

WAKEFIELD CHAPEL WOODS

Newsletter

President: Don Payne

Vice President: Ron Jones

Secretary: Michael Phan

Treasurer: Scott Schaefer

Member at Large: Liz Segall

<http://www.wcwha.org>

March 6, 2010

Spring Clean-up in WCWHA

Parkland

Saturday, March 20

9:00 AM to Noon

We need as many workers as possible this year because of the damage caused by the heavy snowfall and high winds of the winter. Park damage includes:

1. Tremendous amount of dead fall behind Sugarbush and Bromley.
2. Substantial bamboo down. Need loppers and hand saws to cut down.
3. Three trees down, two large and one small across the Ordinary Way path. Plus fourth tree that was partially cut up in December, the day before the big snow storm.
4. Numerous tree branches broken that need to be cut off.
5. Substantial dead fall on the Banff side.

Chain saws are urgently needed. If anyone has one or can get a hold of one, please contact Al Meyer (703-978-2559). We need a great turn out for this clean up, so we hope every resident big, small, young, and old will participate. In the past, our children have been a tremendous help working with adults, picking up debris and dragging branches to designated piles. It is a wonderful way for students to work on their required community service hours, and for all of us to meet our neighbors and socialize. Bring helpful landscaping tools such as wheelbarrows, rakes, pruners, saws and don't forget your work gloves!

On March 20, please meet Al and others at the Banff bridge for assignments so we can have a coordinated approach to repairing the park.

Also, note that a blue/gray snow slider is lying on the sledding hill next to the Ordinary Way walkway.

From the President

Wakefield Chapel Woods Homeowners Association recently sent out the annual Homeowners Association dues. **Please remember to send in your dues by the March 31st deadline.** I urge you to sign up for our email list serve. You can do this by filling in the space on the dues invoice where it is requested, or by sending an email to contact@wcwha.org. This is the first year we have been using this communication tool, and it has been very helpful to get out timely information to our members between our newsletters.

I'd also like to encourage you to join one of our homeowner association committees, or to let me know if you are interested in taking a turn as a Board Member. The work is not difficult or time consuming and it does allow you to better know the community. A term as a Board or Committee member gives you a much greater appreciation of what a great neighborhood we have. Speaking for our Board and on behalf of our association, I would like to thank Paul Krumhaus for his many years of service in various capacities on our Board of Directors including President and more recently, Secretary. His professionalism and attention to detail has helped keep our association moving forward in an orderly way. Luckily, we know where he lives when we need information and institutional memories.

Best regards, Donald T. Payne

VDOT's SNOW REMOVAL

It was very frustrating for many of us to sit and wait for snowplows during our recent

record-setting snow storms, especially homeowners on Banff Street who were essentially barricaded in by huge snow piles created by VDOT at both ends of the street. All roads in our subdivision are owned by VDOT and they have the responsibility for plowing. The official suggestion is to call VDOT at 703-383-VDOT or e-mail them at novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov with the location of the unplowed street. VDOT will also accept photos of streets via email as visual support for roads that need attention. Another suggestion is to contact our local elected officials to explain the problem and solicit their help. They are there to provide constituent service, you are more likely to speak to someone in person, and they have better access than we as individuals do to the people in VDOT who can actually send a plow to the neighborhood. So, if you still have the energy to send a suggestion/lodge a complaint about your experience this winter, our local officials are Supervisor John Cook, Fairfax County Board Chair Sharon Bulova, Delegate Vivian Watts, and State Senator Richard Saslaw. Please find their contact information on our website.

An additional article from The Washington Post about the frustration at VDOT's lack of snow removal can be found at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/16/AR2010021605642.html>.

Directory Change

8439 Toll House Rd
Manos, Michael and Summer

If you have a change, please send an email to elizsegall@aol.com indicating the name,

address and phone number as you wish them to appear in the next directory printing.

Board Meetings

We have established the following schedule for Board meetings this year. We encourage any interested members to attend by contacting that month's host. If you have a particular issue you would like to discuss, please let President Don Payne know in advance.

2010 Board Meetings - Meetings begin at 7 PM

Apr. 20, Jones: 4600 Country Lane
Jun. 15, Phan: 4503 Whistler Ct.
Sep. 7, Schaffer: 4514 Banff St.
Oct. 19, Annual Membership Meeting,
Wakefield Forest Elem School
Nov. 16, Segall: 8507 Sugarbush Ct.
Dec. 14, Payne: 4505 Whistler Ct.

Activities on SUGARBUSH COURT

December's Hero

It was a memorable weekend. On Friday, December 18th, it began snowing. On Saturday, December 19th, it continued snowing, piling up about 17 inches of the fluffy white stuff. And on Sunday morning, December 20th, the residents of Sugarbush Court emerged from their homes to face the task of shoveling an escape route to Wakefield Chapel Road. Before walking out the door, I laid out the bottle of Motrin - knowing that I was going to need it.

And we Sugarbushians were greeted by one totally unexpected and incredibly welcome sight - Hoang Lam (4524 Wakefield Chapel, corner of Sugarbush) and his trusty snow

blower! In several hours of work, he cleared a path the width of a car the full length of Sugarbush Court and then went to work on people's driveways. When thanked for his incredible work, he responded, "we're neighbors." I'm nominating Mr. Lam as the 2009 "Hero of Sugarbush Court." Submitted by Paul Krumhaus



VDOT snowplow? No. Mr. Lam cleared the length of the court.



Mr. Lam clears a path for the author's Taurus

February Dig-Out

We would like to thank *Ernesto Bravo* for the hours he spent clearing a path on our long pipestem driveway to help us get our car out of our garage. We had been away for the first February storm, got home just in time for the next deluge, and Ernesto was determined to help us out of our snow-bound home. Thank you, Ernesto! Liz and Errol Segall (P.S. Ernesto is happy to report

that his family appears to be okay in the aftermath of the earthquake in his native homeland of Chile.

Be Prepared for Potential Water Problems

Do you know the location of the valve to shut off water entering your house? Take it from a homeowner who developed a leak from the main water service line inside his basement and before the line reached the first of the two shutoff valves. The only way to shut off service in a situation like this is at the Fairfax Water valve on your line, located near the street. The locations of many of these shutoffs have been overgrown with lawn and forgotten. You may wish to locate them before you have an urgent need to do so. That can be done (without charge) by calling Fairfax Water and asking them to locate, clean out and mark the valve's access hole. Call 703-698-5600 and select "customer service". In event of an emergency, it will be helpful if you know where the shutoff is located.

Help us enhance our Community's Communication

1. Share public thank yous when people in our community have done something "neighborly."

2. Provide information to our webmaster about companies you have used on home improvement projects that you would recommend to the rest of us, or if you have a service to provide, let us know that also. There are already a few recommendations on the website, but we would love to have more.
Email: contact@wcwha.org.
3. Suggest ideas for newsletter articles.

Newsletter articles

Do you have any ideas for what you would like to see in our next newsletter? For example, here is a good one submitted by Paul Krumhaus:

The Feb 11 Washington Post had an article about "Washington's newest hero" "Snowblower Guy." We know that our community has a number of those folks who cleaned not only their own but neighbors' driveways, streets, etc. We'd like to identify them so that we can give them some kudos in the Association newsletter. So, if you know someone who goes above and beyond helping our community, please send the info to elizsegall@gmail.com

Other ideas? Send articles and/or suggestions to elizsegall@gmail.com. De