

# Chesterbrook Woods Citizens Association

**Minutes from the Fall Meeting  
October 2, 2018, 7pm-8:45pm**

CWCA President Larry Allen called the meeting to order and made introductions. Approximately 50 residents were in attendance.

## Review of Recent Community Events

- a) **Road Repaving** - Working in concert with VDOT, Delegate Rip Sullivan, and Supervisor Foust's office, the road repaving of Chesterbrook Woods was successfully accomplished in summer 2018. Any outstanding issues should be sent to Supervisor Foust's office as they will be the liaison to VDOT's office.
- b) **Community Break-in/Security Discussion** – update was provided by Bob Blakely. The recent break in on Forest Lane was discussed where an intruder entered a home, was confronted by the homeowner and then fled through the same door. The Board contacted the Chief of Fairfax County Police concerning this incident and received a response stating that they were aware of the event and that the message had been forwarded to the Commanders and Detectives at the McLean District Station.

A second incident was discussed that occurred in early July, on a different section of Forest Lane, where two men in a white van arrived at a home claiming to be with Washington Gas. They said they were there to service the gas line and move the gas meter (which was inside the garage). They claimed the meter needed to be moved due to Fairfax county ordinance. The two men offered no identification. They proceeded to incorrectly mark the lawn, then said a crew would be back in a couple of weeks and need access to the house. After the men left, the homeowners called Washington Gas, who said there had been no service call scheduled for their home. The Washington Gas representative recommended reporting the incident to Fairfax County police, which has been done.

There is no reason to suspect that these two incidents are related. Please be vigilant with unexpected visitors claiming to be a service worker. As a reminder, legitimate Washington Gas crews will have photo identification. If you feel the need to validate their identities further, have them wait outside while you call Washington Gas.

- c) **Traffic Calming** – Chesterbrook Road from Kirby to the Arlington Co. line has been studied and it qualifies for calming measures. A community task force has been set up and is being chaired by Susan Garrahan. The task force will work with FDOT and meetings are expected to take place at the Dranesville supervisor's office to explore options. If you are interested in participating in this group, please reach out to Susan at [susan.garrahan@gmail.com](mailto:susan.garrahan@gmail.com)
- d) **Dominion Energy Tap Line Burial** – Dominion Energy held an outreach meeting on September 26 with residents who are in the boundaries of their proposed Strategic Underground Program. The project includes a data driven process focused on undergrounding the most outage-prone tap lines to reduce work repair locations. Streets include parts of Chesterbrook Rd, Woodman Dr, Copley Ln, Mosswood Ln, Dahlia Ct, Oakdale Rd, Crestwood Ln, Woodley Ln, and Forest Ln. This is a state-wide reliability initiative aimed at

reducing the duration of storm restoration. Dominion Energy is working with residents to grant easements on their property to bury the lines. Subcontractors supporting this project will have a Dominion Energy badge for identification, although they may have a different logo on their van. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Tony Robinson, Marketing & Communications Coordinator at 571-329-7663, [anthony.d.robinson@dominionenergy.com](mailto:anthony.d.robinson@dominionenergy.com)

- e) **Stands in the Hood** – The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Stands in the Hood was held on Labor Day. Anna Fernau and her daughter shared their experience growing and selling lavender products and how this provided a great experience to develop planning, financial, and marketing skills. Great thanks goes out to Neil and Betty Ende for their organization of this event. Discussion ensued around possibly changing the date or time next year to accommodate summer travel. Any other suggestions for improvements for next year, please email [eende1@gmail.com](mailto:eende1@gmail.com)

## Treasurer's Report

- Jennifer Versaw gave the Treasurer's report. She reported that the CWCA collected dues from 364 homes which represents a paying rate of 67%
- Dues notice and signs will go out soon
- Contribution per household is just above requested dues. Neighbors have been more consistent this year when paying by PayPal.
- Expenses for snow removal were much lower than budgeted
- There will likely be Pineapple Patrol expenses and a few miscellaneous expenses still coming in FY2018. Please turn in your receipts for reimbursement if any are outstanding.
- Reserve remained flat from prior year. Propose maintaining dues of \$15 to maintain reasonable reserve for snow and ice.
- A motion was made to approve the budget and the \$15 dues amount. It passed unanimously.

### **HOW TO PAY YOUR DUES (by December 1):**

- 1. By Check**—Send a \$15 check made payable to “CWCA” to:

CWCA Treasurer Jennifer Versaw  
6004 Copely Lane  
McLean, VA 22101

Be sure your check includes your address, so we can properly credit your household.

- 2. Online** – Log into [PayPal](#) and choose the “Send” option. Select the ‘Friends and Family’ transfer method rather than the commercial transfer to avoid having PayPal charge the CWCA a fee. Please designate [chesterbrookwoods@gmail.com](mailto:chesterbrookwoods@gmail.com) as the email address. Include your name & address so we can properly credit your household.

## Report from Supervisor Foust's Office

Supervisor Foust was unable to attend the meeting, but he was represented by Ms. Jane Edmonson, Chief of Staff.

