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# THE VILLAGER

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Saint Patrick, who lived during the fifth century, is the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland. Born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at the age of 16. He later escaped, but returned to Ireland and was credited with bringing Christianity to its people. In the centuries following Patrick's death (believed to have been on March 17, 461), the mythology surrounding his life became ever more ingrained in the Irish culture: Perhaps the most well known legend is that he explained the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) using the three leaves of a native Irish clover, the shamrock.

Since around the ninth or 10th century, people in Ireland have been observing the Roman Catholic feast day of St. Patrick on March 17. Interestingly, however, the first parade held to honor St. Patrick's Day took place not in Ireland but in the United States. On March 17, 1762, Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City. Along with their music, the parade helped the soldiers reconnect with their Irish roots, as well as with fellow Irishmen serving in the English army.

## ANOTHER ST PATRICK'S DAY

About this time 20 years ago, Connie and I took our Southeast tour. We had both live in Southern California most of our life and were ready for a change. After studying the U.S. map for several days, we decided that the southeast would be the best place for us to relocate. We decided that we did not want to go as far north as Virginia or as far south as Florida. We also wanted to be near the ocean. That limited our search area.

I had recently retired, for the first time, and was ready for a new adventure. We contacted relocation specialist (Realtors that specialize in working with people that are new to the area) in each of the major cities in our search area. Then we also made our motel arrangements. However, when I called for a motel in Savannah, I was told that the day I wanted was St Patrick's Day. I had not really thought about it but what was the big deal. The big deal, according to Savannah experts, is Savannah has the biggest St Patrick's Day celebration in the world. May be a little hyperbole, but it was important and I was told that all of the hotel/motel rooms in Savannah were taken. I started calling and after a few hours on the phone, I found a bed and breakfast place that had a room in the carriage house. I did not know what that was but I took it.

On March 17th 1993, we arrived in Savannah to find that all of the streets leading into Savannah were closed, including the street to our carriage house. We did get within a mile or so of the place and started walking. Connie had a very bad headache by now and we were marching in a parade carrying our luggage. The fire truck siren did not help Connie's headache.

We finally arrived at the B&B and were taken to the carriage house. The carriage house is actually the garage and our room was over the garage. I guess that in the olden times, the owners parked their carriages there. We were shown our room.

The first thing we saw when we entered the room was a very large orange claw foot bathtub in the center of the living space. It was fully functional and ready to be used. Then we saw the bed. It was a large four poster bed and on each post was a large red and orange paper Chinese umbrella. (You can not make up stuff like this). The rest of the room had similar decor. However, every night we each had an almond praline and a small glass of peach schnapps on our bed side table. (A southern touch, I guess) Guess what, the owners were from California...I should have guessed!

Over the years, we have stayed in a lot of hotel/motels that we never remember but we will never forget our St Patrick's day in Savannah.

***HOA and Leacroft Committees***

Message from the HOA President

Is it really March already? Seems I just closed out the books for 2012 a week ago and now we are nearing the end of Q1 2013, how time does fly.

March is typically the time when things really start to happen in communities all over Charlotte with pool opening season just around the corner, grass (or in the case of my yard, weeds) are starting to grow again, home improvement projects are in the works (I know this due to the recent onslaught of ARC applications), and finally the local wildlife is more and more visible. It is and always has been my favorite time of year.

Last month I noted that we will be installing an access control system at the pool that will be in use during the 2013 pool season and beyond. The proposal and contract has been signed and we anticipate this being completed before the end of March. As also noted earlier, homeowners will be mailed a key fob for use to access the pool area and we will be mailing those fobs, and information on policies in late April or early May 2013. There will be information on how to acquire more than one fob at a minimal cost for those households that need or want additional fobs. Also noted last month is the resurfacing of the pool center parking lot. We have signed the proposal for that as well and have this scheduled to be completed during CMS spring break of April 1 to April 5, 2013. Please be aware there will be no parking at the pool between March 30 and April 7, 2013 to allow sufficient time for the new surfacing to set up and be able to handle bus and other vehicular traffic.

