

Willow Oaks Recreation Association
236 ½ Beauregard Heights
Hampton, VA 23669

Willow Oaks Recreation Association

• *a covenant community* •

2012 First Quarter Newsletter

www.willowoaks.org

• *2012* • Membership Drive Coming Soon!

The 2012 Willow Oaks Recreation Association (WORA) membership forms will be sent out in just a few weeks. When you pay your basic annual membership dues you can vote on important neighborhood issues at the annual membership meeting and attend fun social events. You also help to maintain and beautify our neighborhood. Please support your community and become a WORA member.



Willow Oaks

Willow Oaks Recreational Association • www.willowoaks.org

Message from the President

Happy New Year! My name is Rebecca Francese and I am very honored and excited to serve as President of WORA this year. I have lived on Hatteras Landing for the past ten years and was fortunate enough to purchase the house I grew up in during the 70's and 80's. When my husband, Joe, and I decided to move back to Hampton—there wasn't a question as to where to start our search for a home. We wanted a diverse community with attractive and affordable houses, good schools, convenient amenities and a neighborhood pool. Willow Oaks was the one and only choice for us. Since moving back, I have enjoyed reacquainting myself with old neighbors, as well as meeting new friends.

Willow Oaks is essentially the same neighborhood that I remembered so fondly from my younger days and it has maintained that status for the past forty years. I believe this is due to the dedicated individuals that have served on previous WORA Boards, those that have volunteered to help maintain our covenant neighborhood and the residents that have supported Willow Oaks by paying their annual membership dues. My goal for the upcoming year is to provide better communication from the WORA Board to our neighbors and to actively encourage community involvement. In the next few months you will begin to see a new look to our quarterly newsletter, updates to the website, and improvements to our informational signs at the entrance to Willow Oaks.

As we start this new year, I encourage you to “get involved” in Willow Oaks. There are numerous ways to support our neighborhood—help collect cans during the annual food drive, participate in community work days, deliver quarterly newsletters, provide baked goods for social events, attend the annual Memorial Day Commemoration service, join the pool, and pay your annual membership dues. Look for information on all these activities in the newsletters and on our website at www.willowoaks.org. If you have comments or suggestions on how to improve our neighborhood, please feel free to call me at 537-5401 or e-mail me at francese3713@cox.net. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you throughout Willow Oaks!

- Rebecca Francese, President

Board Member Reports

Vice President

I'm happy this year to continue my involvement with the WORA board as the Vice President. As we begin our new year, I encourage each of our WORA residents to pay their annual WORA dues. This money is used to pay our Hampton property taxes, insurance, utilities, upkeep of our common grounds, and much more.

We will also continue to need your volunteer help and support with our WORA activities in 2012 as you have in the past. Thank you.

- Rebecca Terrill, Vice President

Secretary

Hello! My name is Richenda Sandlin-Tymitz, and I'm looking forward to participating on the WORA board as the new Secretary. One of the biggest responsibilities of the position is this quarterly newsletter. We are planning to make some big changes for April's edition, but before we start, I'd like to know what the *residents* of Willow Oaks would like to see in their newsletter. Upcoming volunteer opportunities? Neighborhood history? Photos? Crime reports? Neighbor profiles? Let me know what you would be interested in reading via email to richenda_s@hotmail.com (please also include "WORA Newsletter" in the subject line).

And while you're online, be sure to check out the WORA website: www.willwoaks.org. We will be updating it frequently with events, current information, pool and swim team details, membership forms, downloadable newsletters, and much more. You can sign up for updates and also email questions.

Here's to a great 2012 and our wonderful Willow Oaks neighborhood!

- Richenda Sandlin-Tymitz, Secretary

Treasurer

I moved to Willow Oaks a little over a year ago, but I am not new to the area. I grew up in Hampton and lived in Willow Oaks until I graduated from Kecoughtan High School. I moved to Richmond, Virginia to attend Virginia Commonwealth University, studying illustration and graphic design. Upon graduation, I served as Art Director and Creative Director for several companies in the Richmond area and for the past ten years, I have been self-employed as a graphic designer.

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Board Member Reports

Treasurer continued...

