

# 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](mailto:wcwha.org@gmail.com)

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March 24, 2020

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### President's Notes

Dear Neighbors –

We are so lucky to have our beautiful parkland to walk and play in during this difficult time in our country. I urge you to enjoy it this spring. At this point we are planning to continue with our annual Spring park clean-up on **Saturday, April 4. Meet with Al Meyer at 09:00 at the Banff Street Bridge to sign in and for assignments.** While helping, please observe the recommended social distancing of at least 6 feet.

Please note the establishment of a “Caring Committee” for our neighborhood. You can see the details later in the newsletter.

Peg Desko, the Chair of our Architectural Committee, has moved to the Seattle area earlier than anticipated. She deserves our great thanks for taking on that responsibility for many years. Jim Powers, our At-Large board member, has agreed to be the interim Chair. The committee is looking to add a couple more people, so please help us out if you can.

Thanks to all of you who contributed to our playground fund. It is heartwarming to see so many of you helping to make our park even more appealing to the children in our

midst. There is a list of all the donors in this newsletter.

Finally, if you haven't given us your email yet, please do so via [wcwha.org@gmail.com](mailto:wcwha.org@gmail.com). At this point it is the only expedient way for us to get in touch with you.

Stay safe and please let us know if you need assistance,

Liz Segall

### Creek Critters

The Audubon Naturalist Society has an app that can help identify critters that live in the creek! It might be a great science activity for kids that are out of school. The data collected helps create a stream health report and can be uploaded to an interactive map. Check it out! <https://anshome.org/creek-critters/>

### Help Stop Invasive Plants

While so many of us are not able to go into the office and have more free time to work in our yards, it's a great time to take a look around our gardens and remove some of the non-native invasive plants that become rivals with our native plants for nutrients and space in our habitat. There is helpful

information at these websites:

<https://www.plantnovanatives.org>

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring/gardening>

### **Turkey Run Creek Erosion**

Welcome to the Turkey Run Creek erosion update! An erosion committee was formed during the spring of 2019 which led to a proposal to put in preventative measures to help control the erosion problem along our section of the creek. The proposal included a phased approach to help control and reduce bank erosion by preventing sediment from leaving the banks of Turkey Run Creek. With the Board approval to move forward, we were fortunate to obtain free shrub seedlings from Fairfax ReLeaf. Fairfax ReLeaf is an independent, non-profit organization of volunteers who plant and preserve trees, improve community appearance and restore habitat on public and commons lands in Northern Virginia. This would not have been possible without Brian Kiviat, who was our main contact with Fairfax ReLeaf. **A BIG THANK YOU to Brian!**

Our next challenge was to gather volunteers to get the seedlings in the ground. **A BIG THANK YOU to Al Meyer**, who was instrumental with connecting us with the Read Family, we were able to secure volunteers from Patrick Read's Boy Scout Troop. Patrick, who is currently in the process of completing his Eagle Scout requirements, submitted a well thought out erosion plan that included a timeline, water-tolerant plant suggestions and strategic planting pattern so the seedlings would have the space to safely grow. Under Patrick's leadership, he coordinated several Boy Scout volunteers to plant shrub seedlings on Saturday November 2, 2019 between the Banff Bridge and up towards the Truro border. In addition, his coordination and leadership led to the proper installation as

recommended by the Fairfax ReLeaf. As a result of their efforts, this will help maintain a level of sustainability along Turkey Run Creek for years to come. We would like to give a **BIG SHOUT OUT to Patrick Read and Boy Scout Troop 1523!**

We would also like to thank Girl Scout extraordinaire, Annika Miller and her girl scouts, who completed a planting of seedlings on Saturday, March 21. Annika, who coordinated this effort, is working on her Gold Star Award. The Gold Star Award is the highest award and stands for excellence and leadership for girls everywhere who make a difference in their communities and beyond. Annika has also been working with Fairfax ReLeaf and is developing a plan that will help provide a sustainable and lasting benefits. We're thrilled that she's chosen Turkey Run Creek. **A BIG SHOUT OUT to Annika and her Girl Scout Troop!**

A sincere thank you to our HOA president Liz Segall who initiated the Erosion committee and to the Erosion volunteer committee members, including Al Meyer, Joy Meyer, Anita Ferguson, Brian Kiviat, Frances Brayshaw, Jim Gaughan, Jim Powers, Ron Shore and Tom Herrmann who took time away from their busy schedules.





### **ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS**

The Wakefield Chapel Home Owners Association is looking for a few volunteers to join the Architecture Committee. Longtime Chair and neighbor Peg Desko is stepping down and moving out of our neighborhood to be closer to her daughter and grandchildren. She has been a tireless advocate protecting the value of our homes for many years. Committee members thank her for her hospitality as well.

The committee meets 2 to 4 times a year. The main activity is splitting up a community walk through to check for violations of the home owners agreement as it pertains to upkeep of the properties and to act on written requests for modifications to homes. Please consider joining us soon. The spring walk through will be here soon. Contact the acting chair Jim Powers by email at: [jpowers@ceceyes.com](mailto:jpowers@ceceyes.com) to volunteer.