Also at the February Board meeting we appointed a new member to take the vacant position that has remained open since the annual meeting in November. Julie Goodliffe has volunteered to be on the Board and we are happy to have her with us and look forward to her contributions at our meetings and in the community at large.

Finally, we have created a new page on the Leacroft website that will provide area news and other information on our immediate area from CMPD. As many of you may know, CMPD publishes a monthly newsletter that Officer Lori A. O'Dell who is our Community Coordinator from CMPD sends to many of us each month. As not all members of the community are on the email distribution, we thought many would enjoy the information as it covers many topics of interest on local news, crime statistics, emergency preparedness and other useful information. These PDF newsletters will be available on a page titled "CMPD News". You can find the page by going to our site [www.leacroft.org](http://www.leacroft.org) and the link is across the top of the page next to the "Monthly HOA Newsletter" link that I hope all of you visit frequently

As always, it's a pleasure working with all of you and serving the community in general, Till next time stay safe,

Paul A. Greiner, CMCA, AMS

President – Leacroft HOA

Message from the HOA Vice President:

I am hoping each of you will be please with the entrance to our community. The landscaping committee met today with the people that will be doing the work. We will pressure wash the brick walls at the entrance which it needs it bad.

Members of the landscape are Beth DeGrassi, Jane Matthews, and Bob Matthews..

We will be working with Brad who is owner of the company that will be doing work in our community.

Also in April we will start The Yard of the Month again.I am Chairman of the committee and as I ride around I am hoping to find some beautiful yards.

My Honda should know its way around because of the times I have been riding around to pick Yard of month people.

I would like to have a volunteer to help me if anyone would be interested and it is an easy job. I enjoy it because I meet people that I have never met before.

My job on the board also is chairman of the nomination committee and am proud to say we welcome Julie Goodliffe as our at large person and now we have a complete board.

Thank each one for helping when and where you will..

Events Planning Team



**Villages of Leacroft  
Spring Festival and  
Easter Egg Hunt**



**Who:** All Age Groups

**When:** Saturday, March 23, 2013 11:00 am – 1:00 pm  
(Rain date: March 24, 2013 4 pm – 6 pm)

**Where:** Pool Parking Lot and Common Areas

**Time**                    **11:00 – 12:00 ages 8 –12 meet at pool clubhouse  
                                  (Scavenger hunt-parents can help  
                                  11:30 ages 0-2 – Tennis Courts  
                                  11:45 ages 3-5 – Grounds around Playground  
                                  12:00 ages 6-7 – Grounds around Tennis Courts**

**Cost:**                    \$4 per child

**Raffle:** 3 Theme Baskets (Adult, Boy, Girl) filled with goodies. Each will be raffled off for \$1 per ticket. MUST be present to win!!

**Events:**

- \* Full petting Zoo plus feeding animals
- \* Charlotte Fire Truck
- \* Pony Rides
- \*
- \* Golden Egg Prizes
- \* Scavenger Hunt

**Easter Eggs will be provided by the  
Leacroft Event Planning Committee**

Please complete this portion and return it, check payable to “The Villages of Leacroft Social Committee” to **Jessica Moore**, 10508 Old Bridge Ln. by March 19, 2013!!!! **Call Jessica Moore for more information, 704-549-1449.**

**-OR-**

**Register on line at [www.leacroft.org](http://www.leacroft.org)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number and Ages of children attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Need enthusiastic Adults to help with scavenger hunt:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I can help with:**

Clean Up: \_\_\_\_\_ Hiding Eggs: \_\_\_\_\_ Sign in Table: \_\_\_\_\_ Set up: \_\_\_\_\_ (Need 2 volunteers) (Need 5 volunteers) (Need 1 volunteer) (Need 3 volunteers)



# Villages of Leacroft Walk



**Why:** Fund Raiser for Leacroft Events

**When:** Saturday, March 23, 2013  
11:00 am – 1:00 pm  
(Rain date: March 24, 2013 4:00pm – 6:00pm)

**Where:** Pool Parking Lot and Common Areas

**What:** Donate your favorite baked goods and/or juice boxes  
\*\*Bake Walk – Cakes, Pies, Cookies, Brownies and/or Cupcakes\*\*

\*\*Each child will receive one free juice box\*\*

Please make us aware of any **nuts** in your baked goods!!

