



The Luxmanor

# Greensheet

Serving Luxmanor, Windermere, and The Oaks

North Bethesda, Maryland

May, 2009

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

## General Meeting on May 21 at 7:00 PM Election of New Officers and Bylaws Changes

During the past year, the LCA Executive Committee appointed a Bylaws Committee to review and update the bylaws of the Luxmanor Citizens Association. The proposed revisions were reviewed by the Executive Committee at its April Meeting, and they voted to recommend adoption by the membership at the May General Meeting. The full text of the proposed bylaws will be posted on the Luxmanor website ([www.luxmanor.org](http://www.luxmanor.org)). The significant changes are noted below:

**Dues:** Renewal notices would be sent out in May, just before the beginning of the membership year and authority is provided for prorated dues for new residents in the community.

Reason: Sending renewal notices at the end of the program/fiscal year will align the membership year with the program/fiscal year. A prorated dues provision for new residents will encourage them to join immediately even if the membership year is well underway.

**Board & Executive Committee:** Our current bylaws define the Board of Trustees as composed only of the officers and trustees, and give that Board the authority for running the association; the Executive Committee, including the standing committee chairs, has a largely advisory role. The proposed bylaws redefine the two groups, including the standing committee chairs as members of the decision making Board of Directors and give the Executive Committee (officers and trustees) authority to act for the Board on matters delegated to it by the Board or when actions must be taken quickly between Board meetings.

Reason: This change aligns the Bylaws with our current practice, gives full voting authority to hard working committee chairs, and enhances the openness of the Association's decision making by involving the larger group in those decisions.

**Board Requirements:** The proposed Bylaws include suggested, but not required, eligibility requirements for President, Vice President, and Trustees including several years of LCA membership, some prior involvement on the Board or a standing committee, and the ability and willingness to receive and respond to email.

Reason: Transitions will be smoother and officers and trustees will be able to function more effectively if they are already familiar with the role, history, and current activities of the Association. Email has come to be a very effective means to communicate between meetings, to involve the full Board in review of testimony or letters, and to exchange reports in advance of board meetings, so that Board agendas can proceed more efficiently.

## President's Letter

I am just winding down after our **Luxmanor Spring Weekend**. So many of you attended the **picnic** at Luxmanor Local Park (yes, we have one!), the **softball game** on Sunday morning, and the **Art at the Cabin** event on Sunday. Please visit our website, [www.luxmanor.org](http://www.luxmanor.org) to see updated photographs of the weekend events.

I especially want to thank **Varda Avnisan** and **Nancy Feldman** for their heroic efforts and all the work they put into arranging the latter two events.

I understand the softball game was so well-attended and everyone had so much fun they plan to do it again the following weekend!

The Art show was also an incredible display of the art created by our neighbors. The artists include Varda (glass sculptures), Ellie Kleinman (watercolors), Richard Nowitz (photographs), Marilyn Hammerman (paintings and crochet work), Alfred Moritz (watercolors), Maria Blok (acrylics and oils), Nancy Heindl (oil and pastels), Robert Wagner (pastels and acrylics), Deborah Coburn (acrylic, oil, and mixed media), Hal Quayle (photographs), Jim Caskey (pencils, adobe acrobat, chalk), Gabriela Roitman (oils), Celine Silver (acrylics, oils, and pencil), Fred Horne (photographs), Susan Goldman (monotypes), June Walker (ceramics), Tali Waksman (oil giclee prints), Allan Kirkpatrick (glass and wood), and Irene Kirkpatrick (photographs). Varda took me aside during the show to tell me she already had some ideas on how to improve the show for next year, although I am unsure of how one can improve something that was so terrific. Stay tuned...

As always we can use more volunteers, especially neighborhood representatives—an easy and helpful role. Or, if you have ideas for events, committees, ways to improve the neighborhood, step up!

And don't forget our **General Meeting**, May 21, 7 pm at Luxmanor Elementary School. We will be electing new officers and voting on some significant changes to the Luxmanor Community Association bylaws. Let's have some better attendance than usual!

