

VILLAGER

Villages of Leacroft



The Story of Halloween

Halloween is one of the oldest holidays with origins going back thousands of years. The holiday we know as Halloween has had many influences from many cultures over the centuries. From the Roman's Pomona Day, to the Celtic festival of Samhain, to the Christian holidays of All Saints and All Souls Days.

Hundreds of years ago in what is now Great Britain and Northern France, lived the Celts. The Celts worshipped nature and had many gods, with the sun god as their favorite. It was "he" who commanded their work and their rest times, and who made the earth beautiful and the crops grow. The Celts celebrated their New Year on November 1st. It was celebrated every year with a festival and marked the end of the "season of the sun" and the beginning of "the season of darkness and cold."

On October 31st after the crops were all harvested and stored for the long winter the cooking fires in the homes would be extinguished. The Druids, the Celtic priests, would meet in the hilltop in the dark oak forest (oak trees were considered sacred). The Druids would light new fires and offer sacrifices of crops and animals. As they danced around the the fires, the season of the sun passed and the season of darkness would begin.

When the morning arrived the Druids would give an ember from their fires to each family who would then take them home to start new cooking fires. These fires would keep the homes warm and free from evil spirits.

The November 1st festival was called Samhain (pronounced "sow-en"). The festival would last for 3 days. Many people would parade in costumes made from the skins and heads of their animals. This festival would become the first Halloween.

During the first century the Romans invaded Britain. They brought with them many of their festivals and customs. One of these was the festival know as Pomona Day, named for their goddess of fruits and gardens. It was also celebrated around the 1st of November. After hundreds of years of Roman rule the customs of the Celtic's Samhain festival and the Roman Pomona Day mixed becoming 1 major fall holiday.

The next influence came with the spread of the new Christian religion throughout Europe and Britain. In the year 835 AD the Roman Catholic

Church would make November 1st a church holiday to honor all the saints. This day was called All Saint's Day, or Hallowmas, or All Hallows. Years later the Church would make November 2nd a holy day. It was called All Souls Day and was to honor the dead. It was celebrated with big bonfires, parades, and people dressing up as saints, angels and devils.

But the spread of Christianity did not make people forget their early customs. On the eve of All Hallows, Oct. 31, people continued to celebrate the festivals of Samhain and Pomona Day. Over the years the customs from all these holidays mixed. October 31st became known as All Hallow Even, eventually All Hallow's Eve, Hallowe'en, and then - Halloween.

The Halloween we celebrate today includes all of these influences, Pomona Day's apples, nuts, and harvest, the Festival of Samhain's black cats, magic, evil spirits and death, and the ghosts, skeletons and skulls from All Saint's Day and All Soul's Day.

I found this story on the internet and thought it was interesting. I hope you enjoyed it.



Message from the HOA President:



I hope everyone is enjoying the cooler temperatures as much as I am and don't forget to complete all of your fall landscaping chores before the really cooler weather gets here and it's too late.

Over the last few months, I seem to have been getting quite an increase in emails regarding how to deal with violations that may occur in the community at any given time. Most start out with, "I am not sure who I report this violation to but....." For those of you who read our newsletter and my notes I am sure this will come to no surprise, but violations should be submitted to our management Company, Henderson Properties. Since they rightfully require that all violation related inquiries or submissions be done in writing, they should be sent to: hoa@hendersonproperties.com. In the email, please give the Association name (Villages of Leacroft), and the address of the violation as well. Further, be as descriptive as possible and try at all costs to avoid "embellishment" and just be as accurate as possible. Also, if you are able, please send a picture of the violation along with the email as this "evidence" can be used to assist the Board and Henderson in dealing with the issue. Finally, submissions that are made "anonymously" cannot be acted upon so please be sure to give your name in the complaint. I know there may be some reservations on this but it is simply something that is not appropriate. Please understand, the Board and Henderson will do all we can to keep the submitters' name out of the issue, but in the event that the violation is challenged we may need to contact you for some further clarification or your assistance in the matter.

