

Westwood Civic Association Fall Newsletter

Spring 2021

NEW NEIGHBORS!

Have you moved to Westwood since the Fall of 2019? Welcome to the neighborhood! You do have a Civic Association here in Westwood, although we have not been active with in person events since COVID began. Traditionally, we'd meet quarterly at the Westwood Club to discuss issues in and adjacent to our neighborhood. We have events such as our Annual Picnic in June, National Night Out in August, Trunk or Treat/Fall Festival in October and a Spring County Clean-Up and Yard Sale in April.

We welcome you to sign up for neighborhood Event and Neighborhood Watch emails at www.westwoodrva.com by clicking the "Sign Up for Neighborhood Email" link and joining our Facebook page "Westwood Civic Association RVA". The Facebook page is a private group and only available to residents of Westwood. These will be the fastest methods for you to receive information about Westwood.

DID YOU KNOW?

About 12% of our residents are also Westwood Club members. About 16% of residents rent their homes. One of our residents has owned a home here since the 1960's; twenty residents have been here since the 70's & 80's. 20% of Westwood homeowner's have moved here since 2017.

ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC – WESTWOOD PARK (Keystone & Morningside), SATURDAY, JUNE 5th, 4PM-6PM

The WCA did not hold the 2020 Annual Meeting due to COVID. With relaxing state guidelines, we are planning on holding the outdoor meeting in 2021. See above for date and location. If interested in attending, please RSVP to wca23226@gmail.com with your name and address. The Westwood Club historically has provided a buffet dinner to the neighborhood. New this year, Westwood will be providing boxed meals for additional food safety. Please let us know if you would like a meal for you and your family and if there are any food allergies. This is a family friendly event for residents of Westwood. **Henrico County will be providing a tent and porta potty for this event.** The Westwood neighborhood boundaries can be found on the map, located on the homepage of our website: www.westwoodrva.com

ELECTIONS – CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Due to COVID, your current Officers and Board have served the WCA for two years or more. It's time for a new panel! If you would like to volunteer service to the WCA or nominate someone in the neighborhood, please send your submissions to the WCA by emailing wca23226@gmail.com by May 31st. If you have questions about the role, please email us. If you are interested in serving the Neighborhood Watch committee, please let us know. Currently Emily L. and Maria, listed below, have volunteered for this service the past two years. These positions are open for the June 2021-May 2022. Voting of the new slate will take place at the Annual Meeting on June 5th.

Current Officers:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Name</u>
President	Emily Dunstan
Vice President	Rich Terrell
Secretary	Emily LeVasseur
Treasurer	Jack Heisler
Immediate Past President	Maria Holperin Terrell

Current Board:

<u>Board of Directors</u>	<u>Name</u>
Board Member	Jensy Ancarrow
Board Member	Dale Davis
Board Member	Sam Gage

Board Member	Jolynn Johnson-Smith
Board Member	David Knight
Board Member	Andrew LeVasseur
Board Member	Chip Loving
Board Member	Siyano Prach
Board Member	Carrie Suders
Board Member	Rick Sayed
Board Member	Maria Holperin Terrell

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

We are fortunate to have low crime in this area. However, two vehicles were stolen in 2020 along with a significant set of tools from a home under construction – two events on S. Crestwood and one event on Lee. The vehicles were recovered, the tools were not. We continue to have periodic events where car or sheds are rummaged through. Please continue to be vigilant about locking your homes, cars and sheds. PLEASE REPORT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS, EVEN IF PROPERTY ISN'T STOLEN. Our neighborhood is policed to the extent Henrico Police is aware of what's happening in our area. We will not be policed appropriately if incidents aren't reported. Thank you for what you do to keep our neighborhood safe! Your safety contacts are:

- Emergency: Dial 911
- Westwood Community Officer, Scott Phillips: phi24@henrico.us 804-928-0311
- Henrico County Non-Emergency Number & Animal Control: 804-501-5000
- Westwood Neighborhood Watch Co-Chairs: Emily LeVasseur, 206-849-6102 AND Maria Holperin Terrell, 804-837-9268 OR email wca23226@gmail.com

OPERATION NIGHT LIGHT

Thank you to those participating in Operation Night Light! This initiative encourages Westwood residents to keep exterior lights and lamp posts on from dusk to dawn. Westwood's former Community Officer, Richard Mallory says, "Lighting is a major deterrent to crime in the hours of darkness." We hope you'll consider participating in this initiative, if not already! Thank you for your part in helping to keep our neighborhood safe. ☺

STREET LIGHTS

After speaking Henrico County Public Works, we've learned that additional street lights will not be added to our neighborhood at the County cost. As a community, we can submit application for a Sanitary District and have lights installed by the County at *our cost (property owners) – in the form of increased property taxes*. The Association has chosen not to pursue that route, and has chosen to participate instead, in Operation Night Light. If you have interest in pursuing application for Sanitary District, please let us know OR feel free to reach out to Henrico County Public Works.

