



The Luxmanor

Greensheet

Serving Luxmanor, Windermere, and The Oaks

North Bethesda, Maryland

April, 2009

Produced by the Luxmanor Citizens' Association www.luxmanor.org

Communication:

That's What Makes it a Neighborhood

Contributed by April Chang, Todd Berman, and More

Our neighborhoods already have two great methods of communication and the Board is reporting progress on the third. Here is a quick summary so everybody who wants to join in has the opportunity.

The Luxmanor ListServ has been in operation for some time. Put simply, it is an electronic town center where residents can communicate with each other through emails sent to those who sign up to receive those emails. It keeps neighbors alert to planning and development meetings and progress, community events, and similar news. Lots of good leads are exchanged on local contractors, handymen, dentists, and everything else you might need. One can choose to receive emails as they are sent – or once daily in a digest form, which cuts down on the number of messages. The ListServ is open to all Luxmanor residents and adjoining neighborhoods. The emails are monitored by Todd Berman or his designee and while we express ourselves pretty well, it is usually quite civilized. Emails on topics which don't interest you can be deleted instantly. In order to post to the listserv, you must join Yahoo Groups. To join, go to our website, see below. It's easy. Contact Todd Berman [berman@comcast.net] if you need help.

The Luxmanor Web Site is www.luxmanor.org. There are all kinds of good information there from history to aerial views of the community and some detail of planned developments around us. It also has copies of old Greensheets and a wealth of links to information pertinent to the community. Periodic review is a good idea.

The Neighborhood Rep role is the third method. It is a role proposed by the Board and was featured in the last Greensheet. We have received quite a number of volunteers, but we need more. Here is a summary of this great volunteer opportunity which will take very little time but will serve an excellent purpose for our community. The Neighborhood Rep will:

- Serve just their own street (or part of it in the case of longer streets) as their territory.
- Compile a list of email addresses or phone numbers for their own territory. (Most email addresses are in the Directory.) Some neighbors may not wish to be included; that is fine – don't worry about it.
- Use the list to alert neighbors to news of particular interest to them, or to remind of special events/meetings
- Inform the Executive Committee of any questions or particular concerns *from* their neighborhood.
- Greet newly arrived neighbors as soon as possible and alert Welcome Chair Anna Stokes.

Please contact Anna Stokes to sign up. Her phone is 301-571-1979 and email is kemannastokes@aol.com.

President's Letter

Dear Members,

Happy Spring! Crocuses and daffs are out and we are getting ready for this year's **Spring Weekend, April 25-26**, and **Garden Tour, May 15-16**. This year the Spring Weekend coincides with Earth Day Weekend and we are planning a potluck picnic and events for Earth Day. Thanks again to Varda Avnisan (Art Show Curator), Nancy Feldman (Softball Game Chair), Gail Klein (Garden Tour Chair), Nathalie Valette-Silver (Earth Day), and Lynn Waters, Special Events Chair, who are putting together these events that will have us all outside, using our neighborhood parks and relaxing with our friends and neighbors. Those of you who attended last year's events know how much fun these are. **If you missed them last year, now is your chance!**

The weekend starts on Saturday with a **Earth Day Picnic** at the newly-discovered Luxmanor Local Park; bring the sides, the LCA will provide the fried chicken; on Sunday we hold our **First Annual Spring Art Show** at the Henson Cabin; and our **Second Annual Softball Game**. Our **Second Annual Garden Tour is in May**.

As usual, development issues have not slowed. I want to alert the neighborhood to the beginning of '**White Flint Sector Plan Phase II**.' This new proposed plan will focus on Executive Boulevard to our north. If you live along **Neilwood, Danville Drive**, or other streets where you can see the buildings on Executive Boulevard, **pay close attention** to this plan. It is likely that mixed use high-rises of the type being proposed for the 'White Flint Sector' along Rockville Pike will be proposed along Executive Boulevard. Your yard and view could be affected. Now is the time to contact the council and the Planning Board if you are interested or concerned about these Master Plans. I would encourage you to participate in this civic process. The council should hear from our neighborhood often.

Enjoy the spring, make sure you lock your cars, and come see your neighbors at our Spring Weekend Events and our May General Meeting, TBA. This spring come outside and enjoy the neighborhood. Take a walk. Ride your bike. Play ball...

