

THE PINWOOD LAKE NEEDLE

~ Features ~

~ Election Articles ~ Candidate Bios ~ What Is 'Check 21' ? ~
~ Write-In Candidate; See Letter to the Editor ~

Your Community Voice

www.pinewood-lake.com

November 2004

**IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR CHILDREN UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE
TO OPERATE A MOPED, A MINI-BIKE OR
MOTORIZED SCOOTER ON PUBLIC ROADS!!!**

Candidate's Night and the PLHA Election

Pinewood Lake will be holding elections in December for four new board members. It is important for residents to meet the candidates, as these are the folks who will be representing your interests in the coming years. "Candidates Night" is November 10th (Wednesday), at 7:30 PM in the Pinewood Lake Community Center. Each candidate will make a two minute opening statement, answer questions and then make a one minute closing statement.

At the annual meeting in December, candidates will be introduced again before the voting. Ballots will be counted and the new board members names will be announced that evening. The meeting will take place on December 1st, at 7:30 PM on the second floor of the South County [Government] Building on Richmond Highway. It is extremely important that all eligible members vote for the candidates of their choice. I hope to see you there.

Nathan Grace 703-780-7707
Nominating Committee Chair

Si desea informacion en castellano sobre cualquiera de los temas tratados en la revista, por favor llame a la oficina al 703-360-6212, y pregunte por Carmen.

EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY

*Available Immediately!
Exercise Your Creativity!
Manage Your Own Newsletter!
Meet New People! Make New Friends!
Call The Editor, 703-619-7969*

What's In This Issue?

Candidate's Night and PLHA Election	1
Editor Needed for The Needle	1
Welcome To Lee District	2
Maintenance Log	3
Marketing Update	3
Candidate Biographies (begin)	4
Community Announcements	5 & 6
Did You Know - Check 21	8
Board Agenda for December	9
Please Do This	9
Ballot Issues, Nov 2 nd Election	10
PWL Resident Stars in Senior Olympics	10
Letter To The Editor	11
Fall Clean-Up	11
Harold the Houseowner	11
Mini Bikes-Just Say 'No'	12
Advertisements	13 & 14

Inserts

PLHA Meetings-Dates & Places
3rd Quarter Real Estate Update
Policy Resolution 2004-05

**MESSAGE FROM LEE DISTRICT
SUPERVISOR DANA KAUFFMAN**

Welcome to Lee District, one of the best kept secrets in Fairfax County and a wonderful place to live. Only minutes from our nation's capitol, we're also close to extraordinary parks and trails. We're situated at a transportation crossroads. Route One

Pinewood Lake
Homeowners Association
www.pinewood-lake.com

8159 Fernlake Court
Alexandria, VA 22309-1209
Phone: 703-360-6212
FAX: 703-360-6771
email: plha@verizon.net

Office Hours:

1 PM - 4 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: Bill Kiehl
Secretary: Bev Card
Treasurer: Jack Kaufman
Members at Large:
Jim Brown Nathan Grace
David McAuley Mark Piston
Nancy Razzino

The Pinewood Lake Needle Staff

Editor-in-Chief: Sonny Jones
Phone: 703-619-7969 Fax: 703-619-7966
e-mail: sjrejcjrj@ix.netcom.com
Community Announcements Jane Quigley
Copy Editor Frank Holub
Special Projects Bernice Pratt
Webmaster Arthur Guilani
Advertising Manager Lois Passman
Phone: 703-780-4236 Fax: 703-780-6903

The Pinewood Lake *Needle* is the official publication of the Pinewood Lake Homeowners Association. Publication is monthly. Advertising in the Pinewood Lake *Needle* does not imply approval or sanction of products or services by the Pinewood Lake Homeowners Association. Noncommercial classified ads for goods are free to residents. For residential classifieds, contact the Community Manager, 703-360-6212. For commercial classifieds or display rates, contact the Advertising Manager, 703-780-4236.

(Richmond Highway) has newly expanded bus service, and three Metro stations, Huntington, Van Dorn, and Franconia-Springfield, serve the area.

Recreation opportunities abound. Huntley Meadows Park with its 1,500 acres of diverse habitats including wetlands, meadows, and mature forests is the largest park in County. The amphitheater in Lee District Park is the home of the Lee Nights free summer concert series. Every October, our bicycle Tour de Lee leaves from the park and travels through the streets and trails of the district.

To live in southeastern Fairfax County is to live with our national history. We're just a short hop from George Washington's Mount Vernon residence, as well as Woodlawn Plantation, home of General Washington's nephew Lawrence Lewis and foster grand daughter Nelly Custis Lewis. The Historic Huntley Mansion, built in 1825 by George Mason IV's grandson Thomas Mason, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Fairfax County Park Authority now owns the mansion and grounds that are open to the public during the semi-annual Friends of Historic Huntley Open House. Fort Belvoir, future home of the U.S. Army Museum, is also the largest non-municipal employer in Fairfax County and counts a daytime population of 4,300 military and 14,400 civilians.

We're proud of the new South County [Government] Center with its job center, recreation programs, and services for seniors. Visit the first floor to access County government services via the Internet, or the job center for employment assistance. My satellite constituent service office is open every Wednesday from 9 AM to 1 PM. Please drop by or call 703-704-6003.

