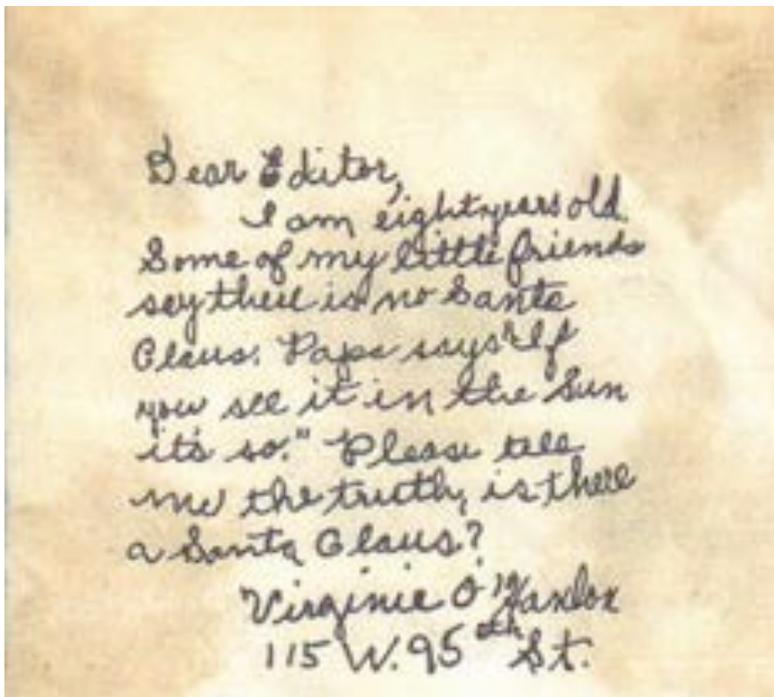

THE VILLAGER



Merry Christmas



Eight-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon wrote a letter to the editor of New York's *Sun*, and the quick response was printed as an unsigned editorial Sept. 21, 1897. The work of veteran newsman Francis Pharcellus Church has since become history's most reprinted newspaper editorial, appearing in part or whole in dozens of languages in books, movies, and other editorials, and on posters and stamps.

The Editorial from the New York Sun September 21, 1897

VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

HOA and Leacroft Committees

Event Planning Team (EPT)
January Open House

~Be~
~Our~
~Guest!~
~Door Prizes~
~Refreshments~
~Review Budget~
~Schedule Event Dates~
~10508 Old Bridge Lane~
~Sunday, January 6th, 7 pm~
~Help decide which events we do in~
~2013~

Forum

This section will contain 'letters to the editor'. If you have a thought you would like to share, a complaint to air, or almost any thing else, send it in. If this becomes popular, we will keep it, if not, it will go away.

Editor

I'd like to give a big shout-out to two enterprising young lads in our neighborhood, Matthew and Tyler, who raked my lawn for me this past weekend. It would have taken me half the day...they raked and bagged the front and back yards in an hour-&-a-half. Best money I ever spent. Thanks boys!
Louis Leon

Editor

I know that it is only Dec, but I just came back from Florida where I swam everyday. It gave me a boost of motivation and I decided to see if I could once again get together a group of people who would like to join a water aerobics class this summer. If you have any interest in joining or instructing please let me know and I will start putting a plan together.
Deb Peters.

Editor (The following letter was to be printed around pool opening time but I would probably lose it by then editor)

I would like to thank you in advance for providing space in which people can speak their minds. What I would like to address is the attire of people while up at the pool area. I understand that there are many people who are comfortable with their own bodies and have no problem wearing skimpy or provocative active ware, however, as commendable as that is, we all need to remember that this is a family pool. At any given time during the day there are mothers and young children. While the attire causing the concerns might be acceptable for adults I don't feel that it is acceptable when children are present. I realize that some things are part of life, but as a parent I feel that I should be able to pick and choose when my children are exposed to certain types of both behavior and clothing. An enjoyable outing at a family pool shouldn't be interrupted simply because some people are inconsiderate of others.
Blake Thomas

Village Voices

If you have a story that you would like to tell or a column that you would like to write,

The following article was submitted by one of our new Leacroft neighbor, The Rev Chuck Excell. I think you will enjoy it.

When I was active in pastoral ministry, I saw how the true meaning of Christmas was becoming lost as folks spent more time on the commercial aspects of the 'day' than on preparing for the greatest gift of all...namely, the birth of the Christ Child.

Having said that, I must also say that I don't think we should neglect the other traditions that have developed around the Christmas Season through the years. It would be wrong, however, to leave the telling of the Christmas Story to department stores and other commercial enterprises either, which is what we do when our children and grandchildren only hear the Story from the department stores.

