**Vienna Woods Swim and Tennis Club**

**P.O. Box 33**

**Vienna, VA 22183**

**September 2020 Newsletter**

**FALL STOCKHOLDERS’ MEETING: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2020**

**4:00 PM, RAIN OR SHINE, CLUB GROUNDS**

**If you cannot attend, please send in your postage-paid proxy card.**

**Presidents Message – A.J. Oskuie**

Dear Members -

What a long, strange trip we have been on!  COVID-19 has certainly strained the ability to offer up a safe environment to run and operate a pool, snack bar and tennis facility.  However, as usual, our staff has pulled this off and I am honored to shower them with appropriate praise!  Nancy Wanzer coordinated a fantastic and responsive staff and the kudos have streamed in from our members.  Gina Womack, Rachel Paci and Nancy created a very popular Sign Up Genius to serve our members in the best possible fashion.  Dawn and Jim and their snack bar staff have been able to offer up an amazing menu and they continue to thrill our members with their culinary delights.  Mary Burrows, Michelle Blanton and her coaches were able to provide our swim team with a fun environment that included plenty of coordination to pull off practices in this very limited environment.  Tom Herman and his crew have been able to provide our tennis community with the ability to utilize the courts.  Our amazing Board of Directors, please remember these folks are all volunteers, have been outstanding as we held almost weekly meetings so we could navigate these murky waters to provide a way to safely enjoy our pool as best as possible.  At the beginning, this season looked impossible, but through hard work and an understanding membership base, we have accomplished a season in which I am very proud of and I sincerely appreciate the collective efforts across the board.

Lastly, thank you to our members for your understanding and patience as we worked through this process without any reference book to guide us in this journey.  I hope that we can all enjoy the pool in a semi-normal capacity in 2021.  I wish you safety and happiness this off season.

Regards,

AJ Oskuie

President, Vienna Woods Swim and Tennis Club

The Nominating Committee of the Board has recommended the following slate of current Directors be re-elected at the Fall 2020 Stockholders’ meeting for new three-year terms:

**Adam Knudsen (Rules and Operations)** – Adam was born and raised in Falls Church/Vienna where he attended Lemon Road Elementary, Kilmer Intermediate, Marshall High School, Virginia Tech (Undergraduate) and Marymount University (Graduate School).  Adam is a Director at ECS.  Adam and his wife Sarah have 8-year-old twins Rose and Cooper.  Adam has lived in his current home in Vienna Woods since 1996 and has been a member at Vienna Woods since the late 90's.  Adam and his family enjoy the pool very much and are committed to continuing the great tradition of Vienna Woods.  Adam has enjoyed serving on the board the last 3 years and would be honored to be elected to continue serving on the board and will continue to work hard to serve the members of Vienna Woods Swim and Tennis Club.

**Doug MacCall (Tennis Committee**) - Doug MacCall and his wife Tara, whom he met at Mary Washington College, made Vienna Woods their summer time home shortly after moving to Vienna. After a few years on the wait list, their lucky number came up in 2006. His three grown children thoroughly enjoyed spending their summers on the VW swim and dive teams, playing in the Jr tennis program, working in the snack bar or as a lifeguard, hanging out at the pool and having an absolute blast at the club’s special event days. An avid tennis player, Doug continues to craft his tennis skills on the men’s and mixed teams, having lettered playing tennis in both high school and college. His wife also plays tennis for the women’s team and as Doug’s partner on the court. Serving on the board since 2013, Doug is committed to making Vienna Woods your best summer time home.

**Kelly Wolfe** **(Communications and Ad-Hoc) -** growing up as an Army “brat”, Kelly did not have many ties to communities as a child.  When she moved to Vienna, however, that changed.  At Vienna Woods, Kelly has found the perfect example of how the community comes together to socialize and support their kids in swimming, diving and tennis.   Kelly has lived in Vienna for over 10 years.  She is married with one daughter who participates on the swim team and works as a lifeguard at the pool.  Along with “living” at the pool during the summer, Kelly holds a full-time job in international public health.  She is committed to helping less fortunate people domestically and in developing countries, especially women and vulnerable children.  She likes to work with a group of people towards a common goal, and she would be honored to continue to serve on the Board of Directors at the Vienna Woods Swim and Tennis Club.

**Barbara Forrest (Secretary and Membership Committee)** – Barbara has long ties with Vienna Woods as both a member and a Vienna Woods swimmer and lifeguard back in the day. Barbara, her husband and son are long time Vienna residents and enjoy all that Vienna Woods summers have to offer. She has enjoyed serving on the board the last 3 years and would be honored to continue to work hard ensuring Vienna Woods remains the pool we all know and love.

Note: Due to the COVID-19 environment and State of Virginia and Fairfax County restrictions and limits on public gatherings during Phase 1 and Phase 2, the Spring stockholders meeting usually scheduled in April of each year at the Vienna Woods pool was not held.