My staff and I are happy to meet you and answer any questions you may have. Please call us at 703-971-6262 or browse our web page at www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Maintenance Log

The year is drawing to a close and honestly the Maintenance Committee did not accomplish all it should have done this year. However, there is always more to do than time allows. We have a good group of folks, but everyone on the committee works and getting to the projects gets stuck between jobs and volunteering. Volunteers are always welcome and a call is out to the members of the community to help get more jobs done.

One major project that was done late in October was a large tree trimming job. Over ten jobs were done and the resultant chips have been recycled in the community. However, this is still not enough. We have more trees that need trimming and/or removal, and this will be done in 2005. We did get most of the dead trees and storm damage removed.

Recently, we were approached by some young people in our community about improving our playgrounds and play equipment. They will be making suggestions for improvements in this area. It is good to see our young people eager to help and improve our community.

The surface of the vehicle storage compound has been reworked with a stone material that will make it relatively hard, yet porous. We also have moved topsoil into an area outside the fence at the yard to eliminate standing water and improve the grassy area.

Leaf removal will be in full swing by the time this is printed. There have been concerns about the leaves and where they fall. Our grounds maintenance contractor will be doing all they can to control the leaves - however, leaves fall where they will and it is difficult to remove them as fast they fall and accumulate. The contractor is diligent in their removal, but weather is often a factor in getting this job done.

Maintenance is continued on Page 4.

MARKETING UPDATE

Be a Good Neighbor and Reap the Rewards

A \$400 thousand dollar home sale in Pinewood Lake! Impossible? No, not really. If everyone in our community devoted some serious interest and time to the curb appeal of their houses, and then followed up with a sound maintenance program for the structure and its interior, \$400,000 will not only come - it could come next year!

But first, each homeowner would have to invest a certain amount of "sweat equity," cleaning up their parking pads, their front and back yards, and patios, removing old, dead or overgrown shrubbery as starters. Follow this up with repairing and repainting their front and rear fences, installing shutters where shutters should be, making your yard light operational, and painting it etc. In general, painting what needs to be painted, and repairing what needs to be repaired.

Every home owner signed a statement during their "closing process" on their home that requires the new owner to abide by the stated rules of the community. Pinewood Lake home owners are required to abide by the Community Covenants, Bylaws and Architectural Control Committee (ACC) Rules and quite frankly much like public law - pleading ignorance is not an acceptable excuse. ACC approval is required prior to starting all work on the outside of your property and structure - it is mandatory.

The value of Pinewood Lake is in its award-winning design, its tree-filled parks, the lake and you, its homeowners.

The possibility of increasing your home value to more than \$400,000 is not that far-fetched. Think about it! With new local construction selling in the "low \$400s," the "high \$400s" and the \$500s, considering our on site parking, real parks, a pool and a lake, can we be far behind?

Marketing is continued on Page 4.

Maintenance is continued from Page 3.

Again, a reminder, the Maintenance Committee meets at the Frank Holub Community Center on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM, with one exception. In November, we meet on the third Tuesday and in 2004 the date will be November 16. Can you spare some time to come work with us?

Frank Holub 703-799-4788

2004 Candidates for the Pinewood Lake Homeowners Association Board of Directors

Candidate Biographies were received for: Bev Card, David McAuley & Vicki McLeod. Candidate Biographies were not received for: Paula Offord or Renardo Offord.

Each candidate was asked to submit a brief biography and the answers to three questions:

1. What is the main reason you want to be on the Board of Directors?
2. List the three most important issues facing Pinewood Lake.
3. What is your opinion of the fiscal health of Pinewood Lake?

Biography of Ms. Bev Card

In 1983 my three children and I moved to Pinewood. Over the years I have volunteered with the Swim Team, Garden Club, Marketing Committee, and as a storyteller for Haunted Lake. For the last nine years I have served as secretary of the Board. I am currently a member of the Pool Committee. In June I retired after 35 years as a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher at Oxon Hill High School. I am now the child development teacher at Mount Vernon High School. I believe in family and community. I want to revive the sense of community that first attracted me to Pinewood.

Card's Biography continued on Page 7.

Marketing is continued from Page 3.

But, that "sweat equity" remains a major player and must come first. Property with a run-down exterior appearance will not bring what we hope, not matter how hard we hope.

Be a good and smart neighbor, clean it up, fix it up, paint it up and the value of your investment will go UP! Please start now!

Roger Reutershan 703-780-4162

Biography of Mr. David McAuley

I have been a Pinewood Lake resident for over nine years. I am an attorney and work for the Department of Defense. I have been serving on the Board for the past three years, including one year as Vice President. For the past three years, I have focused most of my efforts on ensuring that the Board properly follows Virginia law and Pinewood Lake's governing documents. I began my present term taking a course on Virginia's homeowner association law to learn what the Board can do, should do, and should not do. I also made considerable effort to ensure that the Board treats everyone fairly, searches for common

McAuley's Biography continued on Page 7.

Biography of Ms. Vicki McLeod

Married, three grown children, retired from Fairfax County Govt. Presently substitute teacher for Fairfax County schools. I have served two previous terms on PLHA's Board of Directors and am very proud of my accomplishments during my tenure. I am among the first pioneers of Pinewood as an original homeowner. (32 years ago.)

Working with Lee and Mount Vernon District Supervisors, we were able to have streetlights on the state-owned streets in Pinewood. Got colonial style lamps. Only the gooseneck lights had been allowed previously. We made history and were noted in the Washington Post.