RULES OF THE ROAD: WALK LEFT, BIKE RIGHT

Westwood streets were active before the pandemic and even more so this past year. More bikes, walkers and runners, children in strollers and dogs are out and about. We encourage everyone to follow the rules of the road for safety.

Bikers bike on the right side of the road and walkers walk on the left side of the road. This will help maintain social distancing for everyone out exercising and keep dogs and bikes away from walkers and runners! This also keeps you safe as vehicles pass by.



CONTACT INFORMATION

We are continuing to update the Westwood neighborhood directory. Please reach out to Emily Dunstan, current Westwood Civic Association President, to provide your name, address, current best contact phone number and email address. Emily can be reached on her cell, 804-937-7928, or you may email the Westwood Civic Association email address, wca23226@gmail.com. This contact information is for Westwood related communications only and not sold or distributed to any other entity or person. It is held by the office of the President and not shared with other Westwood members unless an emergency (missing animal, packages, etc.) Implementing this updated directory is a direct result of the 2018 Neighborhood Livability Survey results.

WESTWOOD PARK

We have seen tremendous activity in Westwood Park in 2020. The renovated playground, pathways, reading library, and new soccer goal are being put to good use. We hope these improvements have been enjoyable for your family! As a reminder, the Westwood Park rules are as follows: Park Open from Dawn to Dusk, No Trespassing After Hours, No Alcoholic Beverages Allowed, Pets Must Be Leashed. Our resource for Westwood Park is Vince Henderson, Henrico County Park Services Division Manager, recandparks@henrico.us OR 804-501-7275. <https://henrico.us/rec/>

The park is open to anyone and is a public Henrico County park – not limited to Westwood residents. The WCA and the County have heard complaints regarding: children using the woods as toilet facilities, parents and teens using their headlights to illuminate the park after dusk, dogs being off leash in the park, and persons with suspicious behavior in the park after dark. The Association encourages anyone using the park to obey the County's Park rules and CDC's recommended COVID safety guidelines. We also encourage you to report any suspicious activity to Neighborhood Watch and/or our Community Officer and/or Henrico Non-Emergency and/or 911; whichever is appropriate depending on the situation observed.

PETS

We have a great population of animals here in Westwood and an active walking, running and biking community of residents with their kids, strollers and dogs! While Henrico County does not require a dog to be on a leash, it does require animals to be under the custodian's control at all times. However, it is prohibited for any dog to run "at large", defined as roaming, running or self-hunting off the property of its owner or custodian and not under its owner's or custodian's immediate control. <https://henrico.us/residents/pets-and-animals/>



FACEBOOK

*New in 2019! The WCA has a Facebook page, Westwood Civic Association RVA. Find us there and request to join the group. This is a closed group and only available to residents of Westwood. The Facebook Page will have event information, community news, and may be utilized for coordinating children or puppy play dates, group walks through the neighborhood, babysitting/housesitting needs, etc. Thank you to the committee members, Emily LeVasseur, Emily Dunstan, Carrie Suders, Linda Newsom-McCurdy and Nancy Broaddus for their time and assistance in developing the page! If you are not a Facebook participant, the website will continue to be updated (www.westwoodrva.com) and WCA emails will continue to go out with information affecting Westwood residents. If not already on our communications list, sign up here: <https://westwoodrva.com/>

WESTWOOD CLUB

Construction of the new pool and outdoor area is complete! Thank you to everyone surrounding the Club for your patience and flexibility with construction noise. While events at the Club have decreased during COVID, the outdoor areas are open. The Club is following guidance from the Governor. The Club is generally open until 9:30pm or 10pm nightly, depending on attendance. You may begin to see tennis court lights or the twinkle lights at the bar on going forward. Stay tuned to WCA emails or our FB page. We will update you if there are events at the Club that may have parking overflow or sound affecting nearby residents.

6200 BLOCK OF WEST CLUB LANE

No parking is permitted on either side of the street. For residents on this block, please encourage guests and contractors visiting your home to utilize your driveway for parking instead of the road. The hill on this block creates a visibility issue for travelling vehicles in either direction. Street parked vehicles on this block adds to those visibility impediment issues. Henrico County Police have received some complaints of vehicles parked on the street and they will be patrolling and ticketing periodically.

