

WAKEFIELD CHAPEL WOODS

Newsletter

President: Liz Segall

Vice President: Donald Payne

Secretary: Donna Caruso

Treasurer: Pura Valdez

Member at Large: Mike Manos

<http://www.wcwha.org>

email: wcwha.org@gmail.com

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Notes from the President

Dear Neighbors

As I am sure most of you have noticed by now, our parkland walkway has been repaired and we are waiting for the new grass to emerge. The work was quite extensive with re-grading the slopes around the walkway, replacing the storm pipe near the Ordinary Way entrance and then the walkway repair itself. Thanks go to our small committee of volunteers – *Steve Parker, Al Meyer and Brian Kiviat* – for taking the time to consider all our options and find the right contractor for the work. Thanks to the careful management of our dues over the years we were able to fully fund the repairs without adding an extra assessment to our yearly payment.

Speaking of our dues, one of the reasons our dues are so low (\$150 per year) is the willingness of our board and committee members to work for the benefit of our neighborhood. One of the few times during the year that we are all asked to pitch in is during the Spring Park Clean-Up. Regretfully, this year only 11 people showed up to help out. I admit I was one of those absent, so I know many of us had a reason we couldn't be there. That said, having so few people turn out to help makes the job that much more difficult on the ones who do and if the trend continues it may become necessary to hire a company to do the work for us. If that becomes the case then our dues will surely rise. We will see how the turnout is next year before we move in that direction, but that day may come.

There will be two open positions on the board that will be voted on during our annual meeting in October. Please consider volunteering to serve, or let me know if you have a neighbor you think would do a good job. Generally we meet every other month. Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions for how to make our neighborhood even better.

Liz Segall

elizsegall@yahoo.com

Beautification of the Parkland

On Sunday March 22nd nearly fifty trees and shrubs were planted in the parkland along the banks of the creek. The planting was a coordinated effort between Taylor Beach of Fairfax ReLeaf, Lani Furbank of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Wakefield Forest's Girl Scout Troop and parkland neighbor *Brian Kiviat*. ReLeaf provided tree saplings that included Persimmon, Pin Oak, River Birch, Bald Cypress, Sycamore, and Willow Oak. In addition shrubs that included Indigobush, Silky Dogwood, and Button Bush were planted between the trees. These native trees and bushes were selected to provide stability to the creek banks and habitat for wildlife. Many long time WCWHA residents may remember that we coordinated a planting with ReLeaf in the same area about 15 years ago - many of those trees are now 30 feet tall.

These trees, which will not only help with erosion, but will also greatly enhance the beauty of our parkland, were donated and all

the work was done by volunteers. We are most grateful to Brian for making all this happen at no cost to the HOA.

Help us maintain these conservation and beautification efforts by protecting these trees and assisting in keeping the area clean. We especially appreciate those residents bordering the parkland who are diligent in keeping the areas at the edge of their property clear of debris. Thank you all!

Community Activities

Neighborhood News:

Were you aware that Supervisor John Cook hosts a monthly television show, **Braddock Neighborhood News**, on the Fairfax County Channel 16 which is available on most cable networks? Each month, Supervisor Cook invites topical guests to share pertinent information with the viewers. The shows air throughout the month and can be seen Sunday at 5:00 pm, Wednesday at 7:00 pm and Friday at 5:00 pm.

Community Alerts:

Are you signed up for the **Fairfax County Emergency Alerts?** The county is rolling out its updated alert system in June, which will offer more options to Fairfax County residents. There are choices to have alerts to go to as many as 10 different delivery methods (home, cell, school, work, etc.) and added options such as tax deadline reminders, police notifications, messages from the Office of Emergency Management and a choice of kinds of weather alerts. You can also choose periods for “**do not disturb.**” For more information and to sign up (or update your information), go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts.

E-cycling Program

Did you know that Fairfax residents no longer have to wait for special dates to recycle electronic equipment? You can take your

items for recycling to either the I-66 Transfer Station or the I-95 Landfill complex during regular operating hours. Electronics include: televisions, computers, fax machines, copiers, cameras, phones, rechargeable batteries, video equipment, audio equipment, etc. There is no charge. For more information log onto:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling

I-66 Transfer Station

4618 West Ox Rd

Fairfax, VA 22035

Mon - Sat 8 am to 4 pm

Sunday 9 am - 4 pm

I-95 Landfill Complex

9850 Furnace Rd

Lorton, VA 22079

8 am - 4 pm

Planning on Moving?

If you are planning to sell your house any time soon, remember that you will need a *Homeowners Association Disclosure Packet* for the potential buyers. This packet contains all the pertinent documents of the Association, as well as a statement verifying that your property is free from encumbrances imposed by WCWHA, including any unpaid dues. Your real estate agent may contact WCWHA by using the email form on our website (www.wcwha.org) to request a packet, or email Donna Caruso, Secretary, at donna.caruso555@gmail.com. Cost of the packet is \$50 ***Packets must be requested two weeks in advance of the date needed.***

From the Architectural Committee (Peg Desko, Chair)

ARE YOU CHANGING YOUR SHUTTERS AND DOOR PAINT COLOR, OR THE COLOR OF A NEW ROOF? If so, *please submit your Architecture Form (attached) requesting approval to the Committee before you start.*

Do you want to WIDEN YOUR DRIVEWAY or build a DECK OR PATIO? Please submit and get the approval before you start. NEW FENCE or NEW HEIGHT of fence? Please check with us. Some changes require neighbors' approval.

