

WAKEFIELD CHAPEL WOODS

Newsletter

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September 23, 2015

**ANNUAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14
WAKEFIELD FOREST
ELEMENTARY**

Notes from the President

Dear Neighbors –

I hope you enjoyed your summer. A large part of mine was spent in Phoenix with my daughter Laura and her family. She had twins on July 8, so I spent 5 weeks in a cycle of feeding, burping, changing babies, going to the grocery store and making dinner. I feel very lucky to have been able to be there. Also lucky that there is air conditioning. Never a day under 105 degrees. Don't buy into the idea of "dry" heat – it's still hot as blazes.

I'd like to thank Al Meyer and his volunteers who keep an eye on our parkland. Their efforts save us many hundreds of dollars each year and give us a beautiful shared space to enjoy with our families.

Thanks also to one of our new neighbors on Banff Street, Kim Wright, who has volunteered, with a minimum of arm-twisting, to head up a new Outreach Committee. The Board has asked her to think of an event in the coming year that can bring us together and give us a chance to have fun as a community. Let me or Kim know if you have suggestions or would like to volunteer to help.

We hope to see many of you at our annual homeowners meeting on Wednesday, October 14 at Wakefield Forest Elementary School.

There will be a slide show of the photos taken by Joy Meyer of the extensive work done in our park in May to repair our walkway. For the amount of work done; you will see that our money was well spent. If you aren't able to attend that night, please be sure to return your proxy ballot so we will be assured of a quorum.

Have you thought about joining one of our committees or the Board of Directors? All our community positions are filled by volunteers. Relying on volunteers helps keep the annual HOA membership fees low, gets you involved in the community and provides you an active role in managing your largest investment, your home. I encourage each of you to volunteer if you haven't already served. Many of our volunteers have served multiple terms and would like to step down. This is your opportunity to serve our community, bring in new and fresh ideas, meet your neighbors and contribute to our overall collective goals of living in a great neighborhood. None of the positions are difficult or require any specialized training. The board meets every other month for approximately one (1) hour and there is little if any follow-up work. Please consider volunteering some time -this is your community.

Best wishes,
Liz Segall
elizsegall@aol.com

Parkland Use

If you have not taken a walk through the parkland recently, you may want to do so. The new trees are doing well, the newly planted grass has taken root and the repaired walkway and drainage areas look terrific. Al Meyer, our vigilant parkland maintenance chair has continued to, either personally or with a team, clean up debris and maintain order, even re-staining the park bench near Banff Street. The playground, though sparse in its play equipment, looks good and has two newly planted trees destined to provide shade for the tykes.

As you know, we do not have a paid maintenance staff (except for grass cutting and hauling away large piles) so keeping the parkland attractive and usable for all requires all our teamwork and cooperation. Keeping that in mind, it seems a good time to remind us all of appropriate and respectful use of the common area. Here are a few important guidelines:

- Follow the rules on dogs in the parkland
You can see the complete procedure on our website
(<http://www.wewha.org/documents.html>)
- All members and guests accompanying a dog must immediately remove and dispose of pet waste.
- All pets must be under the voice control of the person accompanying the pet
- Be considerate of others while using the park.
 - Keep the noise down after dark.
 - Clean up after yourselves as well as your dogs. Pick up any trash you see, even if not your own.
 - Report any use of the park that seems disruptive or destructive.
 - Protect the plants, vegetation, creek and structures.
 - Supervise your children appropriately for age, for their

safety and to protect the parkland

- No unauthorized motorized vehicles are allowed in the parkland. Please report any you see to Fairfax County police and let someone on the board know.
- No firearms, air rifles, bows or any device that propels a projectile are allowed in the parkland. Again, report any abuse that you see.
- No fires, fireworks or pyrotechnics are allowed.
- In addition to the above, as you are walking through the parkland, it would be helpful if you pick up any fallen branches or other debris and, if too big to take home with you for disposal, place it in a pile for removal.
- *We can keep the parkland more enjoyable for everyone if we all pitch in and help.* If everyone lends a hand, we can continue using volunteers rather than having to increase yearly homeowner's fees to pay for maintenance. We know that everyone is busy, but when Al sends out his call for volunteers for park clean-up, please try to send at least one representative from your family. It's a great way to meet your neighbors and will take the burden off the few workers who traditionally show up-AND SAVE US MONEY.

Reminder of Library Hours

We are reminded that Pohick Library is scheduled for renovation beginning in September. To compensate for this, the hours of both Burke Center and Kings Park Libraries will be extended. This change will take effect Sunday, September 13. In addition to their regular hours they will be open on Wednesday evenings, Thursday mornings, and Sundays from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. The staff from Pohick will be moved to the surrounding libraries to cover the additional hours. Pohick is expected to reopen in the winter of 2017, at which time

Burke Center and Kings Park will resume their normal operating hours.