- a) **McLean Community Center** – is moving in to its new home in early 2019. They held a budget meeting and decided that the localized tax rate used to support the Center will remain the same.
- b) **Downtown McLean** – Street scape project will include new street lights and pedestrian signs. Construction has begun on the “Listrani Peninsula” to move a historic marker and improve this parcel with brick hardscaping and a sitting area.

- c) **Downtown McLean Revitalization** – a task force has been mobilized that will spend the next 6-9 months to put together a comp plan.
- d) **Digges project:** This is a 28-house development project on which the plan was approved on Sept 12. Concerns were voiced over the potential effect of storm water, changes to the tree canopy, and the lack of planned sidewalks. Neighbors with concerns were advised to communicate directly with the County and/or Supervisor’s office.
- e) **Storm Water:** Plans for a construction project at the intersection of N. Albemarle St and Chesterbrook Rd have been approved. A 54-inch pipe will be installed to control the flooding in that area. There will be a meeting on this topic on October 9, 7pm, Chesterbrook Elementary with the VDOT representatives and the storm water folks.
- f) **Planning Commission Hearing on Trees** – A county task force on the Study Overview & Existing Conditions Summary will be held October 18; another task force will meet December 4th on land use issues. Residents interested in the County Planning Commission actions on trees should view the following link: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/plan-amendments/merrifield-subctr-study>

## Committee Reports

### **Snow Removal:**

- Ed McGrady reported for the committee, which can be reached at: [CWCASnow@gmail.com](mailto:CWCASnow@gmail.com) or on its Twitter account at <https://twitter.com/cwcasnow>
- Weather equipment has been installed in Chesterbrook Woods for more accurate weather readings on Wunderground. Here’s the link: <https://www.wunderground.com/personal-weather-station/dashboard?ID=KVAMCLEA53#history>
- If there is a problem with the snow plow service, residents should report it on the gmail amount.
- The committee will push to have sand only (no salt). This is for environmental and pet reasons.
- There is no rate increase this year with the plow service.
- The rule of thumb for when to call the plow service is to wait until the snow has accumulated 3”. Since there hasn’t been that many incidents the past few years and the budget is solid for snow, the committee has erred on the side of caution and have been calling the plow at below 3”.
- Please try to move your vehicles off the streets to make room for the plows, and to protect your car

### **Environmental Committee:**

- Neil Ende reported for the committee and can be contact at: [cwcaenvironment@yahoogroups.com](mailto:cwcaenvironment@yahoogroups.com)
- Tree Preservation Target – Getting plans this week from John Foust to work with the county to be more respectful of trees during home construction
- Possible actions the community can take:
  - Legal action for the county to enforce the rules
  - Create a limited HOA to give authority to work with the builders
  - Hire a land use attorney to give us advice
  - Replant trees after grading is done – work with McLean Tree Foundation
- Set up a Task Force or a separate organization from CWCA to have a “Tree Covenant”
- Neighbors who would like to discuss these options further are encouraged to contact Neil Ende directly.

## **Pineapple Patrol:**

- Allison Lurton reported for CWCA's hospitality committee; there were 6 new families welcomed this year
- We are seeking volunteers to refresh baskets and pick up supplies. Both chairs, Allison and Catherine travel during the work week, and this would help stay on top of the deliveries. If interested, please contact them at: [catherine@theblakelys.com](mailto:catherine@theblakelys.com) and [allison.lurton@gmail.com](mailto:allison.lurton@gmail.com)
- Block captains and neighbors—please continue to advise the Pineapple Patrol when new neighbors move in. Often there is a remodel that occurs prior to the family moving in, and it is helpful to know when the residents are actually living there.
- Also, please contact the CWCA Secretary, Ellen Garrett, with the new neighbor's names and emails for the CWCA Directory: [ellen104@gmail.com](mailto:ellen104@gmail.com)

## **Announcements:**

**1) CWCA Directory update** – The annual fall directory update is underway. We are targeting mid to late Nov to distribute the new hard copy of the directory. You can update your listing the following ways:

1. Contact your Block Captain [the block captains are listed in the front of the directory]
2. Login to [www.atozdirectories.com](http://www.atozdirectories.com) to view your listing and make changes yourself
3. Contact the CWCA Secretary at: [ellen104@gmail.com](mailto:ellen104@gmail.com) or 703-403-5145

Additionally....

