

L.R.C.A. LINK



SPRINGBROOK FOREST • WILLOW WOODS • WOODS OF ILDA

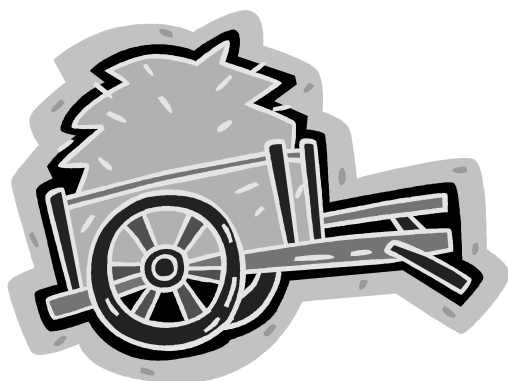
November/December 2007

LRCA Holiday Hayride

When: Sunday, December 2nd, 2007
Times: 3:30, 4:30, and 5:30 pm
Where: Meet at the ILDA Pool Parking Lot

This community holiday celebration is open to all LRCA members ... FREE OF CHARGE

Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Bring a blanket to bundle up with – it can get mighty cold! **We need driver volunteers** for each time slot to be Lead and Follow Drivers for traffic and safety. Please call Maryann Fox at (703) 425-8783 if you can volunteer for this event, or email her at mfox45@aol.com. If inclement weather occurs, please call Maryann at above number to see if event is still on.



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LRCA Membership Drive

The LRCA Membership Drive is still under way but coming to a close. Please send your membership forms and dues to your block captain so we can begin production on the LRCA Directory. Remember your dues entitle you to access to the LRCA Yahoo Group, six issues of The LRCA LINK, the LRCA Directory, the winter hay rides and much more. We thank you for your continued support.

Reserve space now!! Please return this portion to: **Maryann Fox, 8924 Stark Rd. (basket on front porch)**

Name _____ Phone _____

Number of Adults _____ Number of Children _____

Please list your 1st and 2nd choice of Holiday Hayride time: 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Do You Have a Nominee?

Fairfax County Public Schools sponsors several award programs to recognize excellence among employees. Now is the time to start thinking about potential nominees for the following award programs:

Teacher of the Year and Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award (cosponsored by the *Washington Post*). The nominee must have at least three years of successful full-time teaching experience in FCPS. The deadline for nominations is November 30, 2007.

Support Employee of the Year. The nominee must be a support employee with at least three years of successful full-time or part-time experience with FCPS. The deadline for nominations is February 22, 2008.

Any FCPS teacher or staff member, student or former student, parent, administrator, or Fairfax County employee or citizen may nominate a candidate for either of these awards. Nomination forms and instructions are available at all schools and work sites. They are also on the FCPS web site at <http://www.fcps.edu/DHR/employees/awards/>.

Fairfax County School News

FCPS Students Eligible for Discounts on Select Microsoft Products

Through a special agreement with Microsoft, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students, adult education students, and staff members can now purchase select Microsoft products for home and personal use at great discounts. Student Select is part of Fairfax County Public Schools Technology@Home program. This program seeks to help students, faculty, and staff members with their home technology needs by enabling them to purchase directly from vendors at educational discount rates.

For more information on available products, pricing, and how to order, go to <http://www.fcps.edu/DIT/techathome/studentselect.html>.

Interested in Becoming a Mentor?

Mentoring in Fairfax County Public Schools occurs throughout the entire school system and at all levels. According to data from the 2005–06 school year, there are a total of 95 mentoring programs in FCPS: 68 elementary school programs, 12 middle school programs, and 15 high school programs. If you are interested, first consider the age and number of young people you want to work with—elementary, middle, or high school age children and if with one youth or several. (There is a difference between mentoring a child one-on-one versus coaching a group of young people. Also, consider the setting that you may want to mentor in, such as a school, the community, or a business.

For more information, go to <http://www.fcps.edu/ss/MentorWorks/index.htm>.

American Disposal Update

I have had discussions with Mr. Walter McNair, the Sales Manager, and with Brenda, the head of Customer Relations. They both apologize for the improper billings to residents of the Little Run Citizens' Association. Everyone has the word that the rates for our community are \$21.23 a month, or \$63.69 a quarter. I firmed this rate up with Mr. Bryan Coury, one of the owners, on 26 June 2007. I reaffirmed it with Mr. McNair on July 9, 2007, and he sent me an e-mail on that date indicating billing would be advised of the correct rate.

