



The Needle

Pinewood Lake Homeowners Association

www.pinewood-lake.com

April 2009

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 11

1:00 PM PLHA Office



This event is for children 11 and under accompanied by an adult over 18.

SPRING CLEANUP DAY

Saturday, April 18

9 AM – Noon

PLHA Office or Central Park Circle Gazebo

Students: Earn Volunteer Hours



Followed by a Volunteer Lunch:

Hot dogs, burgers and drinks provided

Bring a covered dish, salad or dessert

Did you change your smoke alarm battery when you changed your clock?



Jeff McKay
Lee District Supervisor
GUEST SPEAKER

PLHA Office

7:30 PM

April 23, 2009

Issues will include:

- County budget and its impact
- State of the economy in the county
- Efforts being taken to encourage businesses
- House assessments
- Status of the CPD proposal
- Significant happenings on Route 1
- BRAC actions
- Developing infrastructure - primarily the roads around Ft. Belvoir
- Status of the new zoning regulations that address building height and residential compatibility

Everyone is encouraged to attend. Let him know Pinewood Lake cares!!!

Sponsored by PLHA Marketing Committee

MUDDY HOLE GARDEN CLUB

PLANT and YARD SALE

April 25

9 AM – 3 PM



PLANT SALE on Lawrence Street

YARD SALE at your house

Advertising in The Voice and The Mount Vernon Gazette

LUNCH on Lawrence Street

Sold by the Swim Team from 11-2

ACC Announcement

The ACC is in the process of recommending possible dramatic changes to the fence standard that will affect the appearance of your home. All homeowners will be affected by these changes. We need your input on the changes that will be recommended to the Board of Directors for final action.

Voice your opinions or comments at the ACC meeting on April 7th at 7:30 pm.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Karen Jones, ACC Administrator at (703) 203-4506.

VEGETABLE GARDENS

Just a reminder that any plant that is grown for harvest or human consumption may not be planted where it can be seen from the street without prior, annual, written ACC approval. Please submit your ACC Request Form.

CONNECTING UTILITIES?

If you are having utilities connected to your home (e.g., cable or Fios), make sure your provider buries the wires. Many homes have wires that extend from their homes into the community's common area. Exposed wires are hazard and safety issues and could possibly reduce the performance of your utility.

PINEWOOD LAKE EMAIL GROUP

Want to keep up with what's going on in the neighborhood? Join the Pinewood Lake Email Group! By joining this group, you will receive important news and updates about Pinewood Lake from fellow neighbors and the Pinewood Lake Homeowners Association. You can also

use this email group as an opportunity to communicate with your neighbors. You can propose ideas or share concerns about the neighborhood, list items for sale, ask your neighbors questions, start a club of some sort or just sit back and read what other neighbors are posting. The opportunities are endless now that we can all communicate easily with one another. With our schedules being so busy, email makes it easy to stay in touch and involved! To join the Pinewood Lake Email Group, send a request to katyparente@yahoo.com.

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:	Mark
Brewer	

Brian Duggan Bill

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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 classifieds contact Lois Passman.

PINEWOOD LAKE POOL

Think Spring. The pool will open, as usual, Memorial Day weekend. This year that means 11 AM, May 23rd. And the pool will be open an extra week, not closing until 8 PM, Labor Day, Sept. 7th.

Enclosed in this issue, you will find a pool pass application for 2009. Look for the schedule for renewing your pool pass in the May issue of the Needle. Also consider hosting an after-hours pool party. And, of course, have your children join the swim team.

Although the pool rules have not changed, here are a couple of reminders:

- Admission only with a pool pass or a multi-use guest pass.
- Booklet of 10 guest passes costs \$25.
- No one-use guest passes purchased at the gate.
- Guests are your friends and family members who do not reside in Pinewood Lake.
- You may include only permanent residents on your pool pass
- Adults must be within arm's reach of non-swimmers.
- Only adults may supervise children in wading pool.
- Residents (including homeowners' family members) of lots behind in their Association assessments will be denied entrance to the pool.

