



The Luxmanor

# Greensheet

Serving Luxmanor, Windermere, and The Oaks

North Bethesda, Maryland

June, 2009

[www.luxmanor.org](http://www.luxmanor.org)

## May General Meeting vs. Lyme Disease

Contributed by April Chang, Trude Lawrence, and more

We have had prior discussions, research and education events in our neighborhoods about Lyme disease. But, despite our rising awareness, we have not ended up with the effort and determination we need as a community to try to make this a safer place to live. We thought perhaps the community was interested in concrete actions. So, we had an expert speaker at our General Meeting - Mimi Segal. Her expertise on Lyme disease stems from her family's own experience: she, her husband, and three of their four children have contracted Lyme disease. Various members of her family have had bouts of **paralysis, coma, fevers, rashes**, and the need to take 120 pills a week to control symptoms. That is not theoretical. Note, please, that she doesn't live in a cabin in the woods. She lives in Potomac. And we have already had many serious cases of Lyme right here in our own neighborhoods. Not because we were out hunting, but because we sat in our dangerous yards.

Mimi points out that life is not the way it used to be. It is NOT as safe to play outside as it used to be. Worse yet, the deer tick is not the only problem. The Lone Star tick is also present and carries a number of other diseases. Based on her own experiences, she checks her children for ticks once or twice a day. I doubt that most residents of this community are as diligent.

Various people in our neighborhood have contributed to the study of possible actions regarding ticks in our neighborhood. They include Ken Hurdle, Trude Lawrence, and many others. There have been extensive discussions in past meetings, in the Greensheet and on the Listserve, as well as presentations by County experts, a film, etc., and more discussion at this General Meeting. Trude Lawrence brought in a four poster deer treatment station for people to see. (And, special thanks to Hans Lawrence for carrying in a 50 pound bag of corn so that people could try lifting it!) We exhibited "tick tubes" which also help control ticks when they cycle through the mouse population. Both methods are safe for humans, deer, bees, and even for the mice who take the cotton out of the tick tubes.

As a result, a motion was passed by the LCA. The LCA was authorized to buy up to 3 deer treatment systems and to purchase corn, labor and other incidentals, up to \$3500.00. Authorization was given with three conditions: (1) money will not be spent until the LCA Executive Committee approves final plans; (2) money will not be spent unless a plan can be developed that meets all EPA rules and considers the safety and liability of the community; and (3) authorization will expire if a plan has not been developed and approved by time of the LCA General Meeting in October.

## President's Letter

I want to thank everyone who attended the May General Meeting and participated in the election and discussions. Most of all, I want to thank all of the prior year's officers, committee chairs and special event volunteers who have worked so hard this year to keep Luxmanor the special community it is.

I hope to spend the summer getting up-to-speed on all the many issues and actions facing the community and to start the fall with a continued commitment to support and expand past efforts and look at new challenges and opportunities for our neighborhood. However, if we want Luxmanor to remain a special place to live and raise a family, it will require that everyone invest a small amount of time and energy to improve our community.

Your LCA and the hardworking committee members and officers who participate provide you with neighborhood news and information via the Greensheet and listserve, ensure that our neighborhoods' concerns on traffic, safety and development are considered by the County and others, provide social events and support our schools, environment and local nonprofits. But they need your support – by paying your dues, attending meetings, serving on a committee or just volunteering to help on an ad-hoc basis. None of this is possible without your involvement. Community service does not have to be a burden – a few hours a month can work wonders.

The best opportunities to serve are the Committee Chairs listed on page 3. Consider Co-Chairing with a friend. It will take a few hours a month, but it can be both rewarding and productive work.

Also, there is the new Neighborhood Representative position. You would be able to serve your immediate neighbors and neighborhood with a very small time commitment and options as to how you go about it. Best of all, you would not have to go to meetings unless you really want to! Call Anna Stokes if you interested in this position for your street (or part of your street).

As recent articles in the Greensheet about current officers/committee chairs have shown, you don't have to be a zoning expert or retired to make a difference!

Della Stolsworth

## Luxmanor Citizens Association

(Serving Luxmanor, Windermere, and The Oaks)

### Officers

|                   |                  |          |
|-------------------|------------------|----------|
| <b>President</b>  | Della Stolsworth | 984-4475 |
| <b>Vice Pres.</b> | Harris Leonard   | 897-8588 |
| <b>Rec. Sec.</b>  | Sander Davidson  | 493-4810 |
| <b>Corr. Sec.</b> | Barbara Gold     | 571-0173 |
| <b>Treas.</b>     | Judy Morenoff    | 881-3132 |

### Trustees

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| Paula Bienenfeld | 984-2944 |
| Lynn Waters      | 530-3620 |
| John Beamer      | 881-7174 |