Also, I would like to address the issue of our Facebook® page. I, like a number of homeowners do indeed monitor the page and I do find it useful in some instances as I am sure that you do as well. One thing that continues to be on the page is information or conversations that may be deemed as "negative" to some or most and I urge everyone to understand that this is at best a "quasi-public" forum and it is possible that potential buyers may see and use in making their choice to purchase a home in our neighborhood or not.

As an example, a number of weeks ago a thread was started regarding someone in the neighborhood that was in the process of putting a number of items out in front of their home in the grass and in the driveway. It only took a matter of minutes for a number of other individuals to start an ever increasing negative comments regarding the issue. After about 10 or so comments, it was finally learned that the homeowner was having a garage sale that day. This can be a problem if say I were to be possibly looking to buy a home here and came across that thread as I may be inclined to think that my potential neighbors are a bit persnickety, reactive, and nosy, etc. and thus choose a home in another neighborhood.

October 15, 2014

Again, I am not asking people to avoid using the page, I just encourage all to keep the information on that site as positive as possible and unless there is an immediate risk to personal safety or property, send the negative items to the management company as indicated above. I feel doing so is indeed in the best interest of all. As a final point, neither the Board nor the management company will use comments on the page to initiate any sort of violations compliance procedure.

As a reminder from last month remember that our Annual meeting will be in mid/late November (most likely the evening of November 20) and we will be voting on Board members for 2 expiring terms. At least one of the current members with an expiring term has expressed interest in remaining on for another term but we are uncertain about the other Board position at this time

Board members (and all other volunteers) play a crucial role in the continued success of our neighborhood and without those volunteers many of our services and activities would surely be negatively impacted. Therefore, I ask everyone in the community to consider some level of service to the community to keep our success going and to make your personal mark on the community. Thank you to all have served, have indicated your continuing service and we all would welcome some additional help in many areas, even if it is just for one "special project". So please mark your calendar for that evening and the official notices will be going out to everyone in late October with all the details.

Enjoy the cooler temperatures and until next time, stay safe.

Sincerely - Paul A. Greiner, CMCA, AMS, PCAM

Message from the HOA Vice President:

I will have you something for November for sure.. I am feeling much better and hope I will continue to improved.

Bob

We managed to complete all the anticipated work at the common area in two hours this morning (September 27). Many thanks to the volunteers (Stan, Brian, Diane, Len, David) for the contributions to a job well done.

Regards,

Joseph Mercier

Chair, Common Area Committee
Villages of Leacroft HOA

Gardening with Deb

Deb was unable to write a column this month. This is a rerun of a column that she wrote this time last year. Hope you enjoy it again. ed



As of my September column the was rabbits 1 Deb 0. Those darn Wabbits

Ate everything. Everything but the carrots anyway. It's a myth rabbits don't really eat carrots. They didn't eat a single one. And my carrots are beautiful this year. Along with our main dish Stan and I had carrots for dinner last night. I pulled them up from the ground, washed them real good, cut them in coin slices and put

them in a Pyrex dish that had some water in the bottom. Drizzled them with some honey and some brown sugar, and then microwave them for about 4 minutes. Wow!! Once you taste fresh carrots you will never buy canned carrots again. (you can microwave them more or less depending on your preference and your microwave. Eat your heart out rabbits.

