

WAKEFIELD CHAPEL WOODS

Newsletter

President: Liz Segall

Vice President: Bob Mannion

Secretary: Donna Caruso

Treasurer: Pura Valdez

Member at Large: Fred Wright

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January 23, 2018

President's Notes

Dear Neighbors,

I hope all of you had a chance to relax and enjoy the holidays before enduring the bitter cold that descended upon us. This year was one of the few times that I have seen the creek completely frozen over.

Thanks to those of you who attended our annual meeting in October. Thanks to Terry Herrmann for bringing us some home-made treats. A special thanks to Donna Caruso and Pura Valdez who agreed to stay on our board for another 3 years as secretary and treasurer respectively.

Donna will soon be preparing our 2018 membership directory. If you are a homeowner you can use the annual dues return form to update your information, but if you are a renter and would like to be included in our neighborhood directory, please use the email above to send us your information. That is the best way for us to keep our information up to date.

I look forward to seeing you at our annual spring clean-up in the parkland on March 31.

Liz Segall
WCWHA President

Spring clean-up in the park

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March 31, 9:00 am – 10:00 am.

Your help is needed with spring clean-up in the park. *Just show up at the Banff St. bridge with any pruning or hauling equipment you have and Al or one of his committee members will tell you where you are most needed.* It's a good community service activity for your teens and a fun, helping opportunity for the whole family. It's great fun and it's how we keep our homes association dues so low.

Many thanks to the folks who regularly pick up branches or trash in the park as they are walking through. We are especially grateful to those bordering the park who regularly remove their leaves and debris rather than pushing them into the park. This makes spring clean-up so much easier.

Truro Work Completed

We have all been waiting for the completion of the work on the waterways in Truro, which is upstream from our park, to see how it will affect our stream. It is now completed and looks great. How it will impact us is hard to judge at the moment. So far, we have had no substantial rain with flooding, so it's difficult to accurately judge whether it will reduce the overflowing of our creeks with heavy rains.

If you haven't already, take a walk through the area. Pick up the Truro pathway beginning at the edge of our park and enjoy a winding walk through the woods to the Truro swimming pool and tennis/basketball areas.

Highlights from the Annual Meeting in October 2017

The WCWHA's Annual meeting took place on October 18 at Wakefield Forest Elementary school with 15 attendees and 4 proxy forms. Donna Caruso and Pura Valdez were re-elected for 3 year terms.

President Liz Segall handed out a summary of the association's activities for the year. **A copy of that handout is attached to the end of this newsletter.**

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 schedule of meetings can also be found on the website Home Page (www.wcwha.org).

2018 Board Schedule

March 5– Wright

May 21 – Segall

Sept 12 – Caruso

Oct 17 – Annual Meeting

Dec 10 – Valdez

Annual Dues

Yes, it's that time again, but the good news is that *dues are still a low \$150 per year*. Be on the lookout for your invoice, which will be mailed out in February. **Dues should be paid by March 31.**

Please return the invoice with *any needed changes in your contact information from last year*. These forms are used to update the WCWHA Directory and our email distribution list. If you wish additional contact numbers to be listed (such as cell and home numbers,) please let us know.

Also, be sure to include your email address(s) if you have not been getting periodic emails from us. We do not publish the email addresses in the directory nor share them with anybody. We use them only for contacting you quickly or distributing timely information to you.

Although normally we would have published the 2018 Homes Association directory by this time, we realized that it made more sense to update it AFTER the dues invoices are returned in March. The directory is expected to be published in April. We hope that will increase our accuracy and decrease the need for updates in the newsletter.

Emergency Preparedness

Although there was a lot of emphasis on emergency preparedness in the period following 9/11, the absence of recent flooding, prolonged power outages and brutal snowstorms has pushed it to the back of most of our minds. However, all localities, including Fairfax County continue to update their recommendations and information about how we can stay prepared for the most common emergencies including weather events, not just incidents of violence. For instance, are you prepared for power outages of more than a few hours? Do you have an emergency kit ready to go if you need to evacuate your home in a hurry? Do you have a plan for your pets? Do you receive Fairfax Alerts on your cell phone, home phone or through other methods?

Phyllis Liner (Banff Street block captain) attended a community meeting in the fall where members of the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) provided information and brochures on emergency planning. OEM maintains a website with complete information on how to become and stay prepared for various emergencies. You can visit the site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency . You can also sign up for free alerts and important information during an emergency at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts. Also available is a handy booklet called, **Ready & Resilient- Family Preparedness**.

Wakefield Chapel Woods Homes Association

Annual Review of Board Activities

2017

Thanks to our volunteer board and other community members that pitch in when needed. Keeping our annual dues at the incredibly low cost of \$150 is a direct result of their willingness to spend a few hours on our behalf. Whenever possible, if a tree falls, volunteers use their own chain saws to remove them; to save the cost of mailings our block captains walk the newsletters to our doors; rather than hire an expensive HOA management firm our board of directors takes care of our administrative duties. All these volunteer activities save our community thousands of dollars in fees.

Administrative (Fiscal Year is November 1 – October 31)

Board meetings 5-6 times a year
Collect HOA dues; follow up collection of late fees (Pura Valdez)
Provide current financial statement at each board meeting (Pura)
Maintain up to date appropriate insurance and state mandated forms (Pura)
Annual review of books to be conducted at end of fiscal year by Scott Schaefer
Capital Asset Review conducted (required every 5 years – Ray Boehling and Al Meyer)
Initiate study to add street lights along Wakefield Chapel Rd (Bob Mannion)

Outreach

Quarterly newsletter edited (Donna Caruso and Elaine Wade)
Distribution of newsletters (Block Captains)
Print and distribute annual homeowner directory (Donna)
Maintain WCWHA website (Donna)
Disseminate timely information via WCWHA email Listserve (Donna)
Annual Picnic in the Park restarted (Kim Wright)
Friday nights in the Park (Kim)

Parkland Management

Spring Clean-up (organized by Al Meyer, with many community volunteers)
Solicit bids and sign contract for summer mowing (Al)
Painting park benches, as needed (Al)
Frequent park walk-throughs to check park status (Al)
Removing large deadfall (Al and Fred Wright)
Monitoring status of bridges and conducting necessary maintenance (Fred)
Contacting Fairfax County officials when stream issues arise (Al and Fred)

2017 Board of Directors

Donna Caruso, Secretary
Bob Mannion, Member at Large
Liz Segall, President
Pura Valdez, Treasurer
Fred Wright, Vice President

Committee Chairs

Peg Desko, Architectural Committee
Al Meyer, Parkland
Kim Wright, Outreach