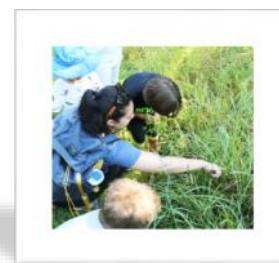


NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017

WWW.VOPLP.ORG

703.753.7401

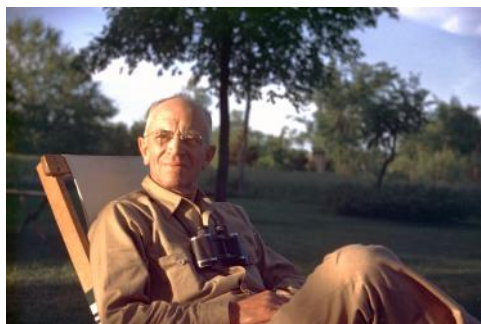


Kid-friendly nature walk
in Leopold's Preserve
(page 3)

Welcome!

Thank you for choosing Villages of Piedmont at Leopold's Preserve as your forever home! We're glad you're here!

Did you know that when you walk out your front door you are in 'Aldo Leopold' country? Leopold is the namesake for Leopold's Preserve, the 380 nature preserve that surrounds this bucolic community. A famous conservationist, forester,

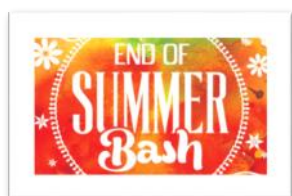


philosopher, and author, Leopold implored the public to find harmony with nature. And that's just what you will find here. With more than 7 miles of natural surface trails, observation areas, wildflower meadows, and woodland forests, our unique partnership with the White House Farm Foundation (who maintains the preserve) provides our residents with direct access to expertly led

naturalist walks and informal lectures. You can find out more by following us on our Facebook page.

Our quarterly newsletters will help keep you informed about community and local events, HOA news, neighborhood happenings, and the unique benefits of living in a conservation community. If you have suggestions or ideas to share, feel free to email us at Newsletter@VOPLP.org. Input from our residents is always welcome!

Villages of Piedmont II Homeowners Association
Board of Directors



You won't want to miss this! See page 2 for details on the first Social Committee event of the year — our 'End of Summer Bash'

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Managed by:

Property Management
People, Inc.
6770 Pinchot Lane
Haymarket, VA 20169
(703) 753-7401

On-Site Office Hours:
M-F, 9 am to 3 pm

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Board of Directors would like to congratulate VOP II resident, **Lindsay Grogg**, on her appointment as **Chair** of the newly formed **VOP II HOA Social Committee**. Joining Lindsay on the committee are:

VICE-CHAIR

Kimberly Auguste

SECRETARY

Brandy Mahoney

TREASURER

Matt Elmore

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Shanise Allen

Cathy Leibfried

Sarah Shelley

2017 MEETINGS

The **Social Committee** generally meets the first Thursday of the month at 7 pm at the Pinchot Lane Clubhouse, 6770 Pinchot Lane, Haymarket, VA 22069.

September 7th

October 5th

November 2nd

December 7th

These meetings are open to members in good standing of the VOP II Homeowners Association.

End of Summer Bash - Sunday, September 3



All **VOP II residents** are invited to join the Social Committee for their first event! Come celebrate the end of summer with your neighbors on **Sunday, September 3rd from 3—7 pm in the big open field next to the Pinchot Lane pool.**

Enjoy a moon bounce, temporary tattoos, popcorn concessions, corn

hole, and a potluck style menu. Beverages are BYOB. All food items have been assigned by last name and can be dropped off at the Clubhouse on Pinchot Lane upon arrival at event.

Email Social Committee Chair, Lindsay Grogg, for more information at Lindsay.Grogg@gmail.com.

Upcoming VOP II Activities

Please keep an eye on the community website for details and updated information! Visit www.VOPLP.org to learn more.

