



The Needle

Pinewood Lake Homeowners Association

www.pinewood-lake.com

March 2005

VOLUNTEERS IN PINEWOOD

Thank you to our newest volunteers:

Tommy & Kathy Owen - Pool Committee Chairs;
Chris Ream - Wildlife Committee Chair;
Donna Singletary - Swim Team Representative.

Pinewood is a community operated by a few paid employees and many volunteers. The following volunteers were recognized at the December 2004 Annual Meeting:

2004 ACC: Liz Crowley, Chair; Michael Berg; Tina Blanchard; Tracie Burns; B.J. Johnson; Lis Henderson; Mark Piston.

2005 ACC: Barbara Palincsar, Chair; Edna Burns; William Gleason; Johnnie Jackson, Jr; CIDNEY JENKINS; B.J. Johnson; Arthur Guilani; Michel Guilani; Sonny Jones; Mireille Lowe; Sandra Mackey; Vicki McLeod; Bernice Pratt; Stephen Pratt; Bonnie Rabichow; Regina Sebastian; Joe Snyder; John Toro-Lugo; Rose Valentino; Mary Weigand.

Finance: Bill Kiehl, Chair; Roberta Jones; Jack Kaufman; Stephen Pratt; Mike Shigley

Hospitality: Susan Hosek, Chair; Barbara Berg; Gaynella Bowden-Diaz; Frank Holub; Barbara (BJ) Johnson; Cheryl Lee; Mireille Lowe; Betty Lundy; George Matthews; Tommy Owen; Sonya Wagner; Barbara Scheeler; Christy Spencer.

Maintenance: Frank Holub, Chair; Michael Berg; Jim Brown; Jack Kaufman; Brian Palazzolo; Jane Palazzolo; Jane Quigley; Nancy Razzino; Roger Reutershan.

Marketing: Roger Reutershan, Chair; Tom Beale; Fred Blanchard; Lis Henderson; Frank Holub; Ginger Krup.

Neighborhood Watch: Ginger Krup, Chair; Heidi Bopp; Jutta Caudill; Liz Crowley; Lis Henderson; Sieglinde Leshner; Barbara Scheeler.

Needle Distributors: Heidi Bopp; Fred Blanchard; Edna Burns; Jeff Clingenpeel; Todd and Jeanne Crowley; Nathan Grace; Jennifer Hughes; Judy Johnson; Jack Kaufman; Virginia Kotulak; Mireille Lowe; Brian and Jane Palazzolo; Peggy Parsons; Bernice Pratt; Nancy Razzino.

Nominations: Nathan Grace, Chair; Heidi Bopp; Frank Holub; Dick Knapp; Peggy Parsons.

Pool: Marianne Razzino, Chair; Bev Card; Liz Crowley; Frank Holub; Nancy Razzino; Mike Shigley.

Publications: Sonny Jones, Chair; Arthur Guilani; Frank Holub; Jane Quigley; Bernice Pratt

Tellers at Annual Meeting: Dick Knapp and Peggy Parsons.

Wildlife Committee: Bill Kiehl, Organizer; Jutta Caudill; Daniela Cuprill; Doris Economou; Marge Foskey; Pearl Golden; Ginger Krup; Sieglinde Leshner; Mark Moran; Sonia Wagner.

Needle Editor Needed

**Get involved in your community.
Join a committee!**

For more information, contact the PLHA office @ 703-360-6212.

SPECIAL TRASH PICKUPS

People keep dumping items at the compound. Special pickups are free. Call AAA at 703-818-8222 to schedule one for Thursday. No items should EVER be dumped at the compound. It looks messy and makes our neighborhood look terrible. If anyone sees another homeowner dumping materials anywhere in the community, please contact the office immediately at 703-360-6212.

MAINTENANCE LOG

The planning continues . . .

