

VILLAGER

Villages of Leacroft



Tax Time

I wrote this as I was working on my income taxes. For the first time in a long time, I had to pay extra at this filing. I am not a real happy camper at this time so my attitude may be reflected in this article. Did you notice that it is all in black and white, no color!

If I were to ask you how much you paid in income tax this year, I would probably get one of two answers;

1. It is none of your business. That is true
2. Nothing, in fact I got a nice refund. Not a true answer to the question.

The fact is most of us do not know how much we paid in income tax. We either gather up all of the required paper work and take it to our tax preparer and wait to hear the verdict, do we get a refund or do we have to pay or we buy a computer software package and enter the data ourself and look for the same response. The software I use has a counter in the upper left corner. When I enter my income figures, the taxes owed goes up. When I enter the deductions or taxes paid, the taxes owed goes down. My major concern is the final number not really thinking about how much I have paid.

Since you probably did your taxes recently, the forms are easy to get to. If you look on line 63 of your 1040 you will see how much you pay to the IRS. There is a similar line on your

state 540 form. If you add these two numbers together, you will have the total that you have paid in income tax. This does not include all of the other taxes you pay.

After you add these numbers together, ask you spouse to guess at the total income taxes you paid last year. Did he/she come close?

Another question. This one is multiple choice.

Which of the following is the largest

1. Your total annual mortgage payment
2. Your total annual car payment
3. Your total annual income taxes

There is a a high probability that 3 is the correct answer.

When you make you mortgage payment, you know what you are paying for. You know that there is a fair amount of interest included but you get your home to live in and you can always hope for some appreciation in value.

When you make your car payment, you know the car is depreciating but you have a nice car to drive.

When you pay your taxes, do you know what you are buying?

Are you buying a weapon system that the military does not want but it helps the politician get reelected.

Are you buying for a bridge to nowhere in Alaska?

The issue is this; when so few of us even care to vote, it show that we don't know what we are paying, we don't know what we are buying and the sad part is we don't care.

Message from HOA President



Well Spring finally made it here and I am sure we all are ready for warmer temperatures as winter these past few months was certainly a bear. Now for the bad news..... with spring comes my "favorite" topic which is lawn maintenance. Weeds are always an issue, but this time of year is "perfect" for them to thrive and since they are more invasive than most grasses (fescue especially) it is much more beneficial to kill them now and keep them controlled as they can quickly choke out fescue this time of year. There are a number of weed control products available in granular or liquid form that do a great job of killing weeds and not damaging the turf grass. Please take a little time over the coming weeks to get ahead of it as the benefits will surely be seen as the summer approaches.

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

For more detailed and professionally approved lawn maintenance schedules for Fescue turf please take a moment to visit: <http://www.turfinfo.ncsu.edu/articles/tf0017.aspx>. Of course if you search you can learn about just about any kind of turf grasses and weed issues common to our area.

Annual Assessment:

As of our most current review of paid/unpaid assessments for 2015 there are a number of homeowners who have not paid their 2015 annual assessments in the amount of \$495.00. There are several who are on payment plans which will allow them to bring their account current on or before April 30, 2015 and we appreciate their cooperation. However, there are many of those homeowners who have not paid, have not entered into a formal payment plan agreement and thus, when the May 2014 Board meeting comes around, the Board will be holding hearings for the suspension of pool access, voting privileges, and unfortunately more stringent and formal actions. Please be aware this process is not something that the Board enjoys and contrary to common belief is not a "fun" exercise for us to have to go through. Therefore, I ask that all ensure that all assessments are paid in full by the end of April so that we can all avoid the process and go into the pool season without these pleasantries and the expenses that go along with it.

Pool Updates:

Speaking of the pool, I am sure that most have noticed all the work being done on the tile and other areas. We are ahead of schedule and we are still under budget on this item so I am happy to report that all is going well and we look forward to the new look in May when the pool opens. In a few days, we will be mailing out the annual pool rules and schedule so please be on the lookout for that in the mail around the end of April and if you have any questions about it, please contact our management company and they can assist you

Enjoy the coming sun and warmer temperatures and Till next time, stay safe.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Greiner, CMCA, AMS, PCAM

Message from HOA Vice President



Bob is still not feeling well. Keep him in your thoughts and prayers. He has had a couple of issues with doctors and thought that you might enjoy the following story;

And old geezer, who had been a retired farmer for a long time, became very bored and decided to open a medical clinic. He put a

sign up outside that said: Dr. Geezer's clinic. "Get your treatment for \$500, if not cured get back \$1,000."

Doctor "Young," who was positive that this old geezer didn't know beans about medicine, thought this would be a great opportunity to get \$1,000.

So he went to Dr. Geezer's clinic.

This is what transpired.

Dr. Young: "Dr. Geezer, I have lost all taste in my mouth." can you please help me?

Dr. Geezer: "Nurse, please bring medicine from box 22 and put 3 drops in Dr. Young's mouth."

Dr. Young: "Aaagh!!! This is Gasoline!!!!"

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You've got your taste back. That will be \$500."