Paula Bienenfeld, President, LCA

## Luxmanor Citizens Association

(Serving Luxmanor, Windermere, and The Oaks)

### Officers

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

### Trustees

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

### Committee Chairs

<b>Directory</b>	Sam Yaksich	881-7292
<b>Environment</b>	Nathalie Silver	881-0861
	Trude Lawrence	530-6733
<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 Board minutes of April, 2009

- Board approved the donation of \$500 to the Walter Johnson Prom Breakfast; this is in budget and the usual donation; we are hoping that the PTSA will support LCA with regard to traffic, safe streets, etc. and we will send a letter in that vein
- We have some volunteers for Neighborhood Rep, but more are needed.
- Discussed the lyme disease options presented by Ken Hurdle at last month's Board meeting; agreed that more information is needed on where stations will be placed; Trude Lawrence agreed to invite Mimi Segal, a Potomac resident who is very knowledgeable about Lyme issues, to our May Board meeting to discuss options
- Discussed and approved bylaw changes for discussion at May General Meeting

## **One Neighborhood, One Planet - Rainwater from Beast to Blessing**

Contributed by Barbara Blaylock\*, at the request of the LCA Environmental Committee

Rainwater coming off of our suburban landscapes sends surges of water into local creeks. It scours out their banks and dumps large amounts of fertilizer runoff and sediment into tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay. Montgomery County, like other local governments, is encouraging people to redirect rainwater into rain barrels and low-lying well-drained areas of the landscape to minimize these harmful drainage effects. Last summer, I installed rain barrels and created informal "rain gardens" to minimize runoff into the storm sewer system.

I found extensive information online about rain barrels and water diversion. I started by closing off underground conduits from the two downspouts I had that ran directly to the street. I then installed downspout diverters and rain barrels at all four of my downspouts. This allows me to direct rainwater runoff from the roof either into the rain barrels or onto landscaped areas.

Two of the rain barrels were purchased readymade and two others I constructed myself. In the process, I discovered it took quite a bit of time and trouble to round up the parts needed for construction. (The County has online directions for making rain barrels, though I elected to employ my own design. In years past, the County has offered make-it-yourself workshops for which they supply the parts. This is no doubt a good deal, but no workshop was given last year and I do not know whether they will give one this year.)

Buying rain barrels already constructed is not cheap, although a well-designed one should last a long time. I also looked at all the options for creating diversions from the downspouts to the barrels and decided to buy sturdy and permanent installations from gutterworks.com. They provide a lever which directs rainwater to a barrel *or* down to the ground. This has two advantages over simply cutting off the existing downspout and using a flexible conduit to the rain barrel: (1) the metal arms of the diverters I installed do not have internal ridges that can collect water and breed mosquitoes and, (2) in the winter, when the rain barrels must be taken offline, the diverters remain in place and one can switch the water flow to the ground with a flip of the lever.

Most of my rain barrels are somewhat hidden by shrubs and they are not unattractive. If anyone would like to discuss rain barrels in detail, I would be happy to share my experiences with anyone who is interested. I like being able to use untreated rainwater for my houseplants and garden between rains, and I feel that I am doing my part to improve the Bay.

The County Rainscapes program is now accepting applications for a rebate program for those who install rain barrels: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Content/DEP/Rainscapes/home.html>

You can also check the DC Urban Landscapes site (some info may be dated):

<http://www.dc-urban-gardener-news.com/rain-barrel-roundup-the-s.html>



NEWS FLASH: The Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin is now offering rain barrels for only \$90, already constructed. One has to sign up for a free workshop to learn about them and how to maintain them in order to qualify for purchase. This is a great deal!

The web site is: [http://www.potomacriver.org/cms/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=50&Itemid=69](http://www.potomacriver.org/cms/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=50&Itemid=69)

\*Barbara is a retired internal medicine physician whose efforts to make the world a healthier place include not only rain barrels and vermiculture, but also what she calls "Health Care Advocacy." She is available to consult with individuals and families for short or longer terms, to untangle complex medical issues, facilitate making difficult decisions, and offer guidance about end-of-life issues. She often helps adult children with aging parents avoid the pitfalls of fragmented health care as they transition among various health care providers and facilities.

*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](mailto:lynnwaters@aol.com) ASAP

Our thanks to  
Selma and Norman Kunitz, 6406\* 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](mailto:KemAnnaStokes@aol.com)

\*Note that an incorrect address was given in prior Greensheet! Editor is sorry.



*Tiptoe Through the Tulips!  
and Peonies, and Azaleas...*



SECOND ANNUAL LUXMANOR  
**OPEN GARDENS TOUR**  
**Saturday and Sunday**  
**May 16 and 17, 1-4 PM**

*Be Inspired!            Take Pictures!*  
*Get Ideas!*  
*Rain or Shine!*  
*Free!*

Pick up Tour Maps and Garden Descriptions  
And Meet

**MASTER GARDENERS**

at the first garden, 6112 Tilden Lane  
(Master Gardeners Saturday only, 1-3)  
Bring your plant or "bug" samples and questions!