Muddy Hole Park was named and the ribbon cut by myself as a member of the

McLeod's Biography continued on Page 7.

Community Announcements

November 2004 Calendar of Events in Pinewood Lake

(Board & Committee Meetings are held in the PLHA Community Center except as noted.)

2 nd	Architectural Control
2 nd	National Election Day
3 rd	Muddy Hole Garden Club
8 th	Neighborhood Watch
9 th	Publications Committee
10 th	Candidate's Night
11 th	Board of Directors Meeting
11 th	Veterans Day
12 th	Needle Deadline
15 th	Due Process
16 th	Maintenance Meeting
18 th	Hospitality Committee
25 th	Thanksgiving

No trash or recycle pickup on Thanksgiving Day

Next trash pickup on Nov 29th, next recycle pickup on Dec 2nd.

December 1st Annual Meeting, Rooms 221A-B-C, South County Center

(All Board & Committee Meetings begin at 7:30 PM, unless otherwise noted.)

Absentee owners, under the provisions of PLHA Policy Resolution 2004-03, owe the PLHA office a copy of the current lease on their property. They also owe signed copies of Exhibits A-1, A-2 and A-3 of Resolution 2004-03. If the unit is not currently rented, absentee owners must inform the office staff of that status. Owners who are not in compliance may be brought in for due process.

Also, owners who have moved out of their Pinewood homes need to inform the PLHA office of their new address.

Community Manager 703-360-6212

Found Items: A pair of rollerblades lost on Central Park Circle a couple months ago and a watch dropped by the lake within the last month are in the office. Additionally, there is a woman's jacket that was left in the PLHA office. If you have lost these items, please call the office.

Community Manager 703-360-6212

SPEED LIMITS

Please adhere to the posted speed limits in the neighborhood. The speed limit on all private streets is 15 MPH. The speed limit on Central Park Drive, Lawrence Street, and

Lakepark Drive is 25 MPH. Please remember not to exceed 15 MPH on Amblewood Road and Fernlake Court when dropping off your assessments to the office.

Community Manager 703-360-6212

PLHA Office Hours

Please note that while office hours are officially from 1:00 to 4:00 PM, the Community Manager is sometimes there later in the day, especially on the days we have Board meetings or Due Process hearings. If you need to contact the office staff, but are not available between 1:00 and 4:00 on weekdays, you can either come on Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM or you can try calling the office after-hours on weekdays to see if anyone is here and available to help you.

Community Manager 703-360-6212

Announcements of general or specific interest to the residents/owners of Pinewood Lake may be submitted to the Editor for inclusion in this section. Announcements should be factual and timely, and must include the name and telephone number of the point of contact. This section is NOT intended for advertisements.

The Editor FAX: 703-619-7966

Community Announcements

Wildlife Volunteers Needed

The PLHA board is forming an ad-hoc committee to recommend an integrated management plan for wildlife control within Pinewood Lake's common areas. Concerned volunteers are needed for this important project, soonest.

An organizational meeting will be held at the PLHA office, on Monday, November 22nd, 7:30 PM.

Pinewood Lake is home to a variety of wildlife, including geese, ducks, turtles, beaver, fish, herons, snakes and numerous types of squirrels and birds. A smart plan is necessary to ensure a compatible environment for all the inhabitants - fish, fowl, animals and humans. Those interested in joining this committee should contact the PLHA office, at 703-360-6212, as soon as possible.

Bill Kiehl

FOR SALE:

- 2 white 4 drawer dressers \$25 each
 - 2 white night stands \$15 each
 - 1 pine 4 drawer dresser \$25
 - 1 pine night stand \$15
 - 7 piece dining room table \$300/obo
 - 3 piece coffee table/end tables \$50/obo
 - 1 wood/metal futon w/mattress \$200/obo
- Please call: 703-360-3831

The Class of 2006 at Mount Vernon High School will be holding a mulch sale on Saturday, November 6, 2004 at the MVHS parking lot next to the football stadium. Bags containing three cubic feet of shredded hardwood mulch will cost \$3.50. Area residents can place orders for mulch by calling the Subscool III office at 703-619-3200. Place your order no later than October 22. Orders of 10 bags or more can be delivered to your home
Dan Coast, MVHS

In preparation for a 2005 Pinewood Lake Directory, residents are afforded the opportunity to add or omit their phone numbers, as well as their listing, from the directory. Because the Directory is principally a publication for use by the residents of Pinewood Lake, we hope you will choose to include your names and telephone numbers in the Directory. Please use the form below and mail it or deliver it to the PLHA Office.

If you have any questions? Call The Editor, 703-619-7969

PLHA Residential Directory Listing

(Use for adding or omitting your listing)

If you wish to add or omit your name and/or phone from the annual PLHA Directory, please complete and submit this form to the PLHA Office, attn: Publications Committee.

Are you a: homeowner tenant

Please print the following information:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

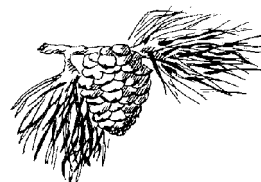
Add my: name phone

Omit my: name phone

Signature: _____



Pet Owners are reminded that Fairfax County law requires that pickup after their dogs after they have defecated. County fines can be levied for violation.



Candidate Biography Continued ~

Ms. Bev Card:

Ms. Card's answers to questions:

I would like to continue serving on the Board to help improve the quality of life in Pinewood.