I look forward to working on the WORA Board as Treasurer. It is my hope to raise awareness of the importance of neighborhood, membership, and commitment to the Willow Oaks community. To continue, and expand upon, all the wonderful opportunities we share as members of Willow Oaks, through disclosure of budgets and more opportunities to communicate with each other. If you are interested in the WORA budget process, or would like to provide input to the Board, please feel free to contact me at melissa@melissasavage.com, or call me at 251-2428.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve, and I look forward to getting to know you!

- Melissa J. Savage, Treasurer

Architectural Control Committee

Happy New Year to all residents. My name is Bob Hudgins and I will be chairman of the Architectural Control Committee again this year along with my two able associates Bob Casey and Aaron Sutherland. 2011 was a good year for our committee. We approved nine fences, three sheds, two vinyl sidings, and one above ground pool. For the most part, everyone was very cooperative.

There are a few things I would like to address:

- Trash and recyclable containers—they should be set out no sooner than Wednesday afternoon and removed within 24 hours after pickup. Per Item 14 of our covenant, the containers are to be stored in the back of your home and out of sight.
- Bulk trash—if possible, this type of trash should also be set out for pickup no sooner than Wednesday afternoon. I know this is not always practical with bagged leaves, trimmed tree branches, and brush, but it is very unsightly to see this type of trash lying on the street for up to six days.
- Fences—as I walk through the neighborhood I have noticed several fences in need of repair. This includes leaning post, warped slats, and gates out of alignment.

Maintaining the appearance of Willow Oaks is a cooperative effort. We rely upon each other to help insure the provisions and intent of the covenants are observed. If you have any questions about the covenants, these guidelines or concerns, please call one of the members of the ACC. The value of our community lies in the care and upkeep of our well-established homes. We all need to be conscious of the condition of our homes and property. Please remember that the only drawback to living in an open and tight-knit community like ours is having to share other people's messes.

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Board Member Reports

Architectural Control Committee continued...

We all need to take a look at our fences, gates, landscaping and any accumulated materials around our houses that may need to be attended to. We all need to work diligently together to help maintain the appearance of Willow Oaks. Together we can help each other to keep our community an attractive and desirable place to live while maintaining the value of the investment we have in our houses.

-Bob Hudgins, Architectural Control Committee

Social Committee

It is a new year and Willow Oaks neighborhood starts our year off with the food drive. It is my favorite social event. It will take place on Saturday, February 18, 2012 starting at 9:30 AM. Please place your food by your front door no later than 9 AM. Someone will be by to pick it up and bring it to my house. If you need to drop it off earlier in the week you can bring it to my house at 104 Horseshoe Landing. All of the food that we collect is taken to H.E.L.P. The food is then distributed to needy families in Hampton. Please give whatever you can. We have so many families in need. If everyone in Willow Oaks gives just one can we would have 426 cans of food to help those in need. What a wonderful gift for our neighborhood to give.

Our next event will be the Easter Egg Hunt. Fliers will be given out in March with the details of this event.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year for 2012.

-Jean Manfred, Social Committee

Membership

In the next month, new WORA and pool membership forms will be distributed throughout the neighborhood and posted on the WORA website. Please support the neighborhood by paying your annual membership dues. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the board.

- Lynn Butler, Membership Committee

Grounds

The WORA Board is seeking a neighborhood "green thumb" to volunteer for the Grounds Committee Chair position. If you're interested, please contact Rebecca Francese, WORA President, at 537-5401 or francese3713@cox.net.
Thank you!

Neighborhood Watch

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a blessed holiday. Reported crime in the neighborhood for the past few months was one house burglary. The majority of the crime in our neighborhood appears to be mostly during the daylight hours. Please be very observant (day and night) when in the neighborhood and report any issues to the Hampton Police Department (HPD). Contact me so I can keep track and if you do not want to call HPD, I will be glad to intervene. If you even think it, report it—calls to the HPD could result in increased staffing to our neighborhood. I can be reached at 850-5931 or 472-0672 or email to positive.thinking@verizon.net. If I am not readily available, please leave a voice mail and I will contact you as soon as I can.

Kudos to our current “Block Captains.” Thanks so much for volunteering! Vacant positions for “Block Captains” are on the streets below (I promise that it takes very little time and we can do a better job watching the neighborhood if we have a volunteer from each street):

- Artillery Rd 45-53, 55-63
- Missionary Ridge 213-305
- Falmouth Turning 300-318
- Wilderness Road 133-141 (odd)
- Kempers Charge 1-6
- Cushings Post 1-6
- Hollow Creek Ct 1-6
- Wilderness Road 154-164 (even)
- Beaugard Heights 238-258
- Tenderfoot Court

- Karen Onks, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

This letter was anonymously submitted by a Willow Oaks resident who was burglarized in November:

My house was burglarized in early November. They kicked open the back door into the garage breaking the door jam. They took my laptop computer, camera, everything in the jewelry drawers of the dresser, cash from the chest of drawers, all my sweaters, two backpacks to carry the loot and a digital thermometer.