On your current billing remit \$63.69 with a note saying you are with the Little Run Citizens' Association. If you have any problem, ask for Brenda.

Sorry this did not go as smoothly as I would have liked. The rate is good until 1 July 2008. Please talk to some of your neighbors still with AAA and get them to change. You will get a free month if you get a convert. Remember, American Disposal is a local company, and they gave Ilda Pool an excellent rate this summer.

EDWAL JONES
LRCA NEGOTIATOR

Shopping on www.USA.gov

If the demands of the holiday season begin taking over your life this year, consider calling in the Feds.

It's no joke. USA.gov, official website of the federal government, offers easy access to many unique gifts for those hard-to-buy folks on your Christmas list.

To begin shopping on USA.gov, click, "Government Sales and Auctions" in the "Get it done online" section of the homepage. From there, you'll connect to Government Stores that feature souvenirs, books, and other great gifts.

Try the NASA site for the science-minded kids and adults on your list. The site has an assortment of shuttle models, astronaut key chains, and postcards. The Postal Service is your stop for stamps or the annual stamp yearbook, while the U.S. Mint features the new presidential coins and holiday ornaments. For the avid traveler, you can buy train tickets, maps, or passes to the national parks. Need something offbeat? How about uncut currency? Or maybe you'd like to adopt a horse or a lighthouse. (Free advice: check with your spouse first.)

You can also buy holiday ornaments from the White House, U.S. Capitol, U.S. Supreme Court, National Gallery of Art, and some of the presidential libraries.

When other special occasions arise, try taking a favorite photo and turning it into a real postage stamp. While USA.gov is great for holiday shopping, it's also useful throughout the year. One of our newest offerings is a blog at www.govgab.gov that explains how government information can be useful in your everyday life.

Don't wait in line this holiday season. Go online at www.USA.gov.

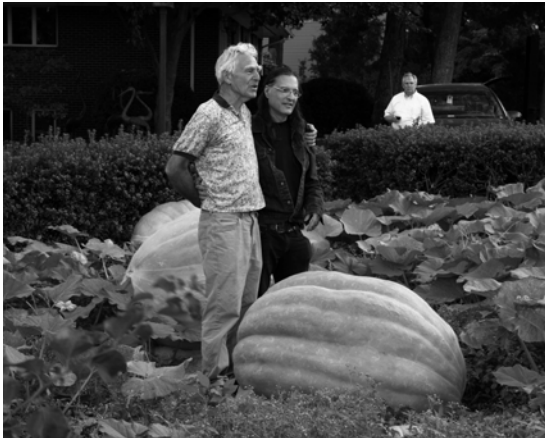
USA.gov is an E-Gov initiative that is part of President Bush's 2002 extensive plan to help integrate the federal government's efforts to provide more efficient and cost-effective services to citizens and businesses, by making their government information and services easily accessible online. USA.gov is government made easy, and Gov Gab makes it easy to get helpful, useful information every day.

The Most Sincere Pumpkin Patch

If Linus could have convinced Lucy to visit the pumpkin patch in Dr. John Forrest's front yard I think she would have been convinced that she indeed had seen the Great Pumpkin!

This year LRCA neighbor Joe Mills with friend and pumpkin growing partner, Dr. John Forest once again turned out a couple of pumpkins that were worthy of ribbons at the State Fair in Richmond in early October.

Joe, who has enjoyed growing these



giants for many years, saw Dr. Forrest's garden a couple of years back and an instant friendship and partnership were formed. They agreed to join forces and work together to grow the largest pumpkin imaginable. Their efforts have become well known at Wakefield Forest Elementary School as each fall the pumpkin arrives by police escort from Dr. For-

rest's yard to the school, where the children try to guess its weight. The winner gets to take the pumpkin home - that is, if the parents are willing to

hire a team of movers!

Starting in late spring each year the Doc and Joe work the soil and plant the seeds that will become giants. Two seeds are planted and eventually, after careful fertilizing the pumpkins start to take form. Once they can determine which ones have the most potential they begin the routine of babysitting. Houses must be built to cover them from the scorching summer sun, fans are sometimes used to keep them cool, and of course, watering is crucial.

There was a small gathering of neighbors this year to help lift the pumpkins into the trucks which carried them to the state fair. It took 12 people to lift the biggest, which weighed 758 pounds! Next year a festival to make Linus' heart even happier is planned.

