

# VILLAGER

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*Villages of Leacroft*

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Each month, I try to put a cover story in the Villager about a significant event that occurred that month. Every year, the December issue has been about Christmas. There have been articles about when we started celebrating

Christmas, where did the Christmas Tree come from, what about Santa Claus, and of course, the real Christmas story.

This year I thought I would do something different. Judaism, is also celebrating a event in December, Hanukkah. I did not know much about Hanukkah until I started research for this article. It is a very interesting story and I hope you enjoy it.

Hanukkah (sometimes transliterated Chanukkah) is a Jewish holiday celebrated for eight days and nights. It starts on the 25th of the Jewish month of Kislev, which coincides with late November-late December on the secular calendar. This year, Hanukkah begins on December 16.

In Hebrew, the word "hanukkah" means "dedication." The name reminds us that this holiday commemorates the re-dedication of the holy Temple in Jerusalem following the Jewish victory over the Syrian-Greeks in 165 B.C.E. This story is described in the books of the Maccabees in the Jewish and Catholic bibles. It is not in the Protestant bible.

### **The Hanukkah Story**

In 168 B.C.E. the Jewish Temple was seized by Syrian-Greek soldiers and dedicated to the worship of the god Zeus. This upset the Jewish people, but many were afraid to fight back for fear of reprisals. Then in 167 B.C.E. the Syrian-Greek emperor Antiochus made the observance of Judaism an offense punishable by death. He also ordered all Jews to worship Greek gods.

Jewish resistance began in the village of Modiin, near Jerusalem. Greek soldiers forcibly gathered the Jewish villages and told them to bow down to an idol, then eat the flesh of a pig – both practices that are forbidden to Jews. A Greek officer ordered Mattathias, a High Priest, to acquiesce to their demands, but Mattathias refused. When another villager stepped forward and offered to cooperate on Mattathias' behalf, the High Priest became outraged. He drew his sword and killed the villager, then turned on the Greek officer and killed him too. His five sons and the other villagers then attacked the remaining soldiers, killing all of them.

Mattathias and his family went into hiding in the mountains, where other Jews wishing to fight against the Greeks joined them. Eventually they succeeded in retaking their land from the Greeks. These rebels became known as the Maccabees, or Hasmoneans.

Once the Maccabees had regained control they returned to the Temple in Jerusalem. By this time it had been spiritually defiled by being used for the worship of foreign gods and also by practices such as sacrificing swine. Jewish troops were determined to purify the Temple by burning ritual oil in the Temple's menorah for eight days. But to their dismay, they discovered that there was only

one day's worth of oil left in the Temple. They lit the menorah anyway and to their surprise the small amount of oil lasted the full eight days.

This is the miracle of the Hanukkah oil that is celebrated every year when Jews light a special menorah known as a hanukkiyah for eight days. One candle is lit on the first night of Hanukkah, two on the second, and so on, until eight candles are lit.

### **Significance of Hanukkah**

According to Jewish law, Hanukkah is one of the less important Jewish holidays. However, Hanukkah has become much more popular in modern practice because of its proximity to Christmas.

Hanukkah falls on the twenty-fifth day of the Jewish month of Kislev. Since the Jewish calendar is lunar based, every year the first day of Hanukkah falls on a different day – usually sometime between late November and late December. Because many Jews live in predominately Christian societies, over time Hanukkah has become much more festive and Christmas-like. Jewish children receive gifts for Hanukkah – often one gift for each of the eight nights of the holiday. Many parents hope that by making Hanukkah extra special their children won't feel left out of all the Christmas festivities going on around them.

### **Hanukkah Traditions**

Every community has its unique Hanukkah traditions, but there are some traditions that are almost universally practiced. They are: lighting the [hanukkiyah](#), spinning the [dreidel](#) and [eating fried foods](#).

