

WAKEFIELD CHAPEL WOODS

Newsletter

President: Liz Segall

Vice President: Tom Herrmann

Secretary: Donna Caruso

Treasurer: Pura Valdez

Member at Large: Jim Powers

<http://www.wcwha.org>

email: wcwha.org@gmail.com

January 20, 2020

President's Notes

President's Note

Dear Neighbors –

I hope you had an enjoyable holiday with your friends and family. The holidays can be exhausting, but it is still sad to put them behind us for another year.

We had a good turnout and a lively discussion of ways to improve our community at our annual meeting in October. Kim Wright has agreed to continue as our Outreach Committee Chair and has a lot of creative ideas. See her note in this newsletter. We would love to know more of our neighbors and some of the suggested activities could help bring us together.

Board of Directors

There have been some changes on the Board of Directors. Bob Mannion has some health issues and has had to retire from the Board. He was generous enough to join the board a few years ago at our Annual meeting when no one else stepped up. We will miss him. Tom Herrmann (Ordinary Way) was voted onto the board at our annual meeting, and Jim Powers (Sugarbush Ct) has agreed to fill in for the remainder of Bob's term. They have already been very supportive and are bringing a new energy and ideas to us and we are grateful for their willingness to volunteer their time.

Playground

One of the subjects that came up at the Annual Meeting was the deterioration of the plastic

toddler playset in the park. We voted to remove it. Thanks to Fred Wright (Banff St) who dismantled it and Nancy and Ray Boehling (Ordinary Ct) who took the pieces to the Fairfax County Transfer station for disposal. Nice group effort!

Have a safe winter. We love to see the sledding hill in use, so bring on the snow!

Liz Segall

2020 Board Meetings

Members are always welcome to attend Board meetings. If you intend to come, please let a Board member know ahead of time as time or place may have changed. The meetings for 2010 are listed below as well as on the website Home page(wcwha.org/Home).

March 2 – Herrmann (Ordinary Way)

May 11 – Segall (Sugarbush)

August 31 – Caruso (Banff)

October 7 – Annual Meeting (Usually at Wakefield Forest Elementary School)

December 7 – Valdez (Banff)

GLASS NO LONGER ALLOWED IN RECYCLING

Please be aware that Fairfax County has set up purple recycling bins to accept glass bottles and jars. *It no longer wants glass placed in the regular recycling bins* because the glass often breaks and small shards get mixed in with the

paper and plastic, rendering them unusable. Fragments of glass can also damage recycling machinery. The glass deposited in the purple recycling bins is being crushed by the county and used in place of gravel in county construction projects. There is an interesting article on the county website regarding this project. You can find it here: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/glass>

The Fairfax County website has a map of locations of the bins. Two of the closest ones are at the Mason District and Springfield Government Centers.

ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

A couple of our members who have devoted many years to the Architectural Committee have let us know they will be moving out of the area this spring. That leaves a big void in our association's function. **We are looking for several people to join the committee and be willing to do the once-a-year walk-through of our neighborhood to ensure its continued harmonious appearance.** Please, please, please!! Someone let us know you are willing to help out!

Member Directory

We publish a new directory once a year which is delivered to you by your block captain each spring. In the meantime, the directory is updated regularly on our website as we get new information (wcwha.org/Members). This page is password protected and, **if we have your email**, you have previously been sent an email with an invitation to create a password. If you have not created one or are unable to get in, send an email to wcwha.org@gmail.com or donna.caruso555@gmail.com and you will be sent another invitation. You can download and print these pages.

We also include known corrections in the newsletter so you can make the needed modifications on your own hardcopy. Don't forget to let us know if you have any changes or see errors in your information by including them on the accompanying Invoice when you send in your dues this year (due by March 31). You can also send us an email.

Website

Have you visited our website (wcwha.org) recently? In addition to the **Members** page containing the directory, we also have many other useful pages, including a **Service Recommendations** page. Many of us ask our neighbor when we are looking for a repair person or other service provider. Before you do that (or in addition) you can check our website for recommendations made by your neighbors based on their personal experiences. The contact information of the person making the recommendation is included so you can ask more detailed questions before deciding. So, if you haven't used it yet give it a look. If you have some good recommendations, share them with us by sending an email to wcwha.org@gmail.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SPRING PARKLAND CLEANUP

Our Spring Parkland cleanup will be held on **Saturday, April 4, beginning at 9 am.** Please meet at the Banff St. bridge for assignments. Community participation is key to keeping our parkland beautiful. Hope to see you there!

Community Outreach

I have reignited my fire for a community outreach for WCHOA. At the annual meeting in October, there was interest in a variety of programs. Programs like: a Volunteer Bank (amongst neighbors- like a helping hand when needed); Halloween Pot-lucks, by the block; House tours; playground fund raiser; yard sales; museum tours; and of course our ongoing annual picnic, etc.

I am eager to hear from you regarding interests for community outreach programs. Additionally, if you'd like to join my efforts, there is plenty of room in my "one man band".

-Kim Wright
4516 Banff St.
KimWright648@gmail.com

Serving Our Community

WCWHA is unique to this area because we are a manageable number of approximately 100 homes. We are also united in a few ways that can be easily overlooked.