SEPTEMBER 3, 2017*

VOP II End of Summer Bash

SEPTEMBER 4, 2017

VOP II Pool Closes for 2017 Season

OCTOBER 14, 2017

Haymarket Fall Fest, 1 Mile Fun Run, and 5K in Leopold's Preserve (hosted by VOP I HOA)

OCTOBER 27, 2017*

Pumpkin Carving Party

DECEMBER 9, 2017*

VOP II HOA Holiday Party

**denotes private events for VOP II HOA residents only*

Kid-Friendly Nature Walk Recap

On Friday, August 4th, in cooperation with the good folks at the [White House Farm Foundation](#), VOP residents were treated to a kid-friendly nature walk in Leopold's Preserve. Chris Anderson, Executive Director for the Foundation said, "What a fun morning we had at Leopold's Preserve for our kid-friendly nature walk! We had such great young naturalists who demonstrated wonderful curiosity about the insects, flowers and plants at the Preserve and very impressive knowledge about what they were seeing and discovering." Chris thanked the parents for encouraging their kids to get outside and fostering their fascination with nature!



Kids Can Learn So Many Lessons Outdoors

A recent article in [The Ethical Life](#) by Richard Kyte, Director of the D.B.Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership at Viterbo University, cited that "children today spend only about half the time outdoors that their parents did at the same age. Since the publication in 2006 of Richard Louv's [Last Child In The Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder](#), there has been growing recognition of the need to reverse that trend.

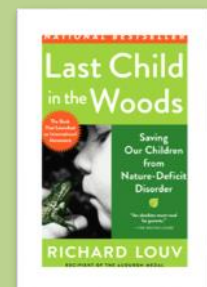
The [Every Kid Outdoors Act](#), which was recently introduced by a bipartisan group of U.S. Representatives and Senators, may not make much difference on its own, but it is a positive step. It could encourage more families to visit one or more of the 59 national parks or 90 national historic sites in the United States. And that in turn could encourage children and their parents to spend time hiking, biking, paddling, fishing, hunting, camping, or otherwise exploring! Most of which cost nothing but time and effort to enjoy. Read Richard Kyte's article in its entirety [here](#).

BOOK REVIEW: LAST CHILD IN THE WOODS

In this influential work about the staggering divide between children and the outdoors, child advocacy expert Richard Louv directly links the lack of nature in the lives of today's wired generation—he calls it nature-deficit disorder—to some of the most disturbing childhood trends, such as the rises in obesity, attention disorders, and depression.

[Last Child in the Woods](#) is the first book to bring together a new and growing body of research indicating that direct exposure to nature is essential for healthy childhood development and for the physical and emotional health of children and adults. More than just raising an alarm, Louv offers practical solutions and simple ways to heal the broken bond—and many are right in our own backyard.

This is a book that will change the way you think about your future and the future of your children.



(Available on [Amazon](#))



About the Author

This article on Spring Beauty was submitted by **Nancy**

Vehrs, President of the Virginia Native Plant Society as well as its local chapter, the Prince William Wildflower Society.

Nancy recently received the Cox Conserves Heroes Award for Northern Virginia and a \$5,000 grant which was presented at the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Meeting in July.

Nancy is a frequent visitor in Leopold's Preserve and resides in Manassas, VA.



Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*)

One of our earliest spring wildflowers is the delicate Spring Beauty. On a sunny spring day, its diminutive blooms carpet the forest floor like snow. It is found widely across the Commonwealth of Virginia with the exception of the Eastern Shore and the far Southwest. Its preferred habitat is the ground under the high canopy of deciduous trees in floodplains or wet meadows. Spring Beauty can often be found with Virginia Bluebells and Trout-lilies.

The scientific name for Spring Beauty is *Claytonia virginica*, and it is a member of the Purslane (Portulacaceae) family. Scientific names include both the genus and species. Spring Beauty was officially named to honor John Clayton (ca. 1695-1773) who lived in Gloucester, Virginia and was one of our earliest botanists. *Virginica* refers to the Colony of Virginia.