Paula Bienenfeld
President, LCA

Luxmanor Citizens Association

(Serving Luxmanor, Windermere, and The Oaks)

Officers

President	Paula Bienenfeld	984-2944
Vice Pres.	Barbara Gold	571-0173
Corr. Sec.	Ellen Gold	770-7227
Rec. Sec.	Bonnie Malkin	231-9859
Treas.	Bill Wilkins	881-3621

Trustees

Dan Sullivan	230-0527
Judy Morenoff	881-3132
Lynn Waters	530-3620

Committee Chairs

Directory	Sam Yaksich	881-7292
Environment	Nathalie Silver	881-0861
	Trude Lawrence	530-6733
Greensheet	April Chang	881-3021
Incorporation	Steve Sorett	770-0040
Membership	Marilyn Hammerman	881-0011
Planning/Dev.	Paula Bienenfeld	984-2944
Roads/Traffic	Bill King	881-2199
Safety	John Beamer	881-7174
Schools	Ellen Paul	897-0022
Signs	Hilary Lavine	530-7616
Special Events	Lynn Waters	530-3620
Website/Yahoo	Todd Berman	468-6707

Summary of LCA minutes of March, 2009

- Joey Lampl, the Cultural Resources Manager of the Parks Dept., gave us an update on the research at the Henson Cabin. Archaeological excavations and architectural history studies were completed and more work is expected. The Parks website has more information, including the Historic Structures Report, at the MNCPPC website.
- Ken Hurdle gave a detailed discussion of the deer tick issue and presented four options. Based on criteria of cost, effectiveness, nuisance, and other criteria, he recommended the 'four poster' method be installed. The cost appears reasonable and this method has been successful elsewhere, including in Connecticut.

Attention All Dog Owners: YES, Neighbors, These Three Issues ARE Things We and Our Beasts Need to Hear.

Contributed by the Editor (as requested by many, many, neighbors)

Issue 1: When Dogs Do That DooDoo That They Do So Well

Penalty for violation: \$100

The Montgomery County Pooper Scooper Code (otherwise known as **THE LAW**) states that dog owners are responsible for removing dog waste from public areas. Period. There is nothing in there about being in a hurry, forgetting your bag, or being from a place where they don't do that. Picking up after your pet is the law [Chapter 5-203(a)], with, as noted, a \$100 fine for non-compliance. And, the law is applicable to both cats AND dogs. It may be against our standards of appropriate employment, a violation of some cultural norms, totally and utterly beneath our dignity, or just a plain drag, but we are supposed to CLEAN IT UP whether it is in the street or in a neighbor's yard. This includes unoccupied properties!

On top of that, the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service says that "pet waste left to decay on sidewalks, lawns, or common areas is unhealthy for people and the environment. Rain can wash waste into storm drains and streams making them unsafe. Pet waste frequently contains bacteria and parasites which can severely sicken people, pets, and wildlife. Nutrients in animal waste can cause algae blooms, cloudy water, and fish kills."

The Extension Service provides the following guidance on ultimate disposal of the material in question: "Use a plastic bag, such as a produce or newspaper bag, and then place that bag into your regular outgoing household trash can. Because people now recognize the responsibility of removing all pet waste, the market has responded with many clever, inexpensive, and small bag mechanisms to make it easy and hands-free. Some are tiny bags which fit into a pocket or clip onto the pet's collar or leash, or onto your belt. There are dozens of easy ways to comply with the law. It is also easy to use a pooper-scooper. Many models are available from pet stores and catalogs. Most have long handles which prevent bending down, and many have retractable handles for the remainder of the walk home. Once home, put the excrement into a plastic bag and then into another bag for placement in your regular household trash.

Pet waste must never be disposed of in an exposed manner in a trash can. Instead, it must be double-bagged (e.g., the small bag containing the waste must be placed inside of a larger bag or trash can liner), to protect trash collectors from germs. Another option is to install an underground pet waste digester that works like a small septic tank. These are also available at pet stores and through catalogs. However, they must be installed and sited properly in order to prevent attracting rodents and other pests, and to prevent bacteria from leaking into groundwater. Be careful to place the unit 100 feet from any well, whether a neighbor's or your own."

Issue 2: Even Small Dogs Can be AT LARGE

Penalty for violation: \$100 for first offence, \$500 for each subsequent violation

It is also against the law to allow your dog to be "at large" which is basically defined as being off your premises and not leashed. It is not acceptable for us to let our dogs out by themselves if we don't have a fenced yard. "But my precious little FiDeaux never leaves her yard!" says the neighbor. Maybe, just maybe, that is true. However, it is more likely that the dog never leaves when the owner is looking. Don't trust what a dog tells you about its actions. Ask your neighbors; the answer may surprise you and they will be glad you asked.

