

LAKE MANASSAS CONNECTION

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LAKE MANASSAS RESIDENTIAL OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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VOLUME 19, ISSUE 3



LAKE MANASSAS CONNECTION

Official Publication of
The Lake Manassas Residential Owners Association
Volume 19, Issue 3

14900 Turtle Point Drive - Gainesville, VA 20155
www.LMROA.com

Send your emails to: concerns@LMROA.com

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Karen Jackson, Asst Manager/Covenants Administrator

Site Office by Appointment Only

2 - Lake Manassas Connection / Fall 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 3 - The Board Report
- 4 - Gate Attendant Contact, Stay Up-To-Date, Let Us Hear From You - *Lake Manassas Connection* Winter 23/24 Deadline & Info
- 5 - Management Report

COMMITTEES

- 6 - Community Visitor & Access
- Swim & Tennis
- 8 - Modifications & Construction
- 10 - Covenants - Fall Lawn Care
- 11 - Communications - FIOS Update
- Committees & Members

FEATURES

- 12 - Stonewall Golf Club
- 13 - Real Estate in Lake Manassas
- 14 - Snake Safety
- 16 - Halloween Safety Tips
- 17 - Travel Tips & Ideas
- 18 - Creative Ideas to Liven Up Your Holiday Party
- 19 - Lake Manassas Beauty
- Residents Share Holiday Photos
- 20 - How To Spot A Fake Review Online
- 21 - Ants In Your Home
- 22 - Community Calendars: October, November & December 2023
- 23 - A New Lake Manassas Club
- 24 - *Off The Line*: Featured Recipe: Baked Brie
- 25 - Lake Manassas Community Information
- Gated Entrance & Barrier Arms
- 26 - Phone Contacts
- PW County School Calendar
- 27 - Some Holidays Appearing on the PW County School Calendar
- 28 - *Lake Manassas Connection* Information

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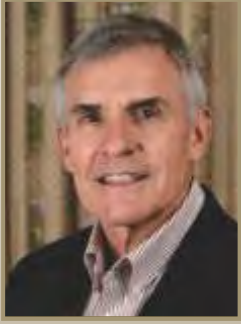
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From THE Board



DON MINOGUE
President



GARY BORDER
VICE PRESIDENT



BOB HALE
Treasurer



SHASHI MEHTA
Secretary



TOM CUMBER
Director

Summer is over, and fall is upon us. The last three years have been different, to say the least. While COVID is still around, a new medical issue, RSV, has arrived. The Board, I am confident, will remain vigilant and continue to adapt with potential solutions as issues arise.

Annual Meeting

By the time you receive this issue of *The Connection*, the LMROA Annual Meeting and Election that was held on September 27th will have taken place. Three long-time Board members, Don Minogue, Gary Border, and Bob Hale, all decided not to run; however, Tom Cumber and Shashi Mehta remain on the Board. The election results and Board positions can be found on the community website's Announcement page by going to www.LMROA.com.

Financial Update

The community's financial status is probably in the best shape it has been since the Association transitioned from the Declarant to homeowner control. Due to a very aggressive stance and actions, our delinquencies should continue to fall below the industry standard of 3%.

As you already know, due to increases in service contracts and the massive increase in costs due to inflation, labor hourly increases, and the issues in Ukraine, mortgage rates are now at a 20-year high.

The Board is already looking at ways to minimize the HOA dues increases. As was done last year, we have used previous years' cumulative year-end surplus to reduce the monthly HOA residents' pay. The goal will always be to keep the homeowners' equity above the 10% standard. The Board has passed a resolution suggested by the Budget and Finance committee not to raise the monthly HOAs above the CPI. If future years' budgets are forecasted above the publicized CPI, a town hall meeting may be scheduled to explain this to residents to gain their input on what reductions could be made (e.g., eliminating fall floral rotations).

Basheer completed all their requirements and commitments through the Modifications Committee, and the Board overcame considerable objections. The Basheer project is now complete — We say "Amen." The \$500,000 received from Basheer to join the Association to make large capital improvements that residents didn't have to pay for in their dues include:

- Third lane at Stonewall Gate
- New Gate at Amsterdam (unmanned) entrance
- Additional resident lane enabled/barrier arm at Baltusrol Gate
- Pool deck improvements
- Additional sprinklers on common areas on the eastern peninsula
- Additional landscaping at both gates
- Additional other miscellaneous items, such as cameras at all gates and the Swim and Tennis Center

There are a number of ongoing and upcoming projects that will take place this summer and fall:

- Renovations to the lifeguard office at the Swim and Tennis Center
- Tennis and basketball court repairs (cleaning/crack fill)
- Conversion of one tennis court to three pickleball courts
- Masonry wall and pillar (minor) repairs/paint
- Pavement preventive maintenance and crack fill (various locations)
- Asphalt trail repairs
- Site lighting maintenance, paint, and repairs

Continued....

Vehicle Access Control

A change in our gate attendant contract and the Lake Manassas Association's (Master Association) desire to reduce gate attendant costs at the Baltusrol Gate (main entrance) will result in some changes to visitor access during the overnight hours.

By way of background, there are generally less than a dozen visitors entering through the Baltusrol Gate overnight, yet the LMA is paying to have an attendant on duty during that period of time. As a cost-saving for all, the LMA and LMROA Boards are investigating technologies that would allow residents to control their own visitor's access through the Baltusrol gate. An attendant would still be posted at the Stonewall Gate during those hours to handle any unanticipated issues. There will be no changes to resident access or use of the GateKey visitor access system.

Speed Detector

The average speed in the community is less than 25 miles per hour. Two residents on Roxborough Loop have reported issues with speeding on that road. One board member has spent a considerable amount of time researching alternatives to speed limit signs. A new speed monitoring device is being considered and investigated by the Covenants Committee. This could be very expensive, but the Board will evaluate the cost/benefits along with the Covenants Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee recommendations.

Police Patrols

You may have noticed vehicles from the Sheriff's Department patrolling the community. We are pleased that The Sheriff's Department has agreed to patrol the community randomly throughout the month. We have directed Community Management staff to include the most frequent citations issued by officers in "community update" blast emails so that residents are aware. There are a few that have occurred in the last three years, including running stop signs, speeding, impaired driving, driving without a license, etc. Officers will continue to enforce traffic signs, watch for speeding, and monitor for any suspicious activities at the Swim and Tennis Center and throughout the community.

Community Concerns/ Recommendations

The Board and its committees encourage residents to provide input on any issue of concern and/or suggestions for improvements to the community. We do, however, prefer that residents use concerns@LMROA.com to communicate with management staff, report their concerns, and address recommendations for community improvements. This assists our Community Management Staff in addressing and following up with Residents on their issues and recommendations.

We hope you had a great summer and trust that you will enjoy the fall and upcoming holiday season!

Don, Gary, Bob, Shashi and Tom

Gate ATTENDANT CONTACT

If you need assistance with GateKey or have an issue related to an improper visitor admittance, please contact Association management. If you need to speak with a gate attendant you may call them at the gate house, however, residents should not distract gate attendants from their duties by approaching them in person. Gate attendants are posted to keep track of visitors; do not ask attendants to contact management on your behalf. Any issues you are concerned with should be directed to the onsite staff by email at concerns@LMROA.com.