- **ADVERTISE IN THE DIRECTORY:** There is still time to advertise your business in the 2018-2019 directory. Please contact Monica Christensen at 703-470-0657 [monica@atozconnect.com](mailto:monica@atozconnect.com)
- **YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS LIST UPDATE:** If you have a teen or tween that is interested in being listed as a young entrepreneur for services to the neighborhood, please contact Ellen Garrett to verify your listing ([ellen104@gmail.com](mailto:ellen104@gmail.com)). The categories have expanded this year to include:  
Babysitting, Mother's Helper, Pet Sitting, Dog Walking, House Sitting, Snow Shoveling, Leaves/Yard, Phone Help, Computer Help, Tutoring, Sports Lessons, Music Lessons
- **COVER ART CONTEST:** a contest is underway to search for the illustration that will don the cover of next year's directory. Please have your child or grandchild show off their artistic talent and send in a drawing of their **favorite tree, trees, or house with trees!** Submission date: **October 15.**  
HERE ARE THE RULES:
  - 1) The drawing must be original art showing a tree, trees, or a house with trees drawn with a number 2 pencil using dark lines
  - 2) Crayon, marker, craypas/pastel drawings cannot be used
  - 3) The drawing must be submitted on a standard 8 1/2 by 11 sheet of white paper
  - 4) Paper orientation should be "Portrait", not "Landscape"
  - 5) Artists may submit more than one entry
  - 6) Do not fold the paper
  - 7) Include your name on a separate piece of paper, not on the drawing
  - 8) Only the children or grandchildren of CWCA residents may submit drawings, 18 years and below.
  - 9) Submit original paper drawings to Ellen Garrett, 1512 Laburnum St by Monday, Oct 15, or scan the drawing and send it in pdf format to [ellen104@gmail.com](mailto:ellen104@gmail.com)
  - 10) Drawings will not be returned. Questions? Please email [ellen104@gmail.com](mailto:ellen104@gmail.com)
- **DOWNLOAD the DIRECTORY APP:** On the go?? Don't wait for the hard copy of the directory – you can download the app by searching for “HOA Directory” in the App Store or Google Play. Link for more directions: <https://atozdirectories-hoa-admins.helpscoutdocs.com/article/87-downloading-the-app>

2) **OKTOBERFEST!** Planning is underway - this unique community event will be held:

**DATE:** Sunday, October 21, from 1-4 pm

**LOCATION:** Hardwood Lane cul-de-sac

**RAIN DATE:** Sunday, October 28

- Volunteers needed; please sign up at:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054faaaf2bab9-2015>
- Please consider contributing a dish or supplies:
  - A-D:** kid-friendly drinks (bottled water, juice boxes, soda)
  - E-P:** a side dish with serving utensil
  - Q-Z:** dessertDrop off drinks by 11 am the morning of the event  
Drop off food between 12 and 1:00 pm so that it is ready when the event begins
- Organizers: Lara Covington, Melissa Burnison, Katie Crowe
- For questions please contact Lara Covington, [laracoving10@gmail.com](mailto:laracoving10@gmail.com), 703-536-5380

### 3) Recent Articles about Chesterbrook Woods:

WASHINGTON POST, Real Estate: Chesterbrook Woods is rolling hills, strolling people, and now, sidewalks:  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/realestate/chesterbrook-woods-rolling-hills-strolling-people-and-now-sidewalks/2018/09/06/716da0c8-ac6c-11e8-a8d7-0f63ab8b1370\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.f09c53302c70](https://www.washingtonpost.com/realestate/chesterbrook-woods-rolling-hills-strolling-people-and-now-sidewalks/2018/09/06/716da0c8-ac6c-11e8-a8d7-0f63ab8b1370_story.html?utm_term=.f09c53302c70)

MCLEAN CONNECTION, see Page 10, article "Icy Treats Beat the Heat"  
<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/2018/091918/McLean.pdf>

## Open Forum:

**1. Airplane noise** – A question was raised whether the airplane noise was more bothersome in recent times and whether the community could organize against the FAA.

- Due to the implementation of a new radar system, planes are able to fly lower and they are also taking a short cut to Reagan National
- Larry Allen, President, relayed that the nearby Palisades community raised a lot of money, hired a lawyer, and went to court over the same issue and lost. The main reason was timeliness, an issue that would also likely impact legal action any other homeowner group might consider initiating.
- An app was identified called **airnoise.io** as a fast, easy way to file airport noise complaints to the FAA
  - <https://airnoise.io/>. The CWCA does not endorse the use of this app but is merely making its existence known to the neighborhood.

**2. Better Audio at next CWCA meeting** - A request was made that the speakers use a microphone, so the audience can hear better. This request will be obliged.

**3. Adhering to Stop Signs announcement** – A request was made that an announcement be made to remind residents to adhere to posted traffic signs. Particularly stop signs at:

- Woodacre & Laburnum St.
- Crestwood & Oakdale Dr.

Upon a motion being made, seconded, and adopted, the CWCA agreed to send an e-mail communication to all neighbors reminding them to obey the posted speed limits. Letters will also be sent to the area's group homes.

**4. Large Trash Pickup Question** – A question was raised concerning what to do about large items of trash that have not been disposed of properly.

**Answer:** Fairfax County is very responsive to these requests. Go online to fill out a form on the Fairfax County website under 'Sanitation' > Special Pick up

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/county-collection-customers/special-pick-up>

**5. Neighborhood Signage** - It was suggested at the end of the meeting that we investigate the creation of neighborhood signs that clearly designate this as "Chesterbrook Woods". This would require a design and placement of signs. The CWCA will look into what may be required to accomplish this with the relevant county officials.

**6. Website Update** - It was pointed out that the website is old. The Board is that considering taking the website down and find someone to create a new site for the community. Further, recommendations include that whoever creates it (company) should manage it for us.

Meeting Adjourned 8:40 PM.