



The Needle

“Community Connected”

Official Publication of the Pinewood Lake Homeowners Association

www.Pinewood-Lake.com

Alexandria, VA

October 2011

Editor's Side-Chat

October's here!

Earthquakes, floods, etc. Now that summer is officially over, a pretty eventful one I should add, it's time to prepare for the cooler months. Surf on the web, refer to magazines, or go to our local library for ideas on preparing for the fall and winter. One of my favorite websites is Organized Home (<http://organizedhome.com/>).

MUST READ – Mark date **Oct. 3rd** for very important meeting. Please look over material that was delivered to homeowners in late September. We need your input! This meeting will take place at 7:30 PM at South County Center, 2nd Floor.

Please take notice of some critical meetings taking place this month. Read on for details.

****Attention Parents of 2-5 year olds****: The **new playground at Gramercy Circle** is now open!



Finally, special thanks to our children, Micheala and Joshua for submitting their work for this month's edition! Let's encourage our kids to do their best in school this year.

O.S.

PLHA's Jr. Annual Writing Feature Cover “Back to School Time”

Friends Again

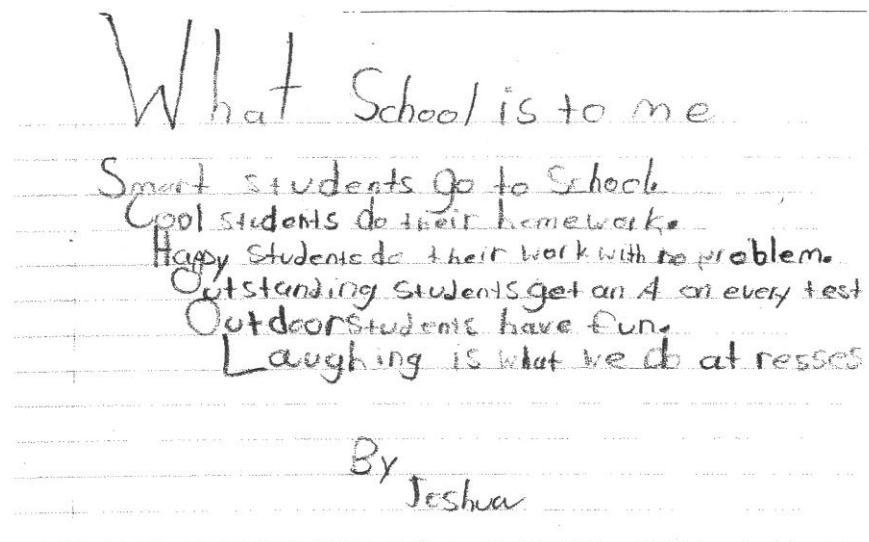
A back to school Haiku by Micheala

(age 6 – first grade St. Louis)

Excited, happy

Girl Scouts, carpool, school rules, yay!

Saint Louis, relief



Nominations Wanted for Board of Directors Elections in December 2011

By Delna Clark

Did you know that Pinewood Lake is self-managed? It's the Board of Directors who manages our community. This year Rich Hall, Delna Clark and Vicki McLeod's terms will end and Tom McCuin has step down.

If you have ideas about how to: sustain/improve our home values; maintain security/safety for your family, property and community; enhance community programs/cooperation; maintain our common grounds? Then consider running for the Board of Directors. Four members will be elected at the Annual Meeting in December.

Candidates should be willing to commit their time to understand the challenges facing our community and meet at least once a month to make decisions concerning architectural control, including fence and paint color standards, finance, community security, and the maintenance of our common areas. Individuals must declare their candidacy by **October 15th** or be a write-in-candidate. Candidates must also submit a bio and answer 3 questions by **October 18th**. Contact the PLHA office or any member of the Nominations Committee with questions or to declare your candidacy.

Nomination Committee Members

Bev Card 703-360-2528
bmwcard@verizon.net

Dick Knapp 703-360 1941
rknapp4@cox.net

Nominations Chair

Delna Clark 678-570-0894
delnac@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE!

