

# VILLAGER

*Villages of Leacroft*



February is a lonely little month of the year. It normally has only 28 days. It is normally the coldest month in North Carolina and most of us stay inside as much as possible as compared to the more fun loving months like May and June when we are always outside working on our tan.

To show how lonely February is, one of the most important events is determining if winter is going to continue by pulling a groundhog out of his hole to look for his shadow. Reporters and television cameras close in on a small town in Pennsylvania

and with all of the excitement of watching grass grow, news is made. Men in tall hats try to determine if the groundhog did see his shadow. It is hard to tell with all of the television lights. Does a shadow produced by television lights count? Anyway, this year was a little exciting, the little rodent bit the man in a tall hat. I don't think that the groundhog was happy to be there. I still don't know if we are having six more weeks of winter or not. I guess we will just have to wait and see.

The other big event on February is Valentine's Day. Most of us don't know little about the origin of the holiday or even care as long as heart-shaped boxes of candy and flowers are involved. The first year that Connie and I were married, I forgot. Without going into any details, I have never forgotten again.

The third big event of February is President's day.



Washington's birthday has been a national holiday since the 1800s. Several states celebrate other president's birthday. Normally in the president's home state. For example several states did celebrate Lincoln's birthday (February 12th); most were not in the south however.

In 1971, Washington Birthday was moved to the third Monday in February in keeping with the new practice of moving as many holidays as possible to Friday or Monday to give us a long weekend. At the same time, there was a big push to call it Presidents day. To make it a little more confusing, some states call it President's Day, Presidents' Day, Presidents Day (note where the appositive is located), Washington's Birthday or even Washington and Lincoln Day. In Arkansas, I am told that it is called George Washington's Birthday and [Daisy Gatson Bates Day](#). You look that one up, it is a good story.

Some states celebrated Jefferson Davis' birthday. (He was the president of the Confederate States of America). As a side note, Davis' presidential library is in Biloxi Mississippi. Davis became president in February 1861.



Also in February, Iwo Jima was invaded by United States troops during WWII, 1945.

Have a wonderful month!

### Message from HOA President



Anyone ready for spring? I know I am as this time of year there is little for me to do outside but sit and wait for the grass to start growing again.

Along those lines, February or very early March is a great time to give your fescue lawns another dose of the appropriate fertilizer and spring weed control. Most springtime fertilizers (Scott's Brands at least) come with some weed control properties and late February or very early March (prior to March 15) give the soil some additional nutrients in anticipation of Spring growing seasons. Just don't wait till after March 15 as doing so risks "burning" the fescue grass. Those of you with Bermuda/Zoysia grass can wait till late April for the fertilizer, but weed control can be done just about any time between now and then.

The Board met at its regular January meeting and appointed officers for 2015, those results are;

President = Paul A. Greiner, CMCA, AMS PCAM

Vice President= Bob Matthews

Treasurer = Bob Clifford

Secretary = Paula Henriksen

At Large Member – Beth DeGrassi

Also at the January Board meeting the Board reviewed and discussed the various proposals we had for the large amount of work needed at the pool in preparation for the 2015 pool season. All necessary proposals were signed and we expect most of the work to be done in March and April so that any last minute details can be addressed and ready for the pool to open in the latter half of May.

2015 Assessments – The assessment notices/bills for 2015 were mailed to all owners in December 2014. The yearly assessment for 2015 is \$495.00 and the entire amount is (was) due in early January 2015. Those wishing to pay in installments (Jan, Feb, Mar, April) may do so by contacting Henderson Properties directly to sign up for this extension. Regardless of any extension, all 2015 assessments are due in full no later than the end of April. Each year, the Board meets and has hearings for those who have not yet paid, so please avoid all that and make sure your assessments are paid timely.

Till next time stay safe,

Paul A. Greiner, CMCA, AMS, PCAM

## 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](mailto:maeh.gran@gmail.com)

## Gardening with Deb Peters



February: A time for love, partying, and observances. From a gardener's Perspective it's pretty much the same. I observe my empty garden boxes. I celebrate

My successful garden, and the fact that I've already completed the task of emptying all the spent stuff out and

starting to prepare my soil for spring. I love every time I look out at the empty boxes. It reminds me of all the fresh veggies I grew. As for partying:

We still party...Mardi Gras and Super bowl come to mind, just without the fresh homegrown veggies from my garden.

Stan and I eat a lot of salads and a lot of tacos. It was soooo....easy. We would decide

On what to have for dinner and then one of us would go outside and pick whatever I needed from the garden. I loved the fact that everything was homegrown and readily available.

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Now I have to run to the supermarket whenever I need some lettuce, tomatoes, onions, etc. I did chop up and freeze some onions and peppers; but it's really not the same as fresh. We sat down to dinner the other night and for our vegetable we used a bag of Birds Eye steamed veggies. The mix was cauliflower, broccoli, and carrots. I immediately thought to myself (if it was summertime I could have made this myself

With veggies straight from the garden.) Fresh tastes so much better and this time of year

it is very expensive. I will say that my Rosemary is pretty hardy and I'm still picking it.

