



The Needle

Pinewood Lake Homeowners Association

www.pinewood-lake.com

November 2009

CANDIDATES NIGHT

You are invited
to meet the candidates
for the Board of Directors
on Tuesday, November 10
at 7:30 PM
in the Pinewood Lake Office.

MUDDY HOLE GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL WREATH, CRAFT AND RUMMAGE SALE



NOVEMBER 7 9 AM - 3 PM
@ FRANK HOLUB COMMUNITY CENTER



YOUR VOTE COUNTS

Plan to attend the PLHA Annual Meeting on Wednesday, December 2, at 7:30 PM in the South County Government Building. Four members will be elected to the Board of Directors. Ballots are being mailed November 2. Be sure to vote by proxy in case you are unable to attend. The candidates are:

- Michael Berger
- Jack Kaufman
- Vicki McLeod
- Tom McCuin
- Brian Palazzolo
- Burnette Scarboro
- Paul Thorpe

BOARD CANDIDATES



Michael Berger



Jack Kaufman



Vicki McLeod



Tom McCuin



Brian Palazzolo



Burnette Scarboro



Paul Thorpe

PINEWOOD LAKE HAUNTED PHANTOM PUMPKIN TRAIN



Saturday, October 31

After dark

Along Central Park, Lake Park and Fernlake

Free Ghoulish Treats!



Sponsored by
Muddy Hole Garden Club

Board candidate biographies can be found on pages 3, 4, 5 and 6.

BOARD MEETING

At its meeting on October 8, the Board reviewed the ACC recommendation on revising the fence standards. After reading and listening to the input from the community over the past few months and reviewing the updated ACC recommendation that was made the week of October 5, **the Board voted to reject the proposed revisions and maintain the ACC standards as currently written.**

Please feel free to contact the PLHA office at 703-360-6212 or plha@verizon.net or Karen Jones, ACC Administrator, at 703-203-4506 or plhaacc@aol.com with any questions.

NEW PARKING RESTRICTIONS

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has approved a district-wide Community Parking District for Lee District. **Beginning November 18, 2009, recreational vehicles and boats may no longer park on Central Park Drive, Lake Park Drive, or Lawrence Street.** They were already prohibited from parking on the private streets of Pinewood Lake. Police will issue a ticket and tow illegally parked vehicles on Central Park Drive, Lake Park Drive, or Lawrence Street.

ACC REMINDERS

I have noticed a lot of unauthorized stored items in the front, back, and side yards. Please take note that this is in violation of ACC Standards and you will be referred to the Board of Directors for a Due Process hearing. Please remove any and all unauthorized stored items immediately

When you want to make changes to the outside of your house, you **MUST** submit an ACC Request Form explaining the changes you want to make. The ACC Request Form can be obtained at the community office or at www.pinewood-lake.com. Drawings and paint chips are helpful to include in your request.

Even though the cold weather is just about here, your lawn may still need to be attended to. Please remember to cut your grass and trim the weeds.

Karen Jones

703-203-4506

WARNING

Protect your small pets at night.
A coyote has been seen in the community.

CHILD SAFETY

Remind your children to stay on the sidewalk.
Walking/playing in the street is dangerous.

Pinewood Lake Homeowners Association

www.pinewood-lake.com

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Alexandria, VA 22309-1209

Phone: 703-360-6212

FAX: 703-360-6771

email: plha@verizon.net

Office Hours:

12 PM - 3 PM Monday-Friday

9 AM - 12 Noon Saturday

Community Manager: Kirsten Davis

Asst Community Mgr: Karen Mestemaker

Admin Assistant: Karla Duggan

Board of Directors

President: Dave McAuley

Vice President: Nancy Razzino

Secretary: Delna Clark

Treasurer: Jack Kaufman

Members at Large: Brian
Duggan

Bill Gleason Richard Hall

Vicki McLeod Burnette Scarboro

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The *Needle* is the official publication of the Pinewood Lake Homeowners Association.

Advertising in the *Needle* does not imply approval or sanction of products or services by PLHA.

Noncommercial classified ads for goods are free to residents: contact Kirsten Davis. For commercial

2009 CANDIDATES FOR BOARD

Each candidate was asked to submit a brief biography and list the three most important issues facing Pinewood Lake.

MICHAEL BERGER

Originally from Michigan, I came to the area to work on Capitol Hill. I believed that the best way to make a difference was to come to the place where the laws are actually made!

Needless to say my time on Capitol Hill was a wonderful experience because it taught me that I could really make a difference, if I got involved. After working on Capitol Hill, I left to join the private sector. My areas of focus include International Trade and Defense policy.