The three most important issues are:

1. Develop a stronger sense of community and increase volunteerism among residents;
2. Maintain standards and "curb appeal" of homes and common areas to improve property values;
3. Manage resources to strengthen the financial well-being of the Association.

The fiscal health of Pinewood has improved during my tenure on the Board. Careful budgeting, expenditure oversight, and sound investments must continue to increase the needed capital reserve funds as indicated by our Reserve Study.

Candidate Biography Continued ~

Mr. David McAuley

common sense solutions, and works at bridging differences in the community.

Mr. McAuley's answers to questions:

1. I want to be on the Board because I care about our community. I view service on the Board as a way to contribute and help maintain our great neighborhood. I also want to be on the Board because respecting each other and leading the community with fairness and integrity is critical to the health of our neighborhood. I believe I have the skills to bridge differences among us so that everyone feels treated with fairness and respect.

2. Security: The biggest issue that will cause us not to be happy living in Pinewood Lake is not feeling safe. I want to make sure that we continue to maintain the robustness of our security patrols to deter criminal activity in our neighborhood.

Maintenance: Pinewood Lake has made phenomenal progress in the past two years toward developing a logical, comprehensive maintenance plan for our community and completing prioritized projects. I want to

make sure that we continue and improve this planning to maintain the community's appearance, make the expenses more predictable, and less costly. I also want to make sure the maintenance committee has the resources to accomplish their goals.

ACC: The Architectural Control Committee's job is at the front lines of maintaining our collective property values. It is important that the job is done with fairness and consistency but firmly upholds the rules that govern our neighborhood.

3. I think Pinewood Lake is in excellent fiscal shape. The Board has spent years

McAuley's Biography continued on Page 8.

Candidate Biography Continued ~

Ms. Vicki McLeod

Lee District Park Authority advisory committee. This Park was not to be developed until much later. Our lake was stabilized by riprap for the first time, and lastly I worked with the school board in placing our elementary children into Woodlawn and maintaining our population in Walt Whitman and Mt. Vernon.

I am still active in the Lee District Association, and work closely with the Lee and Mt. Vernon District Supervisors. I am an organizer of this year's annual Lee District banquet.

Ms. McLeod's answers to questions:

1. I would like to serve again on the PLHA board to continue our quest in becoming a neighborhood again, instead of house numbers. I also would like to work with the County on special projects affecting Pinewood, including schools, transportation, Route 1 improvements and recruiting quality businesses to the area.

2. The three most important issues facing Pinewood in my opinion are:

a. Maintaining our common areas, pool, and lakeside.

b. Keeping our community safe from crime for our children's sake.

McLeod's Biography continued on Page 8.

ATTENTION PINWOOD LAKE

Please mark these events on your calendars:

CANDIDATES NIGHT

Wednesday, November 10th at 7:30 PM

AT THE PINWOOD LAKE OFFICE

Meet the candidates running for positions on the Pinewood Lake Board. You will have the opportunity to have your questions * presented to and answered by the candidates.

Learn more about the candidates,
and be better informed when you vote.

* *Submit your questions for the candidates to*

contol@cox.net or plha@verizon.net

Or in writing to the PLHA Office, by November 8th

Plan also to attend the most important meeting of the year - the ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, December 1st at 7:30 PM,

AT THE SOUTH COUNTY [Government] CENTER,
on Richmond Highway

Please Plan To Arrive Between 6:45 and 7:15 PM

The following topics of interest will be presented
and discussed, among others:

- ❖ A report on the financial condition of our community
- ❖ Recognition of community volunteers
- ❖ Pinewood Lake highlights of 2004
- ❖ Individual committee highlights of 2004
- ❖ Presentation of Outstanding Home Awards

The continued well-being of Pinewood Lake depends on all of us.

Show your support for your community by attending both
of these meetings. Let's keep Pinewood Lake a great place to live.

PINEWOOD LAKE RESALE UPDATE

By KEITH WHITED

THIRD QUARTER '2004' PINEWOOD LAKE HOME SALES

<u>SETTLEMENT DATE</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>SELLING PRICE</u>	<u>TERMS</u>	<u>SUBSIDY</u>
July 03, 2004	4329 Gramercy Circle	\$230,000 (*)	CONV	\$ -0-
July 6, 2004	7933 Central Park Circle	\$275,000 (*)	CONV	\$ -0-
July 7, 2004	7912 Central Park Circle	\$308,000	CONV	\$ -0-
July 8, 2004	7967 Central Park Circle	\$335,000	CONV	\$ -0-
July 12, 2004	8117 Pinelake Court	\$292,000 (*)	CONV	\$ -0-
July 28, 2004	8107 Oaklake Court	\$322,639	CONV	\$ -0-
July 30, 2004	7932 Central Park Circle	\$310,000	CONV	\$ -0-
August 12, 2004	4317 Amblewood Road	\$310,000	CONV	\$ -0-
August 16, 2004	4306 Cedarlake Court	\$285,000 (*)	CONV	\$5,000
August 20, 2004	4333 Lawrence Street	\$300,000	CONV	\$ -0-
August 24, 2004	8148 Lakepark Drive	\$301,000	CONV	\$ -0-
August 30, 2004	8042 Central Park Drive	\$309,450	CONV	\$9,000
September 1, 2004	4525 Arendale Square	\$325,000	CONV	\$ -0-
September 13, 2004	8072 St. Anne's Court	\$310,000	CONV	\$ -0-
September 17, 2004	8050 St. Anne's Court	\$294,000	CONV	\$ -0-
September 22, 2004	7933 Central Park Circle	\$315,000	CONV	\$ -0-
September 30, 2004	8071 Central Park Drive	\$330,000	CONV	\$ -0-

Average Pinewood Lake Resale Price Exceeds \$300,000 !

