



**To submit an article:**

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

**Highlights:**

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- Car Break-ins - page 3
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## HAPPY NEW YEAR LEEWOOD! Resolve to keep our community beautiful...

I wanted to echo – really re-print – the letter we all received this week from our Board of Directors. Mostly in hopes that by reading it twice, **many** of you will consider **volunteering** for this essential **Board position** we currently have available. I will not reprint the full letter, but rather take excerpt paragraphs for you to review. Here it goes:

We all bought homes in Leewood for a reason: starter house, upgrade from an apartment, convenient location, investment, looks of the neighborhood and so on. Whether you are a long time homeowner or have just moved into the community, you have invested a good deal of money in the purchase of your home. At some point, you will want to reap the rewards of that investment.

Leewood has chosen, except for two short periods, to remain a self-managed community. Management companies are expensive and still require a Board and various committees to tell the management company what to do. A management company does not negate the necessity for a viable HOA.

We currently have an ARC with only 4 members and a temporary chairman. This is not sufficient to do the types of inspections required to keep our homes in line with the Design and Maintenance Standards. As our homes age, the amount of work required on upkeep increases.

We also need someone to take over the Grounds & Maintenance Committee. Their Chair is being temporarily filled by the President of the Board (who is also the temporary Chair of the ARC). If you value our pristine grounds, please volunteer for this position; otherwise, we will see things fall by the wayside.

We all know volunteering takes time. Each function required to maintain Leewood requires a keen eye for detail. However, the more volunteers we have, the less work each volunteer has to do.

Please consider stepping up and taking pride in our wonderful community by volunteering for one of the many vacant positions. The Leewood Homeowner Association meeting will be held in March at which time voting will take place. If you are interested, please email [President@leewood.us](mailto:President@leewood.us) by the end of **February** so your name can be included in the ballot (if you're volunteering for an elected position).

## RESOLVE TO PICK UP AFTER YOUR POOCH! (PLEASE!!!)

Nothing displeases me more than to have to report negative news in our community newsletter (that's not what I envisioned when I volunteered for this position ☺). However, I must share this with the community, in hopes that perhaps some people just need a gentle reminder. **PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG!**

The Board received this plea for help from one of our neighbors:

"Need to inform you today that I myself and the kids were out playing football this afternoon. We ended up having to stop because there were just too much dog poop in the common area facing Backlick Road (in between Leebrad and Leestone St.). I kindly ask that whoever is not picking up the poop after their dog to please scoop the poop up with a plastic bag. Also I do wonder if the hard soiled condition of this common area is related to having too many dog poop in the past. Grasses have been dying off (yes---I do realize its winter right now!) plus this problem does pose a health hazard to the community. Anything that can be done to alleviate this would be greatly appreciated."

Our Board kindly responded, but we feel helpless regarding this situation:

"...this is also a big problem at the end of Bradgen Court. We have continually asked people to pick up after their dogs to no avail. The only thing we can do is ask that homeowners in the area keep an eye out for people walking their dogs who do not pick up and relaying that information to the board. We can then come to the individual homeowner about the problem. I regret that use of the common areas is being spoiled by inconsiderate and selfish homeowners.

Re: the hard soil, I suspect the problem is not dog poop but the fact that so many of the utilities over the past couple of years have dug behind the houses on Leestone Court and not properly seeded the areas or replaced the soil. Virginia clay tends to harden very quickly particularly in hot dry periods of the summer. We are working with the utilities to make sure that they do a better job in the future."

Please be considerate of your neighbors and **pick up after your dog(s)**. We know it's cold, it's tough to take off those gloves, you just want to run back to the warmth of your home. But, not only is the right thing to do, it's the **law** and the sanitary thing to do.

Let's work together Leewood and resolve to take care of this issue in 2011. Your Editor would love nothing more than to be able to write a positive article regarding our wonderful pooches in the next issue.

**PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG!**



## RESOLVE TO PROTECT YOUR BELONGINGS

Many of you may be aware that about **5 cars** were **broken** into at lower Leebrad and Bradgen the week of December 13<sup>th</sup>. An unfortunate string of incidents indeed, but luckily no one was hurt, nor anything too valuable stolen. **Fairfax Police** believes the reason for the attempted thefts was due to GPS units being left visible.

I did some research and decided to copy the October 2010 issue of the Fairfax County Police Department – Crime Prevention Unit newsletter regarding GPS units. Please take a minute to read and make sure you are not the next victim.

### What makes GPS units such a target?

Satellite navigation systems can be pre-installed units fitted into vehicles during the manufacturing process or small, portable units that can be purchased separately and added to vehicles.

The portable units are easily installed with no complicated wiring procedures. Generally, all that is required is to install a cradle which attaches to the front windshield by a suction cup. These units are small, portable and frequently reported stolen.

### Tips for deterring thefts:

- Do not leave valuables visible from the outside. Remove portable GPS units from the dashboard, including the cradle. Do not simply place it in the glove box or under the seat, take these items from the car.
- Keep a supply of moist towelettes to clean the area of the windshield marked by the suction cup. That marks signals to others that you have a GPS unit.
- Do not leave other valuables in the vehicle, including laptop computers, cameras, satellite radios or cellular telephones.
- Lock all doors and close windows when leaving the car, even if it is only for a short time.
- When possible, try to park the vehicle in a well-lit, busy area.



## RESOLVE TO ATTEND AT LEAST 4 BOARD MEETINGS IN 2011!

The Board meets the **2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday** of **every month** at the Phillips School Library – resolve to join them at least 4 times this year! It's a great opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions.

The Leewood Homeowners Association Annual Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 8, 2011 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.

### Notable 2011 Dates – *Time to Mark your Calendars*

**Martin Luther King, Jr's Day** – Monday January 17<sup>th</sup>

**Valentine's Day** – Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup>

**President's Day** - Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup>

**Leewood Homeowners Annual Meeting** - Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>

**Daylight Saving Time starts**- Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup>

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

**Easter** - Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>

**Mothers Day** - Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>

**Memorial Day** - Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>

**Father's Day** - Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>

**Independence Day** – Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>

**Leewood's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual National Night Out** - Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> (*tentative date*)

**Labor Day** - Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup>

**Columbus Day** - Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>

**Halloween** - Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>

**Daylight Savings Time Ends** - Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>

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

**Thanksgiving** - Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup>

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

### Leewood Homeowners Association

P.O. Box 1421  
Springfield, VA 22151

#### Our Board

President –  
**Janet Rourke**  
president@leewood.us

Vice President –  
**Mohammed Umar**  
vicepresident@leewood.us

Secretary –  
**Lynda Flynn**  
secretary@leewood.us

Treasurer –  
**Magaret Pitotti**  
treasurer@leewood.us

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

ARC Chair –  
**Janet Rourke** – acting

Entire board email:  
board@leewood.us

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