

WAKEFIELD CHAPEL WOODS

Newsletter

President: Liz Segall

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Secretary: Donna Caruso

Treasurer: Pura Valdez

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Notes from the President

Dear Neighbors,

I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season with friends and families. Everyone was talking about the crazy warm weather, but it made for an enjoyable time to get outside for a hike or to see some of the sights downtown.

At the last possible minute, when I was ready to throw up my hands, we finally found a volunteer to fill the vacancy on our homeowners Board of Directors. Thanks to Bob Mannion (Sugarbush Court) who stepped up (with really very little pressure) at our annual meeting in October and agreed to join us. Thank you, Bob! Also, a thank you to Mike Manos (Toll House Road) for serving on our board for the last few years, first as Secretary and then as Member at Large. We appreciate your help. The board meets approximately every other month, is a great way to know what is going on in the area – it's really not that taxing a job! We are lucky to live in a community that has little controversy or rancor. At the next election we hope to have a volunteer from the other side of the creek (the Ordinary side) since it has been several years since you have been represented on the board.

Stay safe during the next couple months. Please look out for your elderly neighbors as

well as making sure your sidewalks are clear of snow and ice so the school children don't have to walk in the street to get to their bus stop.

Happy New Year,
Liz Segall

WCWHA Board Meetings

Feb 1 - Desko

March 28 - Segall

May 2 - Caruso

June 20 - Valdez

Sept 12- Payne

Annual Meeting - Wednesday, Oct 19
(normally at Wakefield Forest Elementary School)

Dec 5 - Mannion

All homeowners are welcome, but if you are planning to attend please let us know to make sure the date or place has not been changed. This schedule is also listed on the home page of our website: www.wcwha.org.

**Spring Parkland Clean
Up**

Saturday, April 2, 2016

All members and friends of WCWHA are invited to help in the spring clean up of our Parkland on **April 2, 2016, between 09:00 and 11:00**. If you have them, please bring

gloves, loppers, rakes, wheel barrows, elbow grease and enthusiasm. If chainsaws are needed you will be advised before the clean up date. Please contact Allan Meyer [703-978-2559](tel:703-978-2559) or e-mail at allanemeyer@aol.com for assignments and or questions. This is a great way for Civics students and people required to do Community work to earn service hours. Make this a family affair.

New Directory

The updated WCWHA directory was distributed by the block captains to all homes in December. If you notice any incorrect information, please let us know so that we can correct the information, first by newsletter, then when we update the directory in December 2016. You can send the correct information to us by e-mail at wcvha.org@gmail.com. Also, please let us know if you did not get one.

Snow Removal

Winter is here and, while weather has been unseasonably warm, we are starting to see colder weather. That means we need to be thinking about snow and how to remove it.

VDOT is responsible for clearing the streets that have route numbers, which includes most in our neighborhood. Clearing is done on a priority basis, with interstates and high-volume roads cleared first. They are usually very good about clearing our neighborhood fairly quickly. But if you have any problems or questions, call VDOT at 1-800-FOR-ROAD (367-7623) - TTY 711.

However, neither VDOT nor the County clears snow or ice from public walkways, sidewalks or trails. While not legally

obligated, residents and businesses are asked to keep the sidewalks in front of their property clear, when possible, so that all pedestrians, especially school children, those with disabilities, and the elderly can walk securely.

We know that many of you contract with snow removal companies or hire a neighborhood teen to keep your driveways and walkways cleared of snow. If you are particularly happy with your service, let us know and we can post the information on our website.

Service Recommendations

Speaking of service recommendations, have you recently had work done on your home or had a service provided that pleased you enough to recommend to your neighbors? If so, please let us know so that we can add that recommendation to our website. While most of us have a list of our go-to plumbers, lawn services, pest removal, etc., we just haven't taken the time (or thought about) sharing this information with others. New people in the neighborhood will be especially happy to have recommendations from their neighbors. Please write up a description of what was done, what you liked about it and the contract information of the workman, company or other service provider to us at wcvha.org@gmail.com. We do have a modest list of recommendations on our website, but it would be good to have additional resources from which to choose.

Just a reminder that if you are thinking of making any changes to the outside of your house, including driveways and landscaping, you will need approval from the Architectural Committee before

proceeding. As usual, for your convenience, we have included a [Request for Approval of Exterior Modification Form](#) with this newsletter. You can also download this form from our website along with additional guidelines.

Gardening

Now that the outside gardening season is over, you may want to just snuggle down in a comfy chair before the fireplace and read a book or binge-watch a missed TV series. You may also want to focus on your indoor plants or get ready to make your garden the envy of the neighborhood come warm weather. To help you with all this, **Green Spring Gardens** (a Fairfax County Parks and Recreation entity) located in Annandale, has an amazing number of classes, lecture series, teas and other events. They also have a couple of ongoing art shows and some art classes to choose from. Check out these opportunities on their website:

www.fairfaxcounty/parks/greenspring.

Night Safety

In addition to the cold, one of the adjustments to winter is getting used to longer hours of darkness. We would remind you while taking that evening walk or run or even biking home from work to make sure you take precautions to be safe and to keep others safe. Also keep in mind that many students still park their cars in our neighborhoods and walk to and from the college. So keep an eye out for them.

Below are a few tips from the **Pedestrian Bicycle Information** (funded by the Federal Highway Administration) on keeping safe.

Safety Tips for Pedestrians

Be Safe and Be Seen: Make yourself visible to drivers

- Wear bright/light colored clothing and reflective materials.
- Carry a flashlight when walking at night.

- Cross the street in a well-lit area at night.
- Stand clear of buses, hedges, parked cars, or other obstacles before crossing so drivers can see you.

Be Smart and Alert: Avoid dangerous behaviors

- Always walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic.
- Stay sober; walking while impaired increases your chance of being struck.
- Don't assume vehicles will stop. Make eye contact with drivers; don't just look at the vehicle. If a driver is on a cell phone, he or she may not be paying enough attention to drive safely.
- Don't rely solely on pedestrian signals. Look before you cross the road.
- Be alert to engine noise or backup lights on cars when in parking lots and near on-street parking spaces.

Be Careful at Crossings: Look before you step

- Cross streets at marked crosswalks or intersections, if possible.
- Obey traffic signals such as WALK/DON'T WALK signs.
- Look left, right, and left again before crossing a street.
- Watch for turning vehicles. Make sure the driver sees you and will stop for you.
- Look across ALL lanes you must cross and visually clear each lane before proceeding. Even if one motorist stops, do not presume drivers in other lanes can see you and will stop for you.
- Don't wear headphones or talk on a cell phone while crossing.