**Look for Luxmanor Lemonade Stands,**  
where our Boys and Girls will sell lemonade and cookies  
to benefit their favorite charities. Be Generous!

Questions?

Email Gail Klein, *Open Gardens* Chair: [kleingd@verizon.net](mailto:kleingd@verizon.net)  
Evy Spies, *Luxmanor Lemonade* Chair: [Evy.spies@yahoo.com](mailto:Evy.spies@yahoo.com)

**Job Descriptions:** Appendices with job descriptions and standing committee roles have been added. Reason: Although advisory, these should be helpful to Nominating Committees in recruiting officers and trustees and to incoming officers, trustees, and committee chairs.

**Limit on Unbudgeted Expenditures:** The current bylaws provide that “Whenever possible, notice of plans for unbudgeted disbursements greater than \$500 shall be given to the membership in *The Luxmanor Greensheet* or by other written means prior to the meeting at which final action is planned. In any event, all unbudgeted disbursements greater than \$500 shall be published in *the Greensheet* immediately following the meeting at which such disbursements were voted.” The proposed bylaws raise this limit to \$1000.

Reason: The \$500 limit was added to the Bylaws more than 20 years ago. Since the purchasing power of \$500 has declined significantly in that period, an increase to preserve the leeway provided by the original limit seems appropriate.

If you have questions about these changes, or any other item in the revised bylaws, that you’d like to raise prior to the General Meeting, you’re welcome to contact the Bylaws Committee members by phone or by email: Lynn Waters (215-896-8179, [LynnWaters@aol.com](mailto:LynnWaters@aol.com)), Judy Morenoff (301-881-3132, [morenoffj@aol.com](mailto:morenoffj@aol.com)), or Dan Sullivan (301-230-0527, [dansul01@comcast.net](mailto:dansul01@comcast.net))

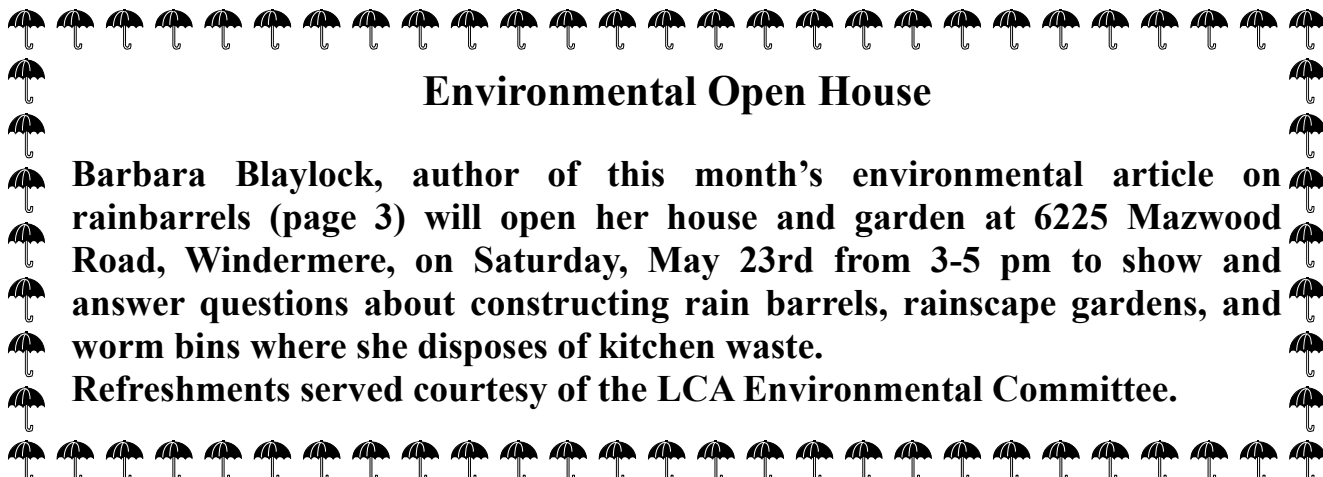
**The LCA Nominating Committee will provide information on those nominated for LCA office for next year on our website and list serve.**

**Attention List Serve Users**

Know how to access prior information that has been exchanged on the list serve? Todd Berman, our resident list serve manager and website guru says its simple:

- (1) Go to our Yahoo Groups Home: [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/luxmanor\\_citizens/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/luxmanor_citizens/);
- (2) In the left hand column, which is light blue, click on “messages”;
- (3) Just to the right of the light blue column in which you just clicked, you will see "Message #" and then "Search";
- (4) In the box entitled "Search," enter the phrase you are searching for, such as "dentist." You should then have all message threads relating to "dentist" listed for you to peruse.

