

Occoquan Landing Community Newsletter

PO Box 85, Occoquan, VA 22125

www.occoquanlanding.org

March 2006

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Board of Directors

Acting President:

Steve Heath 703-492-1170

Heathroe2@yahoo.com

VP/Architectural Control:

VACANT

Secretary:

Nayyar Zaidi 703-380-3982

nzaidiusa@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

VACANT

Maintenance/Grounds:

Norman Howard 703-494-3904

howardn@ttnus.com

Neighborhood Watch:

Paul Agosta 703-491-4796

pagosta@esc.com

Newsletter:

Betsy Bartlett 703-909-9858

Betsy.Bartlett@ncpanet.org

Non-Board Members:

Association Bookkeeper:

Anna Longo 703-490-6802

alongo@covad.net

Contact to obtain HOA Disclosure Packet when selling your home.

***Are you looking to be an active voice in the community? Because of some resignations there are some board positions available. Please contact any current board member for more information.**

President's Message

As the weather gets warmer, it is a great time to do some spring cleaning. With that in mind I would like to ask everyone in the community to take a few hours one of these weekends soon and clean the area behind your back fence. It is your responsibility and it will help make the community look better. In the spirit of spring cleaning, several members of the board are going to clean the park and stairways around our community on Saturday, May 6th. We invite all members of the community to come out and help us protect our investment in our homes by making our community an attractive place to live.

Community attractiveness is the measure by which our homes keep and increase their value. There are two issues which work in direct opposition to community attractiveness, one is exterior home upkeep and the other is the bi-monthly parking controversy.

Let's take the time to fix our fences, repair and paint our trim and just do some basic cleanup this spring. Spring is the time when people start looking for new homes. We have several homes in the community that are for sale. This is an opportunity for the community to shine. We can all give ourselves a little bit of extra security by making our community a magnet for people looking for a place to live. (continued on page 2)

Community Announcements

- ✓ **We are still looking for residents to be involved in our Neighborhood Watch program. If you are interested please contact Paul Agosta for details.**

Do you need something hauled away that is too big for your trash can?

Call Mr. Wayne Prince at
(703) 221-3325

(This includes any appliances, construction debris, car batteries...
trash companies
will not pick them up.)



President's Message (cont.)

On the issues of parking, we all know what the rules are. The board's view of interpreting these rules is based upon reasonableness. For example, there is a rule about commercial vehicles in the community. In the spirit of reasonableness, a taxi that removes its signs and looks like a regular car at night can pass but a truck with a ladder rack can not. Many members of our community park their commercial vehicles in the commuter lot at night. This is a burden and if the community feels this burden is unfair, then we can change the rules.

Another parking issue revolves around visitor's spaces. I would like to take this time to thank all of the people who have used the passes to park on Rivershore. The board has only had to tow two vehicles from Rivershore for failure to use a pass. But the issue of residents parking in visitor's spaces is back again. To use the reasonable approach, let's say my mother-in-law comes to dinner and I park my car in a visitor's space for a couple of hours, that's reasonable. If my brother moves in with us for a month and parks in a visitor's space every night. That is unreasonable. Some people consider it unreasonable to park their third vehicle on Rivershore or in the commuter lot when there are empty visitor's spaces on their street. The other option is that the same people get extra spaces all the time and the rest of the community can never have a guest come to visit for lack of parking. That is not reasonable either and this is why we had the big parking meeting last summer. We had an open meeting where the community decided the parking issue, so let's all agree to follow the rules decided upon at that meeting.

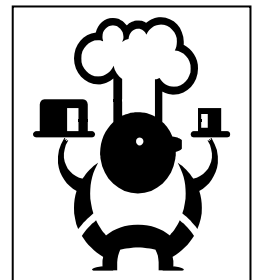
In an effort to ease some of the pressure on the parking issue, the board is looking in to

adding between 10 and 30 new spots. This is by no means a done deal and it will be costly. We are looking for any and all community input on this issue. In the mean time, no one can complain if they get towed. Anyone who gets towed will have been warned and will have been a habitual violator of the rules.

Sincerely,
Steve Heath
President

Recipe of the Month

Black Strap Pork Chops



INGREDIENTS:

1/3 c. molasses
1 1/2 T apple cider vinegar
3 T A1 steak sauce
1/4 tsp ground allspice
1/8 tsp red pepper flakes
4 (6 oz) bone-in center cut pork chops (about 1/2 inch thick) (I use 4 4-oz boneless instead.)
1/4 tsp kosher salt
1/4 tsp black pepper
cooking spray

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Combine the first five ingredients in a small bowl. Mix with a whisk and set aside.
2. Sprinkle pork chops with salt and black pepper.
3. Heat a large nonstick skillet coated with cooking spray over medium high heat.
4. Add pork; cook 2 min on each side. Pour molasses mixture over chops and cook 2 more minutes.

Do you have a recipe you'd like to share? Please email Betsy Bartlett and she'll include it in the next newsletter.



Do you want to save up to 40- 50% on your energy bill?
Call for a Free Estimate, and ask about HOA Special Deals. This is the Best Value in the Industry, Lifetime + 50 year Transferable Warranty; Financing Available. Call Jason at Home Solutions to get an **extra 5% 703-909-9857**

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Sergeant Kim D. Chinn Officer John Bogert
Phone: 703.792.7245 703.792.4159
e-mail: kchinn@pwcgov.org jbogert@pwcgov.org
FAX: 703.792.7272 703.792.4044

March 13, 2006

Leash Pets and Clean Up After Them – It's the Law!

