

VILLAGER

Villages of Leacroft



Theodor Seuss Geisel (March 2, 1904 – September 24, 1991)

This month I asked for suggestions for March topics to be covered. I got a few.

March 2 is Dr Seuss; birthday!

Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known as **Dr. Seuss**, published over 60 children's books over the course of his long career. Though most were published under his well-known pseudonym, Dr. Seuss, he also authored over a dozen books as Theo. LeSieg and one as Rosetta Stone. As one of the most popular children's authors of all time, Geisel's books have topped many bestseller lists, sold over 222 million copies, and been translated into more than 15 languages.^[1] In 2000, when Publishers Weekly compiled their list of the **best-selling children's books** of all time; 16 of the top 100 hardcover books were written by Geisel, including **Green Eggs and Ham**, at number 4, **The Cat in the Hat**, at number 9, and **One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish**, at number 13, and Dr. Seuss's ABC.^[2] In the years following his death in 1991, several additional books based on his sketches and notes were published, including **Hooray for Diffendoofer Day!** and **Daisy-Head Mayzie**. Although they were all published under the name Dr. Seuss, only **My Many Colored Days**, originally written in 1973, was entirely by Geisel

"If March comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb?"

(from Farmer's Almanac)

Is there any truth to this saying??? Weather sayings are as colorful as our imagination. While many sayings are based on careful observations and turn out to be accurate, others are merely rhymes or beliefs of the people who came before us.

Those people often believed that bad spirits could affect the weather adversely, so they were cautious as to what they did or did not do in certain situations. Those beliefs often included ideas that there should be a balance in weather and life. So, if a month came in bad (like a lion), it should go out good and calm (like a lamb).

With March being such a changeable month, in which we can see warm spring-like temperatures or late-season snowstorms, you can understand how this saying might hold true in some instances. We can only hope that if March starts off cold and stormy it will end warm and sunny, but the key word is hope. However, this saying seems to be more of a rhyme rather than a true weather predictor.

First day of Spring

I won't go into any detail about Spring. I rambled too long on the calendar history in January. However, this is my most favorite time of the year.

Daylight saving time

Why do we have it? It seems that in 1784, Benjamin Franklin wrote a friend that we could save a lot of money on candles if used the natural rhythm of the sun. That is get up with the sun and go to bed with the sun. Since the sun comes up much earlier in the summer than it does in the winter, we should get up earlier in the summer. It was a cost saving plan. During WW1 and WW2 daylight saving was the law to save electrical energy. Daylight saving time is still the law but it allows states the option to use it or not. Arizona and Hawaii do not go on daylight saving time.

As more of us use computers, smartphones and tablets, setting the clocks becomes automatic but for the first few days we are still drowsy.

Is it worth it? Recent studies have shown that we are using more electricity in the morning which offsets any gain we may get by getting up with the sun.

End of New Year Resolutions

Many New Year Resolutions have to do with losing weight and/or getting in shape. Shortly after the first of the year, every year, the YMCA is crowded. Each lane in the pool has one or more swimmers, the treadmills have time limits and the exercise classes are full. Around the first of March, things get back to normal. I can only conclude that some of the resolutions are being broken. However, on the bright side, April seems to be the month when people start getting into shape for swimsuit season.



St Patrick's Day

Of course St Patrick's Day is in March. No details this year. I spent a lot of time on it last year.

If I have missed anything I should have included, let me know and I will add it next year!

PI Day

Today 3-14-15 is PI day. We have 3.14 every year but only once a century do we have 3.1415 so celebrate! Also, today is Einstein's birthday. Go figure.

Message from HOA President



All you "Yard Warriors" get ready, spring is just around the corner. We had an incredibly cold and wet late winter and I am sure that like me, you did little in the form of yard work in February. Just remembers the following from the February newsletter;

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.