POOL PASSES IN 2009

Here is what is new for 2009:

- If you have no changes to last year's pool pass, all you have to do is print your name and your address on the application, print "No Change" at the top of the form, and sign it. You will go to the head of the line.
- If you have changes, you must bring written documentation to prove that your additions are truly permanent

residents. You must purchase guest passes for people who do not live there year round.

If you received the laminated card pool pass in one of the three previous seasons, follow the steps below:

1. Complete the Pool Pass application (enclosed in this issue of the Needle.)
2. Bring your cards with you to the Association office on one of the scheduled pool pass days in May.
3. Association volunteers will affix a 2009 sticker to your cards. They will also take new pictures for children who have appreciably changed since last year or who fall into a new age category.
4. If you want to add people to your pool pass, you must bring written documentation to prove that your additions are truly permanent residents of your home.
5. If anyone on your pass application has lost his/her card, volunteers will issue a new card but you must pay \$5 per card for reissue.
6. Enjoy the pool starting on May 23, 2009, at 11AM.

If you are new to the community since last pool season or did not apply for a pool pass last year, follow the steps below:

1. Complete the Pool Pass application (enclosed in this issue of the Needle.)
2. Come to the Association office on one of the scheduled pool pass days in May.
3. Association volunteers will prepare cards for your family and affix a sticker valid for the year 2009.
4. If any member of the family loses his/her card after it is issued, the charge will be \$5 per card for reissue.
5. Enjoy the pool starting on May 23, 2009, at 11AM.

Mike Shigley

703-360-7237

PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS

Many of you may be concerned about the property assessment notice you received in late February from the Fairfax County tax office. Your property may now be assessed \$100,000 or more below what you paid for it. That is because Fairfax County bases its assessments on home sales for “fair market value” that took place in the neighborhood the previous year. (*Fairfax County excludes “duress” sales, such as those as a result of foreclosures.*) Your assessment will be a percentage (*usually between 90% and 95%*) of the average fair market sale. In turn, assessments will differ between end unit and interior unit properties.

In other words, your property assessment is a reflection of the real estate market. When it goes down, your assessment will go down. When the market rebounds, your assessment will go back up. Assessments in Pinewood Lake peaked in 2007, and today they are about a third of the way between their 2004 and 2005 values.

However, let us look at things in historical perspective. Between 1987 and 1990, assessments increased almost 50%. Then, there was no change until 1995, when they decreased 6%. Next, assessments were constant through 2000. Finally, between 2000 and 2007, assessments tripled.

All of this reflected the housing market. There was a bubble in the late 1980s and very early 1990s and then in most of this decade. In both instances the bubble burst. People who bought at the peak (*about 1991*) the last time could not break even until 2002. Only time will tell whether the market will take as long to recover this time as it did the last time.

For details, you can visit the Web site of

the Fairfax County tax office, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/realestate_fa.htm. You can look up the details of your property at a different part of the tax office's web site, <http://icare.fairfaxcounty.gov/Search/GenericSearch.aspx?mode=ADDRESS>. Just type in your address or any other address you want to look up. In addition to the assessment, you can find property details and recent sales prices. In a bar at the upper right, you can click to see all the neighborhood sales that went in to your assessment.

An Open Letter to Gardeners:

Recently Kirsten, our Community Manager was asked “about a plant at the southeast corner of Oaklake and Central Park (Drive), etc.” The whole bed in this area is planted with various shrubs, but mostly with varieties of **Holly shrubs** that have been severely pruned over the past thirty or forty years to remain small. Some of these shrubs are the usual American variety (prickly leaves) and others are a Japanese variety (smooth round leaf) with one prickly point at the end. My research revealed that there are over 40+ varieties of Japanese hollies. All don't have red berries, in fact, they produce various colors. In order to produce berries, you have to have male and female plants. (No! I'm not kidding!) When you go shopping for holly, explain to your nurseryman that you want a shrub and not a tree. Be aware of where you are going to plant it in your yard. Happy hunting for the right shrub and don't forget to ask about the sex! Happy Gardening and keep your questions coming.