STAY UP-TO-DATE

In order to keep up with community happenings and important Association information, policies and notifications, please sign up to receive Community Update email blasts by registering on the Lake Manassas website at www.LMROA.com

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

The Deadline for the Next Issue - Winter 2023/24 is December 1, 2023

Articles, photos and ideas please send to: concerns@LMROA.com

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703.723.3400 ~ imageryads@aol.com or download contracts from: www.ImageryPrintVa.com

Management REPORT

"Nature gives to every season, a beauty all its own"

~ Charles Dickens

As the crisp autumn breeze begins to sweep through the streets, we find ourselves at the threshold of a new season. Just as the leaves change colors, life, too, undergoes its own transformations.

As we step into the enchanting realm of autumn, take a moment to appreciate the tapestry of colors that Mother Nature paints for us. In this community, you can witness this beauty along the Lake, ponds, and trails.

Just as the seasons change, so do our lives. We warmly welcome the new families who have recently moved into the neighborhood and encourage them to consider joining one of the many committees that support the LMROA Board of Directors.

Embracing change often means starting fresh. There are three new residents joining the Board (see election results on the community website at www.LMROA.com). We are excited to see the positive impact these new additions will bring. We thank long-time Board Members Gary Border, Bob Hale, and Don Minogue for their service to the community as they exit the Board of Directors. Their commitment and years of dedication to the community are not only commendable but much appreciated.

As we journey through the ever-changing seasons of life, let us remember to cherish the beauty of each moment, the lessons that come with change, and embrace future possibilities.

Michelle & Karen



Michelle Wingo
Community Manager



Karen Jackson
Assistant Manager/
Covenants Administrator

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LET'S BUILD TOGETHER

community VISITOR & ACCESS committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Board Liaison:
Tom Cumber
Rex Luzader, Chair
Rich Marianos
Keith Reeves



Rex Luzader
Chair

Gate Attendant Services

Please continue to report both good and poor performance of attendants at concerns@LMROA.com. Your input will help us with our management of our gate attendants from Securitas. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Speeding in the Community

The Prince William County Police and County Sheriffs will continue to randomly patrol the neighborhood as well as frequent locations based on homeowner complaints of speeding and will issue tickets for speeding and disregarding stop signs, etc.

Data from the most recent location of the Speed Radar sign on Turtle Point Drive near the pool office will be reported in September.

Volunteers who are interested in serving on the committee are encouraged to submit their request to concerns@LMROA.com.

swim & Tennis committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Board Liaison: Bob Hale
Muffin Wilcoski, Chair
Grete Bravo

Kristin Knodt
Jennifer Mills
Shery Samaan



Muffin Wilcoski
Chair

A Splashing Success: Pool Closes for the Season

Although the temperatures remained higher than average for September, the pool closed for the season on Labor Day after a successful first year with Titan Pools overseeing the management of the facilities. None of this would have been possible without the dedication and support of our incredible lifeguards, pool staff, and volunteers. Their efforts ensured an enjoyable environment for all.

While we say goodbye to another summer, we can't help but look forward to next year and anticipate approval for improvements to the lifeguard office and facilities in general.

Once again, thank you to each and every one of you who made this summer at our community pool such a resounding success.

Pickleball Courts

Did you know that Pickleball has been America's fastest-growing sport for five years in a row? Currently, there are two Pickleball Courts that share space with Tennis Court Number Four. The Board has approved a full conversion of Tennis Court Number Four to three Pickleball Courts. Watch for blast email updates from management about this exciting project!

Remember, although the pool is closed, the Tot Lot, as well as the Basketball, Tennis, and Pickleball Courts, are available for use year-round daily until 10 pm -- weather permitting.

Until next summer, may you carry the warmth of these sunny days with you.

Muffin, Grete, Jennifer, Kristin & Shery



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A few of our recent Lake Manassas listings & seller reviews...



Pedigree Ct - CONTRACT




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Pedigree Ct - JUST SOLD




"Jim & Dawn are wonderful! I interviewed several realtors & quickly knew I wanted to work with them. I had only sold 1 home in 25 years & needed advice on every aspect of the process & they provided that. They are fair, hard working, good communicators & detail oriented. I would hire them to help sell or buy anywhere in NoVa - Kathy Rogers 



Spyglass Hill Lp - JUST SOLD



"I just sold my house with Jim & Dawn's help. Jim guided me through the listing & selling process & is very responsive, which is very important to me. Dawn helped me stage the house with furniture I already had & did a wonderful job with the listing & photos. I highly recommend them for buying & selling properties. - Seung Lee 

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MODIFICATIONS & CONSTRUCTION committee



Diane Boyle, Chair

If you are considering any alteration or improvement to the exterior of your home, you must first gain approval from the MCC. It is in your best interest to submit an application **before** you make any changes you have made without prior Modifications Committee approval – this is especially important

when it comes time to sell your house. Association resale documents must be provided by you to potential home buyers. Upon ordering the resale documents, a resale inspection will be performed at your property. This informs buyers that all exterior modifications have been approved and conform to the design guidelines. Changes made to the exterior of your home or on your property without MCC approval could possibly delay the sale of your home.

During Covenants inspections this spring and summer, site staff will be cross-checking approved applications against what exists on your property. If you do not have official approval in writing from the MCC for a change, or if you deviate from your approved plan without a secondary written approval from the MCC, then you may be issued a violation notice from the Covenants Committee.

Please remember that modification applications must be filed at least **TEN DAYS prior to a scheduled meeting** to ensure the committee has sufficient time to examine them, schedule any needed property inspections, and request additional documentation, if necessary.

We have noticed recently that, more often than not, we receive applications that are incomplete. Note that incomplete applications will not receive a full review until they are properly submitted. If your application is deemed incomplete after the initial review, you will have thirty days to provide the committee with the additional information requested. If that information is not received within those 30 days, your application will be **DENIED**. The application is available for printing on the community website, www.LMROA.com. If you have questions about the application process, please send an email to concerns@LMROA.com, and management staff will be happy to assist you.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Board Liaison: Tom Cumber
Diane Boyle, Chair
Matt Dietrich
Lisa Jacques
Pam Sackett
Paul Jeannin (Consultant)

In addition to reviewing homeowner applications for exterior modifications, the committee continues to conduct monthly common area inspections (done once a month between March and November). A written report is then provided to the Board with recommended landscape replacements/improvements. Although Site Staff, as well as members of this Committee, routinely inspect the community, it is always helpful to have residents report items they feel should be addressed. If you see areas that you feel are in need of attention (debris needing removal, trees in decline, etc.), please contact the site office, and management staff will make necessary arrangements to resolve the issue or place it on our schedule for the following month's inspection.



If you notice street light outages, please report those to management as well. The number of the pole (if there is one), as well as the address nearest the pole, should be included. While some lights are maintained by the Association, others are maintained by the Lake Manassas (master) Association or by Dominion Power. Once reported to site staff, we will work to schedule repairs as quickly as possible.

The MCC generally meets on the second Monday of the month at 5:00 PM at the Swim and Tennis Center office. Occasionally, the meeting date is rescheduled due to members' availability, so if you plan to attend, please check the online calendar at www.lmroa.com and with Michelle in advance to ensure the meeting will take place as scheduled.