Community Newsletter - By now I am sure that most of you have received the paper version of the newsletter for February. For those asking "why?" let me give you a brief summary. Many of you may recall the rather long December message where I and the Board attempted to address some information and questions we received in mid/late November of 2014 from one of our neighbors. One of the continuing and recurring questions, comments, statement, etc. is that many in the neighborhood do not go online to our website to get the newsletter and/or do not wish to receive it via email. In order to accommodate those that prefer a paper version you will receive it in your mail tube moving forward generally 5-10 days after

the electronic version hits your inbox. Deb Peters and I have negotiated with a local realtor who will compress the newsletter, add her ad on the back page, and will print in black and white, then deliver to Deb Peters (all at no cost to the Association) for Distribution. Shortly after the February newsletter was distributed a neighborhood small business owner John Comey of Comey's Power Wash then agreed that he would take care of distribution to all owners each month provided we kept his ¼ page ad on the last page of the newsletter as well. Thus, through a bit of work on Deb and a few others part, all owners will get the newsletter in paper form as well as by normal electronic means without any expense to the Association in general. Thank you all for your assistance in getting this done. While neither I nor the Association can formally endorse any particular vendor or service provider, I am a big fan of small businesses and will do my part in supporting those that support all of us. Do give them some consideration if possible when their services may be useful to you.

Speaking of vendors, please also see the below from our Pool Management company, PH Pools: Pool season is approaching quickly! PH Pool management is working on staffing many pools for summer 2015. If there is anyone in your family interested in being a lifeguard or pool attendant and working for the summer please visit our website www.phpoolmanagement.com. If you have questions about what we have to offer please don't hesitate to call Adam Kennel in Human Resources at 704-738-5820 or email him at adam@phpoolmanagement.com.

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
President – Villages of Leacroft HOA

Message from HOA Vice President



Well it has been a few months since I wrote my last note. I am feeling much better now.

I thought I was going to pass this month and this is why. Last Wednesday night, Jane and I were watching a movie. I got up

Saturday, March 14, 2015

to get a glass of milk and after drinking it, I walked outside to get some fresh air. As I turned around my feet slipped and my right cheek was the first thing that hit my concrete floor. I thought I had lost my right eye. Jane walked to the door as I was trying to drag myself through the blood that I had lost. Jane called 911. The ambulance arrived soon afterwards. One of the ambulance attendants was looking for something and I ask him 'what are you looking for?' and he said 'your eye'. The other attendant had cover my face and I told him 'my eye is in my head man let's get out of here!' and we did.

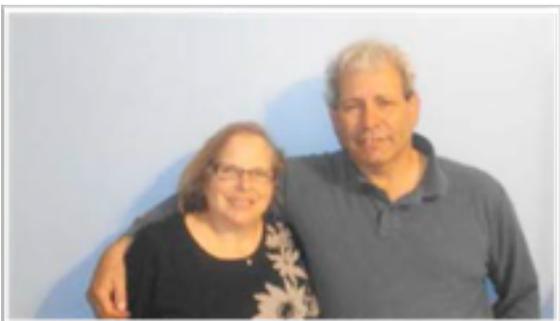
So you see I have all the luck in the world. I know where 99.999% of it is from and that is from my Lord Jesus and if I did not believe in him I would be out of it..

Well I sure hope everyone enjoyed the snow. I will be the first to say it sure was pretty coming down and pretty until the next day and then I was tired of looking at it. When we lived in Florida of course we had no snow. The first winter we were back in North Carolina we had a good snow and it was nice and pretty. As I grow older I guess the snow grows older on me. If I live to be 92 years old I am hoping we will not have any more snow... And I say that for myself not for the youngsters that like to play in it. I am sure that there are some older gentleman that like snow but I am one that doesn't.

We have 19 more days until Spring and I hope and pray that we will have some warmer days until Spring arrives but until that time arrives please stay safe and

WATCH YOUR WALLET

Gardening with Deb Peters



Talk about irony. Here it is the end of February and it's snowing again. No, that's not the ironic part. The ironic part is that I'm expecting a Fed-Ex delivery of some pet safe ice melt and when the delivery showed up, it was my seed tapes instead. So I'm standing here on my icy patio, looking at my snow filled garden boxes laughing. You just have to laugh at the irony of it.

Stan was nice enough to tell me that my garden boxes needed a lot more work before I could start planting. While laughing I quickly pointed out that, yeah! I guess we have to wait until the snow melts first. Speaking of snow I've enclosed some pictures of my snow garden. It looks pretty now, but I think it looks prettier in the summer when it's filled with fresh veggies. I just beam when I tell everyone that I am still picking Rosemary. That's a definite must for my 2015 garden.

Saturday, March 14, 2015



I've been having a great time looking through all my new 2015 garden catalogs. Three in today's mail alone (Burpee, Gardener's Supply, and Spring Hill). A few others have also been occupying my mailbox the last couple of weeks. I've been planning my garden and making my lists. I'll show everyone that spring is coming.