Nancy Gordon
Mullen Dr.



Your LRCA Board Members

Derrick Chamlee, President
 Maryann Fox, Vice President
 David Bailey, Secretary
 Linda Smith, Treasurer
 Connie Griffin, Events Coordinator
 Bob Kachur, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator
 Ivan Dietrich, Community Affairs Representative
 Anne Richardson, LRCA Link Editor
 Frank Judnich, Membership
 Nancy Gordon, Member-at-Large
 Nancy Hahn, Directory Production Coordinator

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 (703) 323-0226
 (703) 426-7257
 (703) 978-6994
 (703) 503-8467
 (703) 272-8443



LRCA Dumpster Day

This season's dumpster day, October 20, was quite a success. The dumpster was filled in less than two hours. Because it filled up so fast we look forward to supporting this event in the future. A special thanks to Bob, "Duke of The Dumpster" Kachur for organizing and managing the event.

Whether your child has a report due on Ben Franklin or wants to learn how to become an astronaut, Kids.gov, the U.S. General Services Administration's (GSA) redesigned family-friendly web site, has the answers.

"The new Kids.gov site was designed with kids in mind," said GSA administrator Lurita Doan. "It's simple to navigate and has lots of interesting, educational content on a wide array of subjects. Best of all, parents and educators can trust that the sites on Kids.gov are safe and trustworthy."

A new design and links to over 1,200 web pages from government agencies, schools, and educational organizations make Kids.gov easy for children to learn, explore, and have fun.

To simplify navigation, Kids.gov was divided into two age groups: Grades K-5 and 6-8. Each group features links from government and nongovernment sources geared to specific learning levels. A new section for educators includes links to helpful lesson plans, classroom activities, and web resources. New links and special sites are also highlighted on the homepage, so kids can always find something new and fun.

Kids.gov helps children, parents, and teachers locate appropriate content on more than 20 different topics ranging from the arts and music to space and history. Kids can learn how government works, get homework help, and much more.

Kids.gov is managed by the Federal Citizen Information Center, a division of GSA's Office of Citizen Services & Communications.

GovGab Your U.S. government blog



A new general government Weblog, or blog, has been launched by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) to further improve citizen access to official government information and services.

"Americans clearly love the idea and practice of blogging," said GSA Administrator Lurita Doan. "The creation of GovGab is another step forward in improving public access to government information and services. This blog will be an invaluable resource in helping us keep citizens informed of the many opportunities and programs offered by the U.S. government."

Available at GovGab.gov, the blog features daily posts from a GSA team of five managers, each drawing on his or her professional experience as a government information expert to help spotlight U.S. government information and services of

greatest use in Americans' daily lives. Some 57 million Americans are active throughout the blogosphere.

The daily posts will cover a wide range of topics from, "What to do when an airline loses your luggage," to, "How to submit a recipe to the Library of Congress cookbook." Readers can respond directly by leaving a comment.

GovGab is a product of GSA's Office of Citizen Services and Communications (OCSC). It will key off conversations in the blogosphere and draw on the resources in OCSC's family of Web sites: USA.gov, the official Web portal of the U.S. government; Pueblo.gsa.gov, the public's trusted source of consumer information for more than 35 years and ConsumerAction.gov, the federal site that helps with consumer problems.

Walking The Dog

Most dog owners are highly considerate of neighbors when they are out walking with their pets. Unfortunately a few dog walkers are not disposing of their pet's waste in an appropriate manner.

Some dog walkers have been observed not cleaning up after their pets, leaving waste on lawns and sidewalks. Some dog walkers deposit their pets' waste in garbage cans that are on the curb. One neighbor, who routinely washes out her garbage container after it is emptied, consistently finds a plastic bag of feces in the bottom of the can. This has happened so many times she has had to put out a

sign urging pet walkers not to use her trash can for such purposes. Some neighbors grow herbs in their flower beds. Dogs on long leashes that wander into the flower beds and urinate will contaminate the herbs.

To quote Sam Walter Foss's poem, "House by the Side of the Road": "I would not sit in the scorners' seat, or hurl the cynic's ban. Let me live in a house by the side of the road and be a friend to man."

Classified Ads

FOR SALE: Sears Kenmore Elite Washer, Heavy Duty, King size capacity, Quiet Pacfil, Total Care System. 4-5 yrs old. Excellent condition. \$250. 703 978-5016