The average sales price for all Pinewood Lake homes sold during the 3rd Quarter of the year was \$304,052. This equates to a rather meager (by recent standards) appreciation rate of less than 1% for the quarter. Negatively impacting that percentage is the fact that a significant number (nearly 25%) of the homes sold fell into the distressed homes (Handy Person Special) category. I have identified those homes(*) with an asterisk. As in past updates, I recalculated the 'average' sales price without the impact of those transactions with the focus on the more typical Pinewood Lake property.

The average sales price excluding those homes increased to \$312,699 - - a 4.4% quarterly increase of over \$13,150. While not quite as robust as some other recent quarters increases it is still equal to an annual compounded appreciation rate of nearly 19%.

After such robust growth in the Northern Virginia real estate market over the past few years it's natural to wonder if (or at least how long) it can continue. Has a market softening begun . . . ?

There are a number of indicators that we could expect to see in a softening market - - many of which are not yet evident. First, would be an increase in the inventory of homes for sale. A second major indicator would be a drop in the number of sales and new contracts. Other indicators would include homes taking longer to sell, home listings expiring unsold, fewer multiple offers and significantly more homes with price drops before being sold and a reduction in the number of properties receiving multiple offers.

There is evidence that some of these indicators are beginning to appear. This is primarily seen in homes remaining on the market longer before being sold, price reductions prior to selling and far fewer multiple offers being received.

Which of these indicators are we experiencing in Pinewood Lake? The only ones I have noticed are a significant reduction of multiple offers and a somewhat longer period of time before homes are sold. There have been few multiple offers in Pinewood Lake over the past quarter and the average time on the market has increased from 7 days to 18 days. Conversely, there have been few listing price reductions while actual listing prices still tend to be increasing. With the exception one brief period, active inventory remains at 0 to 3 homes available at any given time.

I believe there is a bit of healthy uncertainty in the marketplace as the election approaches. That said, I feel the overall market remains vigorous. While I do anticipate some moderation prices will continue to appreciate and homes will continue selling quickly.

Well, it appears that I've used my allotted space so it's time to stop. Have a pleasant holiday season and watch for my Year End Recap in the February issue of the Needle.

keith whited, C.R.S.

Candidate Biography Continued ~
Mr. David McAuley

working to build up our reserve account to support the enormous expenses of maintaining the community. The Board has made efforts to scrutinize expenses better to ensure we're spending money wisely and are getting good value for your dollar. We need to continue improving the scrutiny of our expenditures and work to ensure we continue to have money for our long-term needs.

DID YOU KNOW?

Check-writers be prepared for 'Check 21'
By Mary Hunt

<http://www.NewsAndOpinion.com>

A Sweeping new federal law nicknamed "Check 21" took effect on Oct. 28, 2004. This law will change the way your checking account works, giving digital copies of checks the same validity as paper ones. You may hear about this law from your bank, or, due to loopholes, you may never hear about its resulting impact. But you definitely want to be up to speed on the upcoming changes.

Here's a rundown of the important changes that will result from "Check 21."

NO MORE FLOAT: The "float" is the time between when you write a check and When the money is taken out of your account. Say goodbye to the float, forever. This law allows your check to be handled electronically once it has been received, just like a debit card payment. You dare not write a check unless you have the full amount in your account the moment you sign your name - that is how fast the check will be processed. You cannot afford to be socked with big overdraft or bounce fees.

NO MORE STOP PAYMENTS: Remember the good old days when you could stop payment on a check because you changed your mind or the service was unacceptable? Well, you can kiss those days goodbye as well. You will no longer have the luxury of time to change your mind.

Candidate Biography Continued ~
Ms. Vicki McLeod

c. Continuing to increase our real estate values and keep pace with the new housing coming into our area.

3. Our fiscal health currently is good with a substantial reserve but should be a continuing concern. We need to maintain at all times a surplus for emergencies as well as our large item priorities: lake, fences, streets and paths and common areas. I would like to see additional street lighting. There are some lights in common areas, but there are streetlights only on state maintained streets, and none on Pinewood maintained streets.

'Check 21,' Continued.

NO MORE CANCELLED CHECKS: You won't be able to get your original paper Checks back because your bank will not have them. Your paper checks are digitally copied to create a "substitute check" and then destroyed the moment they are accepted as electronic transactions. Cancelled checks for proof of payment or to fight a forgery are a thing of the past. You want to make sure your bank sends you copies of your substitute checks, which will be legal proof of payment. Watch out for fees associated with a substitute-check-returning account. Look for another bank if your bank charges a high fee to get copies of all your checks as substitute checks.

DEPOSITS STILL ON HOLD: Just because your checks will clear faster doesn't Mean your deposits will be available to you any sooner. The new law does not shorten check hold times.

WATCH YOUR ACCOUNT: The possibility exists that a check can be turned into an electronic transaction with a "substitute check" and then the original paper check is not destroyed, allowing it to make the rounds and be credited against your account a second time! Now more than

See 'Check 21' on Page 9.