What I came to realize is that families needed a fresh approach to the Season...one that did not put Jesus and Santa on a collision course. After all, St. Nick was, in truth, a benevolent Bishop of the early Christian church who taught us much about giving to those in need...and he did it in secret. (Much like we do today by giving surprise gifts to loved ones)

There are many stories that are associated with Santa and the Christmas Season. What follows is just one of those stories. You can find more by a Google search on the internet. However, it's foolish, in my opinion, to deny the existence of St. Nick or Santa Claus as a means of keeping the Christmas Season holy. Actually, I think Jesus likes Santa. He exemplifies the best of Christmas giving! Let's just not forget whose birthday it is that we celebrate on December 25th.

Merry Christmas

Rev. Chuck Excell, Retired United Methodist Pastor.

America's Own Theologian of Christmas

Dr. Clement C. Moore was the distinguished professor of Greek and Hebrew at the General Theological Seminary in New York City. America was less than 50 years old.

Moore's father, a famous Episcopal bishop, administered the first oath of office to President George Washington. He also comforted Alexander Hamilton as he lay dying from a bullet wound inflicted by Arron Burr.

Dr. C. C Moore, however, would not be remembered for his father's meritorious accomplishments, nor for his own scholarly writings...and there were many. His greatest legacy would be a short, rhyming composition penned in less than one hour on Christmas Eve, 1822.

Here is the amazing story.

Mrs. Moore had been packing Christmas baskets for poor families when she realized she was one turkey short! “Clement” she asked in a urgent tone, “will you run down to the market for me? I need a few more items.”

With the snow falling briskly and the spirit of Christmas in the air, off he went. Upon returning home, Moore met his Dutch caretaker, Jan Duychinck, a short stubby man with a bowed mouth, a big red nose, two perfectly placed dimples and a pipe clinched between his teeth, causing the smoke to encircle his head. The moon’s bright light shone on the blanket of newly fallen snow.

These two men, both possessing child-like hearts, talked about Christmas, particularly the Dutch customs. The caretaker shared with Dr. Moore the fascinating story of Saint Nicholas. He mentioned how Hollanders pulled a sleigh-driven statue of the saint along a parade route. The children line the street anxiously awaiting its arrival. Someone dressed in red and white, like the saint, walked alongside passing out gifts. Dr. Moore could hardly wait to get into the house, grab his quill pen and begin writing those familiar words:

‘Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse,
The stocking were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

When Moore began describing the old saint, he drew a word picture of his Dutch caretaker

His eyes- how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow.

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly,
that shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.

From Dr. Clement C Moore’s poetic portrayal of Saint Nicholas, we get our present-day picture of Santa.

While a lot of myths surrounds jolly old Santa, he was a real person. This godly Bishop of Myra learned the joy of giving in secret. He was a Bible believing soldier of the Cross who paid dearly for his convictions. The Eastern church proclaimed him a “saint” in the late fifth century. Upon his death, he went to be with the Savior he faithfully served.

Each Christmas morning when parents selflessly give presents to their children, the story of Saint Nicholas lives on! When asked, “Mommy, who brought these gifts?”, she gleefully responds, “It must have been St Nick!”

Leacroft People

Meet the Board of the Leacroft Home Owners Association. This year, Joe Mercier did not stand for re-election to the board. We all owe him for all of the hard work that he has done for our community over the past few years.

Since Joe retired, we are one board member short. The board will meet this month to select a new member.



Joe Mercier - Former President

Joe Mercier recently retired after 40 years in the high technology industry in various roles, most recently as a business consultant, project manager and professional facilitator.

Joe and Maryann moved to Charlotte, NC and the Villages of Leacroft in the summer of 2006 after four years of residing in Fredericksburg, Virginia and after living and working in the “majestic but very moist” Pacific Northwest for 17 years. Both business and personal interests have taken him to many states in the nation as well as overseas, but he says “I’m back on the East Coast, in a community that’s a joy to be a part of.”

Joe enjoys playing golf, motorcycling and visiting local sites within the region. Joe and his wife Maryann also enjoy traveling to and spending time with friends and family that they moved back to be near, especially spoiling the grandkids!



Bob Matthews - Vice President

My name is Robert S. 'Bob' Matthews I am from Red Oak N.C.. My Mama and Daddy were tobacco farmers and I graduated from Red Oak High in 1952. My first job was at the Nashville Drug store, married my wife Jane Feb. 22, 1953 and went in the Army in 1955. Went to Military Police school and then to Germany. Arriving in that wonderful country I was sent to Highway Patrolman school and I patrolled the autobahn and came back to the States in 1957. After working a couple of years with Orkin we

moved to Florida. I retired after dispatching for 38 years.

