September 2006 Volume 1, Issue 3 LeewoodTimes@cox.net

# **Leewood Times**

#### To submit an article:

- Send us an email
- Be positive and informative
- Deadline October 15th

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# Leewood's 1st Annual Neighborhood Block Party

Please join us for some fall fun with neighbors and friends in the common area on Leebrad Street!

> Saturday, October 21st from 3:00 to 5:00 PM Hot Dogs and sodas will be provided

Bring a non perishable food item or canned good for the 2006 Thanksgiving Food Drive

Enter to win a door prize!

Leashed pets are welcome ©

Besides having fun, the most important benefit of social neighborhood gatherings is neighborhood security. When neighbors get to know each other, they watch out for each other! For more information email us at leewoodtimes@cox.net

## 2007 Leewood Pet Calendar

... Featuring the pets of Leewood!

Calendars are only \$12 and 100% of the proceeds will benefit the Fairfax County ASPCA. Calendars will only be available to Leewood residents. Orders will be taken at the Block Party and the calendars will be distributed by November 30<sup>th</sup>. If you have a favorite digital photo of your pet please submit it to leewoodtimes@cox.net with a small caption of 40 words or less. We can also take photos of your pet(s) at the block party or make special arrangements to photograph them in a calmer environment. With all of the delightful pets in Leewood, this should be loads of fun while raising money for a few fuzzy friends in need of help. Depending on the number of photo submissions....several editions may be published!

# **CRIME PREVENTION** – everyone's responsibility

We recently had several cars burglarized in Leewood. Statistics show that a burglar or vandal will work where they will be undetected. They seek out the darkest neighborhoods with the easiest targets, opportunity and places to hide. The Fairfax County Police Department says at the very least; keep your home lit in the front and back at dark. All it takes to make our neighborhood less inviting to a burglar is a little common sense and several easy, effective and inexpensive crime prevention measures.

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# **Tips to Prevent Burglaries**

Continued from page 1

Here are a few thoughts about how you can decrease your chances of becoming a burglary victim:

- Lock all doors and windows, even upstairs.
- Get a monitored alarm system.
- Keep bushes or hedges trimmed away from windows.
- Close your curtains or blinds when the house is empty.
- Use timers to turn lights or radios on and off while you're gone.
- Notify a neighbor you trust when you will be away from home.
- Keep outside front and back lights on at dark.
- Don't talk about out-of-town trips in front of strangers.
- Don't let mail, flyers or papers pile up when you're out of town.
- Change your routine. Don't go to the store, bank, library, etc. at the same time every day.
- Record serial numbers and take pictures of valuables.
- Lock and alarm your car or use a club.
- Keep all credit card account numbers and customer service numbers handy in case your wallet/purse is stolen.
- Get to know your neighbors. Watch out for each other!
- Report suspicious activity.

# **Identity Theft** – a growing problem

Identity Theft occurs when an unauthorized person uses your name, date of birth, social security number, etc. to obtain credit without your consent. These offenses are very difficult to pursue and specific financial documentation required can only be obtained by the crime victim. It is suggested that you take the following steps to prevent someone from stealing your identity.

Review Before Signing - Always add up your charge slip before signing it. Draw lines through blank areas. Never sign a blank charge slip.

Save Receipts - Receipts are proof of your purchases and transactions. They are invaluable in the event of a dispute. Keep your debit or credit card receipts.

Check Your Accounts Frequently - With credit card fraud on the rise, check your credit card and debit accounts often. Don't wait to review your statement at the end of the month. Call your bank or check your account on line regularly.

Check Your Monthly Statement - Check your monthly billing statement carefully to see if it includes transactions or purchases you did not authorize. Compare your receipts to the billing statement. Be on guard for dishonest merchants who might change your receipt after you sign it. You are especially susceptible to this if you leave a line blank on a restaurant credit receipt.

Shred, Shred - When you've reconciled your monthly billing statement, shred your receipts to prevent thieves from rifling through your trash to obtain your account information.



Get involved so we can have a safer neighborhood. Get to know your neighbors, and talk to them often. You can make a difference!