Diane, Lisa, Kathy, Matt & Pam

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Ron Allen, Chair



COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Board Liaison: Gary Border
Ron Allen, Chair
Kathy Cumber
Lesley Holbrook
Sarah Wheeler
Joe Greenlee

Fall Lawn Care: Preparing Your Turf for a Lush Spring

As summer days transition into the cooler embrace of autumn, it's time to shift our focus to the next chapter in our lawn care journey. Fall is a crucial season for lawn maintenance, as proper care now can make all the difference when your lawn awakens from its winter slumber.

Below are essential steps to take care of your lawn in the fall, ensuring that it remains healthy and vibrant throughout the year.

1. **Raking Leaves and Debris:** The vibrant fall foliage is beautiful, but those fallen leaves can be detrimental to your lawn – not to mention an eyesore or annoyance to your neighbors. A thick layer of leaves can smother grass, inhibiting growth and promoting fungal diseases. Regularly rake or use a leaf blower to keep your lawn clear of leaves and other debris.
2. **Aerate the Soil:** Fall is an ideal time to aerate your lawn. Aerating involves perforating the soil with small holes, allowing water, nutrients, and air to penetrate deeper into the root zone. This process helps relieve soil compaction and encourages healthy root growth. You can rent an aerator or hire a professional to do the job.
3. **Overseeding:** To fill in bare patches and thicken your lawn, overseeding is essential. Choose a high-quality grass seed that is suitable for your region and grass type. Spread the seed evenly over your lawn and water thoroughly. Fall's cooler temperatures and increased moisture provide the ideal conditions for seed germination.
4. **Fertilize Wisely:** Fall fertilization is crucial for providing your lawn with the nutrients it needs to survive the winter and thrive come spring. Use a slow-release fertilizer with a higher potassium content to strengthen grassroots. Follow

manufacturer recommendations and be cautious not to over-fertilize, as this can harm your lawn.

5. **Continue Mowing:** As the season progresses, gradually lower your mowing height, but don't scalp the grass. Cutting the grass too short can stress it before winter. Keep mowing until the grass stops growing, usually around late fall.
6. **Control Weeds:** Fall is an excellent time to tackle persistent weeds. Apply a selective herbicide to target weeds while sparing your grass. This way, your lawn can focus on growth rather than competing with invasive plants.
7. **Watering:** Monitor your lawn's moisture levels, especially if the fall is dry. Adequate hydration is crucial before the winter freeze sets in. Water deeply and infrequently to encourage deep root growth. Early morning is the best time to water, as it allows the grass to dry before nightfall, reducing the risk of disease.
8. **Prepare Your Equipment:** Don't forget to prepare your lawn care equipment for winter storage. Clean and sharpen your mower blades, drain fuel from gas-powered equipment, and store everything in a dry, sheltered location.

By investing time and effort into your fall lawn care routine, you're not only ensuring a beautiful lawn next spring but also promoting the overall health and longevity of your grass. Remember, a little care now can go a long way in preserving the lush green oasis you've worked so hard to cultivate.



communications



Marilyn Harrington
Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Board Liaison: Shashi Mehta
Marilyn Harrington, Chair
Kevin Cao
Jane Houston
Scott Pierce
Errol Siders

FIOS Update

The Association's Legal Counsel has filed easements with Prince William County, however some easement documents were rejected. The Associations legal counsel is working to resolve various easement related issues with the County. Once these issues have been resolved, we will formally notify Verizon on the status of their legal authority to move forward with the planning and installation of FIOS.

As they become available, additional updates will be communicated to residents via Community Update blast emails and future issues of The Lake Manassas Connection.

committees AND MEMBERS NOT REPORTING THIS QUARTER:

BUDGET & Finance

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Board Liaison: Don Minogue,
Harry Horning, Chair, Romesh Deora,
Jeff Holbrook

LAND USE & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Tom Cumber, Board Liaison, Helen Noyes,
Kerri Marianos, Heather Tureen-Gorzka

NOMINATIONS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Shashi Mehta, Chair,
Diane Boyle, Michael Hegeman, Don Mayer



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Gary Huebner, PGA
General Manager

Every year, as summer comes to a close, we remark about how fast the year seems to have gone by. Here we are again – another summer season “in the books,” and we’re getting ready for the holiday season! September and October are very busy months at Stonewall, with plenty of golf tournaments, weddings, and events happening each week. Fall is a great time of year to spend time outdoors enjoying the comfortable temperatures and color changes in the landscape. We hope you will all find time to relax and dine on our covered terrace with the best views in the area! If you have not already done so, PLEASE SIGN UP FOR OUR BRASS CANNON E-MAIL LIST so we can better update you on specials, happenings, events, and any restaurant closures for private parties, and watch for postings on Facebook that help keep you “in the loop” on Brass Cannon specials, etc.!

Our golf course came through the very hot summer in great condition, thanks to the exceptional efforts of our experienced grounds crew. We continue to enjoy rave reviews from guests who play at courses all around the region, and we are certainly blessed with an unparalleled setting within the Lake Manassas community. In early July, we welcomed our new PGA Head Golf Professional, Mark Kowalski, to our team. Mark is

already making a positive impact on our golf operation with a focus on friendly, welcoming services and increased organization and efficiency within the golf department. In the Brass Cannon, Tanya Valdez, Ryan Cellinesi, and Rylan Branner have all taken on leadership roles, and we are excited with the new ideas and energy each brings to the table (no pun intended)! Our golf shop is fully stocked with fresh fall apparel, so visit soon to see new styles and plan for the gift-giving season.

There are still dates available for holiday parties with us, and I encourage you to reach out to Sarah Puckett, our Director of Sales, to book your group gatherings and parties before it's too late!

We look forward to seeing you soon at Stonewall Golf Club and the Brass Cannon restaurant!



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Real Estate in Lake Manassas

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Jim & Dawn Gaskill

SALES and RENTALS: INCLUDES CLOSED, PENDING, & UNDER CONTRACT

STATUS	ADDRESS	SALES PRICE	DOM	CLOSE DATE	YEAR BUILT
Closed	7945 Turtle Creek Circle	\$840,000	8	08/23/23	2020
Closed	15726 Spyglass Hill Loop	\$1,165,000	8	08/18/23	2004
Closed	8362 Pedigree Court	\$1,055,000	64	08/15/23	2005
Closed	8013 Turtle Creek Circle	\$710,000	4	08/04/23	2016
Closed	8111 Amsterdam Court	\$890,000	5	07/13/23	2000
Closed	8174 Snead Loop	\$875,000	6	06/16/23	2005
Closed	14915 Alpine Bay Loop	\$1,212,000	12	06/14/23	1998
Closed	8024 Turtle Creek Circle	\$850,000	11	04/18/23	2014
Closed	7967 Turtle Creek Circle	\$715,000	43	04/07/23	2019
Closed	8492 Link Hills Loop	\$1,375,000	7	03/31/23	2005
Closed	8358 Pedigree Court	\$970,000	5	03/22/23	2005
Closed	8169 Snead Loop	\$1,225,000	2	03/21/23	2004
Closed	15176 Windy Hollow Circle	\$775,000	35	02/27/23	1999
Closed	8163 Snead Loop	\$3,900	5	06/10/23	2004

ACTIVE OR PENDING LISTINGS

Active	7947 Valderrama Ct	\$1,849,000	139		1998
A/C	8373 Pedigree Ct	\$1,100,000	6	10/16/23	2005
Active	7947 Valderrama Ct	\$9,000	18		1998
Active	8124 Willingboro Ct	\$4,300	33		1998



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snake safety



Eastern
Cottonmouth/
Water Moccasin



Timber Rattlesnake



Eastern
Copperhead

Lake Manassas and the area surrounding it boasts stunning natural landscapes and abundant wildlife, including various snake species. While encountering snakes in the wild can be a thrilling experience, it's essential to prioritize safety and maintain a respectful coexistence with them. This article aims to provide practical tips and information on snake safety.