Thank you to all who have removed the weeds in the gutter at the side of the road in front of your house. And **Thank you** to all who cleaned the grass and weeds that hang over the curb into the road. Check your sidewalk also. Why the grass seed takes root in cement and not in your yard is a mystery.

Gardening

Did you know that the Monarch butterfly numbers have plummeted by 90% in recent years (from Adrian Higgins, in a recent *Washington Post* Article)? Home gardeners can play a vital role in sustaining the Monarch by providing a network of way stations to mitigate the loss of wildflower habitat. We can plant milkweed. Below are a number of places where you can get milkweed plants that have not been treated with systemic pesticides:

Nature by Design

300 Calvert St., Alexandria, VA
(703)683-4769
www.nature-by-design.com

Hill House Farm & Nursery

631 Scrabble Rd., Castleton, VA
(540)937-1798
www.hillhousenativeplants.com

Earth Sangha

Franconia Park, entrance at the end of Cloud Dr, Springfield, VA
www.earthsangha.org

Watermark Woods Native Plants

16764 Hamilton Station Rd.,
Hamilton, VA
(540)441-7443

Abernathy and Spencer

18035 Lincoln Rd., Lincoln, VA
(540)338-9118

Loudon Wildlife Conservancy

(703)777-2575
www.loudonwildlife.org

Chesapeake Natives

(202)262-9773
www.chesapeakenatives.org

Monarch Watch

Sells 32-plug flats of milkweed, enough to share with others.
(888)824-4464
www.monarchwatch.org/market

Summer Activities at Green Spring Gardens (Fairfax County Parks)

Looking for something to do alone or with the whole family? Check out Green Spring Gardens, located just down the road off Braddock Road and Little River Turnpike (on Green Spring Rd, opposite Pinecrest Golf Course). Green Spring Gardens is operated by the Fairfax County Parks Association. Just enjoy a walk through the beautiful gardens, take in the historic house or take advantage of the many educational offerings there.

The following description is lifted straight from their website

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring

*Green Spring Gardens is a "must visit" for anyone in the Metropolitan Washington, DC area. It's a year-round gold mine of information and inspiration for the home gardener. It's an **outdoor classroom** for children and their families to learn about plants and wildlife. It's also a **museum**, a **national historic site** that offers glimpses into a long, rich history with colonial origins.*

'There's something here for everyone: a wooded stream valley with ponds, a naturalistic native plant garden, over 20 thematic demonstration gardens, a greenhouse filled with tropicals, and a well-stocked horticultural reference library. Visit the [Garden Gate Plant Shop](#) and our two gift shops where you'll find gift ideas ranging from books and gardening gloves to china and wind chimes. Green Spring will educate, inspire, and delight you. The gardens are always changing, so come back often for new ideas.

'Green Spring Gardens serves Fairfax County residents and visitors by advancing the awareness and practice of gardening. The gardens and [educational programs](#) focus on practical landscaping techniques that are appropriate for the Washington metro area. Additional programs emphasize historic influences on the land and Fairfax County residents' role in preserving cultural resources. Open to the public are a horticulture center, library, demonstration gardens, a historic landscape and buildings, and a wooded stream valley with ponds. Park grounds open from dawn to dusk.'

The Gardens are located on what was originally 540 acres of Farmland with a farmhouse built in 1784 by John Moss. The third owners, Michael and Belinda Straight donated the house and 16 acres of the land to the Fairfax County Park Authority in 1970. The Park Authority then purchased 11 additional acres to create Green Spring Gardens Park.

. Visit the website to find out about the incredible number of classes (gardening, art, fashion, etc.) tours, teas and other activities offered at reasonable prices this summer. Need some gardening advice? In addition to the many gardening classes, there are also volunteer master gardeners who are ready to

give you advice on gardening issues most Saturdays during the summer (check website for times). The house is open Wednesday-Sunday, noon-4:30 p.m. Below are listed just a few upcoming events from their summer catalogue that might be of interest.