- ☞ **Oct. 6th** – Finance Committee will meet to prepare a 2012 Association budget for the Board to consider at a special budget adoption meeting on Oct. 19th.
- ☞ **Nov. 8th** – Vote @ Mt. Vernon Woods (State Reps and School Board Elections)

PLHA Calendar for October

Regular meetings in PLHA office @ 7:30 PM

October 3 Community Mtg. about Revision of DCCR at South County Center
 October 4ACC
 October 5Garden Club
 October 6Finance Committee Budget Meeting
 October 10 Neighborhood Watch
 October 13.....Board Meeting
 October 19Board Budget Meeting
 October 21.....Needle Deadline
 October 25 Maintenance Committee
 October 27 Marketing Committee

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:

12 PM - 3 PM Monday-Friday
 9 AM - 12 Noon Saturday

Community Manager: Kirsten Davis
 Asst Community Mgr: Karen Mestemaker
 Admin Assistant: Vikki Silver

Board of Directors

President:	Bill Gleason
Vice President:	Nancy Razzino
Secretary:	Rich Hall
Treasurer:	Jack Kaufman
Members at Large:	Delna Clark
David McAuley	Tom McCuin
Vicki McLeod	Brian Palazzolo

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Muddy Hole Garden

By Frank Holub

As is usually the case, the garden club gets really busy this time of the year and we hope some of our neighbors will join to work with us in the spirit of the season!

First of all --- Halloween! As usual, we mount our Great Pumpkin Float and cruise through the community passing out candy to the kids and distributing daffodil bulbs to the adults to plant in their gardens to add a little brightness next spring. It is always a lot of fun to see all the little ones in their many costumes and to visit with their guardians during this festive time. Come join the parade! We start at Central Park Circle and proceed up Central Park Drive; stopping at the various parks and all the way up to the office or until we run out of candy (that never happens!) Two great pumpkins on the front of the tractor and the guy with the pumpkin hat on the trailer! We have a grand time!

Continuing on during this same week, we start the wreath making process for the upcoming sale on the **5th of November**. We hold the sale at the *Community Center from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM*. The club will also have lunch items for sale from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. We also are inviting crafters to come and exhibit and sell their wares. Also, anyone interested in selling rummage items can set up to sell their items at this show. It's a **family day** -- "So --- Come one! Come all!" Enjoy a bit of fun and see the items being offered for sale and meet your neighbors!

Following the sale, about the middle of November, the club will begin assembling the wreaths ordered. Anyone interested in learning how to do this work is welcome to join us. We work in the evenings (starting at 7:30 PM) at the compound in the shed, making the wreaths to fill our orders. Dress warmly, bring work gloves to protect your hands and join us in having fun. The first serious work session is usually a "deep dish" pizza party prepared by Chef Frank -- if nothing else, "we eat good!!" Besides making wreaths, we make bows and assemble decorations to put on the wreaths, spray paint

pine cones and other miscellaneous tasks. "It's all in an evening's task!" All the wreaths are finished and delivered NLT 3 December, this year.

The following week, a couple of garden club members take some time to decorate the gate posts on Buckman, Amblewood, and Lawrence Sts. It's nice to be festive for the holidays!

OK! That is the schedule of garden club events for the rest of the year! Now set down with your calendar and mark them on your schedule. If you have other questions call the office and they will refer you to someone who can answer your question; mainly, Frank Holub at 703-799-4788. Or better yet join us at the *next garden club meeting on 5 October at 7:30 PM at the Frank Holub Community Center (AKA the office)* and we would be glad to talk with you in person.

We hope you will come to our wreath/craft/rummage sale or better yet, you will come and play with us at our wreath making sessions! **Don't forget our Great Pumpkin Float!**



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REPORT OF THE POOL COMMITTEE on the 2011 SEASON

By Mike Shigley
Chair, Pool Committee

The 2011 season showed mixed results. Although total attendance dropped 4% from last year, the median attendance for each month was the same as greater than the same month in 2010 (except for September. It did not help matters that two hurricanes drove down attendance at the end of August and into September. On the other hand, guest pass revenue rose 25% this year to almost \$2100.