My wonderful wife, Christina, works as a senior consultant – supporting the needs of FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security.

I received a B.A. from the University of Michigan and I am currently finishing my graduate degree at Georgetown University.

The most important issues facing Pinewood: Safety/Crime Prevention

I believe that in any community the most important thing is feeling safe and secure. The safety of all residents in Pinewood Lake should be the number one priority for every person who lives in this area.

Appearance

Our homes are not only places to share memories with family and friends, but it is an investment. No matter if you plan to live in your house for 5 years or 30, the value of your home is directly linked to homes in your immediate community.

Active Community

I believe that it is important that people become more involved in all Pinewood Lake Community activities. If people in the community are more involved, it gives them a sense of connection to their neighbors. Being an active participant in the community also helps with keeping our community safe and it

also helps people to have a sense of pride where they live.

JACK KAUFMAN

Jack has been a Pinewood homeowner for almost 28 years. He has been a Board member and the Association's Treasurer for the past twelve and one half years. He is a charter member of the reconstituted Maintenance Committee, delivers the "Needle" in his area, and has also been affiliated with the Marketing Committee for the past 14 years. His work experience includes 35 years with a federal agency, where he was an audit manager, supervising financial and management audits and assisting congressional committees. After he retired from the federal government, he worked for five years as a consultant to a major information technology firm. He received a certificate as a certified public accountant from the State of New York.

As he reflects on his tenure on the Board, Jack is most proud of his role in assuring Pinewood's financial stability even during these trying economic conditions. He points out that when he assumed the position of treasurer, Pinewood had about \$ 200,000 in its reserve fund, as compared to the current \$1.7 million. This increase was attained although considerable expenditures were directed to the community's infrastructure. He is also proud of his role in selecting our current trash contractor after several years of difficulties with prior vendors.

The most important issues facing Pinewood:
The issues are: 1) Addressing the maintenance of an older stock of housing units; the key word is maintaining, not reengineering or reinventing the development 2. Maintaining Pinewood's infrastructure, including the lake, roads, paths, pools, and the office; and 3) Assuring the financial health of the Association. Another important issue is personal and property safety. These issues are important to satisfy the two key objectives for a development; retaining a high standard for the quality of life, during one's residence, and the ability to readily sell one's home for

an appropriate price when one wishes to move from area.

TOM McCUIN

My name is Tom McCuin, and my wife, Stacey, and I moved to Pinewood Lake with our three young children a little more than a year ago. I'm running for the board because I care deeply about the future of the community where we've chosen to make our home. I served as an elected official in my hometown of Groton, Mass. and I'd like to put that experience to work here in Pinewood Lake.

The most important issues facing Pinewood:

In my view, there are three main problems facing Pinewood Lake: too many proposed changes in architectural standards, inconsistencies in both the standards and the enforcement of those standards, and the failure of some rental property owners to adhere to Fairfax County zoning laws and regulations.

Property values are dropping across the country, and our community is no exception. But the solution to that problem is not further revisions to the community's standards – it's the consistent and even-handed enforcement of the standards that we have already. The one promise I will make is that I will oppose any additional changes to the architectural standards, except those that eliminate inconsistencies that currently exist in the standards as written.

I attended the recent meeting where the ACC presented their proposed revisions to the fence standards. By the end of the meeting, it became clear that the ACC had made a last-minute substitution. Not only were the ACC and the audience not on the same sheet of music, we weren't even looking at the same songbook. We cannot allow this to happen again.

This is a great place to live, and as a member of the board I pledge to work with the community to preserve what we have.

VICKI McLEOD

My husband Don and I moved into my beautiful new home in 1972 and raised our three children here. I am retired from Fairfax County Govt as a social worker and now a Substitute teacher for FCPS. I am Pinewood's representative on Lee District's Land Use Committee, Lee District Secretary and Treasures and on the newly formed Neighbor Advisory Board for New Horizons. I work with the supervisors of both districts and have known them personally for a long time. I also maintain regular contact with other county officials, from our local police captain to our school board member, and with our Senators and Delegates in the state legislature.

I am on the committees of NAB, EDU, LDACO, HHS and Land Use. I have served on advisory boards of the Fairfax County Park Authority and School Board. I have successfully had street lamps I have served on numerous committees over the year. I was responsible for the installation of street lights on the state streets in Pinewood. Had Rip Rap rebuilt on the Lake and designed, named and cut the ribbon to Muddy Hole Park as well as getting our children to attend Woodlawn Elem. Instead of being bused to other schools a distance away.