Muddy Hole Gardener,
Frank Holub

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Spring is here and summer is not far behind. Along with the warm weather comes a new set of concerns for the residents of Pinewood Lake, such as non residents coming through our neighborhood and around the lake. I know all of you are aware of the budget cuts that will affect our safety programs so I suggest that we be especially aware of what is going on here. Take tag numbers down for cars that are unfamiliar and take notes on what is happening and the time it happens. Call the police when you feel that something is just not right. You can request that the police do not stop at your house if that is an issue.

Things have been fairly quiet here except for the usual pains: not picking up after dogs, kids running wild and leaving trash all over. There has been an exception with unfamiliar cars parking in certain areas and streets outside our development and people walking to houses in Pinewood. That by the way has been reported and is under investigation.

Our last Watch meeting was a great disappointment and a source of embarrassment for the Watch members, the chairperson and this community. We invited the new Capt of Mt Vernon and the Lt to come to our meeting and discuss the stats regarding crime in and around Pinewood. This meeting was advertised in the needle and also a bright pink flier advertising the meeting was also sent out. So WHERE WERE YOU! ONLY 11 PEOPLE CAME. I have people call me at all hours to report something happening and I instruct them to call the police. But it does amaze me that people that are always talking about how much they care about security in Pinewood and then don't show up not only for a Watch meeting but this meeting. This last election of officers, the people running had security as one of the top things they were concerned about: but did they show up for the meeting? No they didn't. Not one board member or a Watch liaison attended.

Come on folks....you either care about this place or you don't. As for myself, I am going to

continue to run the Watch and reprimand kids when they are doing something wrong with or without you. If you would like to know what went on during this meeting, come to the next one.

Ginger Krup

703-780-0752

FROM THE MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Community Clean-up

The Spring community clean up day will be on **Saturday, April 18, 2009**. This is only a couple of hours of work to make our community look better. Meet at either the office on Fernlake Court or at the gazebo on Central Park Circle between 8:45 – 9 AM. We will work until about noon.

Hot dogs, burgers and drinks will be provided afterwards at the pool/office for all volunteers. Bringing a covered dish, salad or dessert to share would be gratefully appreciated.

Are you a student who needs volunteer hours? This is a good opportunity to earn those hours.

Committee Projects

The Maintenance Committee is currently working on having Longworthe Square repaired/repaved and is also considering having the smaller service road on Lakepark Drive resurfaced. We hope to have these paving projects completed by early summer.

In the next couple of weeks, two planting beds on Central Park Drive will be renovated.

In the fall, we would like to re-do the playground near the Community Center. If you have any suggestions or ideas to make this playground better, please join the Committee on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Smoke Detectors

Please remember to check/replace the batteries in your smoke detectors.

Chris Ream

703-360-1712

MUDDY HOLE GARDEN CLUB

“Let the Flower Season Blossom”

With crocus, daffodils and tulips blushing proudly in a multitude of colors, spring surely is upon us and with this the Spring Plant Plus Sale, Swim Team Booster and Yard Sale time is fast upon us! So mark your calendars and set your alarm clocks to coincide for April 25th Saturday 9:00AM to 3:00 PM, curbside Lawrence Street and prepare to feast upon the multitudes of annual charmers that the garden club will have to offer for the season's garden enthusiast. As always we will offer hardy bedding annual 4 and 6 pack sets of plants as well as planters in a wide variety of proven winners for Pinewood flowerbeds and gardens that will continue to beautify our community during the spring, summer and into fall. Let our knowledgeable garden club members offer their expertise and assistance in making this your best growing season ever!

Enjoying the spring banners? Remember your \$23.00 contribution helps to defray the cost of each banner and keeps this unique community asset visible and flying high for all to enjoy. Checks should be made payable to the Muddy Hole Garden Club and are tax deductible. Please send them to the office.

Initial work has begun on the memorial garden bed at the end of the cul-de-sac of Saint Annes Court. The bed will use a variety of materials; wood, manmade stone blocks, river rock and natural mulch as well as a variety of shrubs, greenery and flowers. It is hoped the project will be completed in early summer with a dedication to our late member Jutta Caudill.