Educate Yourself about Native Snake

Species: The first step towards snake safety is familiarizing yourself with the snake species in the region. Northern Virginia has several species of snakes, but the three primary snake species that are venomous are the Eastern Copperhead, the Timber Rattlesnake, and the Eastern Cottonmouth/Water Moccasin. Other snakes, such as the Northern Water Snake, Black Rat Snake, Dekay's Brown Snake, Eastern Worm Snake, and Eastern Garter Snake are not venomous, but their bites can still be painful and could lead to infected wounds or even allergic reactions.

If bitten by a snake, stay calm, move away from the snake, and seek immediate medical help. Remember to immobilize the affected area and keep it at or below heart level, but avoid applying suction or tourniquets. Identify the Snake: If possible, try to remember the snake's appearance and markings or take a photo. However, do not spend too much time or put yourself in danger to do so.

Practice Vigilance and Respect in Snake

Habitats: When exploring outdoor areas known as snake habitats, such as wooded areas, meadows, and near bodies of water, it's important to remain observant and exercise caution. Stay on designated trails, avoid tall grasses or underbrush where snakes might hide, and be mindful of your surroundings. Remember that snakes are usually more afraid of humans and prefer to avoid encounters.

Wear Appropriate Attire: When venturing into snake-prone areas, consider wearing long pants, high boots, and closed-toe shoes. This attire helps reduce the risk of snake bites, especially if you inadvertently step on a concealed snake. Additionally, using a walking stick or trekking pole is advisable to probe ahead and alert any nearby snakes to your presence.

Give Snakes Their Space: If you encounter a snake, keep a safe distance and avoid sudden movements. Never attempt to handle

or provoke the snake in any way. Snakes are generally non-aggressive unless threatened, and most bites occur when people try to handle or capture them. Respect their space and allow them to move away undisturbed.

Teach Children about Snake Safety:

Educating children about snake safety is crucial for their well-being in outdoor environments. Teach them to maintain a respectful distance from snakes and notify an adult immediately if they encounter one. Emphasize the importance of not touching or approaching snakes and the significance of alerting an adult in such situations.

Contact Professionals for Snake Removal:

If a snake enters your property or poses a potential threat, it is advisable to contact a licensed wildlife professional for removal. Attempting to handle or remove a snake yourself can be dangerous and may result in unintended harm to you or the snake.

Promote Snake Conservation and Habitat

Preservation: Snakes play a vital role in maintaining balanced ecosystems by controlling rodent populations and acting as a food source for other animals. Encourage habitat preservation efforts and avoid harming or killing snakes unnecessarily. Remember that most snake species in Northern Virginia are non-venomous and pose little threat to humans.

Pet Safety: If a snake bites your pet, act quickly by removing your pet from danger and contacting a veterinarian for immediate care. Observe and restrict your pet's movement; do not attempt home remedies. Seek professional veterinary assistance promptly to ensure the best possible outcome for your pet. Remember, even non-venomous snakes can bite and cause injury to pets. It's crucial to prioritize preventative measures and prioritize your pet's safety when it comes to coexisting with snakes.

Ensuring snake safety in Northern Virginia is a matter of education, awareness, and respect for these essential components of the natural environment. By understanding snake behavior, practicing precautionary measures, and promoting coexistence, we can enjoy the region's natural beauty while minimizing the risks associated with snake encounters. By implementing these guidelines, residents, and visitors can confidently navigate Northern Virginia's great outdoors.


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Halloween SAFETY TIPS



As Halloween approaches, families and communities gear up for a night of spooky fun. However, ensuring the safety of everyone involved, especially the young trick-or-treaters, is of paramount importance. With a few simple precautions, you can make sure that your neighborhood Halloween celebration is both enjoyable and safe.

1. **Well-lit Pathways:** Ensure that the streets and sidewalks are well-lit. If one of your lights is out, please replace the bulb or pursue additional repairs if necessary. If a Community-Owned light is out, please alert your HOA/Community Management. This helps kids see where they're going and prevents trips and falls. Consider adding extra lighting, such as lanterns or glow sticks, to your front yard or along the sidewalk leading to your door.

2. **Clear Obstacles:** Before the trick-or-treaters arrive, clear your yard and walkways of any potential obstacles like toys, garden tools, or hoses. A clutter-free path helps prevent accidents and keeps the evening enjoyable.

3. **Safe Costumes:** Encourage costumes that are easy to move in and don't obstruct vision. Masks should have proper openings for breathing and good visibility. Consider using non-toxic face paint as an alternative to masks.

4. **Parental Supervision:** Young children should always be accompanied by a responsible adult while trick-or-treating. Older kids should go in groups, preferably with a designated route and a curfew.

5. **Traffic Awareness:** Remind kids to look both ways before crossing the street. Drivers may have limited visibility, so it's essential to be extra cautious on Halloween night.

6. **Safe Treats:** Instruct children not to eat any treats until they've been inspected at home. Discard any unwrapped or suspicious-looking candies. If your neighborhood hosts a Halloween party or event, consider offering nut-free and other allergy-conscious treats.

7. **Fire Safety:** If you're using candles in your decorations, keep them in a safe place, away from walkways



and flammable materials. Consider using battery-operated candles or LED lights for a safer alternative.

8. **Pet Precautions:** Pets can get anxious during Halloween due to increased activity and noise. Keep your pets indoors to prevent them from getting scared, and ensure they're wearing identification in case they manage to slip out.

9. **Be Courteous & Respect Boundaries:** Remember that celebrating the holiday is a choice and that it does require effort to do so. Be patient and courteous with both trick-or-treaters and those handing out treats and help create positive memories for all. Only visit houses with porch lights on and other visible signs of participation. Respect homes that aren't participating in

Halloween festivities.

10. **Emergency Contact:** Make sure kids know their home address and phone number in case they get separated from the group. Teach them to find a trusted adult or go to a well-lit house with decorations if they need help.

By following these Halloween safety tips, you can create a delightful and secure environment for trick-or-treaters in your neighborhood. A little extra preparation ensures that the night is full of fun and fond memories for all involved. Happy Halloween!





TRAVEL TIPS & IDEAS

By Grace Cular Yee, Luxury Travel Advisor

Some Suggestions for pet-friendly getaways?

In the DC area, the following offer pet perks for your furry family members: Salamander Resort in Middleburg, Nemaquin in Farmington, Kimpton Monaco DC, Viceroy DC, and The Fairmont Washington. Head to Lowcountry, and these resorts welcome four-legged guests: Montage Palmetto Bluff in SC, Hotel Bennett in Charleston, SC, and the Sea Pines Resort in Hilton Head

Some of the top travel destinations of 2023 to date?

United States - Italy - Greece - France - Mexico - Spain
Bahamas - UK - Japan - Canada - Portugal

Some popular travel activities or experiences?