So, standing on my frozen patio it's ironic. It's too muddy to do any real work. I can't get out to my compost piles so I have all kinds of "kitchen scrapes" in various containers on top of my patio table.

All the signs of spring are popping up...The Spring home and garden show is in town, where yes you can buy plants. The stores are all showing Easter candy and Easter Lilly's are starting to show up in stores. Now all that being said here comes the down side: Even though spring comes on the 21st of March...IT'S TOO EARLY TO START PLANTING. The last frost date for the NC Piedmont is April 15th. Some people like to start seeds and seedlings indoors before then. It's a personal thing. I don't. Between dogs and kids running around and me bumping into things it's a given that dirt and seedlings will get knocked over.

For me it's much more therapeutic to dig in the dirt on my hands and knees, get muddy and burn off those calories outside.

If you were one of the people who didn't have luck last year, hopefully you didn't get discouraged and you're ready to give it another shot.

Remember this year is a fresh start. It's your Do-Over garden. Only 46 days until it's safe to plant, (probably 15 by the time you read this). Until then, hang in there. Planting season is on its way.

Until then: **HERES TO GREEN THUMBS AND HAPPY GARDENING !!!**

Travel

Half Moon Cay



Last month, Connie and I took a southern Caribbean cruise the Holland American ship *m/s Zuiderdam*. We sailed from Ft Lauderdale to Half Moon Cay in the Bahamas. From there we went to Aruba, Curacao, Panama Canal and Puerto Limon in Costa Rica. This article will be mostly on Half Moon Cay.

Half Moon Cay is a private island used exclusive by Holland America. Technically, it is a private beach on an island in the Bahamas. There was another Holland America ship there when we arrived. About 3,000 or so vacationers hit the beach about the same time. There were plenty of lounge chairs for everyone that want to sun themselves for a while. A nice lunch was served to all of the hungry travelers. To get everyone in the vacation shopping mode, there were a few shops where you could buy tee shirts, caps and other souvenirs.

About 3:00 we all headed back to the ship for our first real stop in Aruba. Next month I will talk about Aruba and more.

Photography



Smartphones are the camera of choice for many people, for many good reasons. They are always with us, easy to use, small and inconspicuous. Also, you can easily forward pictures to friends and family and best of all, most smartphones take good pictures.

Connie took a dozen or so iPhone pictures on our recent vacation. The pictures were good and were on Facebook before we got home. Her pictures were seen, liked and commented on within days.

What's not to like?

I must admit that I am not a big user of smartphone cameras, I have never made a selfie and I seldom put pictures on Facebook. However, I do take a lot of pictures with a 'real' camera. I took several hundred pictures on our trip. I have them on my computer in individual files. No one has seen the pictures. I have not seen them all! Over the next few weeks, I will work on these files, delete most of the pictures, edit the rest and eventually have a file of what I consider fairly decent pictures. I may print some of the pictures, make a photo book or even put them on Flickr for others to see.

It seems to me that Smartphone users get instant gratification. They take a picture and almost instantly that picture can be sent around the world and responses to the picture are quick. Do these pictures fade from memory as quickly as they are sent? A few months from now, can you find that picture that you took on vacation? Your instant delivery on Facebook will be quickly scrolled away when others make their postings.

Now I will show more of my ignorance of Smartphone photography. Do you back up your pictures on a computer? If you lost your Smartphone or it broke, would you lose all of your pictures? If all of your vacation pictures were on your phone, could you look at them years from now? Do you ever do any editing on the pictures on your phone?

Maybe there is a place for both type of photography. One is not taking the place of the other. It is just another tool for us to use.

As I was writing this article, I received a photo magazine containing several stories on Smartphone photography. Some professional photographers are taking serious photos with iPhones. Also, a lot of accessories are being made for phones such as telephoto and wide angle lenses, tripods and wands (to hold phone while you take a group selfie).

If you use a smartphone for photography, let me know how you use it. Is it just for a quick picture or are you serious with your photography? Send me some of your pictures and I will publish them.

Bulk Waste Items

If you have bulk waste such as furniture etc., call 311 and request a pickup otherwise the regular waste pickup teams will not pickup.

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	
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 sitting 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 Sitting age 14 (704)510-0052	

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
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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