**Baked goods will be collected on Saturday, March 23<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am**

Please complete this portion and return it to **Jessica Moore**, 10508 Old Bridge Ln. by **March 19<sup>th</sup>!!!** Call **Jessica Moore** for more information, 704-549-1449

-OR-

Register online at [www.leacroft.org](http://www.leacroft.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Type and amount of baked goods you will provide:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nuts: YES NO (Please circle one)**

**I can help with:**

Collecting baked goods: \_\_\_\_\_ Setting up baked goods: \_\_\_\_\_

(Need 1 volunteer)

(Need 2 volunteers)



It is time to thinking about **summer swim team**. Registration will be in March and April and is open to all Leacroft residents age 5-18. Practice will begin in May. Meets will be weekly June 11<sup>th</sup> through July 14<sup>th</sup>. This is a great opportunity for the kids to become better swimmers, make new friends, win ribbons, get exercise and have fun! Mark your calendars now.

We are also looking for local businesses to sponsor the team. If you are a Leacroft resident and own your own business this is a great opportunity for you to help the neighborhood kids and get some advertising. For details contact us at [www.leacroftswimteam@gmail.com](mailto:www.leacroftswimteam@gmail.com)

***Leacroft People***

Hi my name is **Judy Ferrara** I am of Italian decent from both sides of my family. I am over 50, single with no children. I am originally from Bristol RI but our family moved away to live in Miami Florida when I was a young girl. I resided in Miami most of my life.

I moved to Charlotte and Leacroft in 1996 with Jeff Higgs, my significant other. Jeff and I met in 1992 working for BellSouth. Unfortunately, in late 1995 we both were laid off due to outsourcing. Jeff suggested we move to Charlotte since this was his hometown.

We were very fortunate to find work with NationsBank–Bank of America and to find this great neighborhood.

In January 2000 sadness struck as Jeff died suddenly due to illness. I have been living here alone ever since.

But, I am very blessed to have the same wonderful neighbors around me. These neighbors have gone beyond being just a neighbor to becoming my dear friends and my family. They have always watched out for me, been here for me during loss, times of illness, have helped with worked around my home and yard in areas I can not handle myself and have even became my hero's when I have had rodent's and reptile's decide to invade my home. YUCK. Oh yes, and by the way, did I tell you; I HATE SNAKES. We have Party together, laughed and even cried together. You couldn't ask for better. So, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize them here: The Tucker family, The Batres family, The Paschal family, The Wilson family and The Saulsberry family. Thanks again for everything.

This type of living is what I wish for everyone here in Leacroft. If you haven't built bonds with people around you and you have wanted to,

then, take that step. I bet you will be pleasantly surprised to find out that those neighbors can also become dear friends and family to you as well.

Wishing everyone a safe and wonderful year here at Leacroft

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## ***GARDENING 101 BY DEB PETERS***

Time to make the donuts! Oops! What I really meant to say was time to build the garden box. I currently have three boxes in the yard. The middle one is 10x3, with two boards stacked on top of each other to make it 6 inches high. It started out a little higher, but over time the wood disintegrated and sank a little further into the ground each year. So I decided that this is the year I need to redo it. What perfect timing. I can record what I do step by step and pass it on to you. So here goes.

Step 1, I needed to empty all the dirt from the existing box. You won't need to do this since you are starting out new. What you do need to do is dig out a couple of inches to remove the grass, dirt, and some of that wonderful red clay. I dug down about 5 inches.

Get the kids to help you; they'll love getting dirty without getting yelled at.

Gardens are a very personal thing. Like raising children, different people have different modes. In the end you have to be comfortable with your decision i.e.: organic vs. chemical; composite vs. wood; weed control fabric vs. none; what you will grow. What your family's preferences are etc.