'Check 21' is continued from Page 8.

ever it is important that you keep an eye on your account for such errors. If you spot an error or fraud the bank must put the money back into your account within 10 business days, but only if you have not waived your rights to have "substitute" checks provided to you.

DON'T SIGN UP FOR VOLUNTARY CHECK TRUNCATION: You bank may ask you to agree to "voluntary check truncation." This means you give up your rights to have Copies of your substitute checks returned to you. The Consumers Union warns us that we will have even fewer consumer rights under voluntary non-return of our checks than we will have under the full provisions of Check 21. For this reason they recommend that we decline invitations from our banks to convert to "voluntary check truncation."

While I've only summarized portions of Check 21 for this article, you owe it to yourself to learn as much as you can about how this law will affect you. You can learn more about Check 21 and its provisions at the Consumers Union Web site at:

<http://www.consumersunion.org/> and the American Bankers Association's "Check 21 Resource Center"

<http://www.aba.com/www.aba.com>.

Furnished by The Editor

Board Agenda for December

December, of course, is the month designated for the annual meeting of the association membership. If a quorum of the membership (60%) is attained, ballots will be counted, and the results announced. If a quorum is not achieved, then a second meeting, with reduced requirements for a quorum, will be held, and the votes counted and announced.

Additionally, there will be other matters to be discussed. The budget for 2005 will be reviewed, and - this year - changes to the By-Laws must be approved. Further, reports on their activities and accomplishments will be rendered by each

committee chairperson, and the awards for Outstanding Homes will be announced.

In all, a very important meeting that should be attended by homeowners and tenants alike.

The Editor 703-619-7969

Please, please, please do three things for Pinewood Lake & For Yourselves.

1. Come to the Candidate's Night on November 10th, a Wednesday. Listen to what the Board candidates have to say, and then,

2. Vote in the annual election. Ballots must be at the office no later than 4:00 PM on the 1st of December, or turned in at the meeting, at the South County [Government] Center no later than 7:30PM on the 1st of December, also a Wednesday, and,

3. Come to the Annual Meeting on the 1st of December. Do these three things for yourselves. You live here - or own property here - and you need to have a say in choosing who represents you; who spends your dues money; who sets your dues payments; who makes up the rules we all have to live by; who makes the decisions that affect all of us.

Please show your interest. I know some of you who read this always show up. But some of you who read this seldom, if ever, show up. Do it this time. If you are not happy with the sitting board, say so! The 'silent majority' never got anything done. Only by OUR participation will this ever change. If you don't like the way some things are done in Pinewood Lake, for heaven's sake, stand up and be counted! There are 542 addressees in Pinewood Lake. Please show you care.

The Editor 703-619-7969

Home Remedies

You need only two tools: WD-40 and Duct Tape. If it doesn't move and it should, use WD-40. If it moves and shouldn't, use the duct tape.

VOTER INFORMATION

Nov. 2nd General Election

Fairfax County Bond Issues

In addition to voting for candidates for national office, you must decide whether or not to support each of four Fairfax County bond initiatives:

- Human Services Facilities (\$32.5M)
- Public Library Facilities (\$52.5M)
- Parks and Park Facilities (\$75M)
- Transportation and Transportation Improvements and Facilities (\$165M).

If voters approve the bond questions, the county only receives authority to issue bonds. The affected county agencies will still have to go through the normal county approval process for the individual projects. For further details, you may consult the bond referendum section of the Fairfax County website, www.co.fairfax.va.us/opa/bond/

Although all of these bond issues, if approved, will have impact on Pinewood Lake residents as citizens of Fairfax County, two issues will have a direct impact on us.

1. The transportation bond question includes fund to improve the intersection of Richmond Highway and the Engleside Post Office. In addition, there are funds for the Richmond Highway Public Transportation Initiative, which includes construction of enhanced bus stops and transit centers, bus operational improvements, and access improvements.

2. The Human Services Facilities bond question includes funding to raze the existing mental health facility on Gregory Drive and replace it with a fully handicapped accessible facility serving 16 residents.

The existing Gregory Drive facility is located in a boxy brick building on a 40,000 square foot double lot, almost two blocks north of the South County building, but clearly visible from Richmond Highway. Until 1985, the building was a substation of the Virginia State Police, and for almost fifteen years it has been a mental health treatment facility for up to eight people. Until a year ago it was a coed facility for short-term acute care patients.

When acute care treatment was relocated

elsewhere in Fairfax County, the Fairfax-Fall Church Community Service Board transferred eight women from a residential program out of a rental property in Rose Hill. The goal of the bond issue is to transfer eight men from a similar Rose Hill property and produce program efficiencies and meet physical accessibility requirements of Federal law. Residents of these programs have day activities (e.g. treatment, jobs, schooling) elsewhere, have 24 hours a day, 7 day a week staff supervision, and stay on average 18 months. There is no existing property elsewhere in Fairfax County to relocate the program, and apparent space at the Mount Vernon facility will be lost due to planned expansion there (also part of the bond issue).

Should the bond issue be disapproved, the existing program will remain on Gregory Drive and the Community Service Board will try to find other funding. However, even if the bond issue is approved, demolition and construction will require that the Community Service Board comply with Fairfax County zoning and land use hearing procedures. The Board's intent is to construct a facility that better blends with the Richmond Highway corridor through use of compatible construction and landscaping.