The Maintenance Committee continues to work on its priority list for 2005. In addition to the big jobs of roads, paths, lake edge and trees, there are a number of small jobs that need doing. For instance, we have some problems with wrought iron around the lake and pool. We appreciate homeowners who call the office to point out various problems around the community. Members of the committee often find problems in our walks around the lake and our common areas, but homeowner calls help a lot in identifying other problems. Hopefully, we will have a complete priority list ready to publish by April. An early reminder – Community Clean Up Day will be held on Saturday, April 23 from 0900 to 1200 hours followed by lunch at the Community Center. Also, we invite any interested community members to join us at our regularly scheduled meeting date of the fourth Tuesday at the Frank Holub Community Center at 1930 hours.

Frank Holub

703-799-4788

LOUD MUSIC

Remember that sound travels easily between our units, so keep the radio, stereo, and TV volume low. Also, please move speakers away from shared walls.

MICE

Many mice have been sighted around Pinewood Lake and especially on Saint Annes Court. Here are some ways to prevent rodent infestation:

- do not leave any trash outside of your home unless it is in a well-sealed container (not a plastic bag);
- do not leave any pet food outside of your home;
- clean up any fruit or seeds that drop from your trees in a timely fashion;
- clean up any debris piles lying around your yard.

All residents need to help keep our community free of rodent infestation.

Pinewood Lake Homeowners Association

www.pinewood-lake.com

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Alexandria, VA 22309-1209

Phone: 703-360-6212

FAX: 703-360-6771

email: plha@verizon.net

Office Hours:

12 PM - 3 PM Monday-Friday

9 AM - 12 Noon Saturday

Community Manager: Kirsten Davis

Asst Community Mgr: Carmen Nuñez

Admin Assistant: Victoria Silver

Board of Directors

President:	Mike Shigley
Vice President:	Vicki McLeod
Secretary:	Dave McAuley
Treasurer:	Jack Kaufman
Members at Large:	Jim Brown Bev Card
	Nathan Grace Bill Kiehl
	Nancy Razzino

The Pinewood Lake Needle Staff

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The *Needle* is the official publication of the Pinewood Lake Homeowners Association. Advertising in the *Needle* does not imply approval or sanction of products or services by PLHA. Noncommercial classified ads for goods are free to residents; contact Kirsten Davis. For commercial classifieds contact Lois Passman.

DUE PROCESS

Every month on the third Monday, the Board of Directors holds a due process hearing for owners who have violated either the Architectural Control Standards or other published rules and regulations of the Association. The Board does this to fulfill its fiduciary responsibility to maintain the property values of the Association as a whole.

The Board does not hold these hearings as a money-making venture. In fact, its sole purpose is to ensure compliance. To possibly save yourself monetary charges to your account, which can result from these hearings, you should attend the hearing. If you are unable to, then you should communicate in writing with the Board through the Community Manager.

Whether you address the Board in person or in writing, you need to be prepared to show how you are currently in compliance or how (and when) you propose to get in compliance. Those who demonstrate good faith and work with the Board will either receive no monetary charge or a minimal one to cover the administrative costs of the hearing (*principally the required certified letters*).

The best way to ensure you never have to appear at a due process hearing is to follow all the rules and regulations. That especially means not beginning any work on the exterior of your home without completing an Architectural Control Committee (ACC) request form and receiving written ACC approval of your actions.

ACC TALENT SEARCH

ACC is looking for people with an eye for color, texture and detail. You will be trained to conduct the spring time home evaluation. Open to Pinewood Lake residents age 16 and older. A minimum commitment of four hours is required. Evaluations will be conducted during April and May. Community Service credit available.

WHAT'S NEW WITH ACC?

With the New Year ACC has a new approach to improve the review process for ACC Request Forms. Forms received before the ACC meeting will be prescreened 30-minutes prior to the meeting. This saves meeting time.

We also have two subcommittees, Standards, and Education. These subcommittees will develop new and review existing standards and methods of educating residents. The goal of the ACC is to develop easy to understand functional standards that maintain property values and our quality of life. ACC meetings are open to all residents. Anyone wanting to join ACC as a committee member or as a spring time or fall season Evaluator should call the office for more details, 703-360-6212.

