

# WAKEFIELD CHAPEL WOODS

## Newsletter

President: Cindy Griffin      Vice President: Tom Herrmann  
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**This newsletter will be posted on our website under [wcwha.org/documents](https://wcwha.org/documents). To ensure privacy of our homeowners, all contact information will be removed before posting. All contact information (excluding emails) can be accessed through the Members page on the website. If you have forgotten your password and are unable to reset it, send us an email at [wcwha.org@gmail.com](mailto:wcwha.org@gmail.com).**

### President's Note

Dear Neighbors,

I can't believe it's March already! The Board and I hope you are doing well and were able to enjoy the holidays with family and friends.

We continue to be so grateful for our volunteers and have so many neighbors to thank! Our budget and finances are led by Pura Valdez, the Architectural Committee is led by Paul Brayshaw, the Recreation Equipment is managed by Frances Brayshaw, and our Parkland is managed by Al Meyer and by our members who have spent much time and effort to enhance and maintain our beautiful community. Including Member at Large, Liz Segall, and her husband Errol helping stain the bridges, preparing the BOD's activities, election work, etc. Tom Herrmann has been our incredibly calm cool and collected Vice President and Donna Caruso our Secretary whom I don't know where we would be without her generous help and attention to detail.

I am now in my second year as President and it's been a joy to see neighbors power walking and strolling along the paths, walking their dogs, kids on the playground, bike riders, and neighbors out chatting! I have been here now for 23+ years and have lived in many places prior to Annandale, VA, I just love it! I have super wonderful neighbors, and yes, I tell them that all the time 😊 Great schools (now for my 2 grandkids), so close to everything yet not quite in the city and so much to do.

Our big project in 2022 was having the Turkey Run retaining wall project improve the erosion issue, that work was completed by the County in June. The county was able to work through its supply chain issues, enormous equipment being delivered, ensuring they created a safe place to work given the amount of foot traffic along the path. The County finished up by planting a number of seedlings along the creek to help with the erosion, if we could request that care is taken to protect those seedlings while they take hold, it would be greatly appreciated.

I hope to see you at the spring cleanup in April, that's a great way to get to meet your neighbors, for kids to earn community hours, and to keep our parkland beautiful. As always, please let us know if you have

any suggestions or concerns, you can always reach us at [wcvha.org@gmail.com](mailto:wcvha.org@gmail.com).

All the Best, Cindy Griffin,  
President, Board of Directors

### **WCWHA Board Meeting Schedule**

As usual all homeowners are invited to attend Board meetings. Currently, because of COVID precautions, all meetings are being held virtually via Google Meets (they allow 1 hour for free). If you are interested in attending, please let a board member know so that you may receive access information. The dates for 2023 meetings are listed below (and on the <https://wcvha.org/> website).

Meetings are on Mondays starting at 7:00 PM ET unless otherwise stated.

#### **2023 WCWHA Board Meetings**

Monday, January 30  
Monday, April 24  
Monday, July 31  
Monday, October 16 (Annual Meeting)

#### **2024 Meetings – 7:00 PM**

Monday, January 29, 2024  
Monday, April 29  
Monday, July 29  
Monday, Oct 21 (Annual Meeting)

### **WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS**

We would like to welcome new neighbors to our community!

2022 - 8517 Sugarbush Ct. – Edwardson, Matthew (206-719-7187) & Jessica (703-317-7651)

2 homes currently for sale – 4500 Fidelity Ct. & 4528 Banff St.

### **ANNUAL PARKLAND CLEANUP**

Please keep **Saturday, April 15** available as the scheduled day clean-up day and **Saturday, April 22** as a backup date in case we are rained out on April 15. We will meet at Banff Bridge at 9:00 AM for assignments. We should be done in an hour +/- unless we have a major storm before then with heavy deadfall. We are happy to help with community hours that the kids might need to fulfill. Al Myer is our parkland captain and will be coordinating this effort...all ages are welcome and encouraged!

### **ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE**

The Board and our volunteer Architectural committee request that owners ensure that shutters and doors do have the same approved colors. In addition, to maintain and upkeep overgrown shrubs/trees, weeds, falling fence, peeling paint, etc. This committee monitors our neighborhood to keep homeowners in compliance with our by-laws' architectural rules. Not an easy job to say the least. And I cannot say enough about the outstanding job they do.

