

VILLAGER

Villages of Leacroft



Why is New Year's Day on January 1?

I can almost hear a collective sigh 'Duh...Just look at a calendar. January is the first month and the 1st is the first day thus New Year's day'. If I were smart, I would have left it there and saved myself a few hours on Goggle searches.

My query started a few day before Christmas when the TV weatherman was explaining that today is the first day of winter, the winter solaces. I remembered from

high school science that the summer and winter solaces were related to the earth's path around the sun. It took a little over 365 days for the earth to complete the orbit. This fact has been known to man for thousands of years. Archeologists have found evidence that ancient civilizations had calendars based on the 365 day years. So why doesn't New Year's day fall on the beginning of summer, the longest day of the year (shortest night) or on the beginning of winter, the shortest day of the year. Why on some seemingly arbitrary date a week or so after the winter solaces?

As they say, it is complicated. As I mentioned before, many ancient civilizations had their calendars based on the solar cycle. Over time the length of the year was determined to be close to 365.25 days. To keep everything going on schedule, that is, keep the winter and summer solaces near the same date every year, leap year was introduced to make up for the extra 1/4 days. To make it even more complicated, the people that studied the orbits around the sun also studied the phases of the moon, new moon to full moon back to new moon. They calculated that the moon (lunar) cycles were about 29.5 days. Now if you want to call the solar cycle a year and the lunar cycle a month, how many months are in a year. I am not too good at math but I don't think 29.5 will divide evenly into 365.25. This was part of the problem.

Another problem, at that time, was each civilization, Jewish, Chinese, Greek etc, had their own starting and ending days for the year. Therefore, even though the calendars were similar, there was no universal calendar. Some calendars, like the Jewish calendar relied more on the lunar cycles and instead of leap years, they periodically added another month.

These different calendars gave Julius Caesar serious issues in 44 BCE. He had conquered most of the known world but he needed a common calendar in order to effectively communicate with his far reaching empire. After a few iterations, someone got the idea that if we counted a month as 30 days and a year as 365 days, it would be close to 12 months in a year...just 5 days left over. All we had to do was add a day to five of the months and we had a good calendar that we could live with, seven months with 30 days and five months with 31 days and a leap year every 4 years. Several years later, someone got the great idea that two of the months should be named for Julius (July) and Augustus (August) Caesar and of course they both must have 31 days. To accomplish this, two days were taken from February. Now the calendar was complete and included leap year. This was known as the Julian calendar. This calendar was in use through most of Europe until about 1582. It is still used in some countries!

Gregory XIII was Pope in 1582. Some of his advisors told him that there was a small error in the Julian calendar. Instead of a year being 365.25 days, it was actually just a little over 365.24 days. Big deal, right! What it meant was that every 400 years, three extra days were added to the calendar. By 1582, that added up to 10 extra

days. What was Gregory to do? Simple, he just subtracted 10 days from the current year. It would be like today is January 15 and tomorrow is January 25. You can imagine how that would upset a lot of people. But Gregory was Pope and his word was law in the Catholic world and then new Gregorian calendar was immediately implemented. Not so in the rest of Europe. Britain and the American colonies did not accept the new calendar until 1752. By the way, they still had to deal with that little problem of three extra days every 400 years. The solution was to have a leap year every 4 years except on the century year. That is 1700, 1800, 1900 etc would not be a leap year. But when the century year was evenly divisible by 400, it would be a leap year. The year 2000 was a leap year. That is the last century year leap year we will see. Are you with me so far?

I understand that there is still a small error in the Gregorian calendar but a new day will not have to be added for about another 10,000 years. This is because a year is approximately 365.24218967 days.

There are still other calendars with different New Year's dates (primarily the Jewish and Chinese calendars). However the Gregorian Calendar is used most through the world.

This still does not answer the question as to why January 1 is the start of a new year.. From what I understand, it was a fairly arbitrary decision made by someone a long time ago and that I could not identify. Probably had something to do with the phase of the moon back in 44BCE when Julius was working on the first version of his calendar.

So for those of you that said 'Duh, just look at the calendar!' I say 'Yes, you are right.' And yes, I will get a life.