Jim

### **Ginny Koenig**

Ginny Koenig, who resided at 4528 Banff St. for almost 43 years, passed away on February 26th with both daughters and husband Pete by her side. Ginny valiantly battled cancer for a year. Ginny and Pete met the first week in college (St. Francis University in PA) and married the first week after they both graduated four years later. This June would have been their 53rd Wedding Anniversary. Their daughters, Kristy and Cindy, have been a blessing in our lives, especially for the support and love they gave during the difficult past year. The grandchildren, Kara (18), Eliana (17), Jenna (16), Braden (15) and Nicolas (11), all had a unique and special relationship with Grammy. Her passing is an enormous painful loss to all of us but we will always cherish the many happy occasions we shared together as a family.

Ginny taught Kindergarten in Fairfax County for over 20 years and received many accolades from parents of her students. She has five brothers and a sister spread across the United States. She enjoyed teaching the grandkids how to knit, bake and play the piano. She was fond of Opera and together we had season tickets to the Shakespeare Theatre and 1st Stage. Mostly, she always enjoyed being with the grandkids and being supportive with the many activities they were involved with.

The above obituary was written for us by Pete Koenig. Our most sincere condolences are offered to Pete and his family. Ginny will be greatly missed by all of us as well. A great neighbor and a truly wonderful person. Among other things we will miss her giving spirit, adventurous attitude and great laugh. Funeral services have been postponed for a few months due to the Covid-19 concerns. We will let you know by email when they

are rescheduled. If you like, you can still post a condolence on the funeral home website, the website address is:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/springfield-va/virginia-koenig-9054133>

A friend of Pete and Ginny at St. Francis University who is the Vice President of Advancement is setting up an opportunity for anyone who wants to donate in Ginny's memory, in lieu of flowers. Since Ginny was an educator, you can direct the donation to SFU's Education Dept and in memory of Ginny Koenig. There's three ways to give.

On their website:

[www.francis.edu/makeagift](http://www.francis.edu/makeagift) Once into the secure giving page, folks can designate to Education Dept. and make their gift in Ginny's memory.

By phone using your credit card (which they do not retain):

Call 814-472-3021 to make a credit card gift over the phone. Office hours 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (for security reasons, do not leave cc info on their voice mail)

By mail:

Made payable to Saint Francis University (with attached note designating gift to Education Department in Ginny's memory) and mail to:

Saint Francis University  
Office of Advancement  
P.O. Box 600  
Loretto, PA 15940

### **Homeowners' Contact Information**

**Thank you to all the homeowners who have promptly paid their 2020 dues.** If it has slipped your mind, **you have until March 31 to send them in.** Don't forget to use the enclosed form to let us know about any changes in your email or phone numbers. We use those forms to update your

communication coordinates in our member directory, published in spring, and our email distribution list. We hope to get a new directory out shortly after all dues with invoice forms have been returned.

Currently, we have only about 2/3 of our homeowners' emails. If you are reading this newsletter, we obviously have yours.

Normally, the newsletter is delivered by hand to all doorsteps by block captains. However, because of the current situation with COVID-19, until further notice, we are delivering this one by email. It is also posted on our website, [wcwha.org](http://wcwha.org). We sometimes send out important email messages that can't wait for the newsletter. So, if our neighbors have not provided their emails, we have no way of reaching them. Don't hesitate to ask your neighbor if he or she is getting emails. If not, encourage them to give it to us by email at [wcwha.org@gmail.com](mailto:wcwha.org@gmail.com). We strive to keep the emails to a minimum and do not share emails with anyone else, including your neighbors.

### **Donate Children 's Books**

Have you been wondering what to do with your books no longer needed by your children or grandchildren? Donate them to ***Books are Food for Your Brain***, which is dedicated to putting books in the hands of needy children. Based at Food for Others ([foodforothers.org](http://foodforothers.org)) which provided emergency food for needy families in Northern Virginia, they have a goal of allowing families to choose 4 books for each of their children as they are picking up food. The organization also donates books Community Centers in the County. For more information see [www.facebook.com/Booksarefoodforyourbrain](https://www.facebook.com/Booksarefoodforyourbrain). If you would like to donate your

children's books contact them at [booksarefoodfairfax@gmail.com](mailto:booksarefoodfairfax@gmail.com)

### **Next Board Meeting**

All homeowners are welcome at our Board meetings. Please let us know if you plan to attend as time or place may change. The next meeting is May 11 at the home of Liz Segall (Sugarbush Court). Meetings start at 7 pm.

### **Staying Current on COVID-19**

As we hunker down to protect ourselves and our neighbors from infection with the corona virus, it is important to stay informed, remain vigilant, and follow guidelines given by our health care experts. You can stay informed of recommendations and actions taken by our local health department, as the situation changes daily.

