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Have a Happy,
Safe and
Enjoyable
Memorial Day!

Remember our Heroes – Memorial Day

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. There are many stories as to its actual beginnings, with over two dozen cities and towns laying claim to being the birthplace of Memorial Day.

Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11, and was first observed on 30 May 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873.

Traditional observance of Memorial day has diminished over the years. Many Americans nowadays have forgotten the meaning and traditions of Memorial Day. At many cemeteries, the graves of the fallen are increasingly ignored, neglected. Most people no longer remember the proper flag etiquette for the day. While there are towns and cities that still hold Memorial Day parades, many have not held a parade in decades. Some people think the day is for honoring any and all dead, and not just those fallen in service to our country.

To help re-educate and remind Americans of the true meaning of Memorial Day, the "National Moment of Remembrance" resolution was passed on Dec 2000 which asks that at **3 p.m. local time**, for all Americans "To voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a Moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence."

Our area does have a parade if you wish to attend:

**The National Memorial Day Parade – 2:00 PM – May 31, 2010
Washington, DC – Constitution Avenue**

Farmers Market & FREE Movies - Back at National Harbor!

If you've not had a chance to visit the Farmer's Market at the National Harbor you must try it at least once! It takes place at the outside promenade and offers local fresh produce, baked goods, specialty foods and handmade crafts. The Farmers Market is opened every Saturday from 10am-2pm through October 30th.

As if the Farmers Market were not reason enough to go to the National Harbor – starting May 9th they will be featuring free movies on the Plaza's BIG screen. Movies begin every Sunday evening just after sunset. A few of the movies they will be featuring include:

- Monster vs. Aliens – May 16th
- Madagascar – June 6th
- Shrek – June 27th
- And many, many more!

For a complete listing of the movies and dates please visit www.nationalharbor.com

Leewood Page on Facebook?

Your Editor would like to know how many residents would be interested in creating a Leewood Facebook page – how many of you are already on Facebook? Businesses, local organizations, manufacturers and a myriad of companies use their Facebook page to facilitate quick interaction with their “followers” and have had great success.

You Editor believes this would be a great tool to keep the community updated on a most consistent basis (this newsletter is only published once every 2 months) and it will provide you with a platform to voice your opinions, concerns, suggestions or simply just to stay in touch with your neighbors.

Please send your thoughts on this to LeewoodTimes@cox.net and your Editor (and the Board) will take the time to create, monitor and answer questions if the residents think it will be useful.



FROM THE BOARD

CLEAN-UP DAY: LET'S TALK TRASH

On April 10th, 17 residents joined together for clean-up day. The crew concentrated on picking up trash and small limbs and debris from the winter storms. One small dead tree by a mailbox was cut down and the stump removed. Two pick-up truck loads of trash were taken to the dump and 25-30 bags were filled with debris which was taken away by our trash company. As a result, the grounds looked great. Thanks to all who participated in this project!

Unfortunately, about **5% of Leewood residents** have no consideration for their neighbors and no pride in their community. These residents put their trash on the street whenever it suits them regardless of the fact that the Board has asked over and over for residents to put their trash out the evening of the day before trash pickup. A large shrub was cut down and piled on a peninsula even though two Board members told the resident that the trash company would not take it because it was not properly bundled for pickup. That **eyesore** sat there for one **entire week** before the resident finally removed it.

Another resident piled yard debris on the street rather than paying the contractors to take it away. This sat there from Saturday until Tuesday for all the residents of that street to look at. During the recent snow, someone piled paint cans and threw broken tile on lower Leebrad St. Once the snow melted, two board members cleaned up the mess. We are also aware that someone is apparently piling bags of **construction debris** out for trash pickup, presumably from their business. We are still trying to determine who this person is.

There also seems to be a trend toward cleaning out cars and throwing the **trash on the street** or throwing fast food containers and wrappers out car windows. There is not a clean up crew that goes around policing our streets. In fact, most residents will walk over a **piece of trash** in front of their house before they would **pick it up!** I have even seen a resident pick trash up out of their yard and throw it on the peninsula nearest their house rather than taking it inside and putting it in the trash can.



HELP!



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There are a few residents who do walk around picking up trash, but these few can barely keep up with the amount of trash that accumulates on Leewood streets. Finally, someone has now decided that the **dry-pond** is their personal **dumping** ground. Yard debris, rocks and dirt have recently been dumped there. This is part of the Chesapeake watershed and dumping in this area is not allowed.