Jane and I have two lovely Daughters Cindy who still lives in Clearwater, Fl. and Joy lives in Charlotte. They have blessed us with four Grandson, Matthew, Adam, Evan and Hayden. Matthew, Deland, Fl. and Adam, New York, Evan and Hayden here in Charlotte.

I will start my 3rd. term on HOA Board this year and am pleased to let you know a few things we accomplished in 2012.. We approved the paving of the parking lot which will start in 2013, cameras for the pool and working on a new system when the pool opens in 2013. Of course a lot of things we are hoping to do.

But we will start our New Year 20th. of December and be on our way..



Paula Henriksen - Secretary

Hello Everyone. My name is Paula Henriksen and I serve as your secretary on Leacroft's HOA board. I have lived on Billingham Drive Since March of 1999. I've been married for 37 years to my high school sweetheart Jeff. We have 2 boys, 1 daughter and 7 grandchildren and I due next May. I have lived in many places from Indiana (my birth place) to Florida to California; but love the Charlotte region the best. We have wonderful neighbors and enjoy spending time with them. Jeff and I fairly recently became the pets of a mini dachshund and have taken to our training well. After not having a dog for over 20 years And being an empty nester I am enjoying the companionship. Now when I talk to myself no one runs for the phone to call the men in white coats. They just assume I am talking to the dog. All kidding aside Jeff and I love it here and hope to see all of you at one of our wonderful community events. Have a Merry Christmas and a wonderful coming year. God Bless.



Paul Greiner - Treasurer

Paul moved to Charlotte in 1998 after graduating from Appalachian State University with a BSBA in Production & Operations Management.

After a successful stint in the Advertising industry, Paul and his business partner started Cedar Management Group which is a large portfolio HOA management company in Charlotte.

Paul married his wife "Jenn" in 2005 and they moved to Leacroft in September 2008 with their two dogs, Zadie & Chloe.

Jenn is an analyst with Food Lion at their headquarters in Salisbury. In their free time they enjoy traveling, spending time with friends, and working on, in, or around their home



My name is Beth Degrassi. My husband Dan and I have lived in The Villages of Leacroft for the past 17 years. I have raised my two boys in this neighborhood and enjoyed watching them grow and develop along with the neighborhood.

I am an avid soccer mom who enjoys cheering my son from the sidelines. Another one of my favorite things to do is putter in around my garden and yard. If you are walking by please stop and say hello.

I have served on the board for a year and have learned a lot about running the community that in the past I took for granite. It takes allot of hard work and effort to make the community successful. I encourage everyone to get involved and participate in keeping Leacroft a desirable place to live.

GARDENING BY DEB PETERS

Gardening 101 December 2012

Deb Peters

I wonder if its empty nest syndrome? Maybe it's just the weather, or it could be the feeling of rich soil and dirt running through my fingers. Without my garden I think I'm feeling kind of out of sorts.

While I've never had children; I'm thinking that this must be very similar to "empty nest syndrome". A seed was planted, loved, nurtured, grew, and eventually left the nest.

I'm so proud of their accomplishments. They tasted wonderful and I can't even complain about their manners. I should feel ecstatic. Instead, I feel lost, or empty.

It's the middle of December and I stand here looking at my empty garden beds. I let the snow and sadness slide over me and I go to work cleaning out their rooms. (Oops! I mean beds) preparing for the long cold winter that lies ahead. I'll pull out any leftover vines and weeds along with any veggies that look like they had some kind of disease.

Any vegetables that are on the ground can be turned over with the dirt as long as they are healthy and show no signs of unwanted pests. I'll through in some fresh coffee grounds and eggshells. If you don't drink coffee or need more coffee grounds' most coffee shops will be more than happy to let you have theirs just for the asking. You don't have to cover the entire bed with them. If you want now is a good time to throw in those scraps that you've been saving. Please no meat scraps, or fats, this will not help the soil and it will only succeed in attracting unwanted critters to your garden. Cover over with your choice of hay, straw, or just leaves and let the garden beds sleep for the winter.

Eventually my melancholy mood lifts and my mailbox is filled with garden catalogs.

I spend my time reading them and checking out their websites. Then it happens. Spring approaches. There are no longer any frost warnings. I'm ready to plant and cultivate the next generation. I made it through yet another "empty nest syndrome".