2010	May	June	July	August	Sep
Average	74	46	44	24	14
Median	72	48	48	20	12

For the third year in a row the pool staff was friendly and helpful. In addition, we were able to maintain the same guards for the entire season, and once again they came from Eastern Europe, which typically produces better guards. Furthermore, the staff maintained a very high level of maintenance and cleanliness. In fact, they were the best staff we have had in well over a decade. They went out of their way to be helpful and considerate and, in fact, took it upon themselves to keep the potted flowering plants strong and blooming all summer.

There was one issue outside of the control of the pool management company, guest conduct at private pool parties. The Pool Committee is drafting revisions for the Board to consider for 2012 that would prohibit the use of alcohol and professional amplifying equipment and would limit the area, activities, and allowable time for parties.

The pool ended the 2011 season in very good condition and, subject to the vagaries of winter weather, will require no capital improvements for the 2012 season. Nonetheless, the gazebo was damaged by late season wind storms and will probably require replacement. In addition, the Pool Committee is considering recommending to the Board additional shade in the parking lot side of the pool deck with another gazebo or a cantilevered umbrella.

A BIT OF NEWS

Land Use:

The committee approved some additional satellite dishes on the existing Comfort Inn on Van Dorn St. ATT and Verizon. There are a couple of small projects to be constructed on Oakwood Sr. off of Van Dorn. Every year, the Districts look at the Annual Plan Review to decide what should be nominated in addition to what is already planned for the district. This is a 20-30 year plan and must go through many channels to be approved. The process has started and Land Use will see the cases that pass to seek their approval. Go to FX.CO.gov/dp/apr to see further information on the subject of APR in relation to Land Use.

New Horizons:

New Horizons as you know is the substance and mental facility on Route One. They have just reached their 1st year in operation with an extreme success rate. They have charted over 3000 programs hours for the residents in treatment and for the apartment residents who are part of the program. In all, New Horizons have served 46 clients. There has not been another program like this in the County. New Hope Rising Church on Russell Rd. is in partnership with New Horizons and this serves both clients well. They are looking for volunteers and need a flower garden in the front of the beautiful building if anyone wants to donate. Call me if you are interested. Web Site is NewHorizons.NAB.org.

Human Services and Health Committee:

This committee is looking at the lack of affordable and work force housing for Mt. Vernon and Lee District. This is an on-going project and one that will take years to accomplish. The committee is also updated from the CEO of Mt. Vernon Hospital about its expansion and when finished will look like a college campus with new health services and more private beds. The Lorton emergency site will service that area but will be for emergencies only and all of those patients will be transferred to Mount Vernon for in-patient needs.

These are a few of the committees that I serve on to represent Pinewood Lake. If you have any in-put or questions, let the office know and I will get back to you.

Until Next Time
Vicki

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- Paid commercial ads from businesses

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Muddy Hole Garden Club

Annual Wreath, Craft and Rummage Sale

Saturday, November 6, 2011

9:00 to 3:00

Frank Holub Community Center

Orders placed for holiday wreaths are handmade by Garden Club members in the weeks around Thanksgiving, from greens grown in the Pinewood Lake community. Orders taken on the 5th of November will be delivered to your door (in Pinewood Lake) on Saturday, December 3, 2011.

Local crafters are invited to exhibit items for sale which they have made. Crafters can set-up their wares in the office area. The cost of renting a table is \$10.

Any homeowner who so desires may also set-up a table for display and sale of any items of rummage they may have. The cost of renting a table or outdoor space is \$10 as well.

The Garden Club will be selling lunch items from 11A.M. to 1 P.M.

Anyone interested in learning to make wreaths after our sale, please contact Steve Papanicolas at (703) 799-7423 or Frank Holub at (703) 799-4788.

Attention: Crafters and Rummage Sellers

Anyone interested in renting a table or outdoor space at the Wreath, Craft and Rummage Sale, please complete this form and return, along with a \$10 check made payable to the Muddy Hole Garden Club, to Frank Holub at 4440 Longworthe Square, Alexandria, VA 22309.

Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Address: _____

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