

WAKEFIELD CHAPEL WOODS

Newsletter

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Notes from the President:

Dear Neighbors,

Thanks to everyone who paid their dues on time, and those who came out on April 1 for our annual spring park clean-up. There are few communities that have such a low annual fee as ours does, and that is thanks to all our efforts to keep the parkland in good shape, and our Board of Directors that manages the administrative jobs associated with our homeowners association. HOA management companies often solicit our business, but as long as we have volunteers who are willing to give our neighborhood a bit of time and attention we will be able to continue our own inexpensive management.

I'm happy to let you know that we will continue with our "Fridays in the Park". We decided that the 2nd Friday of each month will work best this year, beginning June 9th. (See details below.) We will also have another picnic in the park in September which was a great success last year. These are great ways to meet other neighbors in an informal setting, or catch up with old friends. Children are always welcome!

Please let us know if you have suggestions that will make our neighborhood even more friendly and accessible, and consider volunteering to take a turn on the board or one of our committees.

Hope to see you in the park!

Liz Segall
WCWHA President

Friday Nights in the Park – Back by popular demand!

Join us on **Friday June 9, 6-7:30 pm** in the park for *our first Friday Night in the Park get together of the season*. Although attendance varied last year, depending on people's schedules, those who came had a good time casually socializing with neighbors, often meeting new people. So, *join us in the park at the picnic table near the Banff bridge for a relaxed informal time with your neighbors*. Bring chairs, munchies to share and whatever you would like to drink (to share or not). *Please note that it has been changed to the 2nd Friday night rather than the 1st because of the high number of holiday week-ends on the 1st.* Closest entrances are Banff St., Ordinary Way and Sugarbush Ct.

Successful Park Clean-up Day!

Speaking of the park, have you noticed how great the park looks these days? On April 1, 31 enthusiastic volunteers turned out for the spring clean-up organized by *our faithful parks committee chair, Al Meyer*. They

picked up fallen branches, cut those that were dead and ready to fall and generally cleaned up debris and litter. The dead fall was piled in strategic locations and picked up just last week by our paid service. Parents and children alike worked hard and were rewarded only by the feeling of a job well done, encouragement from Al and home-made brownies provided by Terry Herrmann from Ordinary Way (Thanks, Terry). All work was finished by 11 AM.

Thirty of these workers were from the WCWHA with the following breakdown by street.

Banff Street -11, Bromley Court - 8, Ordinary Way- 4, Sugarbush Court- 4, Whistler Court -3 .

THANKS to Holly Erwin, who is not in our Association, and lives on Ardfour Lane, for joining the group in helping us pick up dead fall.

Our appreciation to all those who came out to help. And our many thanks to Al for organizing it and for the many hours he spends coordinating care of the park – actually doing much work himself! As you know, it is only through these volunteer efforts that we are able to keep our annual dues so low.



Don Payne and daughter, Gabby, (Whistler Court) are carrying this huge branch with Scott Schaefer (Banff Street) in back. JoyMeyer in hot pink jacket is cheering them on (also resting between her own trips).

Notice: Bees in the Park:

Al Meyer reports that there is an area approximately 20' X 20' on the East side of the Banff bridge that has a swarm of non-lethal bees. "I captured two of them in a bottle and took them to Merrfield Garden Center. They told me the bees are a type of Andrena Digger Bees that pollinate our trees and flowers. They appear in Spring and last about a month and then disappear.

Soooooo, don't be concerned if you see them this month."

This message was recently sent out by email. We are repeating here because we do not have emails for all residents. If you don't want to miss important timely notices like this, we encourage you to sent us your email to wcwha.org@gmail.com so we can make sure you are included.

Zika alert from Fairfax County Health Department

We recently received a letter from Fairfax County Health Department asking us to provide you with information about how to protect yourself against spread of the Zika virus. Although we have edited slightly for brevity, we have included most of the information sent us. More information can be found on the County website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd.

As you prepare for the warm weather ahead, the Fairfax County Health Department reminds you that mosquitoes and the diseases they carry are always a concern this time of year. Zika virus was detected for the first time in North America in 2016 and the virus can cause serious birth defects and other problems with pregnancies. While the virus has not been found in mosquitoes in Northern Virginia, it poses a risk for those who travel to areas where Zika is active and return home infected with the virus.

To minimize that risk, it is important that residents remain vigilant about controlling mosquitoes around their homes and protecting themselves from their bites by doing the following:

Control mosquitoes where you live:

- **Eliminate standing water.** Tip and toss standing water each week from artificial containers like tires, buckets, flower pots, corrugated drain pipes, tarps, etc. Mosquitoes can breed in as little as a teaspoon of water.
- **Treat standing water with a larvicide if it cannot be eliminated.** If you cannot get rid of the water, treat it with a mosquito-specific, environmentally-friendly product such as Mosquito Dunks®, which are available at

hardware stores and garden centers. Follow label instructions when applying.