**Treasurer – Dave Miller**

To say this summer has been a long strange trip would clearly be an understatement. Jenn and I have not been to the pool very often as we wanted to maximize the number of spots available for families with kids. So, if you haven’t seen us this summer that was purposeful. We have been a handful of times in the evenings when someone cancelled and there were plenty of spots available.

I want to use a portion of my space to extend a huge Thank You to Nancy and the entire staff. The “mini-pools” idea was Nancy’s and it was, in my opinion, pure genius. Additionally, the staff’s embrace of the COVID protocols in a very serious manner showed incredible leadership from a group of young folks. Similarly, if you were able to witness what happened during a shift change or even during a lifeguard rotation, it was impressive. The same can be said of the leadership and staff at the snack bar. There are clearly changes to our society post COVID that will endure, however, sadly, I don’t think table-side delivery by the snack bar folks will be on that list, but it sure was nice this summer!

As for finances, our cash balance at the end of July was approximately $250,000. We still have approximately 2 months of operations, and that balance does not include the last July payroll run. One of my operating mantras is to keep a minimum cash balance of $100K. Call it a rainy-day fund if you like, I call it our false zero. From the Board’s perspective, we treat $100k as if it were $0.00. At the beginning of 2020, the Board let the cash balance drop to about $80k to pay off our loan early for the dive well and Americans With Disabilities (ADA) pool entries which saved us money on interest. This year, we have committed to returning any cash we have in excess of the $100k floor to the members who paid dues this summer. As of this writing, I can’t commit if we will have anything to distribute.

As I have told anyone who will listen, every year, we have a $20k-$30k expense that is completely unexpected. You might recall some of the unexpected events in the past – Derecho, lighting hitting the transformer, pump failures due to lightning strike, pool leaks due to hard winter freezes. This year was no exception. You may have noticed the baby pool is not functional this summer. That is because we need to completely rework the pump and filter system. The early estimate for this work is $20k-$30k. Additionally, there is some tree work to our woods, the cost of which may approach $5k.

One huge project shelved this summer was the reconstruction of our Tennis Courts. That project will require a loan of approximately $450k. We were beginning to discuss this loan with banks when COVID-19 hit and we entered into a mode of just trying to make it through the summer. We will pick this project back up when the world gets round again. I am not at all going to try and predict when that will occur.

Thanks for everyone’s patience this summer. We will hopefully see you at the pool next summer. One pool tradition Jenn and I truly love is seeing how the kids we knew the summer before grew over the winter. I guess next summer we will truly be amazed!

**Inside and Outside Maintenance – Sean O’Connell and Mark Wilson**

Vienna Woods has been fortunate over the years to have our young members contribute to improvements on the property while completing projects in their pursuit of becoming Eagle Scouts and this past year was no exception. Two much appreciated Eagle Scout projects were completed which improved the facilities for all members and surrounding neighbors. In late 2019, PJ Pearson completed demolition of the old tennis court bleachers and built new and sturdy bleachers which provided much needed improvements to the tennis court area. Also, in August 2020, Eddie Burrows completed a renovation of the gravel path and small wooden bridge between the north parking lot and DeSale St. by creating a drainage ditch to channel the runoff from DeSale St. that had washed out the existing gravel path. This path is used daily by pool members and pool neighbors and greatly improves the drainage in that area. Congratulations to both PJ and Eddie on their hard work and accomplishments.

**Rules and Operations – Adam Knudsen**

I would like to thank Nancy, Gina, Rachel and the Lifeguards for all their hard work this summer in setting up the pool and establishing successful protocols and process for maximum use during all the phases.  I truly believe without their hard work this summer we would not have been able to enjoy the pool as much as we have.

**Tennis Program – Alan Currin and Doug MacCall**

As the summer season comes to end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our team captains Mary Ellen Guiseppe, Sue Moulton, Jan Cassidy, Andy Ollis, Frank Nothaft and Lisa Greenfield for their time and commitment to the tennis program! Their efforts in coordinating the adult team matches in a shortened season was much appreciated!

Note that our fall season is just around the corner. Due to the current COVID-19 environment, we are only offering private and small group lessons. We usually continue lessons well into November, weather permitting.

If you have any questions or are interested in lessons, please contact Tom Herman at [ther222@aol.com](mailto:ther222@aol.com). We hope to see you at the courts this fall and are looking forward to a full slate of tennis programs next spring and summer!

**Special Events – Sara Guixens**

We all missed our Picnics Under the Stars, Patch Parties and the annual, awesome Crab Feast but we look forward to celebrating Vienna Woods and our beloved summer pool traditions with all of our members next year!

