September 2009 Volume IV, Issue 5 www.Leewood.us LeewoodTimes@cox.net

To submit an article:

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

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The Editor of Leewood

Times would like to know if neighbors are interested in a "Get to Know Your Neighbor" section. This section will feature 1-2 households in the community and include photos so we can call get to know each other. **Please send your** comments! Leewood Time

Fall Festivals & Events in our Area

Dog Days at Pirate's Cove at Pohick Bay

(Saturday September 12th 12pm-4pm) Take your best friend for a swim today at your favorite pool! Contact Information: 703-339-6102 Cost: \$5 per dog

Support the USO! Casino Night

(Friday September 25th 7pm)

Join the USO at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, Virginia for an extravagant evening of top-notch casino games, well-known celebrities and much more. Guests have the opportunity to participate in silent and live auctions, and the night's big casino winner will win a trip to Las Vegas. All proceeds from this charity event will support the area's active military and will help deliver vital programs and services to our troops and their families. Visit <u>www.usometro.org/fundraisers</u> for full details.

Virginia Wine Festival

(Saturday September 19th-Sunday September 20th 11am-6pm) Go celebrate Virginia's fabulous wines with tastings and educational seminal seminars at the number one wine event of the season, Virginia Wine Festival, September 19 and 20 at Bull Run Regional Park Special Events Center in Centreville, Virginia! A collectors paradise, Virginia Wine Festival features over 50 wineries pouring from more than 350 vintage.

Admission: Tickets on sale NOW (http://across-the-way.com)

Annandale Fall Festival and Parade

(Saturday October 24th 10am-6pm)

On Saturday, October 24th, the Annandale Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Annandale will sponsor a spectacular Fall Festival in the Safeway parking lot on Little River Turnpike. From 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, dozens of merchants with handmade and fashion jewelry, art work, quality giftware from major manufacturers, exquisite crafts and so much more will unveil their treasures.

The Annual Annandale Parade will be held along Columbia Pike from 10:00AM to Noon.

Alexandria's Original Public Ghost & Graveyard Tour

(October 1st to November 1st 7:30pm)

You'll follow an 18th century costumed guide by lantern light through the charming streets of Alexandria's historic district known as Old Town. On this entertaining tour you'll hear ghost stories, legends and folklore. You will also hear about unsolved mysteries, tales of romance and angry ghosts looking for revenge. Tours depart from the Ramsay House Visitors Center, 221 King Street in Alexandria – only two blocks from the Potomac River.

Reservations suggested. To reserve tickets please call 703-519-1749

LEEWOOD TIMES

Your Association at Work

You talked, we listened!

THE BOARD THE BOARD The Leewood Times will once again be published in both hard and soft copy formats, so that homeowners and residents have access to timely information in a manner that is convenient to their individual preferences. The Board will also make a better effort to include topics of interest and articles on current Leewood issues, projects, and items of interest.

Leewood's National Night Out – A Huge Success

On Tuesday evening, August 4th, Leewood held its 3rd Annual National night Out community cookout. We changed the location this year and met on the common area at the end of Bradgen Court, and it really worked out well. There was plenty of room for the kids to play ball and other games, and lots more room for chairs, tables, socializing, and grilling.

The event was attended by 89 Leewood residents and guests. Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and beverages were served and enjoyed by all. Everyone enjoyed the door prize drawing, where three major, and ten lesser door prizes were awarded. Three plain clothes officers from the Fairfax County Police Department's Property Protection Task Force were on hand to answer questions and share information with Leewood residents



The highlight of the evening for many attendees was the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Service fire engine that showed up. The four crew members from Engine 26 delighted the kids (and the adults) with demonstrations and show-and-tell of the truck and its equipment. There were lots of questions presented to the crew and Leewood's kids were allowed to crawl around the truck and handle various pieces of the equipment. And when it was time to leave, the Engine 26 crew pulled away with lights and sirens blazing! This was a great gathering of neighbors and a great time was had by all.

FROM THE BOARD - *continued*

FROM THE BOARD

MANAGEMENT OF YOUR HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

The Board thought it would be of interest to outline the duties and responsibilities of the Board and to share with homeowners a description of the duties and responsibilities of the Board. We'll start in this issue with an overview of the Board as a whole and then in subsequent issues follow with overviews for each of the board positions.

LHOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Leewood Homeowners Association is managed by volunteers. The Board is composed of five members: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and At Large. The Board meets monthly to conduct Association business. These meetings are open to all homeowners. An annual meeting is held yearly to conduct business and advise homeowners of the state of Leewood and its finances.

The Association by-laws, Article VIII, outlines the powers and duties of the Board. Each homeowner is encouraged to take the time to read these to get a better understanding of the Board's duties and responsibilities.

In less formal language, the Board reviews and establishes regulations covering the common area, architectural maintenance, trash, parking and other areas that impact Leewood residents. The Board ensures the maintenance of all Leewood infrastructure including sidewalks, mailboxes, fences, grounds and mailboxes. The Board prepares a budget and fixes the amount of the annual assessment. The Board supervises the contractors working in Leewood on grounds, tree work, street and sidewalk repair and trash and when necessary solicits bids on new contracts. The Board ensures the maintenance of the official Leewood website and newsletter. The Board also maintains an accurate roster of Leewood residents and ensures that information is sent to all homeowners and residents in a timely manner.

Next in the series will be a thumbnail sketch of the current Secretary, the President and the Architectural Review Committee as they relate to the above listed Board Duties.

FROM THE BOARD - *continued* Street repairs

As you probably noticed, we recently had a large street work project going on. The paving and seal coating of Leestone Street and a small portion of Leestone Court was completed with minimal inconvenience to residents. The work went smoothly because the homeowners in the affected areas took note of posted signs and moved their cars accordingly. Unfortunately, we did end up having to tow four cars, at homeowners' expense, to facilitate completion of the street work.

As future street work comes up, we will try to post signs early and often so that we can avoid towing whenever possible. We will also try to arrange parking with one of the local businesses, schools, or churches located at the intersection of Backlick and Braddock to allow parking there overnight.

One issue that did come up this time was parking in Braddock Mews. Our neighboring community expressed concern that some Leewood residents parked their cars in Braddock Mews in such a way that it was inconveniencing their residents. The President of their homeowners' association has advised us that in the future, if Leewood residents park illegally in Braddock Mews, they will be towed.

When streets are closed for work, Leewood residents may park in any unreserved parking space, along Bradwood Street (please don't block driveways) and on the portion of Braddock Mews Place that parallels Braddock Road (up to the Braddock Mews sign).

COMMON AREAS

Our common areas are for the enjoyment of all Leewood residents and their guests. If you wish to hold a family picnic, yard sale or any other function in the common areas, you only need to drop a note to the Board identifying the length of the function, day and time. The Board will let you know if the event is approved or suggest an alternative. You also must be sure to clean-up after the event.

Dumping in the common area ruins the beauty of our natural areas and can draw rodents and present other dangers. Please refrain from dumping. Also, many of the trees in our common areas are small and cannot stand the weight of children climbing on them. Branches can be broken off causing damage to the tree and resulting in our having to spend Leewood funds to correct the problem. Please make sure that your children do not climb on trees and shrubs.

TRASH CONTAINERS

Curb appeal is important to any community and especially to those homeowners who plan to sell their property. Trash cans and recycling bins that are left out for days after trash pick-up are unsightly, smell bad and attract rodents. Please put your trash containers away on the day of pickup. If you are going to be away, please ask a neighbor to do it for you. Please also remember that trash cans and recycle bins may not be stored on front porches, in front of your home, or in the common areas.