- **If mosquitoes are biting, consider treating your yard with an insecticide.** When used according to label instructions, an insecticide can help control biting mosquitoes. Pay attention to areas where they hide, such as dense vegetation and ground cover.
- **Organize a neighborhood clean-up.** Get rid of litter and debris, discard old tires and manage vegetation that mosquitoes may be using as hiding places.

Protect yourself and your family from mosquito bites:

- **Wear an EPA-registered insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR 3535.** Insect repellent is safe and effective for children and pregnant women, too. Always apply according to label instructions. If using sunscreen, apply sunscreen first and then repellent.
- **Dress to protect.** Cover exposed skin by wearing loose-fitting, light-colored long-sleeved shirts and pants. For extra protection, treat clothing with permethrin or purchase permethrin-treated clothing and gear. Never apply permethrin on skin and always follow label instructions.
- **Keep mosquitoes out of your home.** Keep doors and windows closed. Make sure screens are in good repair.

Street Lights Needed for Wakefield Chapel Road

As many of you are aware, there are no street lights on Wakefield Chapel Road for our WCWHA community. The Board is interested in trying to resolve that matter with little disruption to the neighborhood

and NO cost to our association. In order to proceed it is necessary for the HOA to petition Fairfax County to install such lighting. At the present time, there are no county funds available for the project. It is the Board's desire, however, to get the ball rolling by filing a request with the county to install such lighting. *In order to proceed, we need the approval of affected home owners on Wakefield Chapel Rd.*

It is important to note that no work will be commenced in the near future. The project is dependent on county funding and it is uncertain when that would be available. In the meantime, it is necessary to get our request filed with the county. To accomplish this, a Board member will contact residents in the affected homes to ask those residents to sign the petition to file our request with the County. *For more information, please review the information concerning street lights on the Fairfax County webpage at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/construction/streetlights/light_main.htm.*

If you have any questions concerning this, you may contact Bob Mannion, (Sugarbush Court) a member of the board who is overseeing this project.

Gardening Help

Now that warm weather is here (a bit early this year), we are all thinking about how we can spiff up our landscaping. Are your shrubs tired and not very exciting? You can, of course, go to any one of the temporary plant stands in the area, to a local nursery or big box store like Home Depot for a great assortment. Fairfax County Green Spring Gardens (located on Green Spring Rd, Alexandria – just outside Annandale) may also be able to help if you don't want to go the route of professional landscapers. Their Garden Gate Plant Shop is now open

Monday – Saturday 9 am-4 pm, Sunday noon-4 pm. where you can buy plants specially chosen to do well in our local growing conditions. They also offer plants featured in Green Spring's gardens. You can get 10% off at the shop if you join Friends of Green Spring (FROGS).

Saturday, May 20, 9am. -3 pm Green Spring will sponsor and host the **Spring Garden Day Big Plant Sale** where more than 40 local garden vendors offer beautiful and unusual plants for sale. Growers and master gardeners will on hand to help with plant selections and offer gardening advice. FROGS will also receive 10% off at this sale.

For more information on activities and services offered by Green Spring Gardens visit their website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/greenspring/events.htm

Sharing Neighborhood Service Resources (by Donna Caruso, Banff St.)

Today I am sitting here looking out my sparkling window, delighted with how well a service shared with me by a neighbor worked out. I was looking for a service or handyman to power-wash our disgustingly filthy deck. The handyman I had contacted to do the job did not get back to me as he had promised so I was not a happy camper. My neighbor shared a resource she had just used for gutter cleaning and was happy with the service. Turned out this company, **Sonshine Cleaning Service (703-932-0351)** also does power washing, window cleaning, carpet cleaning, and air duct cleaning as well as gutter cleaning. I hired them for my deck power washing at a reasonable \$160 (not cheap, but reasonable). Needing my windows washed as well, I reluctantly agreed to what I thought was an exorbitant

\$265 until I counted all my windows (17 plus 2 basement), 2 glass doors and 2 porch skylights. **Carlos Cordova's** crew of 5 did an amazing job. It was well worth the price. They were prompt, efficient and thorough (my window sills even shine on the outside). They did everything I expected and more. One of the workman responded to a question that he just wanted to make the customers happy! I would definitely recommend them. In fact, I intend to post them on our website, <http://www.wcwha.org/neighbor-to-neighbor.html>

I share this experience because I know that many of you also have great resources like Sonshine Cleaning Services but have not shared them with the rest of us. Sadly, this list has only been updated once in the last year. So please send information about your best service providers to [wcwha.org@gmail](mailto:wcwha.org@gmail.com) so they can be posted to our website. Share the wealth.

Scheduled Board Meetings

If you would like to become more active in our Home Association or just want to find out what is going on, you are welcome to come to any of the regularly scheduled Board meetings. If you plan to attend, please let us know to make sure there has been no change in date, time or place. Email us at WCWHA.org@gmail.com.

The meetings for this calendar year are:

June 19 – Valdez, Banff St.

September 11 – Caruso, Banff St.

**October 18 – Annual Meeting
(A quorum is needed for the annual meeting so please come)**

December 4 – Mannion, Sugarbush Ct.