

# WAKEFIELD CHAPEL WOODS

## Newsletter

President: Liz Segall

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### Notes from the President

I hope all of you had a relaxing winter holiday. Your Board of Directors (BOD) has had a busy few months overseeing the repair and enhancement of our parkland bridges. If you haven't been to the park lately we know you will be pleased with the results. See a photo of the Banff Street bridge later in this newsletter.

All homeowners should have received their annual dues notice. We would remind you that we use those forms as our official records and to make corrections in the directory. Please check the 2018 directory to see if your information is correct. If not, please include the correct information on the invoice form as you return it. The completed forms with your payment are due by **March 1**.

Thank you for helping make our community a friendly and welcoming one. We had a wonderful turnout for our picnic in September, with lots of kids and some new neighbors. Please join us in April at our annual spring parkland cleanup – another event enabling you to get to know others in the neighborhood.

A special thank you to the members of our BOD and our committees who, with the gift of their time and energy, keep our community moving forward.

Liz Segall

**Save the Date! April 6, 9 AM to 10 AM**

Mark your calendars for the spring parkland clean-up. Workers of all ages welcome. As we have said many times before, our pitching in to keep the parkland clean allows us to keep our HOA dues low.

### Annual Picnic



Although weather caused a postponement of the annual picnic to the following week, September 30 proved to be a beautiful fall day. As a result, a congenial group of adults and children gathered in the park to enjoy several hours of good food and social interactions. Many thanks to Kim Wright and

her planning committee who organized the picnic.

### Annual Meeting

We were happy to have a good turnout at the annual meeting on October 17. Liz Segall, president, distributed a summary of all major activities of the board during the past year. A copy of this summary is attached.

Two board members were unanimously re-elected for another term. Thank you, Liz Segall and Bob Mannion.

Partly because of the additional costs incurred by the work to rebuild bridges the Board announced the decision to increase annual HOA fees to \$175 (\$25 increase). The total cost of both bridges was just under \$20,000. That put a dent in our operating reserve, particularly since it follows our \$16,000 expenditure to replace the eroding section of the walkway in the park in 2015. As a result, the Board voted to make a slight increase in homeowner dues (\$25) to begin to replenish our operating reserve, and agreed that a small increase was preferable to a much larger one-time assessment. Those present at the meeting expressed agreement, stating that even with the increase our dues are still very reasonable. While the increase in dues does not immediately cover the cost of the bridge rebuilding it will help us recover the cost over several years.

### Dogs in the Parkland



In the past few months we have noticed an increase in the number of dogs that are off leash in our parkland. Those of you on our email list received a notice about this in early November, with the added information that, when asked, some of the dog owners admitted that they are driving in from other neighborhoods to use our parkland as a dog run. This has led to an increased awareness of the dangers and discomfort to other park users when dogs are not on a leash. Small dogs and children, as well as people with balance issues can be uncomfortable using our parkland if large dogs (often more than one at a time) are running loose

With that in mind, your Board of Directors voted at our December meeting to change the signs at our park entrances to read that dogs must now be on leash, as indicated in the photo. Please help us make our park a welcoming place for all our neighbors.

### New Bridges

The new bridges are finished! They are not only attractive, but safer and more user friendly than the old ones. The Trex boards used for the flooring will require less

maintenance and the extended access ramps will make using the bridges easier for pedestrians, strollers and bikes to cross. The new handrails give added support while using the low incline ramp.

*A picture of the new Banff St./Sugarbush Ct. bridge is shown for those of you who have not visited the park recently*

### **HOA Board Meetings**

All homeowners and residents are welcome to attend any board meeting. Dates and places are listed below and on the first page of our website (wcwha.org). However, before coming please contact one of the board members in case the time or place has been changed.

March 4 – Wright (Banff St.)

May 20 – Segall (Sugarbush Ct.)

September 9 – Caruso (Banff St.)

October 16 – Annual Meeting

December 9 – Mannion (Sugarbush Ct.)

### **ATTACHMENTS TO THIS NEWSLETTER:**

Please take a moment to review the following 2 attachments to this newsletter:

Annual review of Board Activities 2018  
Request for Approval for Exterior Modification

Please remember that any Spring Renovation activities you have planned need to include the Approval form.

Think warm thoughts!



### **OAK HILL GARDEN CLUB SEEKS NEW MEMBERS**

Oak Hill Garden Club, a member club of the National Capital Federation of Garden Clubs, is looking for members! We meet monthly, on Thursday mornings, in homes of members in our neighborhood to learn about gardening topics and to take field trips to nearby gardens. If you are interested, please contact Peg Quammen at [quammen@verizon.net](mailto:quammen@verizon.net).