Spring Beauty breaks dormancy in late winter and makes the most of the sunlight available under leafless trees. Its narrow fleshy leaves emerge from tiny tubers and blend with the leaf litter, eventually resembling blades of grass as they develop. The flowers form on wiry stems and open only when the sun is shining. While mostly white or light pink, Spring Beauty has dark pink stripes on its petals that serve as runways to direct pollinators to the center of the flower. A true spring ephemeral, Spring Beauty will bloom until the trees leaf out and the canopy begins to close. As the flowers fade, the fruits or capsules mature, and their tiny seeds are dispersed. Within a few weeks, the above-ground parts wither and die, leaving the underground tuber with its stored food to remain dormant in the soil until the following spring.



Spring beauty can be cultivated in a naturalistic shade garden where it is allowed to spread and will not be disturbed. Ferns and later-blooming plants planted with Spring Beauty will cover the ground later in the season. Specialty native plant nurseries may carry Spring Beauty and source information is available on the websites of the Virginia Native Plant Society (www.vnps.org) or Plant NoVA Natives (www.plantnovanatives.org). However, I think that the best way to enjoy Spring Beauty is in the wild where it can be found blooming en masse. Protection of the places where they grow, such as Leopold's Preserve, will ensure that Spring Beauty and other wildflowers will be there for future generations.

"In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks." (John Muir)

The **Virginia Native Plant Society** (VNPS), founded in 1982 as the Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society, is a nonprofit organization of individuals who share an interest in Virginia's native plants and habitats. The Society and its chapters seek to further the appreciation and conservation of this priceless heritage. VNPS strives to have a positive impact on the future of the Commonwealth of Virginia. VNPS supports a variety of programs. To further its goals, VNPS cooperates in statewide and chapter programs with government agencies, developers, horticulturists and other conservation groups that share similar interests. The VNPS website offers information about society events; our mission and conservation statement; our programs; our chapters; and links to related organizations. Publications such as brochures, checklists, nursery source information and invasive plant lists can be found on the website or requested from our office.

In everything it does, the Virginia Native Plant Society emphasizes respect for the natural environment.



Under the Train Horn Rule (49 CFR Part 222), locomotive engineers must begin to sound train horns at least 15 seconds, and no more than 20 seconds, in advance of all public grade crossings. There are three railroad crossings within the town limits of the Town of Haymarket.

Town of Haymarket Quiet Zone Project

According to Holly Montague, the Haymarket Town Council has looked into the possibility of establishing a railroad Quiet Zone through the Town in recent years. The two biggest obstacles are being able to meet the criteria for establishing a Quiet Zone and the funding of establishing a Quiet Zone.

Based on research that the Town Council performed, it is their understanding that they do not currently meet the criteria for establishing a Quiet Zone. There was an accident at one of the railroad crossings within the past couple of years that weighs significantly on the ability to create the Quiet Zone.

There is also the issue of funding. Localities, like the Town of Haymarket, wanting a Quiet Zone would have to pay for gate upgrades in order to establish a Quiet Zone. The Haymarket Town Council recently reached out to Prince William County and based on quick investigation they said it could cost upwards of \$300,000 per crossing and there are three railroad crossings within the Town limits.

Prince William County was asked if they would be interested in working with the Town to establish a Quiet Zone and if they were aware of any grant funding available to help defray the costs. Prince William County has only received one noise complaint in the past 2 years so establishing a Quiet Zone would not be a high priority. They also did some quick research and through their contacts with the Freight Division of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) and they were unable to turn up any grants that would assist in funding a Quiet Zone.

The Haymarket Town Council recommends that residents interested in pursuing this further can reach out to the Community Development Division of the Prince William County Planning Office. The link to the Prince William County Planning website is: <http://www.pwcgov.org/government/dept/planning/pages/default.aspx> and the contact information for the Planning Office is planning@pwcgov.org or you can contact them directly at (703)

The Train Horn Rule and Quiet Zones

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration, if a train is traveling faster than 60 mph, engineers will not sound the horn until it is within ¼ mile of the crossing, even if the advance warning is less than 15 seconds.

There is a "good faith" exception for locations where engineers can't precisely estimate their arrival at a crossing and begin to sound the horn no more than 25 seconds before arriving at the crossing.