Mike Shigley

Pinewood Lake Resident Stars in Senior Olympics

Charles D. Ramsey, long-time resident of Saint Annes Court, participated in the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, Sept 19th, at the Falls Church and on Sept 20th, at Lee District Park. Competing in the 70-74 age group, Mr. Ramsey achieved the following excellent results:

- 50 Meter Dash 3rd Place
- 110 Meter Dash 2nd Place
- 200 Meter Dash 2nd Place
- 400 Meter Dash 1st Place
- Soft Ball Hitting 3rd Place
- Soft Ball Throwing 3rd Place

Our congratulations to Mr. Ramsey!



Letter To The Editor:

Dear Editor:

Although, my name will not appear on the ballot for election to the PLHA Board of Directors, it is my intention to run as a "write-in" candidate. I still feel a duty I give back to our community.

Since retiring, I have been active in the Maintenance Committee, as well as serving this year on the Board of Directors. After thirty years of living here in Pinewood, I have enjoyed giving back a bit of time and talent to the place we call home. I have found that my experience as a bank officer, and as a real estate broker and appraiser have provided me with valuable insight into the challenges presented by my position as a director.

I do hope my neighbors will help me continue to serve Pinewood Lake by voting for me as a "write-in" candidate.

Sincerely,

Jim Brown, 7906 Central Park Circle

Mt. Vernon H.S. Receives Grant

Mount Vernon High School has been selected to receive a Year Three renewal grant of \$2,500 from the America Online Aspirations Fund. According to Krisite Cunningham of AOL, Mont Vernon High School's "proven success is impressive, and we hope that this continued support will allow you to continue to expand and grow your AOL Aspires Program." This particular grant was awarded to fulfill the goal of encouraging high school success and promoting college opportunities for female Hispanic students enrolled at MVHS.

Dan Coast, MVHS

Fall Clean-Up Day,

16 October 2004

The day started out to be cloudy and rainy, but bloomed into a sunny breezy day. And eighteen neighbors were able to get together and helped to do a number of projects around the community. A lot of litter, branches and trash in the lake were gathered. A group of folks got busy and

moved 16 tons of top soil into position around the lake paths. Grass was planted and even a layer of erosion blankets were applied. Of course, this is only the beginning; there will be more to come. Following about three hours work, a lunch was served at the Community Center. It was a good day! The following volunteers are gratefully thanked for their work in this successful venture.

Brian Palazzolo	Jane Palazzolo
Susan Hosek	Edna Burns
John Yoder	Roger Reutershan
Jimmy Bowen	Mike Chung
Andrew Baldacci	Loukas Baker
Frank Holub	Ione Knapp
Dick Knapp	Sieglinde Leshner
Mike Berg	Nyana Gollopp
Ashley Carmichael	Courtney Dunn
Frank Holub	703-799-4788

Harold the Houseowner sez:

Well, it is Fall again and time to start thinking about winterizing our homes and yards.

Remember the following:

✓ Do you know where your water turnoff valves are in your house? Before it gets real cold, turn off the valves and drain the line to the outside. This is an easy job and a lot cheaper than a frozen pipe!

✓ Have you raked all the leaves off your grass areas? Dead leaves left on grass over the winter will kill your grass - not a good thing!

✓ It is also time to apply fall fertilizer to your grass. Also, you still have time to plant new grass before it gets really cold. How about fall bulbs - you can plant those well into December for beautiful blooms next spring.

✓ And if you need it - it is time to start worrying about applying weather stripping and such to your windows and doors.

And after the leaves have pretty much blown away, think about cleaning your gutters and downspouts making sure they

Harold Sez is continued on Page 12.

Harold is continued from Page 11.

are in good shape. Ice and snow can tear gutters right off your house causing problems to your fascia boards and roofs.

Also, do you have problems with squirrels in your attic? Call an exterminator and a contractor to do something about where the critters get in. Mice are another problem, try to figure where they get in - you can use steel wool to plug up holes. Use foam in a can to thwart their efforts to become an obnoxious house guest.

If your fences need some work to make sure they remain upright - now's the time to do some repairs. Winter and spring winds can wreak havoc with a weak fence.

Fall is also a good time to remove dead flowers and do some minor pruning of trees and shrubs. Major pruning of trees and certain shrubs is usually done starting in early March.

A clean yard will not invite wild critters from making a winter home at your home.
Frank Holub 703-799-4788

Mini Bikes – Just Say ‘No’

As Clint Eastwood said in one of his “Dirty Harry” movies, *“Do you feel lucky, punk? Well, do ya?”*

If you ride a mini bike, a.k.a. “pocket bike,” on public streets, you’d better be feeling very lucky. If you don’t get run over and mashed into the pavement by a four-wheeled something - any vehicle is much larger and heavier than what you’re riding - you may run afoul of a Fairfax County policeman.

Many parents are unaware of the Virginia law that prohibits children under 16 from operating a motorized bicycle, a.k.a. “moped.” In Virginia, and more to the point, Fairfax County, the same rules that apply to mopeds also - for the moment - apply to mini-bikes. VA Code 46.2-914, states: “No moped shall be driven on any highway or public vehicular area (i) faster than 30 miles per hour or (ii) by any

person under the age of 16.”

