

WAKEFIELD CHAPEL WOODS

Newsletter

President: Liz Segall

Vice President: Bob Mannion

Secretary: Donna Caruso

Treasurer: Pura Valdez

Member at Large: Fred Wright

<http://www.wcwha.org>

email: wcwha.org@gmail.com

April 8, 2018

President's Notes

Dear Neighbors-

Remember when last year I recommended you obtain insurance for your water and sewer lines through our electric company, Dominion Energy? Thanks goodness I took my own advice for a change and bought some for our home. We ended up with a leak from the water main just outside the pipe into our basement. We were lucky it was a slow drip rather than a big crack, but even with the minor problem the remedy required digging up a trench 6 feet deep to get to the leak. The insurance company was great. Honestly, I never saw a bill, but I am sure it would have been several thousand dollars to repair if we had to write the check ourselves.

Thanks to everyone who came out to help clean up the park, and special thanks to Al Meyer who gave us all our marching orders.

Our Board of Directors decided that this year we will not be organizing our Friday Nights in the Park. Although it was very enjoyable for those who attended the last couple of years, much to our disappointment it never seemed to catch on beyond a few neighbors. We do plan to continue with our annual picnic in the park in late September.

Happy Spring! See you around the neighborhood.

Liz Segall
WCWHA President

Spring clean-up in the park

Al Meyer, our parkland maintenance committee chair, *expresses his thanks to all who helped in the March 31 spring clean-up*. Despite the Easter weekend, Passover and spring break, we had a good turnout with 22 volunteers – Banff (10), Bromley (6), Fidelity (2), Ordinary Way (2) and Sugarbush (2). These hardy volunteer chopped up fallen logs, lopped off dead branches and picked up branches and other debris and put them in strategic piles to be picked up by our lawn service folks when weather allows. *Many thanks to Fred Wright who cut up several trees ahead of time*. We are still working with the County in hopes that they will cut up 3 trees that have fallen into the creek bed. If they do not accept responsibility, we will still need to do that.

Again, we appreciate you residents bordering the parkland keeping the park nearest you free of debris and piles of leaves. Many of you also go into the park and pick up fallen branches and debris. Unfortunately, each year we have had a few folks who push their leaves and falling branches into the parkland, making clean-up by our volunteers much harder. This is

unfair to the whole neighborhood, but especially to volunteers, who have cleaned up their own yards before coming out to help clean up the common area. **In the future, the park maintenance committee will call our professional team to remove any debris or leaves pushed into the parkland by residents and will bill the offending resident for this service.** If you need suggestions for someone to do the work for you consider using the company that who does the parkland maintenance for WCWHA, J.J. Cottoms (H. 540-399-1309, C. 703-401-0948). He has always given us good service for a fair price.

Architectural Committee Report by Peg Desko, chair

Our snow on the second day of SPRING was a surprise. Instead of spreading mulch we were shoveling snow. Very heavy snow. Thank you for shoveling your sidewalks. It is not a Fairfax law but it is certainly a good neighbor duty. The mail man thanks you and all our dog walkers thank you.

WE HAVE GOOD NEIGHBORS. The Architectural Committee is bragging about everybody cleaning up their yards after our bad winds. Our trees are getting older and bigger so, unfortunately, many big branches and some whole trees came down. We heard many chain saws and saw busy workers. The winds also brought down the last of our leaves which needed to be raked and removed. We are appreciative that most of you got your lawns cleaned up quickly, which makes the whole neighborhood look better.

Please remember that when you put your branches and sticks at the curb for the garbage collectors to remove, they must be tied together in bundles. Otherwise, the trash company will leave them at the curb to be

spread around by dogs and the wind.

Speaking of trash, we would also remind you that one of our HOA rules is that GARBAGE CANS are to be seen only the night before and the day of collection. The rest of the week they should be out of sight in your backyard or your garage. Although beauty is in the eye of the beholder, most of us do not think that visible garbage cans add to the ambiance of our attractive houses and landscaping.

Now that we are beginning to enjoy our beautiful azaleas and spring flowers you might look up at the siding on your house. Mildew collects every few years on most of the houses, particularly on the shady sides. A good power wash makes them good again.

Also, we offer our usual reminder that if you are making exterior changes to your house such as a paint color, new landscaping, a home addition, new windows, new roof color, etc. you must submit a request to the Architectural Committee. This is all part of the rules and regulation you got when you purchased your home. If you have questions about what needs approval, call Peg Desko (Fidelity) or email us at wcwha.org@gmail.com. ***For your convenience, we have attached the form to this newsletter.***

Important Phone Numbers

Do you have a ready list of important numbers to call for in an emergency situation? Below are just a few that might come in handy. Others can be found on Fairfax County Website.

Police, Fire, Ambulance Emergency: call or text 911

Public Safety Non-Emergency: [703-691-2131](tel:703-691-2131)

Fairfax County Emergency Information Line: [703-817-7771](tel:703-817-7771)

Washington Gas: [1-800-752-7520](tel:1-800-752-7520)

Columbia Gas: [1-800-544-5606](tel:1-800-544-5606)
Dominion Energy: 1-866-DOM-HELP ([1-866-366-4357](tel:1-866-366-4357))

Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative
(NOVEC): [1-888-335-0500](tel:1-888-335-0500)

Fairfax Water: [703-698-5800](tel:703-698-5800), after hours: [703-698-5613](tel:703-698-5613)

The State's Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is responsible for plowing most roads in Fairfax County. To report a road problem to VDOT, call [1-800-367-7623](tel:1-800-367-7623) (1-800-FOR ROAD).

New Neighbors

Although our neighborhood is really stable, we do occasionally get new homeowners or renters moving in. Generally, the few neighbors close by are aware of them, but it would be great if we could introduce new people to the whole neighborhood. So if you have recently moved in, whether a homeowner or renter, send us a brief email at wcvha.org@gmail.com, telling us about all the occupants in your household- names, where you are coming from, ages of any children, occupation(s) and special interests, etc..

If you know of new neighbors on your street, go welcome them, take some cookies and encourage them to tell us about themselves. If they are shy maybe they would give you the information to share with us.

Board Meetings

All homeowners are welcome to attend board meetings. *We do ask that you let us know, as times or places are occasionally changed.* You can email us at wcvha.org@gmail.com or call any of the board members (listed with their phone numbers in the directory). The remaining scheduled meetings for the year are listed

below. They are also listed on the website (wcvha.org) on the home page.

May 21 – Segall

September 17 – Caruso

October 17 – Annual meeting (usually at Wakeforest Elementary School)

December 10 - Valdez