Dr. Young gets annoyed and goes back after a couple of days figuring to recover his money.

Dr. Young: "I have lost my memory, I cannot remember anything."

Dr. Geezer: "Nurse, please bring medicine from box 22 and put 3 drops in the patient's mouth."

Doctor Young: "Oh, no you don't, that is gasoline!!!"

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You've got your memory back. That will be \$500."

Dr. Young, after having lost \$1000, leaves angrily...only to come back again after several more days.

Dr. Young: "My eyesight has become weak. I can hardly see!!!!"

Dr. Geezer: "Well, I don't have any medicine for that so...here's your \$1000 back."

Dr. Young: "But this is only \$500!!!"

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You got your vision back! That will be \$500."

Moral of story – Just because you're "Young" doesn't mean that you can outsmart an old "Geezer"!!!!

My mind works like lightning -
one brilliant flash and it is gone.

Gardening with Deb Peters

Happy April Fools Day!
Happy Easter!
Happy Tax day!



But most of all Happy planting Day!! Too bad that the last frost date (April 15th) is the same day as tax day. Well at least you can do some planting and get rid of some of the frustration that goes along with tax day.

I always preach to everyone about the pitfalls of getting caught up in the buying frenzy at the big box stores. Well guess what? This year I did just that. Although; I do have to confess that I did check the weather and it reassured me there were no freezes happening in the Piedmont in the near future.

I picked up my cool weather vegetables and planted them. A reminder-your cool weather vegetables are mostly the green leafy ones. Broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, collards, Brussels sprouts, lettuce, etc.

On the way home from the big box store we stopped at the North Mecklenburg recycle center for a truck load of mulch. (12300 Statesville Rd. Huntersville NC 704-947-8761. You might want to call first for availability and pricing. It is \$26.00 a cubic yard and it usually takes 2 cubic yards to fill the bed of a standard pickup truck. If you want it delivered I believe they will hook you up with a delivery truck driver for \$60.00 a load (plus cost of compost) If you want more information you can go online to: www.charmeck.org/mecklenburg/ click on Garbage/Recycling, Compost yard waste.

So on Easter Sunday Stan and I unloaded our truckload of mulch. Mixed in with some of my home compost and now our garden boxes are all clean, pretty, and ready for planting.

So, this Easter weekend I am planting my cool weather vegetables. That being said I will wait until the 15th to plant my summer crop. Right now my dining room table is filled with summer crops. They will get plenty of sunlight and water and they won't have to worry about freezing. Stan will have to find somewhere else to eat, but he's okay with that. He knows it's for a good cause. "The Deb Peters Vegetable garden"

Until next month

Here's to Green Thumbs and Happy Gardening

Travel

Stone Mountain State Park.



Stone Mountain State Park is about one and half hours from Leacroft, go north on I77 to exit 83 then about 15 miles west is Stone Mountain State Park. Connie and I went there on March 21, a beautiful day to be in the mountains.

If you have never been there, here is a brief description of the area but word can not do it justice. You just have to experience it and it is not far and it is free. The kids would love it.

This description is taken directly from the park brochure.

Stone Mountain is not immediately visible upon entering the park that bears its name, but this magnificent 600 foot granite dome is well worth the wait. Sunlight and shadows dance across a broad tapestry of stone. White-tailed deer emerge from the security of the forest to graze on meadow grasses at the mountain's base. The scenery is just one of the attractions of the park.

Test your fly-fishing techniques in more than 20 miles of designated trout waters. Or, with more than 18 miles of trails, take a hike in the park. Designated as a National Natural Landmark in 1975, Stone Mountain is bounded on the west by the Thurmond Chatham Game Lands and on the north by the Blue Ridge Parkway. More than 14,100 acres of mountain beauty offer opportunities for outdoor actives of all kinds.

Be sure to visit the Hutchinson Homestead. This is where you can get the best views of Stone Mountain.

Photography



I am going to get a little techie this month. I am not very technical but sometime is is fun to act like I am.

For several years, I carried a heavy Nikon DSLR (big bulky cameras that you see a lot of people carrying around their neck) along with several equally heavy lenses. They take great pictures but they also get very heavy and take up lots of room when you travel, especially on a plane. I bought a mirrorless camera two or three years ago. You may not know what a mirrorless camera is, so here is where I get a little technical. You know what a compact camera is, they are the small cameras that most people have and can fit in a purse or even a pocket. The DSLR (digital single lens reflex) cameras have interchangeable lenses and a view finder that you look through to compose a picture. This viewfinder , as opposes to the one on compact camera, actually looks thru the lens. This is done with a series of mirrors. When you push the shutter button, the mirror pops up, the picture is taken and the mirror drops back in place. That is often the sound you hear when taking a picture.

The mirrorless camera is hybrid of the compact camera and the DSLR. Mirrorless cameras have interchangeable lenses and most of the features of the big brother but does not have at the mirrors and are normally a lot smaller. They often have an electronic viewfinder which is more like a small LCD monitor. These cameras take excellent pictures and are great on you neck or shoulder.