Information regarding the guidelines, etc. can be found here

<https://wcvha.org/documents>. The Request For Approval Of Exterior Modification is attached and can be found here

<https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/6c753f4f-dd49-43d7-9d94-0a66dfdea008/downloads/REQUEST%20FOR%20APPROVAL%20OF%20EXTERIO>

[R%20MODIFICATION%5B.pdf?ver=1674512119684](#)

The request form is also attached. If in doubt, please contact our super nice architectural committee captain Paul Brayshaw via [wcvha.org@gmail.com](mailto:wcvha.org@gmail.com)

### **NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS**

During the COVID Public Health Emergency (PHE) we publicized a program whereby WCWHA residents needing any kind of logistical help could call on their neighbors for assistance. Several of you generously volunteered to assist others, and we had a few requests for help.

Now that the COVID situation is stabilizing, the Board continues to believe that there are some members of our small community who may need assistance with logistics (e.g., picking up groceries or medications). Therefore, we encourage any WCHHA resident needing help to reach out to a Board member (listed below) as we continue our Neighbors Helping Neighbors program.

If you would like to volunteer to help others, please contact our Board Member Vice President Tom Herrmann who is absolutely wonderful to work with. Let him know your availability and things you can do to help (driving to appointments, picking up prescriptions, shoveling snow, mowing the lawn, etc.). Tom can be contacted via 703-425-5159 or [tom.e.herrmann@gmail.com](mailto:tom.e.herrmann@gmail.com) or [wcvha.org@gmail.com](mailto:wcvha.org@gmail.com).

### **OUTREACH**

To save money and elimination the paper version of the quarterly newsletter, the Board switched to emails with timely information via WCWHA email Listserv managed by our volunteer dedicated and delightful Donna Caruso. Donna maintains our website and keeps an online version of our homeowner directory which is located here <https://wcvha.org/members> (login required). It is also attached. If any changes are needed, please contact Donna via [wcvha.org@gmail.com](mailto:wcvha.org@gmail.com)

### **EROSION UPDATE**

A BIG shoutout to Liz Segall, who persevered for many months with the county and coordinated correcting of the erosion problem. Turkey Run Creek should remain under erosion control for another 40+ years I was told. The county did seed the common area and planted seedlings along the creek to help with the erosion. Please help protect those areas and the seedlings while they mature.

### **HELP NEEDED – PLAYGROUND**

We will ask for volunteers to help maintain the Playground during our Spring Cleanup. The paint (staining) on the playground equipment is peeling. Mulch is much needed under the playground equipment. There will also need to be a buildup of dirt under the swings prior to mulch application. Our playground chief Frances Brayshaw will be coordinating this effort. More information to come as we get closer to the spring cleanup day.

### **HELP WANTED - HANDRAILS LEADING INTO THE PARKLAND**

We are asking for anyone's help to have handrails installed along the three entrances to the parkland that have stairs (Banff, Bromley and Sugarbush.) The Board is looking into the possibilities such as the type of handrails, materials to use, overall cost – these are some of the questions that need to be answered before proceeding. Is there anyone else in our community that might have the expertise for such a project? If so, it would be greatly appreciated if you could please let them know via Tom's email – [tom.e.herrmann@gmail.com](mailto:tom.e.herrmann@gmail.com)

## **HELP NEEDED - WEBSITE**

If you haven't visited our website, take a look. Lots of information and useful links there. For instance, we have links to important HOA documents, important County sites (including COVID information), libraries, transportation, utilities, our up-to-date member directory, and others. However, we have been using the current website for several years but are feeling that the platform is a bit clunky and limiting in the flexibility of use. If you or have a kid with website-building skills and would like to help with this (I'm sure this constitutes as community service), please contact Donna Caruso at 703 323-4741 or email her at [wcwha.org@gmail.com](mailto:wcwha.org@gmail.com).