The most important issues facing Pinewood:

Three of the most important aspects of Pinewood Lake to me and the ones that keep me wanting to continue to live here and stay on the board are: 1. Continue our financial stability in spite of these hard economic times. 2. Continue to preserve our road system, pool, and lake and holding on to the standards that we started with as a safe and pleasant community. 3. Continue to keep Pinewood Lake connected with the District, County and State Governments.

BRIAN PALAZZOLO

Homeowner on Birchlake Ct. for 22 years, raised in Falls Church, VA, attended college for a couple of years before going to Vietnam (Army engineer). Wife Jane works for a credit union. Daughter Angela, an FSO for the State Dept, graduated from Mt. Vernon HS and VA

Tech. I worked for Woodward & Lothrop Dept. Stores for almost 22 years, and have run my own repair service for movers, designers and furniture manufacturers for thirteen years.

I was part of a group that supported Jack Kaufman's successful effort to keep our nearby Groveton Senior Center, where I participate, from being lost to budget cuts, and I volunteer in two other capacities for the county.

I've been a Maintenance Committee member for more than 14 years (former chairman), Marketing Committee for three or four, assist the Garden Club, and am a former member of the Neighborhood Watch.

The most important issues facing Pinewood:

Three most important issues facing Pinewood:

1. The board & the ACC should maintain community standards, not change them. Our boards, though always worthy and well-intentioned, have gone beyond what most residents want from them.
2. Reinstate community participation at board meetings, beyond the 3 minute Community Comment period. An exchange of ideas is necessary to enable the board to fully understand community needs before they vote on issues. To give residents only 3 minutes before they have heard the board discuss an issue is backward because it does not allow residents to counter or enhance positions taken by board members. While this may be a great way to shorten meetings, I believe curtailing this exchange has left the board in an information vacuum at times, and led to some uninformed decisions.
3. Begin a dialogue on how the board can continue to be responsive to community needs without wasting so much volunteer time. Our process is flawed.

BURNETTE SCARBORO

I have lived in Pinewood Lake since 2002 with my husband, Luther, and three children -- one UVA graduate, one WVU and one 2010 spring graduation from WVU. I am finishing my three-year term on the Board. Employed as a Cluster Representative and Outreach leader from Family and School Partnerships at Fairfax County Public Schools, some of my responsibilities include presenting workshops on Closing the Achievement Gap and encouraging family/parent involvement in strengthening student achievement. I also serve as a panelist on the Multicultural Team that enhances understanding of the impact different cultures have in the educational process.

The most important issues facing Pinewood:

I consider the following as the three most important issues facing Pinewood Lake:

- Community Involvement – ALL residents should be given the opportunity to have their voices heard on all matters
- Neighborhood Appearance – everyone working towards the common goal of retaining property value with every home having great curb appeal
- Appreciation of our Youth – Engaging our youth in positive activities, serving on committees and listening to their concerns about our community.

PAUL THORPE

My name is Paul B. Thorpe. I am a relatively new resident to Pinewood Lake. My wife and I moved into the Pinewood Lake Development, in September 2008. I am a native Washingtonian. I attended Public Schools in the District of Columbia. I have two (2) children, one (1) son and one (1) daughter.

Prior to moving to Pinewood Lake, I resided in the Shaw Community of Washington, DC, which is adjacent to the new Washington Convention Center, and had lived in this

community, for over fifteen (15) years. To bridge the gap with the erection of the new Convention Center and my community, I met with the Washington Convention Center's first President and CEO, Lewis Dawley, III, to formulate the first community-organized committee, the WCCA Community Impact Task Force.

The construction of the new Washington Convention Center Authority brought numerous challenges to its neighboring community, in which many issues were addressed in the WCCA Community Relations Task Force, which I chaired briefly. This committee was later restructured and re-named the WCCA Community Relations Subcommittee, under the umbrella of the WCCA Advisory Committee. Members of this committee were nominated by the Washington DC, City Council. I worked with this committee, until the completion of the new center.

Additionally I worked directly with the local Advisory Neighborhood Commission, and Councilmember Jack Evans, and Councilmember Evans Shaw Crime Task Force, and a number of local Board's within the city.

The most important issues facing Pinewood:
In my opinion, the three (3) most important issues facing Pinewood Lake:

1. Increased member participation. The active members need to have more direct in-put into the current policies of the Pinewood Lake Homeowners Association.
2. The need to increase property values, within Pinewood Lake.
3. Insure that the "standard of living" is comparable for all residents of Pinewood Lake.