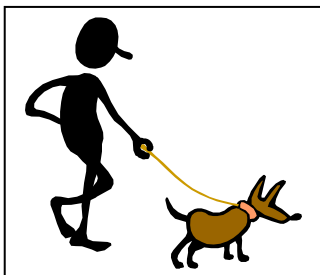
PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA . . . Spring is in the air and the Prince William County Police Department's Animal Control Bureau reminds pet owners of the County's leash and scooper laws that are designed to help owners avoid problems with neighbors and pedestrians.

When your dog is off of your own property, it **must** be kept on a leash. When you are walking your dog, it is your responsibility to clean up the feces after the dog. Failure to do either of these means you can be charged with one or more class 4 misdemeanors, with a maximum fine of \$250 per offense.

Be a responsible pet owner and a good neighbor! Keep in mind the animal laws of Prince William County, which include the following:

- It is against the law to allow your dog to run at large within the County unless engaged in supervised, formal obedience training classes, or show, or during formally sanctioned field trials, or while engaged in lawful hunting during open hunting season. (Section 4-23).
- It is against the law to allow your animal to knowingly and willfully urinate or defecate on private property of other persons or on publicly owned property. It shall not be unlawful if the animal owner removes the animal's excrement immediately and disposes of it (Section 4-11).
- It is against the law to allow your animal to trespass on someone's property after being requested by the owner of the property not to trespass (Section 4-4).

For more information, contact the Animal Control Bureau at 703-792-6465 or visit the Police Department website at www.pwcgov.org/police.



St. Patrick's Day - The History of the Holiday (excerpted from <http://www.historychannel.com/>)



The First Parade

The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland, but in the United States. Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City on March 17, 1762. Along with their music, the parade helped the soldiers to reconnect with their Irish roots, as well as fellow Irishmen serving in the English army.

Over the next thirty-five years, Irish patriotism among American immigrants flourished, prompting the rise of so-called "Irish Aid" societies, like the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick and the Hibernian Society. Each group would hold annual parades featuring bagpipes (which actually first became popular in the Scottish and British armies) and drums.

No Irish Need Apply

Up until the mid-nineteenth century, most Irish immigrants in America were members of the Protestant middle class. When the Great Potato Famine hit Ireland in 1845, close to a million poor, uneducated, Catholic Irish began to pour into America to escape starvation. Despised for their religious beliefs and funny accents by the American Protestant majority, the immigrants had trouble finding even menial jobs. When Irish Americans in the country's cities took to the streets on St. Patrick's Day to celebrate their heritage, newspapers portrayed them in cartoons as drunk, violent monkeys.

However, the Irish soon began to realize that their great numbers endowed them with a political power that had yet to be exploited. They started to organize, and their voting block, known as the "green machine," became an important swing vote for political hopefuls. Suddenly, annual St. Patrick's Day parades became a show of strength for Irish Americans, as well as a must-attend event for a slew of political candidates.

Wearing of the Green Goes Global

Today, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated by people of all backgrounds in the United States, Canada, and Australia. Although North America is home to the largest productions, St. Patrick's Day has been celebrated in other locations far from Ireland, including Japan, Singapore, and Russia.



The collection of our trash seems to be an ongoing problem. **Please put your trash in front of your own house so others are not inconvenienced by your waste. In bushes or in the front of your house is not a proper place to store your trash can,** on days it is not picked up. Please store them only in the back of your house inside your fence line.

Many residents have noticed stray cats in our area that are becoming a nuisance. We have many pet lovers in the neighborhood, and only want what is best for all animals, so if we see any without tags, the animal control will be called. Remember it is a county law to have id tags on all our pets.

Please fill out the attached form for a new Community Reference Booklet. This was a great idea brought up in our annual meeting, to distribute everyone's name, address and occupation, to use as a community guide. Included in the booklet every year will also be an updated copy of the bylaws.

If you are witness to a parking violation, in your space, or a visitor's parking space, please contact our Towing Company – **Nowell's towing 703-670-0400**



They will need a Board Member present in order to tow, so please feel free to contact any of us to assist with this.

Si usted querría información en español por favor 703-243-2443 de llamada.

THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL REPORTS OF RESIDENTS SPEEDING THROUGH THE NEIGHBORHOOD, PLEASE WATCH YOUR SPEED.

Please keep your front and back porch lights on at night, in order to increase lighted areas in between houses, and in the back of houses. This is an easy way to make it safer for everyone to walk around the Community at night.

-Thanks



Calendar of Events

March 21 –
National Flower Day



March 23 –
Cuddle with you Kitten Day



March 25 –
Pecan Day



March 27 –
Fly a Kite Day



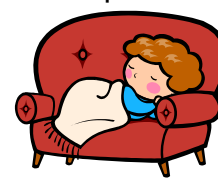
April 1 –
April Fools Day



April 2 –
Daylight Savings Time Begins



April 3 –
Take a Nap at Work Day



April 17 – 8:00 pm
HOA Meeting
12788 Captains Cove
ALL RESIDENTS WELCOME!

KIDS CORNER!!

COLOR THE PICTURE BY THE NUMBERS BELOW



COLOR BY NUMBER

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|---------|
| 1. Red | 4. Yellow | 7. Grey |
| 2. Blue | 5. Brown | |
| 3. Green | 6. Purple | |