**Swim Team – Mary Burrows**

Due to COVID-19, the Vienna Woods swim team was unable to have a traditional summer swim season. In May 2020, the Northern Virginia Swim League (NVSL) canceled the 2020 summer season, announcing that there would be no dual or championship meets until 2021. In addition, the state of Virginia implemented strict opening procedures and social distancing for outdoor pools. With the leadership of the Board, pool manager Nancy Wanzer, head coach Michelle Blanton and our amazing assistant coaches, we were able to offer a season of practice and fun events, all while following safety guidelines.

The season kicked off with a team Zoom call and ended with our traditional Senior recognition ceremony. Other activities this season included Time Trials, Friday theme days and individual picture days. We even had team T-shirts! It is quite an achievement that Vienna Woods was able to offer this experience to our 135 swim team members without a single reported case of Covid-19. We are proud of our swimmers, parents and coaches, who against all odds worked together to have a memorable season.

Thank you to all of the parents who trusted us with the safety of your children and gave their time volunteering. We could not have done it without you!

**NOTE:** Winter Swim 2020 – Vienna Woods will not offer a winter swim program this off-season. This difficult decision was made due to the COVID-19 restrictions put in place by Fairfax County for use of their pool facilities.

**Dive Team – Rachel Paci**

The Dive Team was sad that we weren’t able to compete this season, but many of our Vienna Woods divers learned new dives this summer anyway! Thank you to Coach Maddy who is heading to UVA for her first year; and thanks to Grayson Campbell who offered the dive team his expertise while he was visiting. We are looking forward to an exciting and successful 2021 season in Division 1 of the NVSL

**Snack Bar – George Biles**

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| |  | | --- | | First, I want to thank our 18-year Snack Bar Manager Dawn Dzruilla for doing an exceptional job getting our Snack Bar up and running through phases two and three. There were a lot of constraints placed on food service operations, and as usual Dawn put a great operational procedure in place and helped make sure that all of our wonderful snack bar staff were trained on the protocols.    We tried to serve as many food options with variety as we could given the very limited patrons we expected. Our #1 seller so far this summer was once again… our amazing fries!!! We are on track to sell more than 1200 servings, and also on track to sell 475 cheeseburgers, 500 grilled cheese, 2000 ice creams, and 175 tater tots.  We appreciate your patience as we process a tremendous amount of food in a small space.  I am most proud that our Snack Bar has been such a great place for our younger folks to learn good working skills. Dawn and her Assistants help these youngsters learn how to work as a team, work under pressure, be consistent/friendly/helpful and importantly clean.  As they work through the summer, they all take on more responsibilities especially those becoming food service certified or becoming an Assistant Manager. I am thankful for all the hard work these staff put in to service to our membership.   This summer we saw our multi-year veteran staff, Leslie Bredehoeft off to William & Mary and Megan Rourke off to Fairfield University and we wish both of them well!!  Thanks to all members and guests for your continued support!  **Membership – Barbara Forrest**  Vienna Woods continues to maintain a waitlist of just over 900 families and our annual turnover of new memberships is approximately 4% of the 750 memberships. If you’re thinking of selling your membership, or have membership questions, please visit our website’s Membership page for information on selling, renting, or buying a membership. I wanted to highlight the following from our Bylaws, transferring a share within family and transfer with purchase of shareholder home.  Article 1, Section 3, states, shareholders may transfer a share of stock to a bona fide family member, as defined in the Bylaws, and/or transfer share of stock to a bona fide purchaser of a shareholder’s residence. The benefit of this clause is the share can remain in the family. Alternately when selling your home, you may also sell the membership with your house.    I would like to add my many thanks to Gina Womack for the amazing job of managing the daily business operation of our club, which includes replying to emails, selling shares, collection of dues, and processing staff payroll among many other duties.  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Annual Stockholder Meeting**  **September 26, 2020**  **Proposed By-Laws Amendments**  At the August 2020 Board meeting, the full Board voted to recommend to the members two changes to the Bylaws. Those changes are:   * Article 2, Section 3 – Proposed change to the By-Laws regarding proxy cards - Replace “10 days prior to any stockholders meeting” with “10 days prior to any annual meeting”   This change will mean the Board will only collect proxy cards for the Fall meeting which is designated as the annual meeting and as noted in article 2, Section 1.   * Article 3, Section 4 - Proposed addition to the By-Laws, “The Stockholder is responsible for payment of dues in all situations and circumstances”. This change will add clarity and specificity to the By-Laws regarding a Stockholders requirement to pay annual dues.   If you have any questions about the upcoming annual Fall meeting, or about the Board nominees list and their qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact the club.  The best way to contact the club is to send an email with “ATTENTION: President” in the subject line, addressed to our Club Administrator and Webmaster, Gina Womack ([gwomack@viennawoods.org](http://us-mg6.mail.yahoo.com/compose?to=gwomack@viennawoods.org)). | |