- **Lighting the hanukkiyah:** Every year it is customary to commemorate the miracle of the Hanukkah oil by lighting candles on a hanukkiyah. The hanukkiyah is lit every night for eight nights.
- **Spinning the dreidel:** A popular Hanukkah game is spinning the dreidel, which is a four-sided top with Hebrew letters written on each side. Read [The Hanukkah Dreidel](#) to learn more about the dreidel, the meaning of the letters and how to play the game. Gelt, which are chocolate coins covered with tin foil, are part of this game.
- **Eating fried foods:** Because Hanukkah celebrates the miracle of oil, it is traditional to eat fried foods such as latkes and sufganiyot during the holiday. Latkes are pancakes made out of potatoes and onions, which are fried in oil and then served with applesauce. Sufganiyot (singular: sufganiyah) are jelly-filled donuts that are fried and sometimes dusted with confectioners' sugar before eating.

Happy Hanukkah to all of our Jewish friends and neighbors and Merry Christmas to all of our Christian friends and neighbors.

Earlier this month, I received two e-mails from Deb Peters. They were both sent to the HOA board and Deb asked that I publish them in the Villager. Paul Greiner, the president on the HOA, responded to the issues discussed in Deb's letters in his monthly Message.. Deb's letters follow immediately after Paul's message.

### Message from HOA President



It's hard to believe that 2014 is just weeks away from being put into the history books. It has been a very active, productive and enjoyable year for me, the entire group of volunteers of Leacroft and I hope it has been the same for all of our neighbors. In just a week or two, depending on when this newsletter gets posted it will be Christmas time and I do hope all are able to enjoy the holiday and all the family time

that hopefully goes with it. Merry Christmas to all as the story goes.

#### Results of the Annual meeting:

The annual meeting of the Association took place on November 20, 2014 in the upstairs conference room of Bass Pro Shops at Concord Mills mall. While a quorum was not originally met, we were able to acquire sufficient proxies in order to hold the meeting.

The 2015 budget was ratified as presented and the annual assessment bills from Henderson Properties should have arrived by now as I received mine on December 2, 2014. If you have not received yours by the time you read this, please contact them as soon as possible. Please note, the entire assessment of \$495.00 is due by January 10, 2015 as indicated in our governing documents. If you need to have

a formal payment plan to pay equal installments in January, February, March and April, please contact Henderson Properties and their staff will be able to assist you.

The two Board members with expiring terms were re-elected at the meeting and we look forward to working with Bob Matthews and Bob Clifford for the next two years. Thank you both for your offer of continued service.

On a completely different note, several weeks ago, and then again on December 2, 2014, Deb Peters presented a total of two letters to me, which I forwarded to the Board for our discussion at our December Board meeting. As the first letter hit my inbox just before I was leaving for a trip, and soon after that we were in the middle of the Annual meeting, and then the holidays, we were not able to respond to the letter as timely as we planned to. Further, due to holiday schedules it is unlikely the Board will meet formally in mid/late December and we will handle the few things we need to at our regular meeting in January 2015.

We know that at least some portions of the letters or at least the topics included in them have been the source of some conversations among a number of homeowners. The Board met the first Saturday of December to go over the letters as a group. When I started this response, we had not anticipated publishing the letters were were provided with so I tried to summarize the points, and give a response. After our meeting it was determined that in the interest of full disclosure that we would indeed publish those letters at Deb Peters request. Thus, if any of the below communication seems duplicative or even choppy, that is why and I apologize in advance. The full copy of both letters are at the end of this communication

As indicated in those letters, many homeowners do not go to the website to read documents or other information, and do not read the monthly newsletter that is delivered to all that request it on a monthly basis. Thus, it was decided that not only would this information appear in the newsletter, but we would also mail this to all owners. Thus, if you receive the newsletter you will also get a copy via USPS. This mailing is a "one time event" to keep our administrative expenses to a minimum.

Issue:

The overall message presented to us in the letters generally revolves around the availability and/or the perceived approachability of the Board members both individually and as a group. As there are many "subsets" of this message I have tried to break them up for ease of readability as well as to provide some perspective of the Board as a response of sorts. The letters also go on to make suggestions to solve this issues including, a) the assignment of "block captains" as was done on some level in the past or asking existing Board members to be those block captains and thus be

more visible and available to the members by “walking their block, passing out contact information, attending more social functions, etc.

Response:

First, I will mention that we have a management company that we pay each month to be the primary source of information, primary contact for concerns, questions/ answers as well as many other items. There are few if any items that our management company cannot attend to and those items they cannot handle, or are not contracted to do so, they remit to the Board for either action, decision, or other outcome. Their contact information is:

Henderson Properties  
919 Norland Road  
Charlotte NC 28205  
Phone: 704-535-1122  
Fax: 704-569-9669  
Website: [www.hendersonproperties.com](http://www.hendersonproperties.com)  
Email: [HOA@hendersonproperties.com](mailto:HOA@hendersonproperties.com)

All Board members have their name and preferred contact information posted on the website under the page “Association Contact Info”. A link to this information is also provided in each newsletter which any member of the Association can get each month in their email inbox by simply emailing [leacroftvillager@gmail.com](mailto:leacroftvillager@gmail.com) All Board members do check their email regularly and I know that many Board members also regularly field phone calls and in person interactions from/with members regarding any number of questions, concerns, etc. In speaking for myself, I have never neglected to return a phone call or email from any member of the Association and even have members knock on my door occasionally which I am happy to answer provided I am home of course. In speaking with the other Board members they also do the same thing regularly. Bob Matthews in particular spends quite a bit of time sitting in his garage “watching the world go by” and speaks to many members of the community which I know they appreciate. If not for work responsibilities you would likely find me doing the same thing with him as I enjoy my conversations with Bob greatly. However, I and other Board members, must be able to put their family, careers, or even their personal commitments at times first with Association business a very close second as it is important to remember Board member responsibility (as well as any other position in the Association) is a volunteer “job” for which we all receive (and expect) no financial consideration for. We do it because we care and it allows us to assist the 280 neighbors we all live next to. We do so graciously and without expectation of anything further other than the occasional “Thank you” and consideration for our families, careers, or personal commitments.

I would also like to note again, it was conveyed more than once that few, if any of the concerned group ever read the newsletter, never go to the website and did not make it to the most recent annual meeting. As Board members must execute the responsibility we have to handle the affairs of the Association and keep the members informed of those actions, we feel it is not too much to ask that homeowners also accept the responsibility to read the information provided, or proactively reach out to the management company, website, newsletter or Board members in the event of a question, concern etc.

To address the proposed option of Block Captains and the proposed utilization of additional volunteers to accomplish this method of increased availability/ approachability. While I agree, this sounds like a reasonable solution and I would personally support it given one condition. We must have the volunteers to properly execute consistently. In the last year, two things stick out to me as relevant to this issue/topic.

1) I was asked by a homeowner to investigate updating the ARC guidelines as they were originally drafted (by the developer) back in 1996 and thus, do not provide for certain options that are now readily available and useful that were not common in 1996. As I have significant experience in this type of project, I know how time consuming it can be and agreed to head up the project provided that at least 4 other members volunteer to assist. After both public requests, I received a total of 2 responses and when it came down to the first scheduled meeting of the group, none of them showed up.

2) Also this year and more than once in fact, Jessica Moore who is our Social/Events Chairperson has issued pleadings via the website, our Facebook page and other avenues for assistance in the planning and execution of the events that so many people in the community truly enjoy. More often than not, she receives 3-5 volunteers at best.

The point of the immediately above is that there are many, many opportunities for everyone in Leacroft to be involved with the community at large and directly with the Board and other volunteers but if we cannot get a small group to commit to very short term commitments how can we get volunteers to agree to assist with more demanding and longer term projects/committees such as Block Captains? I would note that the reason the Block Captain project was dissolved about 2 years ago was due to this issue.... A lack of volunteers.

In the second letter Deb submitted as her own “response” to the Board on December 2, 2014 she brings up additional information, points, etc. for the Board to consider.

Issue:

First, it is stated that “The only Board member who actually listens to homeowners and actually passes on their concerns is Bob Matthews. Bob sits out in his garage almost every night and listens to what people have to say and directs them to the people that can help take care of their concerns”.

Response:

I will take a slight personal issue with the above quote as I perform the duties of, President, Assistant Treasurer, ARC chairman, Assistant Web updater and in all but the last “Volunteer day” I have worked very hard, at every volunteer day, clearing the wooded area behind and to the north and south of the pool. Further, each of the other 4 Board members listens to each and every homeowner concern that is ever brought to our attention. I have personally fielded calls and conversations while at work, at home and even on vacation dealing with, parking concerns, neighbor disputes, and animals on the loose to name just a few. To insinuate (or actually say) that the other 4 Board members do not listen or assist is a bit too much for me. Bob Matthews is retired and is fortunate enough to be able to sit in his garage and by talking to him, it’s something he enjoys doing. As I mentioned before, most other Board members have daytime jobs and for me personally that means leaving by 7:15AM and not getting home until well after 9:00PM 3-5 days a week for about 10 months of the year. Thus, my time is more booked up than some and although I would like to retire, I’m still a bit young for that and have not paid off the house just yet.

Further, at the end of each Annual meeting the end of the presentation has always (at least for the last 6 years) included a Q&A opportunity for members to ask any question, or express any concern they have. My memory is foggy from prior to 2013 but at the 2013 meeting there were only 3 questions/concerns expressed. All of those were handled within a few weeks of that meeting. At the end of the most recent 2014 Annual meeting there were 2 public items expressed and one was brought directly to me. The 2 public questions/concerns were, “How do our Assessments compare to similar communities in the area?” and “Why was there a transfer fee included on my HUD statement when I bought my home back in May?” Both questions were answered and the issue brought to me personally was regarding the ARC process which I covered with that individual.

Additionally, the Board meets virtually every month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:30PM until around 7:30 or 8:00PM. Most of the meetings are held in my

office conference room as I donate that to the community versus us having to pay for meeting space somewhere else. The reason we have a dedicated space that is larger than most living rooms is that each and every meeting is open to homeowners. Always has been, always will be and thus, we need to have sufficient room to accommodate anyone that may attend. We only ask that if you plan on attending you let us know in advance so we can confirm there is a meeting taking place (we do end up canceling one or two meetings each year at the last minute due to schedules) give you the location address, and to set aside time on the agenda for you. That said, we would never turn anyone away if they “just showed up”. In my 3 years so far on this Board I do not recall more than one or two people ever requesting to attend or actually voluntarily showing up at any of the last 30 or so Board meetings.

Issue:

Budget & Police Protection was another item brought up in the Dec. 2 letter by indicating; “We all understand budget concerns and cuts but why was something as important as “police protections” cut out?”

Response:

To be clear this was not “cut out”, it simply has not been a budget item going back to at least 2010. Our community is part of the City of Charlotte and thus, police protection is the responsibility of the CMPD who is paid in part by our property taxes each year. I have reviewed each budget going back to 2010 and there has never been a line item for “police protection”, or any similar category. Per the direct response from every CMPD officer I have ever spoken to or had at any annual meeting, “if you have a security concern, please dial 911 as that is the most appropriate and efficient way to handle any suspicious dangerous situation.”

Issue:

Letters (Violation letters) from our management company is another item brought up in 3 parts.

“We (the homeowners) are constantly receiving letters. One homeowner wanted to know why he got a letter about is mailbox needing painting and yet the paint on the fence up at the pool is peeling? I can understand his being upset.” And further....“ A letter about a garbage can not being brought in, in a timely manner..... Really? “It was brought in when the person got home from work. Did you want him to come home on his lunch hour to wheel it in?”

Response:

Each homeowner wants his home to appreciate in value. Each home is part of the community and the value of your home is directly affected by the appearance of the

whole community. To keep values up, each home/lot must be kept to some standard. The standards we use are in the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CCR's), the ARC guidelines and adopted Rules and Regulations (all collectively referred to as "Governing Documents"). Each homeowner agreed to abide by these guidelines when they purchased their home as the CCR's are indicated on the Deed. If anyone does not have a copy, they are all on our website and can be downloaded by clicking on the "HOA Documents" link at the top of the home page. We hire a management company that has the responsibility (among others) to assure that each homeowner does abide by the governing documents. Each letter that is sent out is directly tied to some violation of the governing documents. Virtually all of the violations have to do with the appearance of the home or lawn (including mailboxes and trashcans).

Specifically to trash cans, our trash day is Friday of each week, the property manager knows this and thus they do not drive through Leacroft on Friday. Thus, any trash can letter would result from either; a trash can being put out early on Thursday (should not be till Thursday evening) or, a trash can that is still out in front Monday or Tuesday from the previous Friday pickup. I know this seems petty if only one or two people leave their trash cans out for extended periods, but imagine what Leacroft would look like if all 280 of us left our trash cans at the end of the driveway all of the time.

In any event, each homeowner should take the responsibility to maintain their home/lot and when a violation is pointed out to them, the most responsible thing to do is;

1. Fix the violation and move on. For example, if you have weeds growing in your driveway, pull them out, spray them with Roundup or any other means to get rid of them, or;
2. If you have a valid reason for growing weeds in your driveway, contact the management company and explain the reason for you weed garden.

A less responsible thing to do is;

1. Ignore the letter and do nothing and then;
2. Complain to anyone that will listen about how unfair the letters are and that you are being picked on and/or;
3. Complain to anyone that will listen that you may have weeds in your driveway but they are not as bad as the ones down the street.

A representative of the management company drives thru the neighborhood periodically and notes violations. He does not wait to see if you will move your trashcan when you return home from work or if you will remove the weeds from your driveway this weekend. The violation is a snapshot at the time the inspection took place, not at any point in the future.

As to the fact that there may be some peeling paint on any portion of the over 300 feet of fence at the pool, we thank you for pointing that out and we will investigate and address it. In fact, Pool fencing is a line item in the reserve study that we take great care to follow and this is a scheduled item but for 2016 per the engineers who completed the reserve study. However, we will address it in 2015. This is a great example as to the purpose of the letters which is to point out, or remind you of something that needs to be done. Now that we are aware of it, we will address it which is all the letters are asking homeowners to do.

Here is my personal example of violation letter I received back in 2008 shortly after moving in. We purchased our home in September 2008 and since we lived in a Condo prior to Leacroft, I had no lawn equipment. I was working with a landscaping company to get a maintenance contract drawn up but with the move, job, life, it took longer to get done than anticipated. By late October 2008 the grass had not been cut in 3-4 weeks and thus, I got my first violation letter even before my “welcome to the community” letter from the management company back then. Rather than raise the issue that I just moved in, this is “rude” and there are worse homes in the neighborhood (and some of the common areas at the time to boot), I called one of the local small landscaping firms and paid a bit extra to have the lawn cut, edged and blown off that week with no contract. All done, no muss, no fuss and I am now known in certain circles as a bit of a landscaping “nut”.

Earlier this year Len Tucker wrote an article in the Villager, that no one reads, that said, “No one wants to get involved but everyone wants to reserve the rights to complain about the way things are done.” Still true!

As a final thought, please consider the following. We have 9 or so individuals that are either on the Board or on standing committees that do function well. Each month, we all spend conservatively, on average, at least 7 hours of our time per month on volunteering for the Association in some capacity. I know I spent over 20 hours on HOA business in November and December is quickly approaching that number. If we add that up (9 people, 7 hour per month, 12 months) = 756 hours of volunteer time given in a year. Conversely, if just one owner of each of the 280 homes in Leacroft were to give half that much time each month you would get  $(280 \times 3.5 \times 12) = 11,760$  hours per year. Imagine what we could do with that many resources. Finally, consider again that the Board and all volunteers in Leacroft do what we do because we love the neighborhood, and that we are all dues paying members of the association just like anyone else.

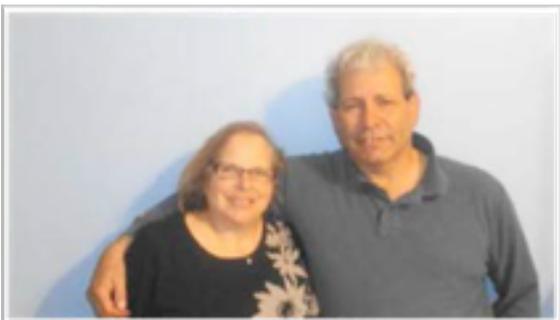
Monday, December 15, 2014

In closing, I would also like to say that nothing contained in this letter should be construed as mean, hateful, angry or in any other negative fashion. Writings (especially mine) tend to be rather dry and without the tone and body language of conversation. So please do not take this communication for anything more than it is intended which is to lay out a few issues and concerns and present facts, examples and in some cases a bigger picture.

Till next time, stay safe, and I truly hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and Happy new year!