Okay; now back to the rabbit problem. Obviously the best prevention is rabbit proof fencing. We have some on the roll outside, but we just never got around to putting it around the garden, so I went to the garden center and bought some all natural deer/rabbit repellent. Trouble is it smelled so bad that it kept me away from the garden. Stan described it as bodily fluid from a mountain lion. I don't even know how he would know

What mountain lions urine smells like? While my dog enjoyed the smell I wasn't too happy, especially when it wouldn't come off my hands. Must be a better solution I thought. Next try was cayenne pepper around the plants. Trouble with that was that I spilled some on the leaves of a plant and it died. I guess it was too hot for the lettuce. Third try, liquid hot pepper sauce, which I poured around the perimeter of the garden. I think this one really works. I've seen rabbits around but they don't seem to venture too close to the garden; so between all three of methods I think I've solved the rabbit problem. I've since planted my fall garden again with spinach, kale, carrots, lettuce, romaine, Brussels sprouts, squash and 2nd harvest tomatoes and it is thriving.

I would like to add that my dog hasn't been feeling well lately; her arthritis has been acting up so I started her on glucosimine/condroitin and yesterday when we were outside, she saw a rabbit and chased it. Not that she'll ever catch them again, but I'm sure her bark still scares them.

So in conclusion I really can't tell you what worked or didn't work, but between all these things the score this month is Deb 1 rabbits 0.

!!

PS As an added fun fact this month: Beatrix Potter (of the Peter Rabbit stories) used to catch rabbits and put them in a pot to boil, not being malicious or crazy, she did it for scientific reasons. She just wanted to see how their bones were structured. And no I'm not serving rabbit stew for Thanksgiving.

Anyway; here's to green thumbs and Happy Gardening!!
See y'all next month.

Travel



Connie and I went to Gatlinburg TN a couple of weeks ago. This was the first time we had been there in about 17 years.

Lesson 1 for the trip. Don't always trust your GPS. In the olden days, we would go to AAA, get a map and trace out a good route to our destination. Not now,! We get in the car head west and enter the address in our GPS and hope for the best. Even though the GPS offers different options, we took the default option. Things went fine until we got to I40. As we entered Tennessee, we were told to exit the interstate and get on a state highway. GPS is always right so we followed the instructions as if we were lemmings. Soon the state highway became very narrow. Keep going said the GPS. Soon the pavement ended and we were on a gravel road. We knew that we must be lost but we kept following the GPS through tight curves on a very narrow road. For several minutes (15-20), we never saw another car, house or anything that gave us hope. After a very long time, we saw pavement. The GPS said continue. Soon we saw buildings. We were saved. The GPS took us to our hotel. We got a paper map and planned out trip home the old fashioned way. It was not as interesting but it did help save our marriage.

Lesson 2 Towns may change in 17 years. The last time we were in Gatlinburg, it was a sleepy little town on the way to Pigeon Forge and Dollywood. Not anymore. It is a big tourist destination for a lot of people. One of the new things is moonshine stills in the middle of town. It is legal. A winery has wine tasting and a still has free moonshine tasting. Moonshine comes in several flavors and they sell a lot of mason jars filled with country liquor.

Paula Deen has a store here, lots of fudge stores, most chain restaurant and even a Melting Pot.

We had a great time there. As a friend said, the Gatlinburg area is becoming the Myrtle Beach of the mountains.

From **Richard Meier**; Leacroft resident

I am in the play, "Our Town" It opens on Oct 17th at the Matthews Playhouse <http://www.matthewsplayhouse.com/index.php/productions.html>

Also

The film I am in, "When Tables Turn" has been selected into the Urban Media Makers film festival in Atlanta and will be screening Oct. 17th. Here is a link to the film. <http://vimeo.com/108115379> password-WhenTablesTurn.

Hint: When you click on the link, you will get what looks like an error message. Just click on Follow Link and enter the password above.

Leacroft HOA Links	
HOA forms and documents (ARC forms, bylaws, covenants)	http://www.leacroft.org/?page_id=93
Leacroft Contacts (Board members, committee chairs etc)	http://www.leacroft.org/?page_id=89
Leacroft List (List of service providers recommended by Leacroft residents)	http://www.leacroft.org/?page_id=1311
Villager Archives	http://www.leacroft.org/?page_id=123
CMPD Newsletter Archives	http://www.leacroft.org/?page_id=965



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