ACC ADVISORY: FENCES

Warmer weather is fast approaching. Along with spring flowers and sunny days there will be the sound of fences being scraped and repaired. Before you take on a fence project, be sure to fill out the ACC Request Form. Be specific when requesting approval to replace or repair damaged fence panels. Attach a copy of the desired fence style to the request form. If this is a "shared" fence, be sure to discuss the job with your neighbor. Replacement and repair costs are the responsibility of both homeowners unless other arrangements are agreed to. Both homeowners must sign the request form when the fence is a "shared" fence. Please check the paint book for an approved paint color. Add the brand name and paint name and code number to the request form. Copies of the ACC Request Form and access to the paint book are available at the Association office. Assistance completing the form is available upon request.

Barbara O. Palincsar

703-799-3112

WARNING! NEW ACC STANDARD

In case you have forgotten, last summer the Board revised the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) Code of Standards, Section 4, Gas/Electric Lanterns. You are now required to ensure that the lawn lamp by your front gate is lit during the hours of darkness.

If your lawn lamp does not currently work, please make the necessary repairs as soon as good weather comes.

The Board will start enforcing the standard July 1.

Pinewood Lake Swim Team

Is your child a swimmer? Perhaps you'd like them to learn how to swim? Have them join the swim team! Visit www.pinewoodporpoises.net or contact Donna Singletary at 703-799-8381 for more information! Swim season begins right after Memorial Day.

SQUIRRELS CAN BE TROUBLE . . .

Recently a homeowner reported having squirrels chew up the wires on her car's engine. In reviewing internet inquiries, it was learned that little can be done to stop this squirrel problem. Some suggestions offered were as follows: 1) spray the wheelwells and the driveway under the car frequently with ammonia water; 2) hang bars of Irish Spring soap in the engine compartment; 3) go to your local plant nursery to buy a repellent that may work on squirrels, and finally; 4) drive your car at least once a week to discourage the squirrels from using your engine compartment as a home. Do any of these suggestions work? All the experts agree, it's anybody's guess!! Certainly, you might ask your local pest control company for advice also.

HOSPITALITY HAPPENINGS

Hi Everyone! I hope that everyone is staying warm and dry with all of the snow and ice that we had last month. I know that my children enjoyed the extra time out of school. I hope that you are too.

The Hospitality Committee has been quiet lately but we're getting ready to resume our annual activities. Our next event will be the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 26th at 1:30PM. I hope that all of Pinewood Lake's children will come out and hunt for some eggs, visit with the Easter Bunny and listen to a story or two.

Our next committee meeting will be on Thursday, March 17th at 7:30PM at the Community Center. I hope that anyone that's interested in volunteering in Pinewood will consider joining us. We get to do the fun activities in our community like having Bar-B-Ques and Welcome Coffees.

If you are a new resident and would like to find out more about the activities in Pinewood Lake, please give me a call at (703) 360-8743 and I'll arrange a visit from a Hospitality Representative. We would love to meet you, welcome you to our wonderful community and answer any questions you might have to make your transition to Pinewood a little easier.

Susan Hosek

703-360-8743

New PLHA Office Hours

12 - 3 PM Monday-Friday

9 AM - 12 Noon Saturday

effective Monday, January 3, 2005

COME JOIN THE NEW WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

Beavers and Turtles and Geese, oh my!

Late last year, the PLHA Board of Directors created a "Wildlife" committee to examine issues involving the wildlife that lives in and around Pinewood Lake. In order for the committee to succeed, it needs volunteers who are interested in determining the impact that the wildlife has on our community. The committee will report to the Board any issues concerning the wildlife and propose solutions that serve both community members and our environment. We look forward to receiving your help and input to ensure that we all have a lake to enjoy for seasons to come.