Issue 3: Unwanted Contact

Penalty for violation: \$500

"The pet owner must prevent unwelcome or unsolicited threatening physical contact or close proximity to a person or a domestic animal that occurs outside the owner's property that may cause alarm in a reasonable person, such as biting, chasing, tracking, inhibiting movement, or jumping."

And there is no telling WHO will be found to be the *reasonable person*.

Got Cabin Fever? Come Outside for the Annual
LCA Spring Weekend
April 25 and 26

Earth Day Pot Luck Picnic

Saturday, April 25

12:30 PM

Luxmanor Park (Next to/behind Luxmanor Elementary)
You bring the sides and LCA will provide the fried chicken.
Email Paula Bienenfeld (paula_bienenfeld@yahoo.com)
to let her know you are coming.



Art Show at the Cabin

Sunday, April 26

From 10 AM to 4 PM

Henson Cabin (Uncle Tom's Cabin)

No parking at the cabin.

Call Varda Avnisan Nowitz to exhibit.

No reservations needed to attend so please come to this wonderful
First-Time-Ever Event!



Softball Game

Sunday, April 26

From 10 AM to 12 PM

(Rain date: Sunday, May 3, same time and place)

Tilden Woods Recreation Center

On Tilden, right before the pool

Call Nancy Feldman to play 301 530 1355

or e-mail: njfeldman@verizon.net

Must be high school age or older to play, but any age can
volunteer to help or just come and cheer!

The game was great fun last year!



Come and join your neighbors for these special Spring events!

Celebrate Spring

at the

ANNUAL COCKTAIL BUFFET

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 6:30 - 9 PM

Honoring

Neighbors who have moved to Luxmanor, Windermere, or The Oaks since Spring, 2007

RESERVE NOW!

(There is no cost, but space is limited – our last two parties were over-subscribed!)

RSVP to lynnwaters@aol.com ASAP

Our thanks to

Selma and Norman Kunitz, 5406 Tilden Lane
who are lending their home for this event.

Adult LCA members only, please.

*LCA provides wine and soft drinks and
guests are asked to contribute a favorite
hors d'oeuvre.*

Anna Stokes, Party & Welcome Chair, would be delighted to hear from volunteers who can help her out on the day of the party.

KemAnnaStokes@aol.com



One Neighborhood, One Planet

How to save trees, reduce printing costs, and enjoy it!

Contributed by Alon Porat

Did you know there is simple, free software you can install on your computer that could reduce your printing costs by up to 17%, by using less ink and less paper? It is good in your home and your office, supports the environment, and reduces one of the small irritations in life. It deals with those annoying empty pages we all encounter from time to time when we print something. For example, when we print MapQuest /Google directions, there is usually a page at the end that has one pointless sentence on it. Those empty pages are called "ghost pages" - sheets that are blank or just have URLs (links), footers, ads, banners or other information you don't need. Software called: "*Green Print: Millions of trees can't be wrong*" will help you get rid of these wasteful pages. It can be downloaded free from: <http://www.printgreener.com>

After downloading and installing the software, your regular printer will still be the default printer, and you will print in the same way you always do. However, once you click on the print icon, *Green Print* will intercept and analyze the stream of information sent to your printer. Before actual printing, *Green Print* will check the material and eliminate extra pages, banners, ads and all those wasteful items. It will then (quickly) present you with the conclusion of its analysis with the pages or sections it suggests removing marked in red. At this point, you can decide whether you want to remove more elements or add back things that were cut. When you finish, you may (1) simply select "Print" or (2) convert it to a PDF and use it in a digital format. The software has a cute plus by providing a progress bar that connects to the internet and tells you how many trees have been saved so far by using the software. Bottom line: it's great software that helps you save on printing and it can be used as a great PDF converter (worth about \$100). Give it a shot.

(Alon has a small computer business in our neighborhood that offers on-site computer repairs, upgrades, lessons and websites. He can be reached at: 202-438-1869 or alon@keynetik.net.)

Good Words

Contributed by Marilyn Reside at the Davis Library

April is the month for a good laugh. In one month, you can celebrate: April Fools' Day (1st), International Twit Award Month (commemorating celebrities with the worst sense of humor), Laugh at Work Week (1 -7th), National Fun Day (1st) and National Humor Month.

Adults can enjoy humor from across the globe, with: *Borat: Touristic Guidings to Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan* by Sacha Baron Cohen, *The Geography of Bliss: One Grump's Search for the Happiest Places in the World* by Eric Weiner, or any of Bill Bryson's travel narratives, such as *A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail*.

