

# WAKEFIELD CHAPEL WOODS

## Newsletter

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### Notes from the President

Dear Neighbors,

The focus of the Board of Directors lately has been on our parkland.

- If you are on our email list you know that Fairfax County has begun the process of replacing the retaining wall along the creek that has deteriorated over the years.
- Additionally, the county's storm water office recommends that we stop mowing to the edge of the creek and instead create a plant/grass/bush buffer that will help protect further erosion and catch some of the sediment that otherwise flows into our park. We are forming a committee to design a landscaping plan.
- Finally, after too many complaints and concerns about dogs off-leash, including one dog bite, we reluctantly voted to institute a leash-only policy for dogs in our park. If you are in the park and see dogs running around off-leash, please remind the owners that their dogs must now be leashed.

### **Spring Parkland Clean-up April 6, 9 AM to 10 AM**



Join us in the parkland for the annual spring clean-up. Workers of all ages are welcome. As we have said many times before, our pitching in to keep the parkland clean allows us to keep our HOA dues low. Bring any chainsaws, equipment for cutting small branches, wheelbarrows or other tools to help. **Al Meyer will meet you at the Banff Street bridge 9 AM to give you your assignment.** Have fun and make a difference!

*(Notes from President, con't)*

If you have not done so already, we ask that you please put yourself on our email list. We have quarterly newsletters that provide information, but we use emails to our members when there are more urgent issues that are being addressed. We do not send out a lot of emails so you don't have to worry that your inbox will be inundated. Just email us at [wcwha.org@gmail.com](mailto:wcwha.org@gmail.com) to join. Hope to see you at our spring clean-up,

Liz Segall

### **Plant Buffer Along the Creek**

On the subject of creating a plant buffer along the creek, *we are desperately looking for volunteers to help with a landscaping plan.* If we can get together a large committee then it won't be a lot of work for anyone. There are many resources in our area to provide advice. An email went out in the past few days asking for volunteers and I am happy to report that we have a small group willing to get things going, but we could use some more help. We would especially like to hear from some of our members who haven't yet become involved with our community activities. Your efforts can help keep our association costs under control. Please let us know you will help. [wcwha.org@gmail.com](mailto:wcwha.org@gmail.com)

### **New Website**

If you have visited our website at [wcwha.org](http://wcwha.org) recently, you may have noticed that it has a slightly different look. We recently upgraded to a new platform that gives us a few added features. One of the most significant differences is that *this platform allows us to have a password protected members-only page.* A password protected page will give us the option of keeping an **up-to-date**

member directory on the website with access to members who use their password. The rest of the website will be available to anyone as it is now. As soon as all the changes for the directory are in, we will post it on the website as well as publishing the usual hard copy directory.

*As soon as the directory is updated, we will enter your email addresses on the website.*

*This will automatically generate an email to owners of the email addresses prompting them to go to the website and create a password to access the members-only page.*

Just prior to that, we will send you an email alerting you that the email prompt will be coming. **Don't worry that your emails will be accessible to others, they can only be seen by the administrator(s) of the website.**

While the goal is to eventually be able to have a digital directory only, currently only about 60% of our members have given us their email addresses. We hope that those of you who have not yet given us an email will consider doing so.

### **The Architectural Committee – Spring Inspection is Coming Soon**

Daffodils are blooming! It's spring again. Our thoughts are turning to yards, flowers and pretty spring days. We had a rainy winter. A friend said that we only had rain twice this winter - once for 45 days and once for 35 days. The wet encouraged mold and mildew and it does cling to the shady side of our houses. As a result, many of our houses need a good power washing.

Take a good look at YOUR house. Are shutters loose from the house or are slates falling out? Is paint peeling? Do you have wood trim that needs to be repaired or replaced? Are your gutters falling away?

*Members of the Architectural Committee will be walking around the neighborhood in the next few weeks. They will not be people with Sherlock Holmes magnifying glasses creeping around your house, but rather neighbors intending only to help you be on the lookout for things that need improving. This is a mandate from our charter which tells us to check from time to time to ensure that houses and property in the neighborhood are properly maintained. They will be reminding you if work needs to be done.*

*Remember that exterior changes must be made with approval from the Committee. (A copy of this form is attached to this newsletter.) Please submit your form and get the approval before you start your work. That will make the Board of Directors and this committee very happy.*

### **GARBAGE CANS**

Don't we wish they were more attractive? Nobody wants to see them all the time. Our homeowners' rule is that garbage cans are only to be seen the night before and day of collection. Put the cans in your backyard or your garage on other days. Everybody thanks you, especially the neighbors across the street who look at them all day.

### **REMINDER – Keep our parkland clean**

Please don't dump your grass clippings, leaves or brush into our parkland. Dispose of them in your garden waste with your trash company. Grass clippings can contain chemicals from your yard maintenance, leaves left on the ground can kill the vegetation underneath, and the brush piles are unsightly.

### **Dog Owners**

Thank you for taking those plastic bags with you when you and your four-legged friends go walking. It's important to keep our sidewalks and the park clean. Children are running and stepping everywhere. We would also remind you that our parkland now has a leash requirement. Although we know that dogs like to run and play in the park, we have had a number of incidents in which children or small dogs have been frightened by a dog bounding toward them. Unfortunately, because the park is small and children play there, there is not room for dogs to run loose.

### **Thinking of Selling Your House?**

We would like to remind *you if you are going to be selling your house, the law requires that the new owners receive an up-to-date Homeowners Disclosure Packet*. You cannot simply pass on the one you received when you bought your house. The packet must have updated documents with information such as current board members, homeowners' annual dues and evidence that there are no unresolved homeowners association issues with your property. If you need a packet, send a request with a \$50 check to **WCWHA at P.O. Box 1151, Annandale, VA 22003**. You can also send a request by email to [wcwha.org@gmail.com](mailto:wcwha.org@gmail.com) and drop off your check to the current treasurer at her home. **Please allow 2 weeks** for processing.

### 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.*

May 20 – Segall (Sugarbush Ct.)

September 9 – Caruso (Banff St.)

October 16 – Annual Meeting

December 9 – Mannion (Sugarbush Ct.)