Train horns must be sounded in a standardized pattern of 2 long, 1 short and 1 long blasts. The pattern must be repeated or prolonged until the lead locomotive or lead cab car occupies the grade crossing. The rule does not stipulate the durations of long and short blasts.

The maximum volume level for the train horn is 110 decibels which is a new requirement. The minimum sound level remains 96 decibels.

Establishing Quiet Zones

Localities nationwide can mitigate the effects of train horn noise by establishing "new quiet zones." "No horn" restriction which may have existed prior to the establishment of the rule may be qualified to be "pre-rule quiet zones". In a quiet zone, railroads have been directed to cease the routine sounding their horns when approaching public highway-rail grade crossings. Train horns may still be used in emergency situations or to comply with other Federal regulations or railroad operating rules. Localities desiring to establish a quiet zone are first required to mitigate the increased risk caused by the absence of a horn.

Learn how to create a Quiet Zone [here](#).

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY FAIR—AUGUST 11-19



Please visit the Fairgrounds at 10624 Dumfries Road, Manassas, VA 20112 to buy your tickets! Online ticket sales have ended.

Adult Ticket = \$10
Child/Senior Ticket = \$6
Ride Wristbands Wkday = \$18
Fri 8/18 = \$20; Sat 8/19 = \$22

Children 4 and under and Active Military admitted FREE daily!

The [Prince William County Fair](#) is the largest County Fair in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The annual event in Manassas includes livestock exhibits, home arts exhibits, tractor pulls, a rodeo, demolition derbies, baby contests, live music, and a variety of midway shows. Games and carnival rides too! Prince William 4-H Clubs participate in numerous activities and demonstrations.

The Fair began in 1949 by a group of young World War II Veterans who wanted to promote the agricultural industry in the County. The Fair History Book "Farms Forever—Forever Farms" is available at the Fair Office (703) 368-0173.

Bell Times for 2017-18 School Year

The first day of school is Monday, August 28th.

Bell times for school year 2017–18 are posted on the PWCS [Transportation Services web page](#).

Generally, high schools will be in session from 7:30 a.m.–2:10 p.m.; Middle schools from about 8:10 a.m.–2:50 p.m.; and Elementary schools from approximately 9:00 a.m.–3:40 p.m. Many elementary schools open about 8:00 a.m. and dismiss about 2:50 p.m., so please check the schedule for individual schools.

The School Division continues to employ a three-tier system so that the same buses and drivers can be used to transport high school, middle school, and elementary school students in succession.



School Bus Safety

We have several bus stops within the Villages of Piedmont community and we want to make sure our children are safe as they prepare to go back to school later this month. You may start to see that old familiar vehicle—the **school bus**—cruising our streets again. So here are some tips for drivers who share the roads with school buses, as well as some easy lessons to teach your kids about bus stop safety.



Driving near buses—Follow these tips to help protect the children when you drive.

- Keep an especially close eye on students as they're getting on and off the bus—stragglers might run! The most dangerous part of the trip, for kids, is getting on and off the bus.
- Be alert and SLOW DOWN if you're near a bus. There's never a good enough reason to speed, and it's downright careless when there are children nearby.
- Do not pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload students. All states have laws that tell you under what circumstances you can and cannot pass a stopped school bus. Most buses actually have stop signs that display when children are getting on and off the bus. In general, it does not begin to move after until the bus' red flashing lights are turned off, the stop arm is withdrawn, and the bus begins to move.

Know and understand traffic laws and speed limits near a school bus and schools. Oftentimes, the laws change during school hours.

Teach your children—Help take the danger out of the trip to and from school by instructing children about school bus stop safety.

The National Safety Council (NSC) recommends children should:

- Wait away from the roadway and board only when the bus has come to a complete stop.
- When crossing in front of the bus, walk at least 10 steps away from the bus so the driver can see them.
- Never walk behind the bus. Drivers might lose sight of kids in their blind spots.

Visit [National Safety Council](#) for more school bus safety information.