Message from HOA President



Happy new year to all and I hope that everyone's holiday travels were restful, enjoyable, and of course, safe. It's hard to believe that 2014 is in the history books already. January is historically a fairly slow month for the Board and the community at large so I apologize for the

brevity of this month's message.

The Board was unable to meet in December due to scheduling conflicts and thus officer appointments will be ratified at our January 15, 2015 meeting. Currently, the officer positions are; Paul A. Greiner – President, Bob Matthews – Vice President, Robert Clifford – Treasurer, Paula Henrickson – Secretary, Beth Degrassi – Member at Large. We will of course publish the formal appointments in the minutes of the January meeting on the website.

Most of our Board meetings occur on the 3rd Thursday of each month at my office building located at 9500 Statesville Road, Charlotte NC 28269. Most meetings begin around 6:30PM and run till around 7:30 – 8PM. Any member may attend the meeting to observe and request time to speak formally on any matter, we only ask that you let us know of your intentions to attend so we can allocate sufficient time and to verify there is going to be a meeting as we do have to re-schedule at the last minute from time to time.

Please take a moment to review the website (www.leacroft.org) as many changes have been made in layout and in content to keep the site as fresh and useful as possible.

On a very positive note, our community was listed in the top 10 neighborhoods in the university area as reported in a recent Charlotte Observer article that has been making its way around our Facebook page. Given that there are many hundreds of neighborhoods that are in the 3 zip codes that make up the university area that is quite an honor for us as a community.

I would like to take a moment to thank all of the Board and all volunteer members who served in 2014 who have worked tirelessly to ensure that our community remains a great place to live and serve. We have a lot to be proud of and without all of the volunteers we would not have the community we have.

Till next time stay safe,

Paul A. Greiner, CMCA, AMS, PCAM

President - Villages of Leacroft HOA

Message from HOA Vice President



Our Vice President, Robert (Bob) Mathews has been under the weather for an extended period of time. He hopes to be writing his column again next month. In the meantime, if you would like to send him a get well card, give him a call or just give him a call, I am sure that would appreciate it Here is his contact information

10517 Worsley Lane
maeh.gran@gmail.com

Gardening with Deb Peters



What a great time of year. The hustle and bustle of the holidays is over, the relatives all left, and the kids went back to school. Now its time to relax a tad and to distress. Looking out the window some of you will see an empty garden box, weeds and lots of work. I would like to suggest instead you become an

optimist. Remember all the pleasure gardening provided you and the fresh veggies that you provided to your family. Remember it's do-over time.

Decide what worked and what didn't in your garden. What did your family like and what you would like to plant this year? I always try to plant one new thing. In 2014 it was cauliflower. Believe it or not I just picked the last of it. This is the time of year I find gardening very cathartic. I'm feeling active again and moving dirt around certainly helps work off all the holiday weight I've gained.

The mornings and evenings are cold; but the afternoons are usually sunny and warm.

Parts of the yard/garden will still be wet and muddy so make sure you wear pants, shoes, etc. that can be thrown directly into the wash. Most of us have certain "garden clothes" that we use only for gardening. Good idea. Also

don't forget your gloves and hat. Also, I usually bring a very large mug with something hot in it. (non-alcoholic) We tend to forget even though its winter out it is still very easy to become dehydrated. Since you've probably been inactive; except for partying over the holidays you should bring your timer out with you and set it for about 45 min. When the timer dings stop. Use the next 15 min for cleaning up and getting the mud off your tools, No matter how much you want to keep on working or how good you are feeling...Trust me the arms and shoulders will be hurting later on from all the digging and pulling that you haven't done in a couple of months.

Now start by pulling up everything that's still in your garden. Small healthy fruits/veggies can be mixed in when you turn it over. Larger pieces can be cut and put into the compost pile. Remember nothing that had a disease or an insect infestation should be put back in your garden or compost pile. Next using a shovel, a hoe, or a pitchfork just start turning the soil over; one shovel at a time. This is when the arms and shoulders really start hurting. So like I said before when the bell rings STOP!!! Clean your tools off take your clothes off, and reward yourself with a nice hot shower or bath. Then go and pick the kids up from school.

After doing this for a couple of days you can take a look outside and feel a sense of accomplishment. Now that your garden is empty you can think about filling it with your black gold (compost) and what you are going to plant this year!!!