If you prefer to stay state-side, enjoy humor at home with Jill Conner Browne's *Sweet Potato Queens* sassy series of advice books or Donna Andrews' avian-centric *Meg Langslow mysteries* series, which is full of fun, eccentric characters.

For kids who can't get enough of Greg Heffley's misadventures in the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series by Jeff Kinney, try *Middle School is Worse than Meatloaf* by Jennifer Holm. Ginny's stuff (i.e. - quizzes, letters, IMs) tells the story of one girl's miserable school year. Or check out *Regarding the Sink* by Kate Klise, a book about how a group of students will do anything to fix their school's stinky plumbing problems by finding a missing designer that can help.

Since times are hard, remember, "Laughing, which reduces anxiety, tension, and stress, can make you between 1.7 and 8 years younger." (*You: the Owner's Manual, an Insider's Guide to the Body that Will Make You Healthier and Younger*, by Michael F. Roizen and Mehmet C. Oz, 2008, p. 94.)

Neighbors' News

Sheila Wolpert of Rosemont Drive would love to thank the two young women runners who found her wallet at the end of her driveway and returned it the morning of March 19. (Sheila says she must have dropped it the previous evening when picking up the newspaper on the driveway.) She said she was too flustered to get their names when they returned the wallet, but sends some serious thanks for such good neighbors. (Editor's note: we are proud of them too and glad Sheila sent us the message.)

Happy Birthday to Grace Evans who says being 83 is great, and she recommends it. To celebrate her recent birthday, she went to see the stupendous 48-foot long mural her daughter Peggy has just completed at a retirement community in Westminster, MD. Bravo!!

Michael Gruenberg and Barbara Bryden of 11204 Buckwood Lane are pleased to share their happiness with their son and daughter-in-law, Iain and April Bryden, who just renewed their marriage vows after 10 years of marriage.

Friends of White Flint, (www.friendsofwhiteflint.org) a non-profit organization to promote "educating the public and promoting green, transit-oriented improvements in the White Flint area" has elected Ken Hurdle to the Board of Directors. Ken, as you know, lives in the Luxmanor community which is directly adjacent to the White Flint Sector Plan area. Ken asks that you visit the website and sign up for the blog (they call it the Flog) voice your observations, comments, concerns and ideas!

In the Merry, Merry Month of May . . .

Contributed by Lynn Waters, Special Events Chair

Annual Spring Cocktail Buffet

Luxmanor continues to celebrate the season and our pleasure in living in this very special neighborhood at our Annual Spring Cocktail Buffet. This delightful May 8 event, chaired by Anna Stokes, is planned for ALL adult LCA members, and honors newcomers to Luxmanor, Windermere, and The Oaks. See the detailed announcement, page 5 of this Greensheet, and RSVP to: lynnwaters@aol.com to secure your invitation!

Open Gardens

Gail Klein, Open Gardens Chair for the second year, is gathering a collection of interesting gardens, which will be open for residents of our neighborhoods to tour on Saturday and Sunday, May 15 and 16. This event was such a hit at its first presentation last April that there was an immediate clamor for making it an annual rite of Luxmanor spring! Gail has asked last year's gardeners to reopen their gardens, as this May's event is a full month later in the season, and plantings will be seen in an entirely different stage of development and bloom.

We would like more gardens for the tour! PLEASE, if you have (or know of) an interesting landscape, xeriscape, herb garden, bird or butterfly sanctuary, rock garden, woodland or shade garden, veggie patch, specimen planting, children's play area, patio, garden sculpture collection, or even a good "working" compost patch, email Gail at kleingd@verizon.net (or phone her) to volunteer or suggest a garden whose owners she might contact. WINDERMERE and THE OAKS gardens are especially needed! Note: Visitors will actually be relieved if the gardens on the tour are NOT "perfect."

Luxmanor Lemonade will once again be coordinated on Open Garden days by Evy Spies. It is time to begin designing and planning stands where refreshing lemonade (and perhaps home-made cookies?) will be sold by Luxmanor children, who will donate part or all of their profits to their own favorite charities. Evy will help by finding the choicest spots near Open Gardens so the young entrepreneurs and philanthropists will have a stream of customers. Email Evy at Evy.spies@yahoo.com, or phone her with questions or to reserve a spot.

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6018 Tilden Lane
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What I am doing to
help my neighborhood
is ... mmm....I....
er....

I get benefits from
those who **do** vol-
unteer. Hmm..