And while not everyone goes through it, if you find yourself in a similar situation Just peruse all the garden catalogs, look at all the pretty pictures, and start thinking about what you are going to plant this season. And Remember: Winter doesn't last forever and neither does empty nest syndrome.

Here's to green thumbs and happy gardening.

Deb Peters

Advertisements

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Travel



Earlier this year, Connie and I took a cruise of a life time. We flew from Charlotte to L.A. and caught Air Tahiti Nui for a great flight to Papeete, Tahiti. *(If you get a chance to fly on Tahiti Nui, take it. One of the world's great airlines, nothing like our domestic airlines.)*

In Papeete, we caught a Princess cruise to Moorea, Bora Bora, and then to the Hawaiian Islands of Hawaii (the Big Island), Kauai, Oahu, and Maui. We spent all day on each island.



We left home before 6:00 to catch a 7:50 flight to L.A. We had time in L.A. to get lunch before getting a 1:00 flight to Papeete. We arrived in Papeete around 7:30 PM but in the process we crossed about 6 time zones. So 7:30 felt like 1:30 AM to us. We were very tired. We went from the airport directly to the ship and did not see much of Tahiti. *(See Travel Tip)*. As soon as we got on the ship and settled in a bit, we were told that there was a mandatory safety meeting at 10:30 PM. A long night just got longer. We finally got to bed around 11:30 PM, AKA 5:30 AM EST.

The next morning we were in Moorea. This island is famous for the 'over the water' huts. We took a jeep tour of the island. There are a lot of beautiful flowers, trees and other vegetation.

(Deb, eat your heart out.) A popular rumor around Moorea is that it is the basis for James Michener's South Pacific island of Bali Hai. A very beautiful place. *More next month. I am out of space*



Travel Tip

When flying to a cruise or a tour, try to get there a day early because;

1. Airlines are notorious for delayed or even cancelled flights.
2. A day of rest after a long flight helps you get used to a new time zone
3. Another day of vacation is relative inexpensive

Classified Ads

Classified Ads		
Classified Ads		Leacroft Youth
For Personal items only. Free for 3 month for Leacroft Residents only		These ads are free for Leacroft residents under 19 years old.
Corner desk. Maple with dark gray top. 6ft x 6ft. Easily moved in 3 parts. Looking for a good home or garage work space. Ken and Susan Bury kbury@carolina.rr.com		Babysitting Sarah Moore is available for babysitting or pet sitting. She is Red Cross-certified for babysitting. Sarah can be reached at 980-225-7733.
		Jillian Manning is available for babysitting or pet sitting. She is Red Cross-certified for babysitting. She can be reached at 704-510-9296.
Lots of room for more ads		Pet Sitting Rachel Caffrey 704-593-0581
		Brittany Moore , Pet care/ Cookie Catering 704-549-1449 E-mail sweetiepirose@earthlink.net
		Lawn Care John Caffrey 704-593-0581 rake leaves, lawn mowing, pet setting
		Tyler and Carson Moore Fall leaf removal 704-549-1499
		Mother's helper Evan Thomas (age 8) 704-877-2386 Help around house; vacuum, dust, pickup etc. Call for rates

Leacroft List

All listings on these pages have been recommended by Leacroft residents that have used the services.
 Plenty of room for more

Leacroft List		
Air Conditioning / Heating		
Bradham Brothers (704) 392-8056	Quality Comfort HVAC PO Box 1726 Matthews NC 28106 Qualityhvac@alltel.net 704821-6920	
Appliance Repair		
NC Plumbing (Dishwasher install) 5205 Blackjack Lane Mint Hill, NC 28277 NCPlumbing.com 704-9620460	Expert Appliance Service Indian Trail, NC Expertappliance.com 704-292-8429	Carolina Appliance 704-847-0004 http://www.carolinaapplianceservice.com
Auto Repair		
Pitts Repair Service 704-786-6894		
Carpet and Rug Cleaning		
Lillard's Carpet & Rug Cleaning Charlotte, NC 704-728-2724		
Concrete		
Concrete by George 704-605-3709		

Leacroft List		
Dryer Vents		
Dryer Vent Wizard (David LaValle) Charlotte, NC DavidLaValle@gmail.com Charlottedryerventlady.com		
Electrician		
Robert Riley (electrician & handyman) Riley Electric Charlotte, NC 704-248-1214		
Gas Piping		
Clark's Gas Piping 6443 Pargo Road Charlotte, NC 28216 704-391-1042		
Glass		
Glass Solutions 10806 Reames Rd., Suite D		
Garage Doors		
Precision Door Service 4000-A Sardis Church Road Monroe, NC 28110 precisiondoor.net 704-347-0300	Elite Garage Door Service 704-293-9558 http://elitegaragedoor.com	

