



## **To submit an article:**

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

## **Highlights:**

-Holiday traditions around the world

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## **Christmas Tree (and other) Christmas Traditions Around the World**

I thought it would be interesting for Leewood to learn a bit more about how the rest of the world celebrates the Holiday Season – being that we are a rather diverse community! Here are just a few traditions:

### **Australia**

Of course, in Australia, Christmas is in the middle of their summer! So, Christmas is often celebrated like the 4th of July in the United States: at the beach or with a back yard barbecue. Many Australians decorate Christmas Bushes, native plants with little red-flowered leaves.

### **Canada**

Thanks to the German settlers to Canada in the 1700s, Canadians today still have Christmas trees! Advent calendars, gingerbread houses, Christmas cookies are also popular. Of course, Canada has several major cultures, notably the French and English speaking groups, each of which has their own variations to Christmas traditions. Gifts are left under the tree on Christmas morning.

### **China**

Of the small percentage of Chinese who do celebrate Christmas, most erect artificial trees decorated with spangles and paper chains, flowers and lanterns. Christmas trees are called "trees of light."

### **Germany**

Germany is the source of many of the world's Christmas traditions. Martin Luther is attributed with bringing fir trees into the home, but it is much more likely that it is a tradition assimilated from the pagan's winter solstice tradition in the early sixteenth century, combining the Paradise tree (a fir tree decorated with apples) that represented the Tree of Knowledge in the Garden of Eden. Small candles were attached to the trees to represent the stars and the apples were replaced with red glass balls.

### **Spain**

Colored lights are popular outside decorations, and the Nativity scene is common inside. A popular Christmas tradition is the game Catalonia, in which a tree trunk is filled with goodies and children hit at the trunk trying to knock out the hazel nuts, almonds, toffee and other treats.

## Please leave your back & front lights on all night

We would like to remind you again that for safety reasons we all need to leave both, **front and back** porch, **lights on** all night—**every night**—as the police have suggested in conjunction with our passive neighborhood watch program and endorsed by LHOA since we have no street lights.

We have noticed that the majority of the homes on **Leebrad St** and **Bradgen Ct** do not leave the back porch lights on. This is a great concern as these back porch lights are a great source of lighting for that common area between these streets.

Please help keep our neighborhood safe and remember to leave both lights on.



## News from our friends at the Fairfax County Police Department

### Distracted Driving Awareness & Summonses on the Rise

In an effort to increase public awareness on the dangers of distracted driving, police launched an intensive enforcement and education effort September 10; and they're getting results.

There was a **66 percent** increase in citations written for **failure to pay full time** and attention (and texting while driving) **in 2010** compared to the same time period in 2008. Police have issued 7,165 summonses for these offenses this year compared to 4,305 in 2008.

An analysis of crash factors in Fairfax County shows that between April 2, 2010 and October 1, 2010, there were 6,060 reportable crashes and 9,627 non-reportable crashes. Of those reportable crashes, 485 drivers admitted that driver distractions were a factor that may have led to the crash.

In an effort to ascertain attitudes and behaviors of distracted drivers in Fairfax County, police posted a survey on their public website. Over 1,500 people, ranging in ages from 15 to 60+ participated in the survey. Results indicate that while 75 percent of respondents agree that **using a cell phone** while driving is a distraction, over **54 percent admit** to engaging in this behavior. An update of the survey results is posted at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police)

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## FROM THE BOARD

### HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

Since this is the last newsletter before the New Year, the Board would like to wish all Leewood residents a happy and safe Holiday Season and a wonderful New Year.

We hope that many of our residents will decorate their homes to commemorate whichever holiday they are celebrating. The decorations are always enjoyed by all of our residents!

Sara Greene (the newsletter editor) has volunteered to take **photos** of the **homes** that are **decorated** this holiday season and feature them in the January edition of our newsletter. We may even ask to coordinate with the family members to take a photo in front of their proud decorations!

Please make sure to email your editor at [LeewoodTimes@cox.net](mailto:LeewoodTimes@cox.net) if you want to make sure we feature your home. We will enter all participating households in a **raffle** to win a **\$50 gift card** to a restaurant of your choice.

### HOLIDAY TRASH COLLECTION

Regular pick-ups will continue during the upcoming holiday season. Christmas tree collection will be on **Wednesday January 5, 2011** and **Wednesday January 12, 2011**. Please remove all tinsel and decorations. Please do not place trees in plastic bags. Please **mark your calendars** with these dates.

During inclement weather (snow or ice), trash service may be suspended. If this occurs, services will resume on the next regularly scheduled collection day.



## A Heart Felt Thank You to all our Neighbors

### Leewood Homeowners Association

P.O. Box 1421  
Springfield, VA 22151

#### Our Board

President –  
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Vice President –  
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Secretary –  
**Lynda Flynn**  
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Treasurer –  
**Magaret Pitotti**  
treasurer@leewood.us

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

ARC Chair –  
**Janet Rourke** – acting

Entire board email:  
board@leewood.us

Leewood's Official  
Website!  
[www.leewood.us](http://www.leewood.us)

As many of you know, our cat, Clyde was hit by a car in front of our house (on Leestone Ct) on Friday August 13<sup>th</sup> and miraculously returned home on Wednesday September 29<sup>th</sup>!

We (Zach & Sara) wanted to once again take the time to thank all of you who spent countless hours helping us search for Clyde. We felt such an amazing sense of community and couldn't be happier to be part of such a caring neighborhood.

Clyde is well on his way to being his old self again, everyday getting better. Below are some photos of what he looked like shortly after returning home and one of a couple of days ago (with his sister Fionna).

Clyde – Day 3 after coming home



Clyde – Week 6 after coming home



In light of the fact that this **accident** was a result of someone who was **speeding** through our **neighborhood**, I would like to get some feedback on what steps other residents feel should be taken to **deter speeding** (signage, evaluation of current speed bumps, etc.). This information will be given to the **Board** for their consideration.

Too often I witness cars flying through Leewood (sometimes even our own residents are the guilty party); it would be tragic for the next accident to involve one of our children – as they often play in our streets.

Please send your feedback to [LeewoodTimes@cox.net](mailto:LeewoodTimes@cox.net) as we would love to know where the majority of Leewood stands on this issue.