Remember this is your totally new "Do over garden". Until next time

"Here's to green thumbs and happy gardening"

Travel

It is cold. When it gets cold, I start dreaming of warm water, specifically the Caribbean. Just to feel better, I googled the weather in St Croix, one of my favorite Caribbean islands. The temperature 83F. Sounds good doesn't it. Have you been the Caribbean recently? How did you get there. Some of the most common ways are cruise, all-inclusive resorts and condo/hotel. The following is my feelings on each way to travel. Let me know what you think

Cruise



On a cruise, the ship is probably the most important part of your vacation. You can have great meals, good entertainment, travel from one island to another and sleep on the same bed every night.

Cruises are great! I love them. However they often remind me of the train ride around the Magic Kingdom. It is a good way to see a little of several different places and you can decide on which ones you really want to visit for an extended period of time but you don't get to see a lot of the island. Typically, a cruise ship docks around 8:00 in the morning and you must be back around 4:00. You have time to shop a little, have lunch and if you plan it correctly, you may be able to take a tour of the island. When you return from your 5 to 7 day cruise, you have visited several islands and you may have picked one to be your favorite to return to.

The picture above is a NCL ship. It is one of the great cruise lines in the Caribbean

All-inclusive Resort



If you would like to relax in the sun on a beautiful beach, have all of the food and drink that you want, maybe sail a dinghy around the bay, do a little snorkeling, an all-inclusive resort may be for you. One of the big positives, you know in advance how much your vacation is going to cost. No additional charges unless you go shopping or decide to take an optional tour or some other optional activity.

Most of your time will be spent at the resort. Normally, you will see little of the island except from the bus going to and from the airport. Of course, there will be optional excursions however, most people enjoy the relaxing atmosphere of the resort.

Also a great place for a location wedding/ renewing of vows but that is a story for another article.

The picture above is at a Sandals resort. One of my first bookings was a wedding at Sandals in Jamaica.

Condo/Hotel



Condos have a special place in my heart. Connie and I owned a condo on St Croix for several years. Staying in a condo or hotel for a week or so is a great way to experience the island. We normally rent a car and tour the whole island. We can go grocery shopping and prepare a few meals in the condo, find our favorite restaurant, relax on the beach at the condo, and in general, experience the island as if we were a native. Often, condo renters will return to the same island year after year.

The picture above is at The Buccaneer hotel in St Croix. Connie and I spent part of our honeymoon here several years ago but it seem like only yesterday. We have many stories from this place.

CMPD Newsletter

Each month, the CMPD publishes a very good newsletter. In the past, I have been e-mailing these newsletters to everyone on my distribution list. However, the CMPD has started adding the newsletter to the NextDoor website. In NextDoor, click on City Agencies and the newsletter will be there. Any questions, just let me know.

Car break ins

The most common theft in our neighborhood is car break ins. As a precaution,

- Never leave any valuables in plain sight in your car.
- Always lock your car
- Be very cautious about warming up your car on the cold mornings while you stay warm inside your home. Bad things can happen

Classified Ads

These ads are free for Leacroft residents under 19 years old	
Babysitting	Lawn Care
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	
Pet Sitting	
Rachel Caffrey Pet setting 704-307-0465	Brittany Moore - Pet Care in our home or yours text or e-mail sweetiepierose99@gmail.com or Call 704-607-1818
Caroline Faler Pet Setting age 14 (704)510-0052	

This is a new section in the Villager. If you live in Leacroft and have a small business, let me know and I will add you to the table.

Also, please check out our local business when you are looking for a product or service

Leacroft Small Businesses		
Avon	Brenda Brown	4645 Highcroft Lane, 704-906-9624, bebrown5762@att.net
Insurance	Carla Chacon chacoc1@nationwide.com	Nationwide Insurance 3900 Canterbrook Dr 704-548-0500 x107
Lawn care	A & T Lawncare (see ad)	Tom Weir 704-609-9066 10209 Fairbourne Court
Travel Agency	LenCon Travel LenConTravel.com	4500 Highcroft Ln 704-907-1430 len@LenConTravel.com
Web and Print Design	Nicolas Thorley	3407 Turtle Cross Lane 704-345-5854

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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