Cooking Class: In Italy, people want to learn how to make pasta. In France, people are learning to bake croissants, baguettes, and macarons. In Spain, they're learning to make paella, and in Ireland and England, guests have enjoyed baking scones.

Bike Tours: Instead of a walking tour of Paris, Amsterdam, Munich, Rome, Berlin, and London in order to cover more ground and see more of the destination in the same amount of time. Electric bike tours are fun and easy to use. If you can ride a bike, then you can ride an electric bike! E-bikes are powered by a small motor which means less effort when going uphill or farther.

Private Photo Session: More families are requesting a 60-90 min session with a professional photographer to capture high-quality, in-destination pictures for holiday cards, digital albums

Private Yachts: Privacy and exclusivity are the key values for those who want to get away from it all. Groups of friends or multigenerational families are requesting yacht charters to Greece, Croatia, USVI, and BVI.

Trending for 2024?

- Italy: Sicily, Puglia, Trieste
- European River Cruises: Danube and Rhine for first-timers, Rhône for Foodies + Wine Lovers
- Mediterranean Cruise: Italy - Croatia - Greece
- Greenland
- Japan: Cherry Blossom Season
- Alaska: Cruise and Land Vacations
- South America: Hiking Machu Picchu OR Patagonia (Argentina and/or Chile)
- Big Island of Hawaii

Popular locations for celebrating the Holidays 2023/Winter 2024?

Hawaii - Colorado - Punta Mita, Mexico - Virgin Gorda, BVI
St Barths - Turks and Caicos - Anguilla



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Harry is a resident of Lake Manassas

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CREATIVE IDEAS TO LIVEN UP YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY THIS SEASON

The holiday season is just around the corner, and that means it's time to start planning those festive gatherings that bring friends and family together. While classic traditions like decorating the tree and sharing a meal are timeless, injecting a bit of creativity into your holiday party can make it truly memorable. Here are some innovative ideas to help you liven up your holiday party this season:



making contest, this is a delicious way to add some friendly rivalry to the party.

Outdoor Adventure:

If weather permits, consider taking your holiday party outdoors. Organize a holiday-themed scavenger hunt in your yard, or even transform your garden into a winter wonderland. Fresh air and outdoor activities can invigorate the party atmosphere.

Live Entertainment:

Hire local performers such as carolers, magicians, or even a small band to provide live entertainment. Their presence will bring an extra layer of enchantment to your holiday gathering and keep the spirits high.

Holiday Trivia and Games:

Test your guests' holiday knowledge with a round of festive trivia. Create a mix of questions about holiday traditions, movies, and history. Additionally, you can organize classic games like charades, Pictionary, or holiday-themed bingo for some interactive fun.

Cultural Celebration:

Embrace the diversity of your guests by incorporating different cultural holiday traditions. Encourage them to share their customs, stories, and even traditional dishes. This not only educates everyone about various holiday celebrations but also fosters a sense of unity and understanding.

Incorporating these creative ideas can transform your holiday party into a lively and unforgettable event. Remember that the most important thing is to create an atmosphere of warmth, joy, and togetherness. By infusing your personal touch and a dash of innovation, you'll create cherished memories that will be talked about for years to come. So, get ready to embrace the holiday spirit and host a celebration that will truly stand out!

Themed Costume Party:

Why wait until Halloween to don your favorite costumes? Throw a themed costume party where guests can get creative with their outfits. Whether it's an ugly sweater extravaganza, a winter wonderland masquerade, or even a holiday movie character bash, a themed costume party adds a playful twist to the festivities.

Interactive DIY Stations:

Set up DIY stations where guests can create their own holiday-themed crafts or treats. Provide supplies for making ornaments, gingerbread houses, wreaths, or personalized gift tags. This not only gets everyone engaged but also leaves them with unique mementos to take home.

Holiday Karaoke:

Spread some cheer with a holiday karaoke session. Create a playlist of classic carols and contemporary holiday hits, and let your guests take the stage. This is a surefire way to get everyone singing along and laughing together.

Gift Exchange with a Twist:

Put a creative spin on the traditional gift exchange by incorporating fun games. You could do a White Elephant gift exchange, a Secret Santa with quirky clues, or even a scavenger hunt leading to the final gift. These activities add an element of surprise and laughter to the gift-giving tradition.

Themed Photo Booth:

Set up a themed photo booth with holiday backdrops, props, and even costumes. This is a fantastic way to capture joyous moments and create lasting memories. You can share the photos digitally afterward, so everyone has a keepsake to remember the event.

Cooking or Mixology Contest:

Tap into your guests' culinary and mixology skills by hosting a friendly competition. Whether it's a cookie bake-off, a hot cocoa mixology challenge, or a festive cocktail-

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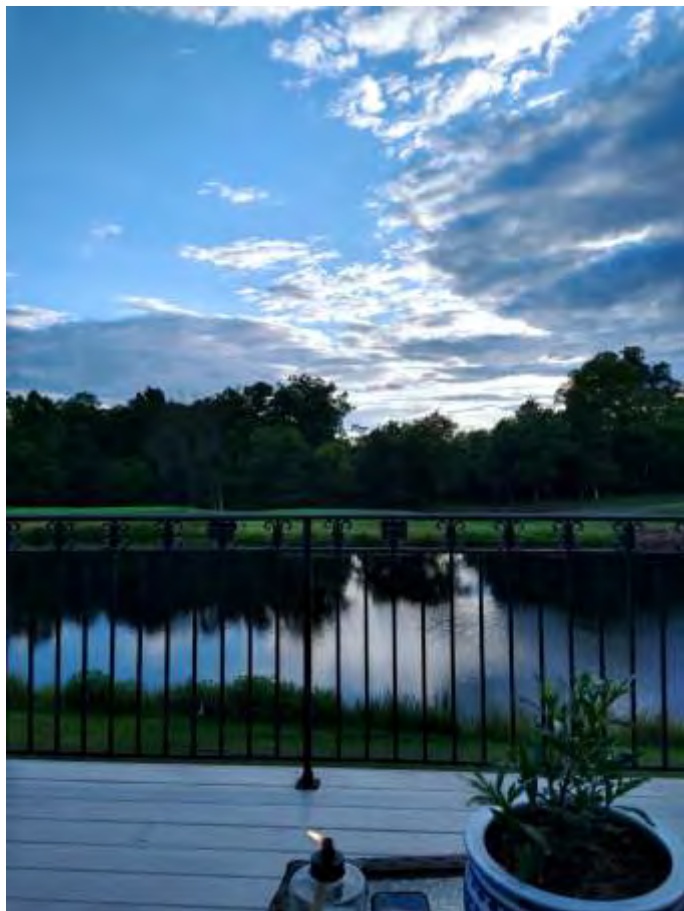
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Thanks to resident Jen Barozie
for sharing this lovely photo with us!



Lake Manassas Residents
Share Your Favorite
Holiday Photos With Us

Please share your photos with us! Holiday photos especially decorations in the Lake Manassas Community are welcome. We will present in the Winter 23/24 Issue of this publication.

- Please send us *(highest resolution from your phone or camera)*.
- Send the photographer's name and a caption.
- Limit two photos per resident.
- Please send to **ImageryPrint@aol.com** and put **Lake Manassas Holidays** - in the subject line.