TRAFFIC CALMING

Speeding on West Club Lane continues to be a safety concern of many residents. Henrico County will be conducting another traffic calming survey this summer. Specifically, the intersection of Fitzhugh and West Club, where drivers are not stopping at the stop signs and travelling at high speeds down the hills to and from the Club. You may see some equipment out on the streets. This is for the county to do their analysis on traffic patterns and if additional stop signs or speed bumps will be provided to us at no cost to our residents.

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS 2020

Congratulations to the nominees of the holiday decoration contest!

Most Colorful: 1801 Norris, 5901 Keystone, 5803 West Club Lane

Most Classic: 5911 Old Richmond Ave, 5801 West Club Lane, 6009 S. Crestwood Ave, 6101 West Club Lane

Most Creative: 5913 Old Richmond, 5814 Morningside, 5901 Keystone, 6015 Morningside

ASSOCIATION DUES

Dues were suspended in 2020 due to COVID and the Association not hosting any events for our residents. We are fortunate to have 17 households that have paid their Association dues for each of the three preceding years, 2017, 2018 and 2019. WOW! Thank you for your continuous support of the Westwood community. 😊 **If you haven't already paid your 2021 household annual dues (\$15.00), please do so.** Checks are made payable to Westwood Civic Association and mailed to current WCA Treasurer, Jack Heisler, at 6003 West Club Lane. Please include your address on the check or in a note to Jack if you are sending cash. Please contact Jack via phone if paying by debit or credit card, 804-314-9237. To pay via Venmo, please email wca23226@gmail.com for more information. Your dues go to a variety of activities in our neighborhood to include but not limited to: yard sale advertising, food/drink/ice/supplies/entertainment/ice cream for our events in the park (Annual Picnic, National Night Out, Fall Festival) postage for our fall and spring newsletters, event signage, refreshments at board meetings and administrative supplies needed from time to time, like envelopes. We can do more for the neighborhood with a greater participation in dues!



FUTURE SAVE THE DATES

Stay tuned to email alerts and our Facebook page for upcoming events. Community events and quarterly meetings will continue, as available with COVID restrictions continue to ease.

2019 SURVEY RESULTS

In late 2019, the Association sent out a Survey in our Fall Newsletter to gain a better understanding of what was important to our neighbors. Here are some general themes from the 20 residents (out of 300+) who responded:

- Like Best About Westwood: proximity, friendly neighbors, most properties are well maintained
- Dislikes About Westwood: no sidewalks or street lights, trash cans left out, leaves not blown, speedy drivers, club noise
- Preferred Communication Style: email
- *Desired Activities: Neighborhood activities, adult socials, block parties, kid's events, mom's groups, progressive holiday happy hour, book club *all put on hold due to COVID; stay tuned for our Facebook Page and WCA emails for when our events return!

WESTWOOD REFERENCE GUIDE & "CLASSIFIEDS"

Please visit our website for all of your county and neighborhood contact information! www.westwoodrva.com

OUR NEWSLETTER GOING FORWARD

To save on time for our volunteers and expense for our Association, we'd like to move our messaging to digital format. If you are unable to access our website or Facebook page and are unable to receive WCA emails, please call Emily at 804-937-7928 to let us know. We will make sure you continue to receive a USPS newsletter mailings going forward.

County Updates May 2021

From Dan Schmitt, Henrico County Board of Supervisors, Chairman, Brookland District

Email: Brookland@henrico.us OR 804-501-4208

Public Works

Design is underway to widen the pavement on Bremono Road to improve pedestrian accessibility and connectivity. The following improvements are planned to be constructed in March 2023, dependent on funding, including:

- Approximately 2300 feet of 2-foot wide pavement widening on the eastern side of Bremono Road between Old Richmond Rd and Morningside Drive.
- Approximately 200 feet of 5-foot wide concrete sidewalk with ADA ramps on both sides of Bremono Road between Morningside Drive and Monument Avenue.
- Restriping of Bremono Road between Old Richmond Road and Morningside Drive.

New funding to focus on drainage and flooding:

- The county has more than 1,000 homes in floodplains and another 7,000 experiencing problems with drainage.
- The adopted 2021-22 county budget includes \$1.5 million to help address these issues.
- A quick Henrico TV Video interviewing Deputy County Manager Steve Yob provides an introduction to the drainage items included in the budget: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3pb5ZE7lybg>
- Use this online map to identify if your house is in a flood zone: <https://henrico.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTools/index.html?appid=bea8c690ce1b426a820e67026f9b4a76>