In order to *post* to the listserv, you must join Yahoo Groups. The information is on the homepage of [www.luxmanor.org](http://www.luxmanor.org). Send Todd an email if you have having trouble with any of our computer supports.

A decorative border of small black umbrella icons surrounds the text. The border consists of a top row of 20 umbrellas, a bottom row of 20 umbrellas, and vertical columns of 5 umbrellas on the left and right sides.

**Environmental Open House**

**Barbara Blaylock, author of this month’s environmental article on rainbarrels (page 3) will open her house and garden at 6225 Mazwood Road, Windermere, on Saturday, May 23rd from 3-5 pm to show and answer questions about constructing rain barrels, rainscape gardens, and worm bins where she disposes of kitchen waste.**

**Refreshments served courtesy of the LCA Environmental Committee.**

## Neighbors' News

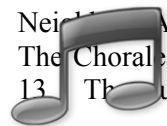
Congratulations to Jackie Feldman who will graduate from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Jackie attended Luxmanor Elementary, Tilden Middle, and completed high school at Walter Johnson in 2005. You can't get more "neighborhood" than that!

Paul and Nathalie Vallett Silver's daughter, Celine Silver, will graduate from Emory University in Atlanta GA, on May 11, 2009. Congratulations and Happy Birthday to her on May 6, too!

Congratulations also to Joanne Lipkind who is graduating on May 16, 2009, from the University of Maryland University College with her Masters of Science in Computer Systems Management with specialization in Information Assurance. She would like to thank her parents Harry and Karen Lipkind, as well as her sister Alisa, for all of their love and support though her schooling. She is currently residing in Germantown, Maryland.

Proud parents Paula Bienenfeld and Emlen Myers are happy to announce that their son Sam is receiving his B.A. degree this spring from California State University, Monterey Bay, with a major in Teledramatic Arts and Technology. Plans are to move to LA and get a job in the film industry.

Neighbors Allan and Irene Kirkpatrick of Rosemont Drive both sing in the National Philharmonic Choral. The Choral will be performing Rachmaninoff's All Night Vigil at the Music Center at Strathmore on June 13. The music is glorious and kids 17 and under are always free.



## Good Words

Contributed by Marilyn Reside at the Davis Library

The warmer weather is calling everyone out of hibernation and into the great outdoors.

If you're ready to dig into your garden, check out the new edition of *The Maryland Master Gardener Handbook* or *The Garden Primer* by Barbara Damrosch, which can hold the hand of a novice or hone the skills of the experienced. Think about introducing kids to the garden this year with *A Child's Garden: 60 Ideas to Make Any Garden Come Alive for Children* by Molly Dannenmaier.

Perhaps the kids prefer adventures beyond the backyard. Look for ideas in the books *Green Acres School Presents Going Places with Children in Washington, DC* or *Around Washington DC with Kids* by Kathryn McKay.

The whole family can get out and about with *Hiking, Cycling and Canoeing in Maryland: a Family Guide* by Bryan MacKay. Make sure to include Fido in the excitement with *Doggin' the Mid-Atlantic: 400 Tail-friendly Parks to Hike with Your Dog in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Northern Virginia* by Doug Gelbert.

Understandably though, sometimes the warm weather isn't enough enticement in the face of rain and wind. So, if you'd prefer to just think about the great outdoors for now, take home the BBC DVD series *Planet Earth*, sit in your armchair and explore every nook and cranny of animal domains across the globe. Children can also stay dry while learning about spring with the books such as *Chicken said, "Cluck!"* by Judyann Grant or *Mouse's First Spring* by Lauren Thompson.

Report Pot Holes to this email address. It works!

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/dpwt/pothole/Pothole.asp>

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Citizens Association  
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**The LCA General Meeting  
is Thursday May 21 at 7:00  
at Luxmanor Elementary.  
You should really go.**

**Really.**

**Really.**

Do you honestly have  
something to do that is  
more important?