Further, the operator of a moped, scooter or mini-bike is subject to much the same rules of the road as operators of full-size motorcycles, automobiles or trucks. Although mopeds and the like, because they are not considered by the Commonwealth of Virginia to be “motor vehicles,” are not required to be registered with the DMV. Likewise, because they are not officially “motor vehicles,” their operators are not required to be licensed. The only documentation requirement is that moped riders (motorized scooter riders, mini-bike riders), must carry identification.

That said, parents need to visualize these pocket bikes or mini motorcycles on a road with other vehicles. A rider on a moped is as tall as a bicycle rider, and slightly taller than a motorcyclist. After collisions between cars and motorcycles, the frequently-heard excuse is, “I didn’t see him.” And mini-bikes are much, much lower than anything else on the road. As such, they are easily hidden from moving traffic.

Any rider, on a “vehicle” with the potential of 30 miles per hour, that cannot be seen, is a threat to other motorists, and a danger to him or herself. Although many of these little motorcycles are ridden by teens and adults, the scale of them is such that a six-year old, a seven-year old, or eight-year old, etc, “fits” them perfectly. Children of this age do *NOT* have the maturity and judgement to operate anything at 30 MPH on Pinewood Lake streets.

Parents - before they buy one - need to give some very serious thought to this. The admonition “age appropriate” applies here. Moreover, the low silhouette of these mini-bikes is an invitation to a tragic event. When asked, I would encourage every parent to “just say, ‘No’.”

The Editor

703-619-7969

Please support our advertisers, and when you shop, tell them you saw their ad in The Needle.

"Mess Free or No Fee!"

Kramer & Sons provides the only guaranteed mess-free service in the Northern Virginia area! We will leave our work area as clean as it was when we got there, or you don't pay!

Mention this ad for \$10 off your service call!

Not valid on dispatch fee-only calls. Not valid with any other offer.

- * Water Heater repair/replacement
- * Sewer and drain cleaning
- * TV/Video pipe inspections
- * Toilets, sinks, faucets, disposals
- * Sump pumps, sewage ejector pumps

(703) 360-6400



Kramer & Sons
Plumbing Service, Inc.
Family Owned and Operated
www.kramerandsonsplumbing.com

Advertising Policy:

There are two categories of advertising in The Needle:

Free personal ads from Pinewood Lake residents ONLY, and paid commercial ads from business entities.

Free personal advertisements are those from community residents (and absentee owners) that offer "one-time" sale of goods, and requests for goods or services.

Paid advertisements will be accepted from business entities who may or may not be owned and operated by community residents. These entities include such services as baby-sitting services, legal services, tutoring, gutter cleaning, and other income-producing services.

The intent of this policy is to strengthen the overall management and quality of the newsletter. Comments may be directed to the Community Manager, 703-360-6212. The Advertising Manager is Ms. Lois Passman, 703-780-4236, FAX: 703-780-6903.

Painting
Interior / Exterior

Bathrooms
Kitchens
Basements

Metro Home Improvements

703-490-1223 / 703-304-7573

Jesse L. Ange, Jr.
Licensed / Insured

Drywall • Repairs
Siding / Decks

Floors
Ceramic Tiles

SUNITA'S DAY CARE

- ✓ Single Family Home (Enclosed backyard)
- ✓ Full Time / Part Time Care
- ✓ Loving, Caring Environment
- ✓ Experienced / Licensed / Trained
- ✓ C.P.R. / First Aid Certified
- ✓ U.S.D.A. Meals / C.C.A.P.
- ✓ Non-Smoking / No Pets
- ✓ For appointment, call 703-360-3425



3422 Ramsgate Terrace
Alexandria, VA 22309



Please support our advertisers, and when you shop, tell them you saw their ad in The Needle.

SELL YOUR HOME 4¹/₂%

"Helping Families Relocate for over 30 years"

I BOUGHT MY 1ST HOME IN PINWOOD LAKE IN THE 1970'S



100% Full Service Includes:

- ✓ MLS, Lockbox, Sign
- ✓ REALTOR.com
- ✓ www.homesdatabase.com
- ✓ www.myhomeseeker.com
- ✓ Homes Magazines
- ✓ Full Market Analysis in your area, and much more!

Only 4%
If I personally list & sell your home!

www.GWRealty.us



Doug Kuhn
REALTOR®



703-362-7108

STATE OF THE ART CARE FOR YOUR PETS
DOGS • CATS • BIRDS • EXOTICS

DAY • EVENING • SATURDAY
EMERGENCY APPOINTMENTS

- Health Exams
- Boarding
- Surgery
- Dentistry
- Geriatric Care
- Laser Surgery
- Endoscopy
- Ultrasound
- Telemedicine
- In-House Lab



Fort Hunt Animal Hospital
703 - 360 - 6100
1900 Elkin Street
Alexandria, VA
www.forthuntanimalhospital.com



Hayfield Animal Hospital
703 - 971 - 2127
7724 Telegraph Road
Alexandria, VA
www.hayfieldanimalhospital.net



Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 7:00 PM
Saturday 7:30 AM - 12:00 Noon



Griffin Plumbing & Heating

8601 Richmond Hwy.
Alexandria, Va. 22309

703-780-5400

Family owned business

for over 60 years
CALL US TODAY



Join us at Sunrise at Mount Vernon where you can't help but feel at home!



703-780-9800
8033 Holland Road
Alexandria, VA 22306
www.sunriseseniorliving.com