I learned some things that may be of help to my neighbors. Most likely, my burglars had been casing the neighborhood for a while. I have on occasion noticed someone sitting in a car in front of a house at night. Should someone see that, it would be a good idea to get a license number and report it to your Neighborhood Watch person or to the police so it can be kept on file. Perhaps we should post signs at the entrance to Willow Oaks warning that we have a neighborhood watch program and we report suspicious activity to the police. No one should be embarrassed to report suspicious activity fearing that someone might get upset should the activity be okay. I would hope that everyone would be pleased to know that someone cared enough to report a potential problem. In Willow Oaks, we are neighbors that look out for each other. We are a community.

The police said that jewelry and electronics including flat screen TVs are hot items. With the record price of gold and silver, a piece of jewelry you paid \$30 for years ago may now be worth many hundred. Unfortunately, home safes are not safe. A burglar had no trouble opening my relative’s locked safe a couple weeks ago. Turns out the Internet had instructions on how to open that model in less than 30 seconds. Even a wall safe can be cut out and opened with torches, drills, and saws elsewhere at the burglar’s leisure. A safe deposit box is a smarter way.

The detective assigned to my case hoped I had installed LoJack on my stolen computer. The computer’s location could then be identified whenever it’s on. I think there are some free versions of LoJack. To make it difficult to break in through a door, a deadbolt needs to have screws that reach the stud located behind the door jam. Some people put a pipe through the jam into the stud for the deadbolt to move into. Burglar alarms are a good idea. One officer told me he had never seen a “completed” burglary at a home that had an armed security system.

- Concerned Neighbor

News & Announcements

Pool Report

Last month I attended a round table discussion hosted by the Housing and Neighborhood Services division of the Hampton Community Development Department. The focus of the meeting was to report on our 2011 season and our success or problems with the pool grant given to WORA by the city. I was happy to report that the Willow Oaks pool fulfilled all of the grant requirements with flying colors (so if you know anyone that worked or volunteered at the pool last year, please give them a big thank you). Needless to say, all of the pools expressed gratitude to the NC for their support while at the same time detailing the needs of our communities for additional support.

The answer given us about future support was a qualified 'we hope we can help'. They explained that the city is projecting another tight budget this year and our pool grant not guaranteed. Bottom line: The Hampton pools have been assured that the issue of a pool grant will be discussed by the Neighborhood Commission.

What can you do to help? Keep volunteering your time to WORA, thank any Neighborhood Commissioner that you may know, and keep your fingers crossed!

- Kevin Spence, Pool Resources Committee Chair

Volunteers Wanted!

- Gardening
- Community works days
- Pool opening
- Social activities for kids and adults
- Collecting canned goods for the February 18th Food Drive
- Distributing flyers and newsletters
- And ***much*** more!

An hour, an afternoon, a day—any time you can contribute to our neighborhood is time well spent! Contact any member of the board for more information.

www.willowoaks.org

WORA Board of Directors

President	Rebecca Francese	537-5401	francese3713@cox.net
Vice President	Becky Terrill	851-4097	tjblue6264@widowmaker.com
Secretary	Richenda Sandlin-Tymitz	(505) 359-1887	richenda_s@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Melissa Savage	251-2428	melissa@melissasavage.com
Architectural Control	Bob Hudgins	851-3532	jbfrogger2@gmail.com
Membership	Lynn Butler	848-1599	pbutler18@gmail.com
<i>Grounds</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed!</i>		
Social	Jean Manfred	851-6054	rmanfred@cox.net
Pool Resources	Kevin Spence	342-6849	kevinspence3@aol.com
Neighborhood Watch Coordinator	Karen Onks	850-5931 472-0672	positive.thinking@verizon.net

The WORA Board of Directors meets monthly, usually on the first Tuesday of the month, at 6:30 p.m. in the Willow Oaks Branch Library. WORA members in good standing are welcome to attend any meeting with prior notice to the president.