The Committee will meet on the fourth Monday of each month in the PLHA Frank Holub Community Center. The next meeting will be on Monday, March 28th at 7:30 PM. For more information, please contact me at mrwx@hotmail.com. We look forward to seeing you there!

Chris Ream 703-629-0377

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The Neighborhood Watch Committee held its meeting on Valentine's Day. The regulars were there and we welcomed a new resident of Pinewood and a new member of our committee.

Crime seems to be down in our area in general and Pinewood Lake had no new crime to report. I will say that those of our residents who attended the Citizens Advisory Committee that was held the second Tuesday of February had a chance to meet and talk with our new station commander, Captain Mike Kline. He emphasizes the need for the neighborhood watch committees to deter crime and to keep watch over the neighborhoods. Just reporting any unusual situations means a lot in catching the bad guys.

March 2005

As I say in every letter, we need each of our residents to take an active role in this community if we are to remain safe. The police will determine what action needs to be taken after we make the report. Please don't sit back and assume someone else will call the police and/or report the incident. Take the initiative and JUST DO IT.

You can't get in trouble for reporting, but we can have a whole lot of trouble by NOT REPORTING.

The program at the March meeting of CAC will be a day in the life of our officers stationed at Mount Vernon. The meeting is the second Tuesday of the month at the police station in the community room @ 7:30 PM. Come on Pinewood, let's have a good showing of residents. We have snacks there too!

The Neighborhood Watch will have our meeting the second Monday of March @ 7:30 PM in the PLHA office. If you cannot attend and have any ideas you would like to see happen in Pinewood, please let me know. I am in the book. Remember, spring is just around the corner and after that comes summer...no school...lots of free time...

Ginger Krup 703-780-0752

FROM THE GANG COORDINATOR:

Greetings to all. My name is Greg Bender and I am the Gang Coordinator at the Mount Vernon District Station. Mr. Rhoades asked me to remind everyone of the importance of reporting and removing graffiti. As the Gang Coordinator, it is my job to investigate all gang related crime that occurs in the Mount Vernon District and to facilitate the flow of information to the Gang Unit at Headquarters.

Gangs use graffiti to lay claim to a particular geographic location and to let other gangs in the area know they are around and active. The graffiti that showed up on the Pinewood entrances recently is a good example of this.

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Gang Coordinator *continued from page 5*

It is an ongoing dispute between two local rival gangs who are attempting to one-up each other by writing on the fences and the community entrance signs.

It is the community's responsibility to report the graffiti to the Police Department so that it can be documented and removed. Allowing the graffiti to remain gives the gangs a sense of security and the sense that the community does not care if they are there. Please help the Police Department by calling 703-691-2131 to report the graffiti.

An officer will respond to take the report. It is not necessary for callers to give their names or phone numbers to make a report, but it would be helpful in the event I identify suspects in the case. It may be the one small bit of information that you have that leads me to arrest those involved.

It is important to get the graffiti removed as soon as practical. It shows the gangs that people care about their neighborhood and are not going to tolerate gang activity. The graffiti may reappear, but I assure you the gang members will tire of having to constantly retag the area. I thank you in advance for your help in this matter. Any questions or concerns, feel free to call or email me.

MPO Greg Bender 703-360-8400 ext 2355
Gregory.Bender@fairfaxcounty.gov

Marketing Update

**Special Event: March 24th, 7:30 PM
Be Prepared- It's Coming!**

Don't Miss This One!

Lee District Supervisor Dana Kauffman will present an area update briefing to the residents of Pinewood Lake on March 24th at 7:30 P.M. at the community center. ALL residents are urged to attend and "network" with our key County decision maker. Past

meetings have been very productive for the community and we wish to continue the tradition. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR, JOIN US AND BRING A FRIEND!!

Just two months into the new year and we have already set a new record for the highest price paid for a community home- \$375,000 with the \$400,000 level approaching fast. This record-setting price escalation helps build equity and the value of individual estates with all those associated benefits, however, there is a flip side to this escalation and it's called tax creep.