### Committee Chairs

|                       |                   |          |
|-----------------------|-------------------|----------|
| <b>Directory</b>      | Sam Yaksich       | 881-7292 |
| <b>Environment</b>    | Nathalie Silver   | 881-0861 |
| <b>Greensheet</b>     | April Chang       | 881-3021 |
| <b>Incorporation</b>  | Steve Sorett      | 770-0040 |
| <b>Membership</b>     | Marilyn Hammerman | 881-0011 |
| <b>Planning/Dev.</b>  | Paula Bienenfeld  | 984-2944 |
| <b>Roads/Traffic</b>  | Bill King         | 881-2199 |
| <b>Schools</b>        | Ellen Paul        | 897-0022 |
| <b>Signs</b>          | Hilary Lavine     | 530-7616 |
| <b>Special Events</b> | Lynn Waters       | 530-3620 |
| <b>Website/Yahoo</b>  | Todd Berman       | 468-6707 |
| <b>Welcome</b>        | Anna Stokes       | 571-1979 |

### Highlights of LCA General Meeting minutes of May, 2009

- (1) the slate of trustees and officers for the coming year was approved;
- (2) the revisions to the by-laws were approved;
- (3) Lyme disease prevention Deer Treatment stations were approved as noted on page one.



Now,  
WE NEED  
3 volunteer host yards  
for the deer treatment  
stations

Contact Trude Lawrence to see a treatment station, get more information, and volunteer!  
[tsllawrence@comcast.net](mailto:tsllawrence@comcast.net)

## Outgoing President's Message

This is my last message to you as President of the LCA. I want especially to thank everyone who worked, and continue to work, so hard, and who donate so many hours to make our community a neighborhood where we know one another and enjoy the social benefits of a real community. These kinds of communities are rare and they require constant care. Many of us saw the results of that caring volunteer activity when we went to the New Neighbors party, held this year at Selma and Norman Kunitz' home, and organized by Lynn Waters and Anna Stokes. Thank you all so much!

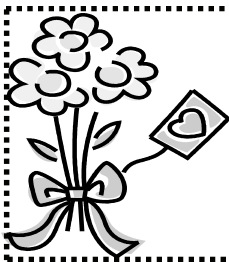
We accomplished a lot, I think, over the past two years. I hope you can see and feel the results of the Board's work as you walk, jog, or bicycle outside, or come to one of the many events sponsored by the LCA.

I want to thank all the Board members and committee chairs who were so helpful, congenial, patient, and supportive over the last two years.

Many of you are very active in a number of volunteer organizations in our community. Many of us also have children we take care of, work we do, commutes we make, and the everyday tasks we complete. Still, I would ask that you add one more volunteer organization to your list, and put it right at the top – of course that is the Luxmanor Citizens Association. This is where you live, so to me this should go at the top of anyone's volunteer organizations list to which they donate time. If you have an idea, please come to the LCA Board with it, and run with it! This is an open, easy-access organization. If you are not yet a member, please join!

Della Stolsworth will be the next LCA President starting this month, so welcome aboard Della! And all the best.

Paula Bienenfeld



**Thanks!!**

**Our special thanks to Paula for her extraordinary efforts over the past two years—not just as President, but as Chair of our Planning Committee. A small token of our appreciation was given at the General Meeting - a plaque and gift to the Strathmore.**

## OK, Folks, Pick One.

The Corporation on National and Community Service has found that volunteers, on average, are about as busy as others, yet **they make the time to serve**. A recent study revealed that in a typical day, the largest difference in how time is spent between recent volunteers and non-volunteers is in **how much television** they each watch. On average, recent volunteers watch approximately 15 hours of television per week, compared to 23 hours for non-volunteers. These differences add up over the course of a typical year with 436 more hours of TV watching for non-volunteers compared to volunteers.

## LCA needs Committee Chairs

(or Co-Chairs) urgently. Please help out!

Committees needed:

**Schools**

**Environment**

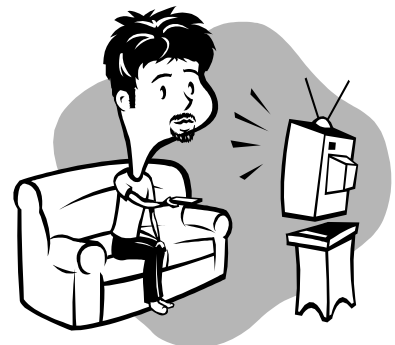
**Special Events**

**Welcome**

**Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety**

Contact Della at [dellast@comcast.net]

**or**



## **One Neighborhood, One Planet: BEWARE! The invaders are among us!**

Contributed by Nathalie Valette-Silver

We want to raise your awareness on the problems associated with invasive species.

**What is an invasive species?** An invasive species is a non-indigenous species (e.g. plants or animals including viruses and pathogens) that adversely affects the habitats they invade economically, environmentally or ecologically. While all species compete to survive, invasive species appear to have specific traits or combinations of traits that allow them to outcompete native species. Common invasive species traits include: the ability to reproduce both asexually as well as sexually; fast growth; rapid reproduction, high dispersal ability; the ability to alter its growth form to suit current conditions; tolerance of a wide range of environmental conditions (generalist); ability to live off of a wide range of food types (generalist); association with humans.