More techie stuff. A few weeks ago when Connie and I went to Stone Mountain State Park, I took just one lens with me. A 20MM 1.7 prime lens. I warned you that this is a little technical. A prime lens is one that will not zoom. If you want to zoom in, you walk a little closer. If you want to zoom out, you backup. That concept is pretty simple but why would you want a lens that would not zoom? Here are a couple of reasons;

1. They are smaller and lighter (normally)
2. They are normally faster. More technical talk. Faster lenses need less light to take a good picture so a fast lens is good in low light conditions like night or in doors. The 1.7 says fast.
3. They are often cheaper
4. Many photographers feel that they take sharper pictures.

A 20MM lens on this camera is just a little wider than that what your normal vision would see.

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

In the travel section I showed you a full picture that I took with this small lens. Here is that same picture that I have cropped to less than one fourth the size of the original. The picture is still pretty sharp and it looks like I zoomed in on the top of the mountain. Look close and you may see some climbers on the mountain



[From Richard Meier](#)

Sunday April 19th Interfaith Panel Program - 3:00 PM

Baha'i Center, 3514 Marvin Road, Charlotte NC 28211

The Baha'i Community is hosting an interfaith panel program on Sunday, April 19th at 3:00 PM. The topic is "*Why Spirit Matters in Taking Care of the Earth?*"

Dr. Nabil Elias will moderate the panel presentation. The six panelists are from the Christian, Muslim, Sikh, Quaker, Jewish and Baha'i faith traditions. The panelists will share something from each of their religious traditions on environmental protection/preservation and what they each see as the most critical environmental issues facing us today. Mark St. Clair will be the Baha'i panelist. This promises to be a very interesting program.

The program will be from 3:00 to 4:00 pm. Refreshments and conversation will follow the program.

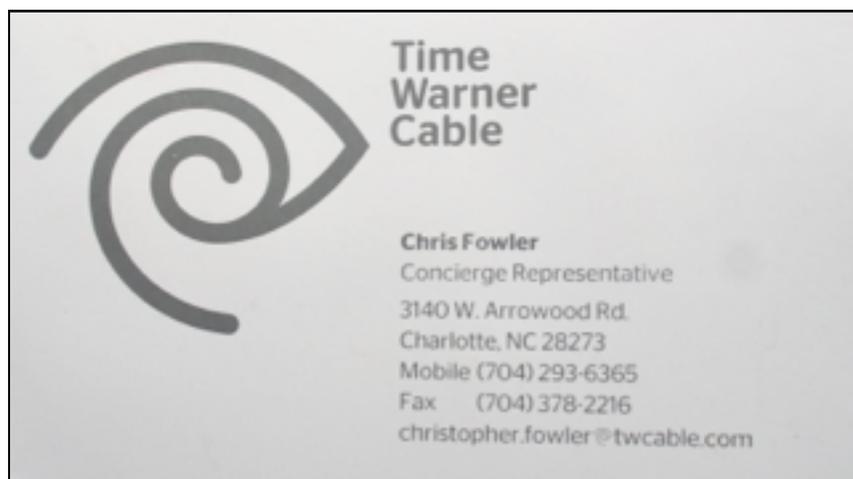
Please invite your friends and neighbors.

Bulk Waste Items

If you have bulk waste such a 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 sweetiepirose99@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, youravon.com/ brendabrown4645
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

Steve Smith
Handyman
(704) 996-4478

Cindy Hawkins
Dog and Cat sitter
10220 Stoneykirk Lane

Note: If you are looking for a service provider, such as a handyman, check the Leacroft List in the table below

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



A&T Lawn Care
*Quality, Reliability, and Trust
 Right Here at Home.*

Tom Weir, Leacroft resident serving over 50 of your Leacroft neighbors over the last 5 years.

Why look anywhere else?

Weekly, Monthly, or Year-Round Pricing Options Available

Call for Free Estimates (704) 609-9066

Lawn Mowing ~ Trimming ~ Edging ~ Aeration ~ Fertilization
 ~ and MORE ~

Comey's Power Wash

Specializing in Driveways, Walkways, Patios and Vinyl Siding
VILLAGES OF LEACROFT SPECIAL!
20% OFF ENTIRE EXTERIOR CLEANING.

\$50 Driveway Power Wash Special

*Includes driveway, walkway, and front door
area.*

*Coupon good for all driveways up to
100'*

Expires 06/30/15

Call today for your free quote on all
your pressure washing needs!

704-258-1541

Check us out on Facebook for more
specials and photos of our most recent
jobs.



Kristen Sackinger

Security Consultant
704-258-6297
ksackinger@cpisecurity.com

Call or email today for:
FREE Installation
FREE Interior Camera
FREE Digital Thermostat
FREE Fire Communicator



Trevia Hunter
REALTOR®/Broker



Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated



Ballantyne Area Market Center
3430 Toringdon Way, Suite 101
Charlotte, NC 28277

Cell: 704-953-3070
Fax: 704-909-3835

Email: TreviaHunter@KWrealty.com
Website: TreviaHunter.KWrealty.com