As every local homeowner knows, Fairfax County adjusts the assessed value of each home annually and all indications are that we can expect another double digit increase this year alone. For those of us who plan to remain in our homes, those on fixed incomes, and those homeowners who may not have that much "elasticity" in their income stream, it's time to take note!

Here are some proven ways to lessen the burden and make the pending increased tax payment process less problematic: if you purchased your home with less than 20% down and were required to purchase PMI (Private Mortgage Insurance), you are most likely paying over \$100 a month more than you need to. When the current equity in your home exceeds 20% of its value, you may qualify to cancel the PMI, saving the monthly fee. It requires a new home appraisal by a licensed appraiser, consultation with your mortgage company and perhaps refinancing. Work the numbers...the last couple of years in home sale price growth could more than qualify you for PMI removal. Do the math- it could be a very rewarding financial move.

Think about refinancing even if you did it just a few years ago. If you plan to live in the community for say only 5 or 10 years, look at a 5 or 10 year ARM (Adjustable Rate Mortgage) or an interest only mortgage.

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Marketing Update *continued from page 6*

These products usually have some of the lowest monthly payments and the savings could more than cover property tax and related insurance increases.

If you are at least 62 years young and own or almost own your home, you have another very popular option – a Reverse Mortgage. Under this mortgage arrangement, your home pays you a tax free income for life. It is an increasingly attractive option for seniors who want to stay in their homes. It's worth a look!

Senior citizens and citizens with disabilities, your chances of being exempt from all or part of the tax burden on your home have never been better. For more details, call the County's Tax Relief Office at (703) 222-8234. You may be very glad you did!

Remember to join us on March 24th at 7:30 P.M. at the community center – and bring a friend.

Roger Reutershan 703-780-4162

FROM THE GARDEN CLUB . . .

Now is the time to prune trees and some shrubs. First of all let's talk about the shrubs; azaleas, no! not until after the blooms begin to fade, evergreens can be trimmed, but only to shape and encourage new growth, shrubs that lose their leaves? Make sure you know what shrubs you are pruning. This is a good time to check with your nurseryman and ask questions.

Now – trees – especially flowering trees. They must be pruned and trimmed before they bloom and while they are dormant. There are a lot of flowering crabs in our community and some are original to a house. Many of them are as tall as the house and need extensive pruning. Many of them should be reduced in size by half this year and again next year. It is very important to carefully consider the branch structure of your tree.

Check for rot where the tree forks and remove the badly affected branch. However, if the rot is extensive in the trunk, you should consider removing the tree completely. Certainly you want to remove any branch that crosses another branch. You want to open your tree to light and insure that it will assume a nice shape during the year. Pruning your tree at this time of the year will prompt your tree, when it starts to grow, to branch better. To maintain the shape of your tree, it should be pruned at least every two years, if not annually. There are several good internet sites to give guidance on how to prune trees. And remember to be careful when cutting a tree, you might consider hiring a good tree contractor to properly trim your tree and they will certainly remove all debris.

Certainly, some of our older flowering crabs should be removed and replaced. These trees are subject to a mold that destroys the leaves, hence, the reason why they lose their leaves in mid summer. Newer varieties are mold resistant. Check with your favorite nursery for recommendations. A good looking tree is a variety of the Bradford Pear known as the Ambassador. However, Bradford Pears grow fast and need to be pruned about every 3-4 years to maintain their size and shape. They grow in a dense cone and have dark green leathery leaves with no edible fruit. Another choice might be a flowering cherry tree or a variety of dogwood. Dogwoods are a good choice as they give good color for three seasons of the year.

Important to planting any tree or shrub is to understand how fast they grow and what size they will be when mature.

Look at your yard, look at your trees and shrubs, now is the time to make plans and soon the nurseries will be stocking for the spring and summer season. Also remember our soil is marine clay and you may need to do some serious work to build your soil to receive new plant stock.