**REMEMBER TO VOTE
FOR FOUR BOARD
CANDIDATES BY DEC. 2**

2010 BUDGET AND ASSESSMENTS ADOPTED

On October 14, the Board adopted the 2010 operating (\$544,473) and capital (\$383,570) budgets. The Board also kept the monthly assessment at \$118, even though costs have increased. You will receive a copy of the budget in the annual meeting mailing.

Following the reserve study, the 2010 capital budget will reinvest in all aspects of the community: roads and paths, lighting, parks and recreation, and the lake. This includes new equipment for at least one park and equipment to make the community cinema a summer-long affair. In addition, the Association will continue engineering work associated with rehabilitating the community, to include Fairfax County required studies, and the Association will finish an update of the reserve study, which is required every five years.

YOUR ASSESSMENTS

Here is how the assessments you will pay in 2010 are budgeted to go.

Operating Accounts

Total	\$85.00
Grounds Contractor	\$16.33
Refuse	\$15.84
Office Staff	\$11.37
Pool	\$7.67
ACC Administrator	\$4.21
Security	\$3.34
Tree Trimming	\$3.08
Utilities	\$2.89
Maintenance	
Employee	\$2.52
Collections & Billing	\$2.03
Insurance	\$1.92
Publications	\$1.25
Streets and Paths	\$1.18
Landscaping/Plants	\$1.05
Attorney	\$0.31
All Else	\$10.02

Capital Accounts

Total	\$33.00
Streets and Paths	\$13.25
Parks/Recreation	\$8.39
Pool	\$4.07
Engineering Services	\$2.84
Lake	\$2.32
Office/Compound	\$1.28
Fence	\$0.47
Site Lighting	\$0.38
Contingency	\$3.30

2009 POOL SEASON

The 2009 season continued to show improvement. Total attendance was up 38% from last year, and average daily attendance was up 18%. (The discrepancy arises from the fact that this year's pool season was a week longer than normal because Memorial Day was earlier and Labor Day later than usual.) More importantly, for the first time in years, there was no drop off in attendance in August. In fact, the median August attendance was greater than the May median. In addition, guest pass revenue increased over 30% from last year to over \$1900.

2009	May	June	July	August	Sep
Average	34	40	49	33	15
Median	30	37	45	32	14

Once again pool staff was friendly and helpful. However, towards the end of the season their attention to detail slacked off, both in cleaning and in monitoring check-in when the regular guards left to return to college in South America. The attendance figures are probably understated toward season's end as a result of the change in guards. Part of the problem is that the potential guard population from Eastern Europe, which typically produces better guards, dropped significantly due to a reduction in applicable visas permitted by the Department of Homeland Security. This is likely to continue.

This season the pool came into compliance with the Federal Pool and Spa Act. Past investment showed with no pool shutdown

because of equipment failure. However, there were two short periods when the pool shut down because the regular guards showed a lack of competence in performing maintenance. The Pool Committee will await the results of the Reserve Study before deciding whether to recommend replacing the decks next year.

MUDDY HOLE GARDEN CLUB

Of Harvest, Work and Service to Come!

With the upcoming Holiday season, your community Muddy Hole Garden Club begins a rigorous schedule for its annual wreath and crafts sale. Needless to say it demonstrates how committed its members and civic minded residents are during this season. In short, our holiday wreaths which comprise various greens are trimmed from Pinewood shrubs with all additional trims of holly, variegated evergreens, magnolia, and pyracantha integrated into the designs and to this are added bows and festive trims. If past sales are indicative of the amount of wreaths to be made – the club needs to welcome novices other more seasoned wreath makers and designers alike to help us in our endeavor!!! For further insight, please contact, Steve Papanicolas at 703-799-7423, Frank Holub at 703-799-4788, or Ione Knapp at 703-360-1941. Remember all proceeds raised are utilized in the beautification of your community. Our workshops are informative, fun, and a good way to meet your Pinewood neighbors.

Thanks for the continued support of \$23.00 or more to keep our banners soaring. Contributions can be made out to Muddy Hole Garden Club and left at the Pinewood Lake Homeowners Association office at your convenience.

Unquestionably, a good time was had by one and all at the October speaker's forum "The Golden Age of Costume Jewelry." Your host and garden club member, Joyce Ramsey, truly bedazzled all with her extremely well presented, informative and extensive collection of costume jewelry. If you were

fortunate enough to partake of this golden lecture, then both your mind and culinary taste buds were blissfully sated. Our thanks to Ione and Frank for lovely refreshments that were served and believe me, you have not indulged of ambrosia until you treated yourself to either Frank's or Ione's baking delights. Thanks to the attendees and all who made this such a successful evening.