Here are a few examples of invasive plant species:

You may have seen recently in our neighborhood street, announcements asking for our participation in the removal of garlic mustard in Tilden Park and other parks of the region. Garlic mustard is a tall weed native to Europe that was introduced to the United States in the late 1800's. Researchers have found that it disrupts a healthy relationship between hardwood tree seedlings and soil fungi, which results in disastrous outcomes for a forest.

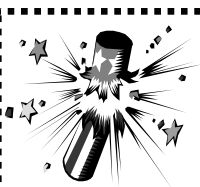
Kudzu (*Pueraria Montana*) is a well known invasive plant. Intentionally introduced to the USA from its native Japan for use in soil stabilization, kudzu became the “vine that ate the South”. Kudzu rapidly grows up and **over** all other vegetation and creates a dense canopy with its large leaves. It starves other plant species of sunlight, deprives wildlife of food sources, and quickly reduces complex natural communities to tangled stands of kudzu. Currently, 7 million acres of land are infested with kudzu. Annual costs to control kudzu by power companies in the Southeast have been estimated at 1.5 million dollars and train companies have to clear tracks continually to avoid possible derailments from trains traveling over slippery squashed kudzu.

Each year, exotic invasive plants like porcelain berry and English ivy take over an area eight times the size of Montgomery County, leading to billions of dollars in agricultural and forest product losses, and billions more in control costs. Your backyard may well represent a small but important skirmish in this chilling invasion scenario.

In our neighborhoods, bamboos are often used in our gardens. Bamboo is cherished and ardently defended as a vigorous landscape screen by some, and equally cursed as an invasive, unstoppable menace by many others, especially irate neighbors who find spikes and spears shooting up in their lawn and garden beds.

There are also invasive animal species—both land animals and aquatic animals— including the mosquito that causes West Nile virus. We will provide information on these in the future.

In the mean time, please try to plant native plants in your garden or at least plants that are known not to be invaders. You can find additional information on invaders at the websites of the US Geological Survey and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.



We know you know that fireworks are not allowed anywhere in Montgomery County. At any time. They scare neighbors—human and animal. Your kids know too, right?



## Neighbors' News

Anna Stokes is delighted to welcome some New Neighbors!!

Thank you Beverly Piccone for alerting us to the arrival of the Tanenholz Family who moved to 10900 block of Waxwood Court in Windermere last June in 2008. Kelly and David Tanenholz have two children: Lindsey and Ryan. Kelly is an internal medicine physician and David is an attorney. The children currently attend preschool at the Washington Hebrew Congregation/Bindeman Center. Lindsey will enter Kindergarten at Luxmanor in the Fall.

Mim Anders greeted and welcomed the Brian and Kelly Baker Family in the 11000 block of Huntover Drive. The Baker's moved from the Wildwood area after buying Brian's Uncle Matt Sarfield's home in Luxmanor because "they always loved it"! Brian is a mortgage loan officer with Chevy Chase Bank. Kelly paints and arranges gift baskets -- they have a senior at the Academy of the Holy Cross, a son at the Heights School, and don't forget Quincy their pet dog.

Also, a welcome to the Viggiano's residing in the 11300 block of Struttmann Terrace, who attended our Annual Luxmanor Cocktail Party. Steve and Dinna Viggiano moved to Luxmanor from Germantown. In their leisure time, Dinna enjoys jewelry making and Steve's hobbies include woodworking. Please, take the time to greet the Viggiano's and all of our new additions!

## Good Words

Contributed by Marilyn Reside at the Davis Library

The Davis Library is not only a place to pursue your interests but also a place to share your interests with the community.

On Saturday, June 6, the Davis Library celebrated Community Day. There was something for every age with music, stories, magic, art, fire engines, the bookmobile, pirates and a big book sale.

Also, the Summer Reading program is right around the corner. Beginning, Wednesday, June 17, children and teens can read, participate in activities, and win prizes. Teens can rock out with a Guitar Hero competition on Thursday, June 25 at 2 p.m. Then, the whole family can come out for "Strike Up the Band!" with Tracey Eldridge on Monday, July 20 at 7 p.m.

Perhaps you would like to share your specific interest with others. The library has a lobby display area for local artists, artisans, historians and hobbyists to exhibit their work. In the last year, residents have displayed a variety of materials, including: cultural artifacts, local history, paintings, photography and woodwork. Contact us about exhibiting and share your interests with the community.



The Greensheet will celebrate a time honored tradition and shut down for the summer.

Read your Listserve. Volunteer for something.

Think of things you would like to see in the fall and let me know.

Ed.



The Luxmanor Greensheet  
 Luxmanor Citizens Association  
 Serving Luxmanor, Windermere and The Oaks  
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