For instance, through the park committee, we are stewards to the beauty and maintenance of our parkland. The Architecture committee unites us through the uniformity of our home's. And, the erosion committee oversees the well-being of our stream banks. Additionally, we look out for one another. I want to enrich this aspect with a strong outreach program.

Such groups, are what make a neighborhood function like a community. And community relies on it's members. I encourage all of my neighbors to engage in our community. Many of our committees are rolling over and need new leadership.

Or, they are simply ready to see new families embrace what was started 40+ years ago.

With streamlined communication (email and website WCWHA.org), we can fortify our community in real time. The Website allows us to post updates on events and gatherings, a call for helping hands when needed, contractor recommendations, property information, etc.

Emails are *only* used for urgent matters. *Maybe 5 per year* (don't quote me) go out community wide. An example would be the recent house fire on Banff St. Or if a security/safety issue arises. And, the annual picnic in September.

However, our email list is thin, and our website is underused. Please go to the website WCWHA.org to "contact us" and submit your email address. **YOU WON'T GET BOMBARDED WITH EMAILS!** No one wants that.

Let's connect.

-Kim Wright

Playground

The toddler playset needs replacing. The old one became hazardous due to deterioration.

The Outreach Committee will launch a fundraiser through "go fund me" next month. Look for a flyer at your doorstep in the coming weeks. More information to come.

Funds raised for this campaign will be used to replace the toddler playset.

-The Outreach Committee

ARE YOU READY FOR THE SNOW?

The temperatures the last couple of days do not make your mind turn to snow, but we all know it's coming. The Fairfax County website has a number of excellent resources regarding snow, including VDOT road updates, county emergency status and snow forecasts. You can view all of this at https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/snow/?utm_source=nextdoor&utm_content=010720 My personal favorite is the VDOT Snow Plow Tracker.

Here are a few pieces of information from the website that you might want to keep in mind.

8 PLACES TO CONSIDER SHOVELING SNOW

Get those show shovels and blowers ready to tackle these recommended spots in your 1

1. Sidewalk in front of your home neighborhood:
2. Sidewalks in front of vacant homes or homes where residents are unable to shovel
3. Fire hydrants
4. Bus stops (there are more than 4,000 in the county!)
5. Sidewalks/paths that lead to schools/community buildings
6. Bike trails
7. Storm drains
8. Parking identified as accessible spaces for people with disabilities.

Work as a Community to plan snow removal in your neighborhood.

Consider:

What areas are priority for clearing snow to keep residents safe?

Who will clear the fire hydrants so they are easily visible in an emergency?

Where will the snow go? When in doubt, shovel to the right.

Can you share equipment for community removal of snow?

Are their neighbors who need assistance in clearing their walkways?

Fire Safety

In less than 24 hours between December 31, and January 1, 2020, the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department responded to two house fires. One of these homes was on Banff St., just beyond the boundaries of our neighborhood. The total property loss for both fires was \$187,500. *There were no working smoke alarms in both house fires!* Residents are reminded of the importance of having working smoke alarms on every level of your home, in every bedroom, and outside sleeping areas. *Fairfax County residents can get FREE battery-powered smoke alarms by contacting their local Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department fire station, by e-mailing us at fire.smokealarms@fairfaxcounty.gov, or on-line at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire-ems/free-smoke-alarms>* Working Smoke Alarms – Don't Stay Home Without Them! Links to house fire releases: <https://ffxfirerescue.wordpress.com/2020/01/02/electrical-event-in-wire-causes-springfield-house-fire/> <https://ffxfirerescue.wordpress.com/2020/01/02/wakefield-house-fire-caused-by-electrical-event/>

Election Officers Needed

Fairfax County needs 2,100 election officers for the March 3 Democratic Presidential Primary election, and we need you! Apply now via the county's official portal: <https://www.vote4fairfax.com/apply> The Office of Elections is also seeking bilingual officers who speak Korean or Vietnamese, especially in: * Annandale * Centreville * Falls Church For more information, call the Fairfax County Office of Elections at 703-324-4735, TTY 711.

TOP BOOKS FOR 2019 IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

As we get ready to enter 2020, you may be looking for some good reading (or listening) material to kick off the new year. Here is a good place to start – check out this list of the top books for 2019 (as measured by checkouts) provided by our [Fairfax County Public Library](#). Our library's annual **circulation** (print and electronic) is **more than 11 million**, with almost **5 million visits** to our [branches](#).

Most popular adult fiction:

Where the Crawdads Sing, Delia Owens
The Reckoning, John Grisham
Kingdom of the Blind, Louise Penny
Long Road to Mercy, David Baldacci
Dark Sacred Night, Michael Connelly

Most Popular adult nonfiction:

Educated: A Memoir, Tara Westover
Becoming, Michelle Obama
The Library Book, Susan Orlean
Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of Family and Culture in Crisis, J.D. Vance
Fear: Trump in the White House, Bob Woodward

The library provides many resources beyond books these days. If you haven't

done so recently, check out the library website to see them. (My daughter is a huge fan of audio books she downloads and listens to on her commutes.)

SPRING IS COMING: ARE YOU PLANNING SOME IMPROVEMENTS/RENOVATIONS?

Remember to submit your plans in advance to the Architectural committee.

Attached to this newsletter is a copy of the form to submit. It is also available on the community website.