



## To submit an article:

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

## A Note From your Editor:

Apologies for the late start of the newsletter in 2010. Due to some work obligations and then family health issues, I was unable to publish the January issue as scheduled.

We will resume bi-monthly publication starting in March (which means you will hear from us again very soon).

We hope you enjoy the newsletter and invite you to make suggestions for the types of articles you would like to see and would be of most interest to us as a community.

## Happy New Year from the LHOA

Hard to believe another year has come and gone, and it's time to kiss 2009 goodbye. Your LHOA would like to thank to everyone who helped make it such a great year for Leewood. This quote from Ann Landers says it all....

*Let this coming year be better than all the others. Vow to do some of the things you've always wanted to do but couldn't find the time. Call up a forgotten friend. Drop an old grudge, and replace it with some pleasant memories. Vow not to make a promise you don't think you can keep. Walk tall, and smile more. You'll look ten years younger. Don't be afraid to say, 'I love you'. Say it again. They are the sweetest words in the world.*

May the dawning of this New Year, fill your heart with new hopes, open up new horizons and bring for you promises of brighter tomorrows. May you have a great 2010! Your LHOA thanks you for your support throughout 2009 and we wish you and your family all the best for 2010!

## Notable 2010 Dates – Time to Mark your Calendars

**Valentine's Day** - Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>

**President's Day** - Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>

**Mardi Gras**- Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>

**Ash Wednesday** - Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>

**Leewood Homeowners Annual Meeting** - Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>

**Daylight Savings Time starts** - Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>

**St. Patrick's Day**- Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>

**Easter** - Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>

**Mothers Day** - Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>

**Memorial Day** - Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup>

**Father's Day** - Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup>

**Independence Day** - Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup>

**Leewood's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual National Night Out** - Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> (tentative date)

**Labor Day** - Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup>

**Columbus Day** - Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup>

**Halloween & Marine Corps Marathon** - Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup>

**Daylight Savings Time Ends** - Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>

**Veteran's Day** - Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup>

**Thanksgiving** - Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup>

**Christmas** - Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup>




## FROM THE BOARD

## ANNUAL MEETING




The Leewood Homeowners Association Annual Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 9, 2010** at 8:00 p.m. at the Phillips School. Each homeowner will be receiving the packet in February. We strongly encourage homeowners to plan to attend the meeting or at minimum, submit a proxy so that we can establish a quorum. If you decide to give your proxy to another homeowner to cast votes for you, be sure that it is someone who shares the same opinions about Leewood and agrees with your ideas for Leewood's future. A person who has your proxy to vote carries a lot of power since that person effectively is casting more than their own vote and will influence the future of Leewood.


## THE WEATHER OUTSIDE WAS FRIGHTFUL



...but Leewood survived. Our snowfall the weekend of February 6 was measured by various homeowners anywhere from 20 to 28 inches. This is the deepest snowfall since Leewood was built. This storm coupled with the December 19 snowfall of 17.4 to 21 inches and the two smaller snowfalls we had on January 31 and February 2 has certainly tested the patience and perseverance of Leewood. Coping with the large amount of snow both by homeowners and our snow removal contractor was daunting. We appreciate the understanding of homeowners and the cooperation shown during these unusual weather conditions.



First, thanks to all the homeowners who dug out their cars and put the snow in common areas rather than the streets. Also, special thanks to all the homeowners who helped their neighbors dig their cars out. I know this was appreciated by those who were not able to remove the snow themselves.



Our snow contractor performed relatively well for the December snowfall. They made two passes through Leewood which basically cleared one lane of road for use. A lot of homeowners dug out their cars before the snow plows came back. To avoid burying these cars again and on the recommendation of our contractor, we authorized use of a bobcat and snow plow to try to move some of the snow to common areas. This was mostly successful although some streets continued to be one lane. We will be working with the snow contractor to ensure that this does not happen in the future. Unfortunately, despite our requests, performance was less satisfactory for the most recent snowfall. Two streets had one lane passable by Sunday. Two streets were plowed once but were not cleaned sufficiently to allow homeowners to easily leave their residences. Finally on February 8, a bobcat arrived to widen the streets and take care of those streets that were not sufficiently plowed earlier.

Unfortunately, as of this writing, they are predicting 10-20 inches of snow in our area. We will work with the contractor to try to ensure that the streets are passable. However, with this much snow and the large piles already in Leewood, this will be an uphill battle. We hope that residents will be patient and bring any areas of particular concern to the Board's attention.