4603 Green Spring Road
Alexandria, VA 22312
(703) 642-5173, TTY (703) 803-3354
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring

- **CONCERT IN THE GARDEN** Tuesday, June 30 7-8 pm. Be our guests for a live musical evening in the gardens. Bring a picnic dinner to enjoy on the lawn. The Friends of Green Spring (FROGS) board will serve complimentary cake and lemonade. **Free.** Hosted by Friends of Green Spring.
- **DUELING FLORAL DESIGNERS AND TEA** -Sunday, July 26, 1-3:30 pm. Two designers simultaneously create original floral arrangements using identical materials. You can see them, but they cannot see each other. Discover how different creative styles, techniques and approaches to design and materials are revealed in this highly entertaining demonstration. Reservations required. \$45 for the program followed by a traditional English afternoon tea in our 1784 historic house. \$22 for the program only. Call Historic Green Spring at 703-941-7987 to register.
- **30TH ANNUAL BEGONIA SHOW AND SALE** Saturday, August 22 9 am-4:30 pm
Sunday, August 23 noon-3:30 pm. Feast your eyes on this show sponsored by the Potomac branch of the American Begonia Society. Be tempted with splashes of color and shape for homes and greenhouses that last long after frosts have put our

outdoor gardens to bed. The sale offers a wide variety of begonias, including subtropical species. Free admission.

Upcoming Events of Interest

- **Canine Cruise, June 28:** treat your canine companion to a special cruise from 7:00 to 8:00 pm aboard Lake Accotink's pooch-friendly tour boat. The fee is \$6 per person and there is no charge for dogs. Limit one dog per person. Humans must be age eight and up and accompanied by an adult if under 16. Register in advance at [703-569-0285](tel:703-569-0285).
- **Braddock District Aging in Place: Independent Living Program, June 17:** Aging in Place will be held from 1:00 pm until 3:00 p.m.at Supervisor Cook's office.
- **Dine Out for People with Disabilities, June 25:** From 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm, enjoy great music and food at Clare & Don's Beach Shack (130 N. Washington Street, Falls Church, VA 22046). Ten percent of the days dining will support The Arc of Northern Virginia. This fundraiser will give you a chance to enjoy a great meal, meet staff members from The Arc, and support a great cause!

Taste of Annandale – June 13

Save the date for the first-ever Taste of Annandale on June 13th from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 pm. The event will take place along Tom Davis Drive and will offer residents an opportunity to try food from a variety of local restaurants. It will also feature live multicultural entertainment as well as a Fun Run, a chili cook-off, and games and activities for kids. Admission is free. For more information [please click here](#).

Change in Library Hours Starting in September

Pohick Library will be under renovation beginning in September. The hours at Burke Centre and Kings Park libraries will be extended to serve additional customers. *The change in hours at these two locations will begin Sunday, September 13th.* In addition to their regular hours, they will be open on Wednesday evenings, Thursday mornings, and Sundays from 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm. The staff from Pohick will be moved to the surrounding libraries to cover the additional hours. Pohick should reopen in the winter of 2017 and, at that time, Burke Centre and Kings Park will go back to their normal operating hours.

Fairfax County Farmers Market Locations

Buy fresh local fruits, vegetables, baked goods, plants, honey, cut flowers, meat, dairy, eggs and more at the Fairfax County Farmers Market. Some have master gardener plant clinics. For more information and directions consult the website, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets or call (703) 642-0128.

Wednesday

McCutchen/Mt. Vernon – May 6-Dec. 16, 8 am –Noon, Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Lane

Vienna/Oakton – May 6-Nov. 18, 8 am, Oak Marr RECenter, 3200 Germantown Road.

Wakefield/Annandale – May 6 – Oct. 28, 2 pm – 6 pm, Wakefield Park, 8100 Braddock Road.

Thursday

Annandale – May 7-Nov. 12, 8 am– Noon, Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike

Herndon – May 7 – Nov. 12, 8 am– 12:30 pm Old Town Herndon, 777 Lynn St. next to Red Caboose

Government Center – May 7 – Oct 29, 3 pm – 7 pm, Fairfax County Govt. Center, 12011 Government Center Parkway. (Closed June 4 for Celebrate Fairfax set-up)

Friday

McLean – May 1 – Nov. 20, 8 am-Noon, Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road
Kingstowne – May 1 – Oct. 30, 4 pm– 7 pm
5936 Kingstowne Town Center

Saturday

Burke – May 2 – Nov. 21, 8 am-Noon, VRE Parking Lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway
Reston – May 2 – Nov. 14, 8 am – Noon, Lake Anne Village Center, 11401 North Shore Drive (closed Sept.26 for Multicultural Festival)

Sunday

Lorton – May 3 – Nov.8, 9am – 1 pm, Lorton VRE Parking Lot, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd.

Directory Updates

Many thanks to all of you who promptly sent in your dues this year and updated your contact information. We will be updating the directory soon, so *if there have been any changes in your contact information since then, please let us know by sending an email to wcvha.org@gmail.com as soon as possible.* Also, if you have not been getting periodic emails from the HOA, you may want to make sure we have your email address. If you indicated that you would like to volunteer in some way, rest assured that we will be getting back to you very soon. If you did not indicate that you would like to volunteer, it's not too late. Just let us know what you would like to do.

WCWHA Board Meetings

While only the elected board members are required to attend the regularly scheduled board meetings, *all homeowners are welcome to attend. Dates and places are listed on the website*, but occasionally dates or places need

to be changed, so if you plan to attend, please call in advance.

Mark your calendar for the annual homeowners' meeting on October 14. Stay tuned for more details. We do need you to attend that meeting or send a proxy, if you cannot.