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HOW TO SPOT a Fake Review online

In the e-commerce and digital marketing era, online reviews play a crucial role in shaping our purchasing decisions. However, not all reviews are created equal. Among the genuine feedback from satisfied or dissatisfied customers lurks a deceptive force: fake reviews. These fabricated testimonials are designed to mislead and manipulate consumers. But fear not! You can unveil these fake reviews and make informed choices by developing a discerning eye and employing a few strategies. This article will guide you through spotting a phony review online.

Analyze the Language and Tone: One of the initial signs of a fake review is the language used. Pay close attention to overly enthusiastic or exaggerated claims, generic phrases, and excessive use of superlatives. Genuine reviews provide specific details about the product or service, highlighting positive and negative aspects. A suspiciously high number of spelling and grammar errors can also indicate a fraudulent review.

Check the Reviewer's Profile: Take a moment to examine the reviewer's profile. Legitimate reviewers often have a history of posting reviews across various platforms. It raises red flags if you come across a new account with only one review, especially if it is overly positive or negative. Look for profiles with a diverse range of reviews and consider the reviewer's credibility based on their history and activity.

Evaluate the Timing and Quantity: Fake reviews often appear in large numbers within a short period, either to boost or disparage a product or service. If you notice a sudden surge of reviews, especially from unverified sources, it indicates a potential manipulation attempt. Genuine reviews are typically spread out over time and may have a mix of opinions.

Assess Similarities and Repetition: Scammers often employ a copy-and-paste technique to create fake reviews. If you encounter multiple reviews with identical or highly similar content, it is likely a coordinated effort to deceive consumers. Pay attention to the same phrases, vocabulary, or descriptions repeated across various reviews.

Cross-reference with Multiple Sources: Relying on a single platform for reviews can be risky. Explore multiple reputable sources to gather a broader range of opinions. Check trusted review websites, forums, and social media platforms, or even seek recommendations from friends and family. A consistent pattern of reviews across different platforms provides a more substantial basis for authenticity.



Look for Verified Purchases or Usage: Certain platforms offer features indicating whether a reviewer has purchased or used the product. Verified purchase badges or tags add credibility to the review since they demonstrate firsthand experience. Such indicators help filter out reviews from individuals with hidden agendas.

Seek Balanced and Detailed Reviews: Genuine reviews often present a balanced perspective, highlighting both positive and negative aspects of a product or service. They provide specific details, discussing features, performance, and personal experiences. Authentic reviews tend to be more descriptive and informative, helping readers make well-informed decisions.

As online shopping continues to dominate our consumer landscape, it is crucial to approach online reviews with a discerning mindset. Fake reviews can be misleading and impact our purchasing choices. You can spot the telltale signs of deceit by carefully analyzing the language, evaluating reviewer profiles, assessing timing and quantity, looking for repetition, cross-referencing multiple sources, considering verified purchases, and seeking balanced reviews. Stay vigilant, and armed with these strategies, you can navigate the online review landscape with confidence, making informed decisions that truly reflect your needs and preferences.

ANTS IN YOUR HOME



Ants are so frustrating and can cause a great deal of damage. When you discover a trail you need to identify where it originated as Ants leave pheromone trails to guide other ants to food sources. Following these trails can help you find the source of the problem and eliminate it. Look for ants in areas where you've seen them before, which might be around windows, doors, and baseboards.

You can also try placing a small amount of food or sugar water in an area where you have seen ants and watch where they go. Once you have located the trail, you can follow it to try to find the nest. Ants often nest in moist, dark places, so check areas such as under appliances, in wall voids, or in crawl spaces.

One way to prevent ants from entering your home is to seal all possible entry points. Ants can squeeze through the tiniest gaps you can imagine, so make sure to check for cracks and gaps around windows, doors, and pipes. Seal any openings with caulk or weather stripping. Additionally, consider installing door sweeps to prevent ants from crawling under doors.

Another important step is to keep your yard and the area around your home free of debris and vegetation. Ants can use overhanging tree branches and shrubs as bridges to enter your home, so trimming them back can help reduce the risk of infestation. Taking these steps to seal entry points can help keep ants out and prevent future infestations.

There are several natural ant deterrents that can be used to repel ants without adding chemicals or toxins to your environment. Some of these natural remedies include:

Cinnamon: Ants dislike the smell of cinnamon, so sprinkling cinnamon powder or using cinnamon oil can be an effective deterrent.

Peppermint: Peppermint oil is a natural insect repellent that can effectively deter ants and other bugs.

Vinegar: A solution of equal parts vinegar and water can be used to wipe down surfaces and repel ants.

Baking soda: Baking soda mixed with powdered sugar can be a powerful ant-repellent.

Borax: Borax can be mixed with sugar and water to create a bait that ants will carry back to their nest, killing off other ants.

It is important to note that natural remedies may not be as effective as chemical pesticides and may require more frequent application. Ant baits are an effective way to eliminate ant colonies. Ants are attracted to the bait, which contains a slow-acting poison. When the ants bring the bait back to their colony, it kills the entire colony. Place the ant bait in areas where you've seen ants, but **make sure to keep them out of reach of children and pets.**

When using ant baits, it's essential to be patient. It can take several days or even weeks for the bait to work, so resist the urge to switch to a different method if you don't see immediate results. Additionally, it's important not to disturb the ants while they are feeding on the bait as this can cause them to move their colony to a new location.

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community calendars

Meeting dates are tentative. Please check the online calendar at www.LMROA.com or contact site staff to verify meeting dates.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6 MCC apps due by noon	7
8	9 	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 MCC Meeting 4:30 PM Covenants Meeting 6 PM	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 	OCTOBER			

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
NOVEMBER			1	2	3 MCC apps due by noon	4
5 	6	7 	8	9	10	11 NOVEMBER 11 VETERANS DAY 
12	13 MCC Meeting 5 PM	14	15 CVAC Meeting 5:30 PM	16	17	18
19	20 Covenants Meeting 6 PM	21	22	23 	24 Thanksgiving Holiday Office Closed	25
26	27	28	29	30		

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
DECEMBER					1 MCC apps due by noon	2
3	4	5	6	7 	8	9
10	11 MCC Meeting 5 PM	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Covenants Meeting 6 PM	19	20 CVAC Meeting 5:30 PM	21	22	23
24 	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31 	Office Closed					

NEW LAKE MANASSAS CLUB

Introducing The EmpowerHer Wellness Circle!

Greetings Residents,

We are thrilled to introduce the EmpowerHer Wellness Circle, a new health and wellness group spearheaded by Dr. Neema Moore, DC. This program aims to enhance both your physical and mental well-being while fostering neighborhood connections and friendships. It's a fantastic way to bring our wonderful community together!

If you're looking to transform your life through health, wellness, community, and connection, the EmpowerHer Wellness Circle is the group for you. We'll be organizing activities and promoting various programs designed to uplift and empower.

Our Activities:

- Walking Groups: Enjoy our beautiful community while staying active!
- Health and Wellness Seminars: Monthly educational talks on topics like Nutrition, stress management, longevity, vitality, and more.
- Meditation and stretching sessions

If you're interested in learning more about our EmpowerHer Wellness Circle sessions, please email drneema@wellnesswithinva.com for more details.



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off the line

Join us in this journey as we take professional, restaurant-caliber recipes "off the line" and bring them into your home kitchen.

Featured Recipe: BAKED BRIE

This baked brie recipe will become the star of any holiday party and elevate your culinary standing amongst your friends and family. The best part? It couldn't be easier to make!