Need Information About Human Services?

You can ask questions or find information about human resources in Virginia, Maryland or the District of Columbia, by going to 2-1-1 website <http://www.211metrodc.org/> or if you want to talk to a real person dial 2-1-1 on your telephone. Find assistance when you or someone you know needs help. There are thousands of health and human services programs available to assist you — from child care, jobs, health care, and insurance — to emergency services to help you in times of disaster or emergency.

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) has updated and published a new print version of its very useful *Quick Guide* with over 1000 listings of public and private human services available in Northern Virginia. This updated version has expanded to include some services in surrounding areas such as Fredericksburg and others. You can access the Quick Guide Online at www.novaregion.org/quickguide where you can search by topic or by title. You can also get a free hard copy, which has all the same resources listed, by calling 703.642.0700 or by going online and printing the order form.

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC), which is a regional council made up of 14 member local governments. NVRC is a political subdivision within the Commonwealth. Representatives are chosen by their local governments. The 60 year old commission has *“focused on providing information, performing professional and technical services for its members, and serving as a mechanism for regional coordination.”* Funding is from member local governments, by appropriation of the general assembly, and by a variety of grants, contracts and fees from both governmental and private sector sources. To find out more about the extensive work going on within the commission, visit their website at <https://www.novaregion.org/>. You will be amazed at all they do and offer.

Notes from the Architecture Committee

What a wonderful time of the year to live right here! Beautiful days and cool nights. Some flowers are still blooming and we are thinking about mums. Our yards are still green but that will start to change. However, some yards are green from weeds, crab grass and bad grasses. If this is your lawn, your poor neighbors who have spend much time and money to make their yards pretty, will not like those unwelcome growths coming into their yards. They do spread. It may be time for WEED KILLERS, CRAB GRASS PREVENTER, HEAVY SEEDING and, maybe, a LAWN SERVICE. Keep your lawn and your neighbors happy.

Remember to get prior approval before making changes to the exterior of your house, drive way or yard. That includes windows, lights, color changes etc. Check your rules in the Architectural Guidelines on our website if you have questions about which changes need approval.

(<http://www.wcwha.org/documents.html>)

Directory Update

Our Wakefield Chapel Woods Homes Association Directory is scheduled for update in November. This directory is for the use of those residing in Wakefield Chapel Woods and is updated annually. Please email (wcwha.org@gmail.com) if corrections need to be made in the current listing.

Also, if you have not received any emails from the association this year we may not have your current email address. We do not publish the email addresses, which are used only for sending out messages to you between newsletters. So please make sure we have at least one email for each home.

Meet Some of Your “New” Neighbors

Wakefield Chapel Woods is such a stable neighborhood that sometimes we forget that new neighbors need to be introduced. We have several new families who have joined us in the past couple of years so we would like to

highlight a couple. We know that there are others and would like to introduce them in future newsletters.

Dale Johnson and Kim Pugh are newlyweds who moved into the long vacant house on Banff Street in May of last year. Their daughter, Devyn, is currently a freshman at Missouri University. Dale and Kim, along with their friendly dogs, Tucker and Mosby, have quickly become acquainted with many people in the neighborhood. Dale and Tucker can be seen daily on their morning walk rescuing newspapers tossed onto the end of the driveways and delivering them to the doorsteps of their respective owners (Awesome)!

Both Dale and Kim work in government related jobs. The whole family avidly supports a variety of sports, especially Aston Villa Football Club. Dale also plays street roller hockey. Kim loves to bake and is especially known for her delicious cookies, which she generously shares with neighbors from time to time. They are also actively involved in a variety of charity work, especially for Lupus, breast cancer and rescue of dogs.

Kim and Fred Wright moved into the neighborhood in August, 2014 and immediately threw a neighborhood picnic to introduce themselves to the neighbors. If you missed that, you did not meet their 12 year old son, Jack, who is a 7th grader at Frost Middle School. In their words, *“We lived in Alexandria previously for 16 years. We had a great community and friends there and we look forward to cultivating the same friendships here. We moved here to provide a place for Jack to run around in a neighborhood we were comfortable in. Our previous home was a townhouse with limited outdoor space.”*

Fred has been in the elevator trade for about 25 years, mostly with Otis Elevator. He maintains elevators in buildings in Crystal City. Kim begins work as a tutor this September. Jack is an avid soccer player, playing goalie for Old Dominion Soccer League (ODSL) a local travel team. The Wrights border the parkland (Banff St.) and are enjoying their view. They consider themselves social people and look forward to meeting more neighbors. Note: Kim has agreed to be Outreach Chair for our association. Fred

has also jumped right in as one of Al Meyer's right hand men in park maintenance. What a great addition to our community!

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