For those community members who enjoy gardening or would like to find out more about our club, please feel free to join us at any monthly meeting on the first Wednesday at the Frank Holub Community Center (our office) at 7:30 PM. Although everyone has busy schedules, the garden club recognizes and appreciates all of our dedicated members selfless service and wants to especially say thanks to a former long term resident – Roger

Reutershan, who even now offers time, good insight, and service with a smile as a garden club member from outside the community. Talk about civic minded!!! So, residents, consider taking the plunge!

We hope to see you at our Plant Plus Sale or at any future meeting. Until then, get your spades and gloves out of the winter freeze zone and dazzle all with a garden to behold!

Steve Papanicolas 703-799-7423

LAND USE MEETING

In Lee District we are not having many applications to approve because, as you know, there are not a lot of developments being presented at the moment. However, in the Springfield area around and about the Springfield Metro we have looked at and approved new office buildings, most of which will have tenants for sub contractors for DOD. Commercial property brings in high tax monies so that's a good thing. We still have a Boston Proprieties case to be built behind the GSA storage warehouses on Loisdale Rd. There was to be a BRAC complex there but it looks like the location will be elsewhere. Boston Proprieties builds beautiful high class office buildings none of which we have ever seen on our corridor.

Time and Patience will be needed for the residents of South County to see an upgraded office row and modern condos, shopping centers and residential housing. SFDC continues to seek out. I am submitting to you a web site on the already under construction Spring Valley Center for you to look at. Mulligan Rd., which is now under construction, will be our path to the Center and also Wegmans on Telegraph. Link: www.springfieldtowncenter.com

The Lee District Civic Assoc. Meeting on March 25 at 7:30 PM will include a presentation by the County on the 2010 County budget to be adopted in April.

Until Then, Vicki McLeod 703-780-6245



NEW NEEDLE FEATURE: OUR NEIGHBORS

Do you know your neighbors? We need to strengthen our relationships with one another.

This new section will feature:

- Birth
- Graduation
- Marriage
- Death
- Community Volunteers

This spring we'll honor high school, college and advance degree **graduations**. Submit names and future plans by May 14. **Group picture for June Needle is May 14 at 7 PM in Pinewood office.**

Send information to the Pinewood office at plha@verizon.net.

THANK YOU!

A big thank you is owed to residents who helped out their neighbors by lending a hand to remove snow from cars and walkways during the March snow storm. The office specifically heard that the Bowens on Gramercy Circle and Charles Ramsey on Saint Annes Court were a much needed and appreciated help to their neighbors.

PINEWOOD LAKE SWIM TEAM



Applications available in the office.

Questions? Call

Susan Hosek

703-360-8743

PLHA Calendar

Regular meetings in PLHA office @ 7:30 PM

Apr 1.....	Muddy Hole Garden Club
Apr 4	Easter Egg Hunt 1 PM PLHA Office
Apr 7	ACC
Apr 13	Neighborhood Watch
Apr 9	Board
Apr 15	Pool
Apr 17	Needle Deadline
Apr 18	Community Clean-up Day 9 AM - Noon
Apr 23	Marketing Jeff McKay Speaks
Apr 25	Garden Club Plant Sale/ Community Yard Sale/ Swim Team Lunch 9 AM - 3 PM
Apr 28	Maintenance



Jack Kaufman thanks Vicki McLeod for her service to the Pinewood Lake Board.

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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COMMUNITY TOWN HALL MEETING

On Thursday, April 2, 2009, the Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) school-community coalition's annual Town Hall Meeting will be held at Walt Whitman Middle School, 2900 Parker's Lane, Alexandria, VA. The event begins at 6:00 p.m. with a ***Bike Safety*** presentation to review helmet safety, road rules and bike maintenance. At 7:30 p.m., Leon Harris, WJLA TV 7 anchorman, presents: ***Teen Drivers: Drive to Stay Alive.***

This town hall meeting has been designed to include the entire community so they are aware that spring break begins April 6 - 10; prom season and graduations follow; and that underage drinking is still an issue to be addressed.

For more information, contact Burnette Scarboro at 703-277-2661. This event is sponsored by South County Youth Network, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization and one of the 19 FCPS school-community coalitions; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); and partially funded by the use of federal funds from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention through the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.