So after emptying out the dirt we made a trip to Lowe's. We chose wood over composite since composite has a lot of chemicals. I wanted my new garden box to be 10x4. We bought 2 pieces of wood each 14x12x2, one for each side. Lowe's will cut them for free, so they had them cut each one to 10 feet. And we had 4 Ft. of wood left over, which we used for the width of the garden.

The wood cost \$25.97 for the 1<sup>st</sup> piece and the 2<sup>nd</sup> piece was slightly damaged so they gave it to us for half price. \$12.98. We also purchased 8 corner braces (2x2 angle bracket) and 8 wood stakes 1x2x18.

Our total cost to build the box:

Wood	25.97
Wood (2 <sup>nd</sup> piece)	12.98
Stakes (8)	20.55
Corner brackets (8)	24.00
Total cost of box	82.50

Again; this is how I would do it. Some people eliminate the corner brackets and just fit the wood together. Some people skip the stakes. We prefer them since the box is so long. It stops the wood from bending. Of you are only building a 3x3 box, Then I wouldn't think you would need 8 stakes.

Other than a little manpower you're finished. It's that easy. That's all it takes to build your garden box. Now you get to start filling it with dirt. (Soil, compost, black gold...)

But that's for the April issue of the Villager. In the meantime;

Here's to green thumbs and Happy Gardening.

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~ and MORE ~**



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*Travel*

# Kauai



Our next stop on our cruise around Hawaii was in Kauai. We got off of the ship and headed for the tour bus station only to find out that all tours had been booked. We were in town just for the day and did not want to hang around the dock and tourist shops all day.

We started walking. Across the street from all of the major tour companies was a small strip mall. We walked over there to see if they knew where we may get an island tour. We were told that there was a trolley that did tours from one of the local stores. We ran to that store and was told that there were two seats left on the morning tour. We took them just as the trolley was leaving the station. If we had not gotten on that trolley, we would not have seen the most beautiful island in the Hawaiian chain.

Kauai is Hawaii's fourth largest island and is sometimes called the "Garden Isle," which is an entirely accurate description. The oldest and northernmost island in the Hawaiian chain is draped in emerald valleys, sharp mountain spires and jagged cliffs, aged by time and the elements. Centuries of growth have formed tropical rain forests, forking rivers and cascading waterfalls. Some parts of Kauai are only accessible by sea or air, revealing views beyond your imagination.

Beyond Kauai's dramatic beauty, the island is home to a variety of outdoor activities. Kayak the Wailua River. Snorkel on Poipu Beach. Hike the trails of Kokee State Park. Even go ziplining above Kauai's lush valleys. But it is the island's laid-back atmosphere and rich culture found in its small towns and along its one-lane bridges that make it truly timeless. Make your escape to Kauai and discover the undeniable allure of Kauai.

*Travel tip; Connie and I normally do not book excursions in advance. You can often get better deals from the locals that you can from the official tour companies. However, sometimes there are no local deals to be had then you have to figure out something else.*

**Classified Ads**

Classified Ads		
<b>Classified Ads</b>	<b>Leacroft Youth</b>	
For Personal items only. Free for 3 months. For Leacroft Residents only.	These ads are free for Leacroft residents under 19 years old.	
<b>Lots of room for ads</b>	<b>Babysitting</b>	<b>Lawn Care</b>
	<b>Sarah Moore</b> is available for babysitting or pet sitting. She is Red Cross-certified for babysitting. Sarah can be reached at 980-225-7733.	<b>John Caffrey</b> 704-593-0581 rake leaves, lawn mowing, pet setting
	<b>Jillian Manning</b> is available for babysitting or pet sitting. She is Red Cross-certified for babysitting. She can be reached at 704-510-9296.	<b>Tyler and Carson Moore</b> Fall leaf removal 704-549-1499
		<b>Daniel Faler</b> 16 Grass cutter 704-510-0052
	<b>Mothers' Helper</b>	
	<b>Evan Thomas (age 8)</b> 704-877-2386 Help around house; vacuum, dust, pickup etc. Call for rates	
	<b>Pet Sitting</b>	
	<b>Britney Moore</b> Pet care / Cookie Catering 704-549-1449 e-mail <a href="mailto:sweetiepierose@earthlink.net">sweetiepierose@earthlink.net</a>	
	<b>Rachel Caffrey</b> Pet setting 704-593-0581	
	<b>Daniel Faler</b> 16 Dog sitter (704)510-0052	
	<b>Caroline Faler</b> 12 Dog Sitter 704-510-0052	