The other thing I am still picking is kale. Kale happens to be the new super food Once you get used to the taste of it, you can use it in anything from salads to power shakes. Stan cuts it up, sautés it with garlic and adds it to our egg white omelets. Again: I love my garden!!

While its too cold to do any planting in February at least you get some afternoon sunshine. When it's warm enough to sit outside take your cup of coffee and all your gardening catalogs and start planning for springtime. Remember the NC/Piedmont last frost date is April 15<sup>th</sup>. That's when it's safe to plant without the threat of frost. Don't Worry, it will be here before you know!!

Until next time:

HERE'S TO GREEN THUMBS AND HAPPY GARDENING 1111

## Travel



A couple of years ago, I was invited to take a complete tour of a cruise ship. I got to see everything from the bridge to the laundry room. This was a very interesting tour and I thought I would share a few of the things that I learned that day.

1. Will I get sea sick? Probably not. All modern ships have very good stabilizers and make the ship very calm. Some people still get sea sick prevention medication before sailing and I have seen several people with patches behind their ears (for sea sickness) but I have never seen anyone sea sick. We have been on cruises where the wind is very strong and we felt at time like we may blow overboard but even then, the ship was stable.
2. Is the water safe to drink? Most of the ships have between 3,000 and 7,000 people on board. Moderate sized ships have at least 1800 passengers and a crew of 1500 +. Some of the new big ships may have 5,000 passengers plus crew. That requires a lot of water for drinking, washing and flushing. The ship can not carry that much water. All of the required water is produced on board from seawater. It is perfectly safe and taste fine.

3. What happens to all of the waste water? You would think that since you are in the middle of the ocean, you can just dump it. Not the case. The ships must process all of the waste water before releasing it back to the ocean. I saw some of the water after it was processed. The engineer said that it was perfectly safe to drink but he did volunteer to drink it.
4. What happens to all of the trash? You can imagine that thousands of people produce a lot of trash. The ships have very large trash compressors. All of the trash is compressed into large bales and is remove from the ship when it docks. I did not ask what happens to the trash then.
5. What happens to food waste? Food waste is processed and fed to the fish.
6. Is there a large steering wheel on the bridge? No, most of the navigation is done by computers. The crew keys in the destination and time of arrival. The computer does the rest. There are always crew on the bridge. Things can happen at sea. They have very powerful radar that can track other ships in the area. They receive a lot of data about those ships including their destination and their cargo. The ship I was on did have a small wheel, smaller than a car steering wheel and a joystick. These are needed when precise navigation is requires such as docking. Also, the ships get very good weather information. If a storm is approaching, they can normally sail around it. That is a good feature in the Caribbean during hurricane season.
7. The kitchens on these ships are huge as you can imagine. They produce thousands of meals a day. They also bake all of the pastry and breads.
8. The laundry is also huge. Just think of the number of towels that are washed each day. They do all of the laundry of the crew, table cloths and napkins, bedding, and laundry for passengers.

The next time you take a cruise, look around this floating small city and think of all of the functions that the ship must perform.

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## Photography



Several years ago, a friend of mine and I both bought our first digital cameras with interchangeable lens (DSLR). Over the years, we took a lot of pictures, downloaded them to our computers, printed them and really enjoyed the cameras. A couple of weeks ago, we were having breakfast together and he mentioned that he had to go to Best Buy to get more memory cards for his camera. I asked why he needed more cards. He told me that he had lots of card but they were all full and he needed more for a trip he was taking. I asked if he had ever reformatted (deleted data) from his cards. He said that he did not know that he could do that!

Many of us have nice digital cameras and enjoy taking pictures. However, many of us do not understand how to use all of the features of these camera. We know how to turn it on and how to push the shutter button but not much more.

I would like to start a column on how to take your photography to a higher level. I am not an expert and I would like to learn more.

Here is my idea, I will write a couple of columns on how to use some of the functions of your camera. Then, I would like some of you that are pretty good with the camera to share some of your tips and techniques and even some of your pictures. It would be like a photography club but it would be a newsletter columns. If at sometime in the future, you would like to form a club, we can do that.

Let me know your feelings on this subject.

Len

### 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

### 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.

Classified Ads

These ads are free for Leacroft 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	

Leacroft Small Businesses		
Avon	Brenda Brown	4645 Highcroft Lane, 704-906-9624, <a href="mailto:bebrown5762@att.net">bebrown5762@att.net</a>
Insurance	Carla Chacon <a href="mailto:chacoc1@nationwide.com">chacoc1@nationwide.com</a>	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 <a href="http://LenConTravel.com">LenConTravel.com</a>	4500 Highcroft Ln 704-907-1430 <a href="mailto:len@LenConTravel.com">len@LenConTravel.com</a>
Web and Print Design	Nicolas Thorley	3407 Turtle Cross Lane 704-345-5854

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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