## **SERVICE PROVIDERS**

Have you been looking for a service provider for an upcoming project – landscaper, painter, plumber, etc.? Did you know we have a list of providers on our website (<http://www.wcwha.org>) that have been recommended by your neighbors? If you visit our site, you will find several services that have been recommended. However, you will also notice that they do not cover all areas of service or that there may be only one or two are in some sections. *If you have recently used someone whose service pleased you, please share that person's name and contact information along with a brief description of your experience with them by emailing it to [wcwha.org@gmail.com](mailto:wcwha.org@gmail.com).*

## **COMMUNITY**

### **Learning Opportunities**

#### **GMU Osher Lifetime Learning Institute (OLLI)**

George Mason University's Osher Lifetime Learning Institute (OLLI) offers intellectual and cultural experiences in a welcoming atmosphere to Northern Virginia residents in their retirement years. As you're trying to stay physically fit, are you looking to do the same with your mind? Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason

University (OLLI Mason) offers over 500 onsite and online courses, everything from literature and history to health and investing, as well as regional outings, social events, and over 20 different clubs. No tests or papers (or credits), just the chance to rediscover what you love. Enjoy learning with no exams, no required college degree, and no age threshold! Classes and other events are offered during eight-week terms in both the spring and fall, a six-week summer term, and a four-week midwinter term. Once enrolled, you may take as many courses and events as you would like, subject to space availability. The next term is March 27 - May 19, 2023, and registration begins February 21, 2023. For more information, or to request a current course catalog go to <https://olli.gmu.edu> or contact the OLLI Mason office at 703-503-3384.: <https://olli.gmu.edu/>

#### **Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia (LLI/NOVA)**

The Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia (LLI/NOVA), affiliated with the Annandale campus of Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), is a non-profit, member-run organization offering stimulating educational and cultural pursuits to adults age 50 and over. For a modest annual fee, LLI/NOVA provides members with more than 100 classes (virtual and in-person) year-round, informal special interest groups, monthly speaker forums, social events, and the opportunity for new friendships. Members also enjoy access to discounted visual and performing arts tickets as well as reasonably priced regional day and overnight trips along with U.S. and overseas study-travel programs. For a list of membership benefits, go to this website: <https://llinova.org/about-us/membership-benefits>

## **REAL ESTATE TAXES**

You may have received your Fairfax County Real Estate form recently. It appears that over the past two years, the assessments have increased by over 20% +/- in our area. Annual taxes are now over \$9000 +/-.

Residents may file appeals with the Fairfax County Department of Tax Administration (Real Estate Division), with an appeal to the Board of Equalization. Appeals must be filed no later than April 3, 2023. To check local area comps., information is posted at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/taxes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/taxes) Information can also be obtained by calling the tax office - 703-222-8234.

## **DOGS**

### **Please make sure your dog is leashed when in the park**

In Fairfax County, dogs are required to be on a leash at all times in public areas unless they're in a designated off-leash area.

#### **Section 41.1-2-4. Unrestricted dogs prohibited; leash law.**

(a) No dog shall run unrestricted, as defined in Section 41.1-1-1, in the County. Any person who is the owner of a dog found unrestricted in the County shall be in violation of this Section. This Section shall not apply to any person who uses a dog under his direct supervision while lawfully hunting, while engaged in a supervised formal obedience training class or show, during formally sanctioned field trials, while

a dog is in an area owned, leased, controlled, or operated by Fairfax County designated by resolution of the Board of Supervisors as an off-leash dog exercise area . . . . (***our parkland is NOT an off-leash area.***)

It is a violation of this Section for any owner of a dog to place such dog or allow it to be placed into custody of any person not physically capable of maintaining effective control of restricting such dog.

FYI - Violations of the above are subject to issuance of a summons for violation of this Section. (26-04-41.1; 10-11-41.1.)

For more information about Fairfax County laws related to dog ownership, please visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/sites/health/files/assets/documents/pdf/animal-control-ordinance.pdf>

### **Fairfax County Health Department COVID 19 Information**

For those of you who haven't already found this information, Fairfax County Health Department has two pages that may be of interest to you:

Vaccine Registration: Information for Vaccination Registration, as well as online registration information, can be found at: [COVID-19 Vaccine | Health \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/covid-19-vaccine)

The Health Department also has a good dashboard to show trends of infection, including by zipcode at: [COVID-19 Case Data for Fairfax Health District | COVID19 \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/covid-19-case-data)