INGREDIENTS

- 1 (8-10 ounce) wheel of Brie cheese
- 1/3 cup of chopped pecans
- 1/4 cup of dried cranberries
- 1/4 cup diced apples
- 1 tablespoon fresh sage (*picked & chopped*)
- 1/4 cup of honey
- 1/2 teaspoon of ground cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons of apple butter (*or apple sauce*)
- The juice and zest of 1 lemon
- 2 pinches of salt

PROCEDURE

1. Preheat your oven to 350 F and spray or line a sheet tray with parchment paper.
2. Prepare the topping by roughly chopping the pecans, dicing the apples into a small dice (about the size of your pinky nail), and picking and chopping the sage. Add those to a bowl and add the dried cranberries, the honey, the ground cinnamon, the apple butter, the salt, and the zest and juice of the lemon. Mix everything to combine and evenly distribute the honey and apple butter.
3. Remove the brie cheese from the fridge, take it out of its packaging and place it on your sprayed or parchment-lined sheet tray.
4. Put your prepared topping on top of the brie and bake at 350 F for about 12 minutes or until the brie softens slightly.
5. After 12 minutes, remove the brie from the oven and allow it to rest for 2-3 minutes.
6. Serve with bread, crackers, or the accompaniment of your choice.

Servings: 6-8 | Prep Time: 10 min. | Cooking Time: 22 min.

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- ... Give thanks for life's bounty
- ... Have a thick skin
- ... Keep growing
- ... Be outstanding in your field
- ... Think big!

~ Ilan Shamir

CLASSIFIEDS

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HOUSE CLEANING - Take \$25 Off 1st Cleaning, \$10 Off 2nd & 4th Recurring Cleanings. We offer weekly, biweekly, and monthly recurring service. Flexible and Reliable service with over 20 years of cleaning experience, residential cleaning, move In/out, remodeled home and small office cleaning. Call for more details **703-786-1728**, visit www.shiningstarscleaningservices.com

EXPERT DRY CLEANING - Now Open. We use "EM" products that are naturally fermented to clean expertly while being beneficial to the environment. Open extended hours \$5 OFF \$30 in cleaning/\$20 OFF \$50. **24-7 Cleaners - 7801 Heritage Village Plaza, Gainesville 703.244.3997**

MAILBOX & POST REPLACEMENT, Curb Street Numbers, Junk Hauling, Yard Work, Power Wash, Repairs Around The House, TV Wall Mounting. **Lighthauling1@aol.com. 703.599.8385**

Lake Manassas Community Information

COVENANTS:

INSPECTIONS: While we understand that there are some aspects of property maintenance that cannot be attended to at various times of the year (especially painting and landscaping), and in certain weather conditions, please do your best to keep your property maintained according to LMROA guidelines. If you are issued a violation notice and need an extension of time to complete repairs, please put your request in writing and email to concerns@LMROA.com.

The LMROA Community Handbook contains useful information covering Design Guidelines, Use Restrictions, Property Maintenance Standards and Enforcement Procedures. Please be sure to correct any violations that may exist on your property. The following is just a sample of a few important inspection items that need to be continuously maintained:

MAILBOXES: The approved color for the old style mailbox is Hunter Green (the Rust-Oleum brand of this shade can be purchased at most hardware stores). The color for the wooden post is white and can be color matched to your existing post.

If you need to replace your mailbox please contact Main Street Mailboxes at 571-379-8454 or sales@mainstreet-mailboxes.com.

YARDS AND LAWNS. Lawn maintenance items such as weed/crab grass control, dead trees and shrubs and edging as well as replenishing the mulch in your beds need to be continued throughout the year. Please do not leave grass clippings on the sidewalk and/or street or dump on common areas.

HOME EXTERIORS. Look at your home and inspect for peeling and blistering paint, rotted wood, and staining and green algae. Please clean, repair or paint all affected surfaces.

PLAY EQUIPMENT. Outdoor play equipment must be approved by the Modifications and Construction Committee. Please obtain your approval before making any purchases.

STREET PARKING:

When you are receiving guests, parking in the street may be necessary. It seems, however, that the issue of vehicles parked in the street on a regular basis continues to be a problem.

When you moved into the community, you were provided with documents containing the Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for the LMROA. **The guidelines state that there is no street parking permitted without prior authorization of management.** If you have room in your driveway then you should not have cars parked in the street. Understandably, for those who have multiple vehicles, rearranging cars to accommodate those who live in your home can be a nuisance, however, the parking rule was put in place to keep as many vehicles as possible off the roads for the safety and aesthetics of the community. If you or your guests require temporary street parking, please contact the on-site office in advance. If you continually disregard the parking regulations, you may be called to a hearing before the Covenants Committee and also fined \$50 for each infraction.

TRASH:

Our trash removal service is provided by American Disposal. Trash is collected weekly on Mondays and Thursdays.

Yard waste and recycling are now collected on Monday. A special pick up service for bulk items is available for a fee (white goods, construction debris, etc.), but must be scheduled in advance. Please call American Disposal 703.368.0500 for details and scheduling. Reminder - please be sure not to set your trash out any sooner than the evening before collection (approximately 6 pm); trash cans and containers must be stored out of sight prior to sunrise the day after collection. This includes trash left by a landscaping company. When trash is put out a day or two before pickup, the overall effect presents an unsightly appearance in our lovely neighborhood. On windy days, trash is easily blown down the street making the street and the community unsightly. Be a good neighbor and tie it down and please be sure to cover all trash.

While we understand that trash bags at the curb may be necessary from time to time it is recommended that you use the can provided by American Disposal. This will eliminate any trash/debris scattered by birds and wildlife. NOTE: Residents should allow at least 3ft between each trash can and space at least 10ft from the mailbox or vehicles to allow for the side arm to grab the trash cans.

For information on special pickups, restrictions, and new yard waste rules please go to www.americandisposal.com.

GATED ENTRANCES & BARRIER ARMS:

The well-being of those entering the community is of utmost importance at barrier arms and gates. The Post Orders for the community, which are the rules/restrictions provided by LMROA to Securitas Inc. gate attendants to follow, state:

- Bicycles will not be processed through vehicle lanes and should not gain access under gate arms for safety reasons.* Barrier arms will not be opened for non-motorized vehicles.

Unless you are in a "licensed" motorized-vehicle, you should enter the community using the sidewalk or trails that flank each entry. Gate attendants have been instructed to not open barrier arms for anyone who is not in a vehicle. This includes pedestrians, bicyclists, skaters, etc. Some gate attendants have experienced harassment, belittlement and arguments when implementing restrictions from the Post Orders. This will not be tolerated, and anyone attempting to lift or tamper with barrier arms or enter underneath will be reported to Prince William County Police. If you notice damage to a barrier arm or gate please report it immediately to management or one of the gate attendants so that repairs can be made as quickly as possible.

PLEASE DO NOT EXIT YOUR VEHICLE AT THE GATE OR ATTEMPT TO REPAIR A BARRIER ARM.

PLEASE NOTE: LARGE TRUCKS AND OVERSIZED VEHICLES AND TRAILERS MUST ENTER USING VISITOR LANES ONLY.

* (Per manufacturer as posted at the gate).