***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		
<b>Air Conditioning / Heating</b>		
Bradham Brothers (704) 392-8056	Quality Comfort HVAC PO Box 1726 Matthews NC 28106 <a href="mailto:Qualityhvac@alltel.net">Qualityhvac@alltel.net</a> 704821-6920	
<b>Appliance Repair</b>		
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 <a href="http://www.carolinaapplianceservice.com">http://www.carolinaapplianceservice.com</a>
<b>Auto Repair</b>		
Pitts Repair Service 704-786-6894		
<b>Carpet and Rug Cleaning</b>		
Lillard's Carpet & Rug Cleaning Charlotte, NC 704-728-2724		
<b>Concrete</b>		
Concrete by George 704-605-3709		

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

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

<b>Leacroft Contacts</b>			
<b>Home Owners's Association Board</b>			
Paul Greiner, President	4501 Bellmore Ct.	<a href="mailto:pagreiner@gmail.com">pagreiner@gmail.com</a>	704-301-9403
Bob Matthews, Vice President	10517 Worsley Ln.	<a href="mailto:maeh_gran@gmail.com">maeh_gran@gmail.com</a>	(H) 704-503-0887
Paula Henriksen, Sec.	10218 Billingham Dr.	<a href="mailto:bookworm@carolina.rr.com">bookworm@carolina.rr.com</a>	(H) 704-595-9288
Beth DeGrassi, Treasurer	10310 Suffield Ct.	<a href="mailto:degband@aol.com">degband@aol.com</a>	(H) 704-510-0718 704-534-1149
Julie Goodliffe Member at Large	10550 Worsley Lane	<a href="mailto:juliegoodliffe@gmail.com">juliegoodliffe@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Events Committee</b>			
Jessica Moore, Chair	10508 Old Bridge Ln.	<a href="mailto:dsjmoore@earthlink.net">dsjmoore@earthlink.net</a>	(H) 704-549-1449 (C) 704-607-1818
Ellen Mack, Treasurer	10318 Fairbourne Ct.	<a href="mailto:emmack32123@hotmail.com">emmack32123@hotmail.com</a>	(H) 704-548-9379 (C) 704-516-5386
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Paul Greiner, Acting Website Admin.	4501 Bellmore Ct.	<a href="mailto:pagreiner@gmail.com">pagreiner@gmail.com</a>	(C) 704-301-9403
Len Tucker, Newsletter	4500 Highcroft Ln.	<a href="mailto:LeacroftVillager@gmail.com">LeacroftVillager@gmail.com</a>	(C) 704-907-1430
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<b>Leacroft Contacts</b>			
<b>Landscaping</b>			
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<b>NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH</b>			
Judy Ferrara, Chair	4506 Highcroft Ln.	<a href="mailto:jferrara2769@yahoo.com">jferrara2769@yahoo.com</a>	(H) 704-609-4908
<b>Welcoming</b>			
Brigitte Stoll, Chair	10328 Bolton Court	<a href="mailto:bstoll1@carolina.rr.com">bstoll1@carolina.rr.com</a>	(H) 704-264-2259 (C) 980-254-3731
<b>Yard of the Month</b>			
Bob Matthews, Chair	10517 Worsley Ln.	<a href="mailto:maeh_gran@gmail.com">maeh_gran@gmail.com</a>	(H) 704-503-0887
<b>Swim Team</b>			
Kelly Schlicher, Co-Manager	10209 Ingleton Ct.	<a href="mailto:kaboodle@carolina.rr.com">kaboodle@carolina.rr.com</a>	(H) 704-503-5230
Trevia Hunter, Co-Manager	10206 Billingham Dr.	<a href="mailto:treviad@aol.com">treviad@aol.com</a>	(H) 704-953-3070