Paul A. Greiner, CMCA, AMS, PCAM  
President - Village of Leacroft  
On behalf of the Board of Directors

### Gardening with Deb Peters



In lieu of writing a December gardening column I have asked Len to print a letter to the HOA Board that I wrote to Paul and the HOA on November 12,2014. Here is that letter: \_\_\_\_\_

November 12,2014

*Dear Paul:*

*Although I am not a board member (my own decision) I felt that the HOA board Of directors might benefit what I had to say.*

*I am a very visible person in our community. People know me from walking my dog, swimming laps, looking for rides, picking up garbage with Stan, along with many other things. While engaging in these and other activities I am constantly engaging in conversations with other community members. The number one question I am asked during these conversations is “ \_\_\_\_\_ ? Who can I talk to about this? Or can you mention it to the board”.*

*Although the list of board members, along with their contact information is on both our website and in our monthly newsletter, many of the people I speak to don't know who they are physically or feel that they are either unapproachable or unreachable. I understand this and my own personal feeling is that they are neither, however they need to be more visible, more in touch with their constituents (homeowners). If a homeowner has a problem with whatever, they need to be able to know whom they can talk to about it.*

*There are 2 ways that this can be accomplished.*

- 1. Block captains—not the best way, since this would just add another level of people of “go betweens” between the homeowners and the board. That's what we have a board for isn't it?*
- 2. My second suggestion is a bit more complicated. Why don't we make our board members more visible and available to the community needs. I know some board members will see this as just another burden to their already overtaxed, under-appreciated workload—but if you look at the “big picture” this might be a simple solution.*

*Divide the Villages of Lea croft into sections. This has already been done in the past. (I think we had either 11 or 12 sections). Maps should be in the archives of the Villager. Have each board member be the “go between” (liaison) for one or two sections. The board members could walk around their “districts”, introduce themselves, and pass out contact information. (a good after dinner activity several times a year). Be visible, talk to people, socialize, and see what makes the homeowners happy or not so happy. Eventually closing the gap between the homeowners and the board*

*Paul:*

*In the last several years we have seen changes in the Villages of Leacroft— Kids growing up, families moving away, new people moving in etc. which is fine. It's expected. What we as community just needs is to embrace change and to readjust our way of thinking and dealing with whatever problems arise.*

*These are just my thoughts; (my two cents) you can do whatever you like with them— pass them along, discuss them, circular file them, or do nothing.*

*But remember: The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over And expecting a different result (Albert Einstein)*

Monday, December 15, 2014

*Good luck at the HOA meeting this month. I won't be there since I am going in for surgery the day before.*

*Have a healthy, happy holiday.*

*Deb Peters*

.....

Now I have written another letter. A letter in response to my original letter, and I hope that Len will be kind enough to print this one also.....

12/01/2014

The other night I was sitting around a fire (heater) in my neighbor's garage. The topic of the HOA meeting came up. There were 11 people present representing 5 homes. From what I understand this was more people than were at the HOA meeting. I asked why? Why didn't people go to the HOA meeting? There were many different excuses, ranging from prior commitments, to the time of day, lack of babysitters etc. A few people told me that they were still on the road driving home from work.

The one person who did attend reiterated to the rest of us what went on at the meeting. Now I'm not going to dwell on whom, how, what or why people weren't there (myself included), but I am going to offer some ideas that may (or may not) work based on our little impromptu meeting and my walking around the neighborhood. (See previous letter).

First you need to read my previous letter to the board. I won't repeat the information that I wrote, however, I will say if there was a board member at our little garage party this person might have had a better insight to what the homeowners are feeling.

The only board member who actually listens to homeowners and actually passes on their concerns is Bob Matthews. Bob sits out in his garage almost every night and listens to what people have to say, and directs them to the people that can help take care of their concerns. Right now homeowners are feeling that their opinions don't count, and that their voices aren't even being heard. Even at previous HOA meetings when there were a good number of homeowners in attendance they really did not have a chance to speak their minds.

Listed below are some of the concerns that homeowners have expressed to me on my walks.

1. We all understand budget concerns and cuts but why was something as important as "police protection" cut out? Given the crime, vandalism, and harassment (last summer of

the lifeguards when they finished working) going on in our neighborhood this should be the number one item to keep.