Association News



Sunday from 10 am to 8 pm.

The pool will close for the season on Monday, September 4th.

ONGOING PROPERTY AND EXTERIOR CHANGE INSPECTIONS

Property and exterior change inspections have been in process since late June. Many of you have received follow up letters from property management. We are pleased that numerous homeowners have been compliant and have corrected their violations. If you have not please do so right away.

It is important to remember that Covenants Committee approval is not limited to major alterations, such as adding a room, a garage, a fence, or a deck, but includes such items as changes in exterior color, changes to landscaping, modifications to materials, the installation of a storm door, etc. Approval is also required when an existing item is removed.

Please remove all play toys, bicycles, or other riding toys from the front yard, driveway, and/or front porch each day.

Remember to consult the **Villages of Piedmont II Homeowners Association Design and Maintenance Guidelines*** prior to any improvement or alteration to the exterior of your home. An **Improvement Request Application** must be received and reviewed by the Covenants Committee prior to making any new or changed improvement.



POOL HOURS WILL CHANGE ON AUGUST 28—

The VOP II Pinchot Lane Pool hours will change on August 28th to reflect school hours.

Beginning August 28th, Monday through Friday the pool will be open from 3 pm to 8 pm. Saturday and



American Disposal Services (ADS) provides the trash and recycling services for this community.

Monday & Thursday:
Trash pickup

Monday only:
Recycle pickup

Bulk items* (i.e.; televisions, mattresses, shelves, and furniture) and Yard waste pickup is Thursday

White goods* (appliances) is Wednesday

***Please call (703) 368-0500**
24 hours in advance for
pickup of bulk or white good
items.

ADS will not pick up on the following holidays: Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years.

Do not place trash out on the curb until after 8 pm the night before pickup. Trash and Recycling containers are to be stored out of public view except on trash pickup days.

HOMEOWNER LAWN CARE

Please remember to mow between the curb and sidewalk in the front or side of your home. Also, please be sure to trim along the back and/or side of your fence line, driveway, walkways, gardens, and sidewalks.

HOA PAYMENTS

HOA Payments should be mailed to the P.O. Box listed on your coupon. **Please do not put them in the HOA dropbox at the Pinchot Lane Clubhouse.** This will delay your payment.

Direct Debit Payments (ACH) are deducted on or about the 5th business day each month. A Direct Payment Form must be returned by the 30th of the month in order to be processed the following month.

Questions? Contact our Finance Department at (301) 694-6900 ext. 1094

Online? Visit www.pmpbiz.com. Click on the Community Association tab; select Association Forms and select Direct Debit Form.

Important Information To Know

- ⇒ An **EXTERIOR MODIFICATION** such as a fence, deck, patio, etc. does require a homeowner to complete an Improvement Application **prior** to construction or installation. Please consult the *VOP II HOA Design & Maintenance Guidelines* or contact the property management office at (703) 753-7401 for additional information.
- ⇒ You are required to pick up after your **PET GOES POTTY**. The Association recently installed several additional pet waste stations that are conveniently located throughout the community. Pet waste is a health risk and detracts from the beauty of our community. Please be a good neighbor and pick up after your pet.
- ⇒ There is a **NOISE ORDINANCE** in Prince William County. Chapter 14 of the Code of Ordinances limits, among other things, talking, yelling, shouting, screaming, singing, or any other form of human sounds produced by a person or group between the hours of 10:00 pm and 6:00 am. **If you suspect the County's Noise Ordinance is being violated, you are encouraged to call the Police Department at (703) 792-6500. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 2 misdemeanor.**
- ⇒ Kids of all ages like **PLAYING OUTDOORS** in this beautiful weather! But playing, riding bikes, scooters, skate boards, and playing tag in the streets is not safe in any weather situation. **PARENTS—Please do not let your children play in the parking lot areas, streets of the community, or block traffic in any way.**



Villages of Piedmont II
Homeowners Association

6770 Pinchot Lane
Haymarket, VA 20169

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

RESIDENT
VILLAGES OF PIEDMONT II HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION