, pruning or shrub replacement issues will not be cited on the first walk through to give homeowners time to correct the problems themselves. July will probably be the time when the first letters on lawn issues go out and homeowners will be given sufficient time to take action.

We strongly encourage everyone to survey their property. If you have a particular knowledge of pruning and see a neighbor struggling with this problem, please give them the benefit of your expertise through advice and guidance. Thank you for your help.



Leewood Homeowners Association

P.O. Box 1421
Springfield, VA 22151

Our Board

President –
Janet Rourke
president@leewood.us

Vice President –
Ramanuj Chilakamarri
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Secretary –
Lynda Flynn (new!)
secretary@leewood.us

Treasurer –
Maggie Pitotti
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Leewood's Official
Website!

www.leewood.us

To submit an article:

Email us at:

LeewoodTimes@cox.net

Getting to know your Board

Leewood's Treasurer

I am Maggie (Margaret) Pitotti who has held the treasurer's position since April 2008. I have been a homeowner since 1994, and was a happy renter for 4 years previous to owning my place. I told my realtor (at that time) that she needn't look for any homes that were not in Leewood!

In keeping with the format of the previous newsletter's article written by our Secretary, Rose Weber, The Leewood Handbook, Article XI, Section 8(d) states the following related to the duties of my position:

“The Treasurer shall receive and deposit in appropriate bank accounts all monies of the Association and shall disburse such funds as directed by resolution of the Board of Directors; shall sign all checks and promissory notes of the Association; keep proper books of account, cause an annual audit of the Association's books to be made by the public accountant at the completion of each fiscal year; and shall prepare an annual budget and a statement of income and expenditures to be presented to the membership at its regular annual meeting, and deliver a copy of each to the members.”

In reality, the board is extremely fortunate to have a very well seasoned, tremendously qualified CPA, who is also a homeowner that volunteers her time and efforts in assisting with a good portion of the above stated duties. This is a good thing, believe me, due to my being a newbie to the functions of the board, the learning curve is still at the lower end.

My main focus since becoming a board member has been to maintain the quarterly assessment ledger, posting assessment payments and preparing them for deposit, as well as sending notices to homeowners that are not up to date on their payment. Regrettably there have been a few instances of accounts that have become delinquent and we have had to turn these over to our attorney for collections, which means that an individual ledger is prepared for this purpose. A report is made to the board at our monthly meetings giving the status of our assessments for that quarter. I have just recently taken over the mailing of the quarterly reminder notices too. And then, there are those “other duties as assigned” that encompass participating in projects such as street repair, ARC decisions, delivering neighborhood notices, to name a few. Keeping up with Janet, Rose, Tom and Mohammed (the rest of the board) also keeps me hopping!

Not having been acutely involved in the Leewood happenings until the past recent years, I do have to admit that I am still in the process of learning the ins & outs, and am grateful to the other board members for their patience and help in providing background, guidance and wisdom. Since we operate as a purely volunteer organization, it can be daunting at times to keep up with all the duties and responsibilities and I am happy to be able to contribute to my community. Please feel free to contact me with any association related concerns as well as any accolades.