Recreation & Parks

- The grand re-opening of Belmont Golf Course will take place in late May. Henrico County entered into a lease agreement with the First Tee of Greater Richmond to improve and operate Belmont in early 2020, and, since that time, First Tee has invested over \$5 million in donated funds to bring this somewhat tired but proud course back to a new life for golfers of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. The renovated course is simply stunning, and we are thrilled that First Tee will expand its mission to serve the community through golf here in Henrico. Plans are underway for re-opening celebrations the week of May 24th, and more information can be found at www.playgolfrva.org/belmont/.
- The new Henrico indoor sports and convocation center planned for Virginia Center Commons is under a development agreement executed with the Rebkee Company. Henrico County purchased 25 acres of the former mall and is proceeding with plans for a new 150,000-plus square foot indoor sports facility to serve both the Henrico community and the booming sports tourism market. The new facility will support both court sports like basketball and volleyball as well as seated events in the 5,000 attendee range like high school graduations or concerts. The building is on-schedule to open in late 2022, and, much like Belmont, will ultimately be leased to an outside operator so Henrico residents can enjoy the benefits of use and access without being burdened by the direct cost of ongoing facility operation.

Henrico County Public Schools

- HCPS is planning for a full return to in-person learning, five days a week, with full-length school days in 2021-22 ([the school year begins Wednesday, Sept. 8](#)).
- There will be a new option known as “Henrico Virtual Academy” for students/families who still desire completely virtual learning in 2021-22. More details will be announced soon.
- HCPS will continue to follow the latest health and safety guidance, to include mask-wearing, distancing and other common risk-mitigation strategies.
- More than 6,000 HCPS employees have been vaccinated against COVID-19, and students ages 16+ are now eligible for the Pfizer vaccine.
- More details here: <https://henricoschools.us/backtoschool/>
- Check out the latest on construction at Tucker HS, Highland Springs HS, and Holladay ES: <https://henricoschools.us/building-for-the-future/>

Westwood Neighborhood Contact Reference Guide July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Emergencies: Dial 911

Henrico County Community Police Officer for Westwood:
Officer Scott Phillips, 804-928-0311 OR phi24@henrico.us

Henrico County Non-Emergency & Animal Control: 804-501-5000 OR 804-727-8800

Henrico County Fire Station # 10 (Serving Westwood): 804-501-4900; firedept@henrico.us
Current Fire Captain of Station # 10: Barney Bolter (6313 Horsepen Rd. Richmond, VA, 23226)
Fire Chief: Alec Oughton

Henrico County, Brookland District Supervisor: Dan Schmitt, 804-501-4208 OR brookland@henrico.us
<https://henrico.us/supervisors/brookland-district/>
<https://www.brooklandsupervisor.com/>

Henrico County Department of Public Works
General: 804-501-4393 OR dpw@henrico.us
Steve Yob: 804-501-4390 OR yob@henrico.us (Roads/Environmental/Drainage)
Lawrence McNeil: 804-380-1616 OR mcn014@henrico.us (Revitalization/Zoning/Property Care)

Henrico County Rec & Parks (Westwood Park, corner of Morningside/Keystone)
General: 804-501-7275 OR recandparks@henrico.us
Vince Henderson: 804-349-2425 OR hen14@henrico.us

Henrico County Bagged Leaf Collection: Public Utilities, 804-501-4275 OR utilities@henrico.us
Westwood is Area "C" on the schedule, which will be available mid-September. Reference this website:
<https://henrico.us/services/bagged-leaf-collection/>

Dominion Electric Power Outage Help Number: 866-366-4357

Poison Control: 800-222-1222

Closest Emergency Room: St. Mary's Hospital, 5801 Bremo Rd. Richmond, VA, 23226, 804-285-2011

Closest Veterinary Hospital: Dogwood Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center, 5918 W. Broad St. Richmond, VA, 23230, 804-716-4700 OR info.richmond@bluepearlvet.com

Henrico County Public Schools (See link for redistricting information: <https://henricoschools.us/redistricting2021/>)
Crestview Elementary: 1901 Charles St, Henrico, VA, 23223, 804-673-3775 <https://crestview.henricoschools.us/>
Tuckahoe Middle: 9000 Three Chopt Rd, Henrico, VA, 23229, 804-673-3720 <https://tuckahoems.henricoschools.us/>
Freeman High School: 8701 Three Chopt Rd, Henrico, VA, 23229, 804-673-3700 <https://freeman.henricoschools.us/>

Henrico County Trash Pick-Up Day: Tuesday mornings (see Henrico County schedules for details)

Henrico County Recycling Pick-Up Day: Every other Thursday morning (see Henrico County schedules for details)

Potholes: Report to Public Works, 804-727-8300 or visit <http://henrico.us/services/report-a-pothole/>

Polling Location for Local, State, & Federal Elections: Weinstein JCC, 5403 Monument Avenue