*(continued from page 2)*

We ask that homeowners not shovel snow into the street. This just makes the problem worse and ultimately the snow will be plowed back behind cars. We also hope that residents try to find and uncover the storm drains located on each street. Right now a lot of these drains are covered which is causing large puddles of water to stand in the streets. These freeze and become hazardous. We also ask that homeowners and renters check a parking space before pulling in. Some homeowners fail to uncover their reserve spaces so that everyone can see that it is a reserve space. People will park there without checking and this causes additional problems.



One final observation: Fire hydrants were covered up as snow was piled on the peninsulas and other common areas. Make sure fire hydrants are always accessible to the Fire Service. Should a house catch on fire, severe damage could be done not only to that house but to adjacent dwellings if firemen have to spend extra time digging the fire hydrants out.

## HOLIDAY TRASH SERVICE

Fortunately, our trash contractor was able to make the pick-up on Tuesday 12/22 in spite of the snow. Because we had no trash pick-up on Friday 12/25, there was a large amount of trash and recycling on Tuesday 12/29. Unfortunately, we had strong winds that day and a lot of the recycling was scattered throughout the neighborhood. A few considerate neighbors picked up most of the trash and put it out for the next pick-up. Please remember to put light-weight recycling on the bottom of your bin and put heavier items on top so that it does not blow around the neighborhood. Empty cardboard boxes should be broken down and put under your bin so that they do not blow around.

Thank you to all homeowners for remembering not to put trash out on Christmas and New Year's days. There were a few who forgot but for the most part we were spared looking at someone else's trash for a week.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We urgently need volunteers for the ARC Committee. We also need to know if anyone is volunteering to run for the two vacant positions on the Board. The annual meeting package will be finalized by **2/16**, so any volunteers for the Board should submit their names before that date so that their names can be included in the packet. Volunteers can submit their names in writing to P.O. Box 1421, Springfield, Va. 22151 or email it to a Board member. Thank you in advance for volunteering



## Get To Know Your Board!

### Leewood Homeowners Association

P.O. Box 1421  
Springfield, VA 22151

#### Our Board

Janet Rourke - **President**  
[president@leewood.us](mailto:president@leewood.us)

Mohammed Umar - **Vice  
President**  
[vicepresident@leewood.us](mailto:vicepresident@leewood.us)

Rose Weber - **Secretary**  
[secretary@leewood.us](mailto:secretary@leewood.us)

Maggie Pitotti -  
**Treasurer**  
[treasurer@leewood.us](mailto:treasurer@leewood.us)

Tom Harvat - **At Large**  
[atlarge@leewood.us](mailto:atlarge@leewood.us)

Entire board email:  
[board@leewood.us](mailto:board@leewood.us)

Leewood's Official  
Website!

[www.leewood.us](http://www.leewood.us)

To submit an article:

*Email us at:*

[LeewoodTimes@cox.net](mailto:LeewoodTimes@cox.net)

#### Leewood's Secretary

My name is Rose Weber, and I've been serving Leewood as the Board Secretary since 2006. While the positions on the Board remain the same always, what each individual in those positions is actually responsible for changes from Board to Board. I want to take this opportunity to tell you a little about what I do as your Secretary. The Leewood Handbook, Article XI, Section 8(c), describes the duties of the Secretary as follows:

"The Secretary shall record the votes and keep the minutes of all meetings and proceedings of Board and of the members; keep the corporate seal of the Association and affix it on all papers requiring said seal; serve notice of meetings of the Board and members; keep appropriate current records showing the members of the Association together with their addresses, and shall perform such other duties as required by the Board."

Wow! That makes it sound like all the Secretary does is the meeting minutes and the homeowner roster. I do perform both of those duties, but that last bit about "other duties as required" is where it gets interesting! In addition to the minutes and the roster, as the Secretary, I also do the mailing labels, keep the files (to include the old paper copies of the historical files), handle the miscellaneous Board correspondence, and the formal correspondence such as Hearing Letters and Hearing Decision letters. But that's just the purely administrative tasks. I work very closely with the President, and on the current Board, that means I accompany Janet to conduct interviews when new contracts are being negotiated, organize National Night out and other Leewood events when we have them, provide case histories when ARC actions go forward for legal intervention, go to court hearings when they occur, if I can, post and deliver informational notices to homeowners, and do lots of work on special projects, like the mailboxes. Like all Board members, I also get involved with Leewood residents when they have issues that need sorted out. It doesn't sound like much on paper, but the position of Secretary is a very active and vital role. If you've ever thought you might like to try your hand at this position, I will caution you, and I believe past Secretaries would agree, that while nothing I do is difficult, it can be time consuming, and you need to be committed...but being the Secretary has been and is, a very rewarding way to serve the community. If anyone is ever interested in volunteering to be the Leewood Secretary in the future, I will be happy to meet with you and show you, in detail, what the Secretary actually does.