Leacroft List		
Handyman		
Johnny Shue Shue's Home Improvements & Restorations Mt. Pleasant, NC 704-791-4046	Robert Riley Riley Electric Charlotte NC 704-248-1214	
Lawn Care		
A&T Lawn Care 704-609-9066 See ad in the Villager	Lawn of Dreams 704-262-9869	
Painting		
Randy Tarleton Painter ,Wallpaper, Power Washer - 704-606-6401		
Plumbing		
Jim Myers Plumbing Charlotte, NC 704-786-9001		
Roofing		
Ace Roofing 704-364-5774		
Tile and Marble		
Murdock Tile & Marble 365 Concord Parkway North Concord, NC 28027 704-793-1587		

PLEASE NOTE: These are the officers at the annual board meeting. New officers will be elected in December.

Leacroft Contacts			
Home Owners's Association Board			
President .			
Bob Matthews, Vice President	10517 Worsley Ln.	maeh_gran@gmail.com	(H) 704-503-0887
Paul Greiner, Treas.	4501 Bellmore Ct.	pagreiner@gmail.com	704-301-9403
Paula Henriksen, Sec.	10218 Billingham Dr.	bookworm@carolina.rr.com	(H) 704-595-9288
Beth DeGrassi, Member at Large	10310 Suffield Ct.	degband@aol.com	(H) 704-510-0718 704-534-1149
Events Committee			
Jessica Moore, Chair	10508 Old Bridge Ln.	dsjsmoore@earthlink.net	(H) 704-549-1449 (C) 704-607-1818
Ellen Mack, Treasurer	10318 Fairbourne Ct.	emmack32123@hotmail.com	(H) 704-548-9379 (C) 704-516-5386
Architectural Review Committee			
Paul Greiner, Acting Chair	4501 Bellmore Ct.	pagreiner@gmail.com	(C) 704-301-9403
Communications			
Paula Henriksen, Acting Chair	10218 Billingham Dr.	bookworm@carolina.rr.com	(H) 704-595-9288
Paul Greiner, Acting Website Admin.	4501 Bellmore Ct.	pagreiner@gmail.com	(C) 704-301-9403
Len Tucker, Newsletter	4500 Highcroft Ln.	LeacroftVillager@gmail.com	(C) 704-907-1430
Common Area			
Joe Mercier, Acting Chair	10321 Billingham Dr.	merciej@hotmail.com	(O) 704-302-1565 (C) 540-548-4333

Leacraft Contacts			
Landscaping			
Beth Degrassi, Acting Chair	10310 Suffield Ct.	degband@aol.com	(H) 704-510-0718 (C) 704-534-1149
BYLAWS & COVENANTS, CONDITIONS & RESTRICTIONS (CC&R'S)			
Paul Greiner, Acting Chair	4501 Bellmore Ct.	pagreiner@gmail.com	(C) 704-301-9403
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH			
Judy Ferrara, Chair	4506 Highcroft Ln.	jferrara2769@yahoo.com	(H) 704-609-4908
Welcoming			
Brigitte Stoll, Chair	10328 Bolton Court	bstoll1@carolina.rr.com	(H) 704-264-2259 (C) 980-254-3731
Yard of the Month			
Bob Matthews, Chair	10517 Worsley Ln.	maeh_gran@gmail.com	(H) 704-503-0887
Swim Team			
Kelly Schlicher, Co-Manager	10209 Ingleton Ct.	kaboodle@carolina.rr.com	(H) 704-503-5230
Trevia Hunter, Co-Manager	10206 Billingham Dr.	treviad@aol.com	(H) 704-953-3070

Ad Rate Schedule

Please note: All revenues generated by advertisements go directly to the HOA General Fund and are used to keep our association fees down

	Leacroft Residents	Non-Residents
Text Classified (up to 30 words)	Free. For personal items only and for up to 3 consecutive months	Schedule A
Business Card Sized Ad	Schedule A	Schedule B
1/4 Page Ad	Schedule B	Schedule C
1/2 Page Ad	Schedule C	Schedule D
Special sized ads	Call 704-907-1430	Call 704-907-1430

Advertisement Rate Schedule				
Number of Issues	Schedule A	Schedule B	Schedule C	Schedule D
1	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$15.00	\$20.00
3	\$14.25	\$28.50	\$42.75	\$57.00
6	\$27.00	\$54.00	\$81.00	\$108.00
12	\$51.00	\$102	\$153	\$204.00

Checks should be made out to "Villages of Leacroft" and the memo line should contain "newsletter advertising payment".

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