LAKE MANASSAS COMMUNITY

On-site management office	703.753.7745
CMC Corporate / Emergencies	703.631.7200
Gatehouses	Baltrusol gatehouse 703.754.9465
	Stonewall gatehouse 703.754.9951
Stonewall Golf Club Pro Shop	703.753.5101
Brass Cannon Restaurant	703.753.6140
Cable (Comcast) 24-Hour Repair	703.670.3500
Electric Dominion VA Power	866.366.4357
Main Street Mailboxes	571.379.8454
Trash (American Disposal)	703.368.0500
Washington Gas	703.750.1000
Water/Sewer (PW County)	703.335.7900

EMERGENCIES

Fire or Police (Emergency Only)	911
VA State Police	800.572.2260
Prince William County-PWC Police	703.792.6500
PWC Alleged Crime or Incident Report	703.792.5123
Fire Dept - Gainesville	703.792.5004
Gas - Columbia of Virginia	800.543.8911
24-Hour Emergency	800.544.5606
Novant Health Haymarket Medical Center	571.261.3250
Novant Health/Prince William Medical Ctr	703.369.8000
Emergency Room Manassas	703.369.8337
Emergency Services (Haymarket)	571.261.3400
POISON Natl Capital Poison Center	800.222.1222

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

Area Agency on Aging	703.792.6400
Alcohol & Drug Abuse	
Emergency Services Program	703.792.7800
Animal Control - Shelter/Dog Tags	703.792.6465
Evenings/Weekends	703.792.6500
Assessments Property /Tax Payments	703.792.6710
Real Estate Assessments	703.792.6780
Adult or Child Abuse & Neglect	703.792.4200
After 5 pm and on Weekends	703.792.6500
Prince William County Govt Information	703.792.6000
Substance Abuse	703.792.7800
Election & Voter Information	703.792.6470
Department of Parks & Recreation	703.792.7060
Park Authority	703.792.7275
Recycling	703.792.4670
Library Administration	703.792.6100
Licenses / Auto/Business	703.792.6710
Mental Health Emergency Services	703.792.7800
Miss Utility	800.552.7001
Schools Prince William Public	703.791.7200
Sheriff Non-Emergency & Info	703.792.6070
Social Services	703.792.7500
Tourism & Visitors Bureau	703.396.7130
Transportation Department	703.792.6825
Metro Customer Info	202.637.7000
OmniRide Commuter bus/ride	703.730.6664
Virginia Railway Express (VRE)	703.684.1001
Virginia Department of Transportation	703.366.1900
Verizon	800.483.3000
Zoning Administration	703.792.6830

Prince William County School Calendar 2023-2024 School Year

October 9	Divisionwide Professional Learning Day (no school for students)
November 6	Teacher Workday / Elementary and Middle School Conferences (no school for students)
November 7	Teacher Workday (no school for students)
November 10	Veterans Day Holiday (schools and offices closed)
November 22	Thanksgiving Break (schools and offices closed to the public)
November 23-24	Thanksgiving Break (schools and offices closed)
December 21	Winter Break for Students/Teachers - <i>Holidays observed during winter break include Christmas, Kwanzaa, and New Year's Day.</i>
January 1	<i>(no school for students)</i>
January 2	School Reopens
January 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday (schools and offices closed)
January 26	Elementary School 1/2 Day - Parent/Teacher Conferences
January 29	Teacher Professional Development/Workday (no school for students)
February 19	Washington's Birthday/Presidents' Day Holiday (schools and offices closed)
March 25-29	Spring Break for Students/Teachers (no school for students)
April 9	Teacher Professional Development/Workday (no school for students)
April 10	Holiday (schools and offices closed in observance of Eid al-Fitr)
May 27	Memorial Day Holiday (schools and offices closed)
June 7	Last day of school - Early dismissal for students
June 10-12	Teacher Professional Development/Workday (no school for students)

Detailed information, including when the grading periods end, is available on the Prince William County schools website. Calendar taken from PW Country website and subject to change.



Some of the Holidays Appearing On the Prince William Public Schools 2023-2024 School Year Calendar

Throughout the world, numerous holidays bring joy, celebration, and cultural significance to different communities. While holidays like Christmas, Easter, and Thanksgiving are widely known throughout the United States, several lesser-known but equally important holidays are celebrated by specific religious and cultural groups. This article will briefly explore Yom Kippur, Diwali, Lunar New Year, and Eid al-Fitr.

Yom Kippur: Yom Kippur, also known as the Day of Atonement, is a significant holiday in Judaism. It is considered the holiest day of the Jewish year and is observed with 25 hours of fasting and intense prayer. Yom Kippur typically falls in September or October, ten days after **Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year**. The day is dedicated to introspection, repentance, and seeking forgiveness from God and others for any wrongdoing committed during the past year. Jewish communities worldwide gather in synagogues to participate in solemn services, reflecting on their actions and seeking spiritual renewal.



Diwali: Diwali, also known as Deepavali, is a major Hindu festival celebrated by millions of people worldwide. Known as the Festival of Lights, Diwali signifies the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. The festival usually takes place in October or November and lasts for five days. Homes and public spaces are adorned with oil lamps, candles, and colorful decorations. People gather with their families, exchange gifts, and enjoy feasts. Fireworks are often a highlight of the celebrations, lighting up the night sky. Diwali is a time for spiritual reflection, worship, and honoring deities, each day having its unique significance.



Lunar New Year: The Lunar New Year, also known as the Chinese New Year or Spring Festival, is a vibrant celebration observed by various Asian cultures, including Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, and others. The festival begins the lunar calendar year, falling between late January and mid-February. Festivities last approximately 15 days and are characterized by colorful parades, dragon and lion dances, firecrackers, and elaborate traditional costumes. Families gather for reunion dinners, exchange red envelopes containing money, and decorate their homes with red lanterns and auspicious symbols. The Lunar New Year is a time to honor ancestors, pay respects to deities, and welcome good fortune in the coming year.



Eid al-Fitr: Eid al-Fitr is a joyous Islamic holiday that marks the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting. It is celebrated by Muslims worldwide. The sighting of the new moon determines the timing of Eid al-Fitr, and it typically falls at the end of the Islamic lunar calendar month of Ramadan. After a month of dawn-to-sunset fasting, Muslims come together for communal prayers, feasting, and festivities. Special meals are prepared, and families and friends exchange gifts. Acts of charity and giving are emphasized during this time. Eid al-Fitr is a time of gratitude, unity, and celebration, bringing Muslims closer to their faith and strengthening community bonds.



These holidays, Yom Kippur, Diwali, Lunar New Year, and Eid al-Fitr, are cherished by the respective communities that celebrate them. Each holiday offers a unique opportunity for individuals to connect with their cultural and religious heritage, celebrate their values, and foster a sense of unity and belonging. Acknowledging and understanding these diverse holidays can broaden our cultural knowledge and promote a more inclusive and respectful society.



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LAKE MANASSAS CONNECTION

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LAKE MANASSAS RESIDENTIAL OWNERS ASSOCIATION

The DEADLINE for the WINTER 2023 - 2024 ISSUE of the
Lake Manassas Connection

is DECEMBER 1 for articles and advertising.

Please submit all ideas/articles and photos to:

Michelle Wingo - Concerns@LMROA.com

For advertising please contact MaryPat or Melissa

Imagery Print & Promotions 703-723-3400

ImageryAds@aol.com OR download a contract from www.ImageryPrintVa.com

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