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Garden Club *Continued from page 7*

Happy gardening. The garden club will hold its annual plant sale on the 7th of May on Lawrence Street. We will have a lot of annuals and some perennials. If you have any suggestions for plants, let us know. Call Steve Papanicolas at 703-799-7423 or Frank Holub at 703-799-4788. Our monthly meeting is held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Frank Holub Community Center at 1930 hours. Come and share your "green thumb" expertise with us. Of course, we constantly solicit contributions for our banner program. Can you contribute \$23 towards a banner? Your community would certainly appreciate it. Pinewood Lake is widely known in the area for our banners.

Frank Holub 703-799-4799

BOARD HAPPENINGS

February 10 – Board Meeting

The following board members were present: Mike Shigley, Vicki McLeod, Dave McAuley, Nancy Razzino, Bill Kiehl, Bev Card, and Nathan Grace. Jack Kaufman and Jim Brown were absent.

Mike Shigley presented Bill Kiehl and Bev Card plaques commemorating their years of service to the community as officers of the Board.

Mike Shigley introduced Mr. John Thillmann of Landmark Communities to make a presentation to the community on the Mt. Vernon Gateway Development proposal for the area bordered by Buckman Road, Janna Lee Ave, and Richmond Highway. The one hour of presentation, questions, and answers was very informative.

There was no Treasurer's report at this month's meeting since the Treasurer was out of town. There also were no Community Comments.

Under new business, Mike Shigley initiated a discussion on the schedule for addressing 2005 agenda items. The 2005 draft agenda was determined and will be distributed for final review.

The Maintenance Committee offered a proposal on replacing the gas lamps for the gates on Buckman Road.

Responding to a letter from Tonya Blanchard regarding private trash in the community trash cans, the Community Manager is publishing a separate flyer in this issue of The Needle to remind homeowners not to dump their home trash in the public cans.

Chris Ream, Chairman of the new Wildlife Committee, announced that the first meeting of the Wildlife Committee will be on 28 February 2005 and they will continue to meet on the fourth Monday of the month. Look for flyers to be distributed and the article in this issue of The Needle.

The Community Manager reported that there is a problem with people dumping materials outside the Community Compound. A proposal was made to put up a bright light to shine on the compound. The Maintenance Committee will be looking at the issue. See the notice in this issue of The Needle. There is also an increase in complaints about people honking their car horns in front of houses. Please be considerate of your neighbors. Finally, Outstanding Home Awards are coming soon.

The Board adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Dave McAuley 703-360-1712

2005 HOMEOWNER ASSESSMENTS
Remember our PLHA assessment is now \$102 a month.

PLHA Calendar

Regular meetings in PLHA office @ 7:30 PM

Mar 1	ACC
Mar 2	Garden Club
Mar 3	Pool
Mar 10	Board
Mar 14	Neighborhood Watch
Mar 17	Hospitality
Mar 18	Needle Deadline
Mar 21	Due Process
Mar 22	Maintenance
Mar 24	Marketing
Mar 28	Wildlife

FIRE ON FEBRUARY 21

An Oaklake Court house was badly damaged because of an electrical fire. The good news is the two adults and two children escaped uninjured. Also, the adjoining units were protected by the fire walls.

Neighbors were wonderful. Ben and Michelle brought the family into their home. Jeanne and Kamela brought food.

Donations for the family are being accepted in the office. Household items and clothing are needed. The girl and boy are 6 & 7 years old and wear the same size: tops 7-8; pants 7-8, shoes 1. The two adult females wear tops M-L; pants 10; shoes 8 ½.

Guest
Speaker

The 2005 Guest Speaker
Program Kicks Off
With Lee District Supervisor

Dana Kauffman

Thursday, March 24, 2005
7:30 P.M.

at the Pinewood Lake Homeowner's Association
Community Center

Come, and bring a friend!

Sponsored by the PLHA Marketing Committee