The Board has also asked that residents put heavier objects on top of their recycling bins and put cardboard boxes in a bundle or weight them down so they don't blow all over the neighborhood. In spite of that request, every recycling day there are plastic bottles and cardboard boxes all over the grounds. Of course, again, they lay there until they either blow out of the neighborhood or someone finally picks them up.

Dog poop continues to be a problem. One resident devoted clean-up day to picking up all the piles of dog poop in the common areas. Two or three days later, there were two large piles of dog poop along the wooded area (not in it) at the end of Bradgen Court. It never ceases to amaze me how inconsiderate people are of those who like to walk, children playing or other dog walkers by leaving their pet poop in the grass. Not only is it inconsiderate, it is unsanitary. The **worst** part is that dog poop often contains **harmful germs**, bacteria and parasites, diseases that can put **your kids** and other pets at risk for **infection**. **PICK UP AFTER YOUR PET!**



Chesty picks up his own!

The Board does, when we are able, send letters to those who are guilty of the occurrences noted above. Unfortunately, the people who are doing these things must know they are wrong because the occurrences always seem to happen in the dark of night when no one can see what is happening. But you know who you are, please consider the consequences of your actions.



Therefore, the Board would like to again request that **trash** be put out the **night before** trash pick-up, dog owners pick up after their pets and recycling be properly put out so that it doesn't blow around the neighborhood. The Board would also like to ask the **95% of Leewood residents** who care about their community to nicely ask those they see committing these violations to **obey the rules**.



Getting to know your Board

Leewood Homeowners Association

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Grounds and Maintenance Committee

My name is Melinda Ford, and I've been a Leewood homeowner since 2003. I've been actively serving the Leewood Homeowners Association, in various capacities, since 2006. In 2009, when Al Sanford "retired," I assumed the duties of the Grounds and Maintenance Committee (G&M) Chairperson. I want to take this opportunity to tell you a little about what I do as your G&M Chair.

The Leewood Handbook, Article IX, Section 1, discusses the establishment of committees. Section 1.2 specifically states that the Association shall establish "A Maintenance Committee which shall advise the Board of Directors on all matters pertaining to the maintenance, repair or improvement of the Properties, and shall perform such other functions as the Board in its discretion determines."

Section III, paragraph A.3 of the handbook is a more specific with regard to G&M and says that the G&M Committee has the following responsibilities and functions:

1. Review the performance of the following contracts:

a. Grounds maintenance - this category represents the largest portion of the Association's budget. Contracts relate to the maintenance of the grounds in the Common Area in the community, and include lawn mowing; lawn, tree and shrub fertilization, pruning and pest control. One member of the Committee should be designated as the contact person with respect to each contract.

b. Trash Removal - provide for the regular collection of trash from all units in the community.

c. Snow Removal - provide for the plowing of snow from the community's streets (excluding parking areas) when snow reaches a depth of two (2) inches, and provide for sanding of the streets (excluding parking areas) when necessary.

2. Develop a landscaping scheme and implementation program for the Common Area of the community, and present recommendations with respect to the scheme and program to the Board.

3. Conduct general inspections of the sidewalks, streets, and other physical features in the community to determine whether repairs are necessary, and make recommendations to the Board with respect to such repairs.

4. Maintain minutes of Committee meetings, and report monthly to the Board with respect to Committee activities.

5. Obtain bids from contractors for each of the services described in paragraph 1 above and for proposed landscaping and other projects within the Committee's jurisdiction, and present a proposed budget to the Board each October for those items and other Grounds and Maintenance expenditures during the next fiscal year.

In addition to all the duties listed above, I also do a great deal of the actual grounds maintenance; either by myself or with the help of Leewood volunteers as my working crew. I've removed several dead trees, repaired the perimeter fence and numerous other repairs as they become necessary. It's lots of work, but it's fulfilling to know I help keep the community looking good.

If you're thinking that sounds like a lot to do, well, you're right! Unfortunately, the LHOA does not currently have a full G&M committee. With assistance from Al Carchedi, Janet Rourke and a few other volunteers who help on a part time basis, it's just me. So if you think you'd like to be a part of the Association, know a little about plants and trees or are the least bit "handy" and have some time, but not a lot, think about becoming a G&M Committee member...I sure could use the help! If you're interested, please e-mail the Board at

Board@leewood.us