2. Letters from our management company. We (the homeowners) are constantly receiving letters. One homeowner wanted to know why he got a letter about his mailbox needing painting and yet the paint on the fence up at the pool is peeling?  
I can understand his being upset.
3. A letter about a garbage can not being brought in in a timely manner..... Really??
4. It was brought in when the person got home from work. Did you want him to come home on his lunch hour to wheel it in?

The list goes on. These are just some of the things that the homeowners are annoyed over. One of the solutions should be that you can tell a board member and he/she should be able to help correct the situation. Obviously this doesn't work since most homeowners don't know who the board members are and who does what. Obviously just printing them in the Villager each month is not working. The majority of homeowners I spoke to don't even read the newsletter online.

**Something needs to be done to bridge this gap between homeowners and board members.** Voices need to be heard. Our community is falling apart and needs to be brought back together. I may have just opened a can of worms—but as the lion says:  
That's just my two cents

**Deb Peters**

(Gardening 101 will return in January when the holidays are over). Here's wishing a healthy, happy one to all.

### [Message from HOA Vice President](#)

Robert Mathews will have a message for us next month. Merry Christmas.

WATCH YOUR WALLET And for sure  
I WATCHED MY WALLET

Bob Matthews

## Travel

Here is my Christmas story.

I am sure that you are all familiar with Operation Christmas Child where we fill shoeboxes with little gifts and the Samaritan Purse organization distributes them to needy children around the world. These children would probably not get any thing for Christmas unless the shoeboxes were delivered.

Here is a twist on that story that you may not have heard. A couple of months ago, Connie, I and a group from our church went on a mission trip to Monterrey Mexico. While there, we worked at a children's home called Casa Del Norte. About 30 children live here. Some are orphans and some are children whose parents can not adequately care for them. The children are well cared for, have three meals a day, a safe place to sleep, clean clothes, go to school and have tutoring help with their home work. However they do not have any personal possessions. Not even the shirt on their back. Their clothes come from a community closet.

While we were there, a lot of items, similar to items in a Operation Christmas Child shoebox, were donated to the home. The children decorated old shoe boxes, filled the boxes with gifts, prayed over the box and sent them all to Operation Christmas Child. They wanted to give to those less fortunate than themselves.

Think about them this Christmas.



## Classified Ads

These ads are free for Leacraft residents under 19 years old	
<b>Babysitting</b>	<b>Lawn Care</b>
Sarah Moore is available for babysitting or pet sitting. She is Red Cross-certified for babysitting. Sarah can be reached at 980-225-7733.	John Caffrey 704-307-0465 rake leaves, lawn mowing, pet setting
Jillian Manning is available for babysitting or pet sitting. She is Red Cross-certified for babysitting. She can be reached at 704-510-9296.	Tyler and Carson Moore Fall leaf removal 704-607-1818 Call or text
Rachel Caffrey Red Cross certified in CPR and First Aid 704-307-0465	
<b>Pet Sitting</b>	
Rachel Caffrey Pet setting 704-307-0465	Brittany Moore - Pet Care in our home or yours text or e-mail <a href="mailto:sweetiepierose99@gmail.com">sweetiepierose99@gmail.com</a> or Call 704-607-1818
Caroline Faler Pet Setting age 14 (704)510-0052	

### Homeowners Annual dues

Some questions have come up on paying of homeowners dues I hope this helps

Payments can be all at once, 4 pymts (Jan, Feb, Mar, April) or some other combination provided all assessments are paid by the end of April.

To arrange, please contact Henderson Properties at:

Henderson Properties  
919 Norland Road  
Charlotte NC 28205  
Phone: 704-535-1122  
Fax: 704-569-9669

Website: [www.hendersonproperties.com](http://www.hendersonproperties.com)

Email: [HOA@hendersonproperties.com](mailto:HOA@hendersonproperties.com)

Letter from Diana Mosley

Speeding is against the law anytime, day or night. I witnesses a motorist speeding last night in the community @ 8:15 pm

Some of the streets are not well lit, but the motorists are still responsible to be safe drivers for the welfare of the residents.

Letter from David Goldstein

Len

Will you please remind people there is no cut through from the end of Worsley to the end of Old Bridge. It is private property and there are dangers that can cause harm especially after dark.

Thanks

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



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