# **Local Spotlight: San Vito Italian Restaurant**

San Vito combines original Italian cuisine, reasonable prices and an open, friendly, family-oriented atmosphere that isn't without a bit of sophistication. The talents of executive chef and owner Gian Piero Mazzi drive San Vito's kitchen. Mazzi moved to the United States 10 years ago after studying the culinary arts in Florence and Paris

"When I decided to open my own place, I wanted to do something a little different," says Mazzi. He has designed a balanced menu for San Vito, with a variety of pastas, meats, and seafood dishes that have a bit of old country authenticity. Along with these dishes. San Vito serves brick oven pizzas, prepared by brother Michele Mazzi, that receive rave reviews from guests.

See YOUR Leewood Homeowners Association Coupon on page 4



San Vito Restaurant 8944 Burke Lake Rd. Springfield, VA 22151 (703) 250-0171

#### Be Considerate!!!

**Janet Rourke** 

Whenever you are doing something around your home, think about the impact it will have on your neighbors. This is particularly important with regard to trash and construction projects. Please do not put your trash out before dusk the night before trash pick-up and be sure and take your bins and trash cans in the day of pick-up. Always secure your trash so that it does not blow around the neighborhood and do not put construction materials out for regular trash pick-up. You should ask the contractor doing the work to haul away the debris and/or arrange to take it directly to the dump. Please call the trash company for a special pick-up of large items, such as appliances, at 703-818-8222, and only put them out on the day the trash company advises you to do so. Never throw garbage, construction or yard debris in the storm drains or store it in the common area. If you see loose trash around the neighborhood, please pick it up, it is great exercise! Finally, if you see someone putting trash out early or improperly dumping, please advise a Board member and include their name, house number, time and location of the incident, as well as your name and address. The Board cannot take action unless it can specifically identify those who are violating our regulations. If we all work together, we can keep Leewood a clean and enjoyable place to live. Thank you for your cooperation.



#### 7035 Leebrad Street

WOW! They've been busy. We encourage you to walk by 7035 Leebrad Street to see all the improvements. Everything from new paint and shutters to landscaping makes this a premiere residence in our community.

Nice job!





**Julie King** 

### Leewood Homeowners Association

P.O. Box 1421 Springfield, VA 22151

Our Board

President – **Julie King** president@leewood.us

Vice President – **Bob Chilakamarri** veep@leewood.us

Secretary – Rose Weber secretary @leewood.us

Treasurer – Mohammed Umar treasurer@leewood.us

Entire board email: board@leewood.us

### **ARC** Meeting

10/04 7:15pm 7040 Bradwood Court

We're on the Web! www.leewood.us

To submit an article: *Email us at:* 

LeewoodTimes@cox.net

# Soliciting in Leewood – Not Tolerated –

I've had two complaints about door to door solicitors in the past week and now I see a post on the message board. 'Last week there was someone from an Orkin company who was going door to door to solicit business. He claimed "my neighbor" was having problems with ants and that I should sign up for service.'

Please be aware of this kind of pressure selling. Soliciting is prohibited in Leewood. This is private property and there are *no soliciting* signs posted at both entrances. Never feel pressured from any salesperson or company knocking on your door and always get several estimates before choosing a contractor. Anyone going door to door must have a license from the County of Fairfax and they are required to have it with them at all times.

# From the Board: Communicating With US

The board accepts messages from any homeowner wanting to communicate with us. It is most thoroughly done at open forum, as that is the only time we can actually engage in dialog. All other submissions should be directed to the appropriate committee by either e-mail or US mail. Please sign your messages and add a phone number so we can contact you. Please do not leave notes or letters on porches, doors or railings. These are unreliable means of delivery and your request will probably go unanswered.

All submissions will be considered including positive suggestions and complaints. If you have a grievance about a resident not following one of our rules or behaving in a manner you think demands our attention, try talking to this person first to see if they are aware of any misdeed. That may be all it takes to resolve the issue.

### **The Pier Effect**

Judith B. Currier

Some people go to the expense and trouble to replace their sunken, twisted, or uneven sidewalk, and the end effect is like a pier out over water. The lawn has sunk so much on one or both sides of it that the sidewalk is just sort of hanging there. Landscaping needs to be done to bring the lawn up to the height of the sidewalk. If one ignores this final step in sidewalk replacement, they will soon end up with another sidewalk replacement project. Water gets under the exposed edge, keeps washing out the base, and pretty soon the sidewalk collapses again. Fill in your lawn and protect your sidewalk investment!



Expires 10/10/06 LHA COUPON Special Offer!

San Vito - Buy one Entrée get 2<sup>nd</sup> 50% OFF