Please be prepared to join us on the evening of Saturday the 31st of October for Pinewood's Haunted Halloween Ghost Train for some spooky treats for the kids and spring daffodil bulbs for the adults – courtesy of the Muddy Hole Garden Club. It promises to be a fright fest for one and all!

So until later, keep us in mind to volunteer time or join your Pinewood garden club – and add your much needed insight and time.

From the Maintenance Committee...

Community Cleanup

The fall community clean up day was held on a very wet and windy Saturday, October 17, 2009. We had only a few volunteers during the foul weather.

New Parking Restriction on Saint Annes Court

It has come the Board's and Maintenance Committee's attention that one of the islands on Saint Annes Court is too small to hold larger vehicles. Therefore, the corners of this island, near 8061, will be painted around the first of the year, thus limiting the size of the vehicles that can be parked alongside this island. Any cars parked over the yellow line will be subject to PLHA's towing policy. That means if you are over the yellow line, you will be towed at your expense and without warning. Please be mindful of the yellow painted curbs.

Around the house fall projects

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer. However, the fall and winter weather is fast approaching. With this in mind, please

remember to turn off your outside water before the freezing weather arrives.

October is also a good month to check your smoke detector battery. It should be changed at least twice a year.

Chris Ream

703-360-1712

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

There have been a few incidents that took place recently. Graffiti on cars and on the playground equipment on Saint Annes Court: the police were called and the tags removed. I remind you that it is very important to call the police to report any graffiti on anything in our neighborhood. The gang unit takes pictures and keeps files on the different tags. This information is very valuable in finding out what gangs are in the area.

I witnessed teens jumping our fence and gave a description to the police who saw them in our area and took their names. When the police caught up with them, they were on a state street so no violation was given. However, the police were able to get names and addresses. This information is valuable in the event they return to Pinewood. I know sometimes we feel that it doesn't do any good calling the police but it really does. Any information and/or leads they collect are used to build cases for future violations. Knowledge is power.

Please remind your teens that the streets are for cars. There are sidewalks in our area, use them! Hope to see you at the next watch meeting, the second Monday of the month at the PLHA office at 7:30 pm. The CAC meeting is the second Tuesday of the month at the police station. Look for the speaker for the next CAC's meeting in the calendar listed in the Mt Vernon Gazette.

If something doesn't look or feel right, it probably isn't. Call the police.

Ginger Krup

703-780-0752

PLHA Calendar

Regular meetings in PLHA office @ 7:30 PM

Nov 3	ACC
Nov 4	Garden
Nov 7	Wreath, Craft & Rummage Sale 9 AM – 3 PM
Nov 9	Neighborhood Watch
Nov 10	Candidates' Night
Nov 12	Board
Nov 13	Needle Deadline
Nov 24	Maintenance
Dec 2	PLHA Annual Meeting

TREASURER'S REPORT

	Oct 2009	Oct 2008
In transit	\$ 2,992	\$ 9,587
Operations	140,479	204,160
Reserve	1,697,245	1,389,784
Total	\$ 1,840,716	\$1,603,531
Delinquent	\$ 86,480	\$ 77,033

Delinquencies continue to rise. Please remember to pay your dues on time each month.

ACC APPROVAL NEEDED BEFORE DOING OUTSIDE WORK

Before painting outside (*house, fence, shed, or other structures*),

Submit an ACC Request Form

Available in the PLHA office or at www.pinewood-lake.com.

ACC meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month in the PLHA office.

Even if painting the same color(s), approval is needed - **some colors may no longer be approved.**

PARKING CARS

Are there more than two cars at your house?

How many of the cars are driven every day?

Where do you park unused cars?

If you are parking them on Pinewood streets, you are taking valuable parking places from your neighbors.

Be courteous to your neighbors and park unused vehicles on the state streets



DOG WALKERS

Residents still report dog walkers who are not picking up after their dogs.

PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG!

Parents, remind your children to pick up, too.

COLD WEATHER IS COMING

Turn off outside water faucets.



The Needle Advertising Policy:

- Free personal ads from Pinewood residents and absentee owners that offer "one-time" sale of goods or requests for goods/services;
- Paid commercial ads from businesses

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sell your house**

Or

**Buy that smaller or bigger home
you're looking for!**

Give me a call and let's talk!



For every purchase or sale in/from Pinewood, I will
make a donation to the Garden Club in your name.



Jill Durante

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jilldurante@mris.com

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