On our HOA website, [wcwha.org/community](http://wcwha.org/community) links, we have 2 relevant website links: the Fairfax County website, [www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov) and our Braddock Supervisor link, [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/braddockbeacon](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/braddockbeacon). These have up-to-date information about COVID-19.

### **FAREWELL AND THANKS TO PEG DESKO**

Peg Desko, the Chair of our Architectural Committee, has moved to the Seattle area earlier than anticipated. She deserves our great thanks for taking on that responsibility for many years. If you would like to send her a note of thanks, please send it to our email address and we will forward it to her – [wcwha.org@gmail.com](mailto:wcwha.org@gmail.com).

Jim Powers, our At-Large board member, has agreed to be the interim Chair. The committee is looking to add a couple more people, so please help us out if you can.

### **WCWHA ESTABLISHES A CARING COMMITTEE**

For those of us in our community who are in a high-risk category, either due to age or compromised health, WCWHA Board is starting a Caring Committee and board member Tom Herrmann will coordinate this initiative. At this time, he will try to arrange getting groceries and/or medications for our vulnerable neighbors who should not be interacting with other people right now.

Please email Tom at [tom.e.herrmann@gmail.com](mailto:tom.e.herrmann@gmail.com) if you are willing to help your elderly and/or immunocompromised neighbors, or if you are in need of some help. Block Captains feel free to canvas your neighbors. We are indeed a Caring Community.

### **SOME ONLINE DIVERSIONS WHILE WE ARE ALL AT HOME**

Spring is fast approaching, so, at least for me, thoughts turn to gardens. I thought I'd pass along a couple of websites you might entertain as we look forward to spring:

Fairfax Master Gardeners has a website with lots of info about local gardening you might like:

[Fairfaxgardening.org](http://Fairfaxgardening.org)

Another website you might enjoy if you are pining for a trip somewhere (or you cancelled your spring trip to the Chelsea Flower Show.) is this one, which links to tours of some beautiful gardens:

<https://www.housebeautiful.com/lifestyle/gardening/g31746949/gardens-you-can-virtually-tour/>

If you have kids at home, the Washington Post on 3/23 mentioned several interesting interactive websites. Here are a couple:

“Lunch Doodles [kennedy-center.org/education/mo-willems](http://kennedy-center.org/education/mo-willems)

“Draw Every Day with JJK”  
[youtube.com/studiojjk](http://youtube.com/studiojjk)

“Kids Ask Authors” [kidsaskauthors.com](http://kidsaskauthors.com)

*I am also including several articles that you may have missed from the January newsletter that might be of interest to you. Please also be sure to scroll all the way to the Newsletter to see exciting news about our playground project!*

## 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](mailto:wcwha.org@gmail.com).

## 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](mailto: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

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

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

A copy of the required form to submit can be found on our website, [wcwha.org/documents](http://wcwha.org/documents).

**Friends of the Wakefield Chapel Woods Playground**, is happy to honor the 61 donors to our Playset Campaign. This is the majority of our homeowners, and includes 3 donors from outside our community. A committee has formed and will proceed with the purchase, delivery, and professional installation of a Playset. Watch for progress in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your generosity! We exceeded our goal of \$2,500 and our final fund is \$4,800. Every dollar will be put to good use.

Our thanks go out to the following donors for their contribution:

Pedro Fernandez & Mercedes Beffa  
David Berry  
Catherine Boyce  
John Boyle  
Frances Brayshaw  
Richard & Margaret Carnes  
Guy & Donna Caruso  
Season Crawford  
Robert Cromling  
Grant Crowder  
Carole Davis  
The Gaughans

Daniel Gerszewski  
Selvi Gerszewski  
Jennifer Gittins-Harfst  
Cindy Griffin  
Terry & Thomas Herrmann  
Lorraine Johnson  
Silvia Jordan  
Carla Keren  
Peter & Virginia Koenig  
Lori Moore  
Allan & Joy Meyer  
Rosalie O'Connell  
Doris Olofson  
Steve & Chris Parker  
Joy Parton  
The Paynors  
Tom & Liz Plewes  
James & Megan Powers  
Peggy Quammen  
Cathy & Pete Read  
Ron & Eileen Rothberg  
Michael Runyon  
Joyce Schaefer  
Elizabeth & Errol Segall  
Ronald & Norma Shore  
Diane & Jeff Smith  
Nammalwar Sriranganathan  
Lay & Heather Thepmontry  
Lowell Tonnessen & Mary Lou Eng  
Phong & Jennifer Tran  
Jake and Pura Valdez  
Alan & Elaine Wade  
Heather Warden  
Geri & Bill Waxman  
Steven Weitz  
Kim & Fred Wright  
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Richard & Elizabeth Leadley  
Phyllis Liner  
Ying Liu  
Robert & Sally Mannion  
Sally and Georges Mavlian  
Anne & Andrew Miller  
Roya Mogadam  
Bob Molz