



# WILLOW OAKS

Willow Oaks Recreational Association • A Covenant Community

2013 Second Quarter Newsletter

## Message from the President

*Happy Spring Willow Oaks Residents!*

This quarter, I have been struggling with my section of the newsletter. Usually, I am moved to share something anecdotal or at least nostalgic about Willow Oaks, and this past week – I wasn't able to come up with anything. As I walked the beautiful neighborhood this evening, trying to develop a topic, I stopped to meet a new neighbor. We talked a little about Willow Oaks, our convenient location, and the general area. When I left, it occurred to me that I made an active choice to move to this neighborhood. As I have written before, much of that decision was based on the wonderful memories from my youth growing up in Willow Oaks. That was the initial draw; but I am not overly sentimental about “places” or “things” – I am about action and people. I have lived here for eleven years (a record for me!) - because I really love Willow Oaks. So why? In an old Christmas newsletter, I wrote about the great schools, the luxury of having the pool a block away, the convenience of a grocery store, library, and pharmacy less than a mile up the road and of course Chinese and Italian eateries right around the corner! Life is definitely good (and convenient) in Willow Oaks. In reality, however, the reason that we maintain our household in Willow Oaks is more than just about convenience – it's because we have “community” here. In our neighborhood, we have had the opportunity to make new friends, re-establish old relationships and really get involved in the day to day living – we are a part of Willow Oaks. This spring, I encourage

you to go beyond just “dwelling” in Willow Oaks and become an active part of our community. Get involved in neighborhood watch, help us “beautify” our common areas, meet new people at our social functions, support WORA events, check up on your neighbors, and join our association. Don't let the comfortable convenience of living in Willow Oaks supersede the value of community. As you walk, bike or drive throughout our beautiful neighborhood – take a few minutes to reflect on the reasons that you chose to live here – then step out of your comfort zone and join us as an active part of our Willow Oaks community. I look forward to seeing you in the neighborhood!

- Rebecca Francese, WORA President

### ***What's Inside? A lot!***

**Pg. 2 & 3** - Board Member Reports  
(we have a lot to say!)

**Pg. 4** - 2013 Membership Drive  
(your membership makes this community better!)

**Pg. 5** - Neighborhood Watch Updates  
(important info regarding our safety and security)

**Pg. 6** - Pool and Swim Team Details  
(we're splish-splashing into summer!)

**Pg. 7** - Upcoming Events  
(hope to see you there!)

## Board of Directors

### **President**

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francese3713@cox.net

### **Vice President**

Pat Cherry  
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### **Secretary**

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### **Membership**

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### **Grounds**

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### **Social**

Jean Manfred  
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*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.*

## Board Member Reports

### *Vice President*

As I write to you today, spring is upon us, the air is still a bit cool and Mother Nature is covering everything with her thick blanket of pollen. But before we know it, the warm, wonderful days of summer will be here. In preparation for the Summer Pool Season, we will be emptying the pool water, cleaning the pool sides and bottom, performing the necessary pool repairs and adding 220,000 gallons of sparkling clean water for your swimming enjoyment! We will open the pool on May 25<sup>th</sup> and I look forward to seeing each of you over the Memorial Day Weekend.

As reported earlier, we have been working since last fall to repair and upgrade the pool's systems, but we need your help and support to continually maintain and improve the facility. The pool is a valuable asset to our community and is instrumental in helping to maintain our property values. Even if you haven't made the decision to join the pool at this time, please consider making a tax deductible donation to the pool when you send in your 2013 Membership Agreement. As always, I welcome your questions, comments and concerns. Thank you for your help and support!

- Pat Cherry

### *Treasurer*

My name is Lynn Butler and I am in my second year as the Treasurer of Willow Oaks Recreational Association (WORA). I believe Spring has finally arrived in our neighborhood. The cars are yellow and the tumbleweeds are rolling down the streets. I see familiar faces as well as new ones out and about, whether taking walks or working in their yards. We have a lot of work to do in our common areas as well. There is weeding that needs to be done as well as mulch to purchase and spread. That is why it is so *important* that *everyone* pay their basic dues. The dues this year have remained the same amount as the previous two years (\$50). There are 426 homes in the Willow Oaks Community and everyone's support is needed. Last year we had about 60% of our community pay their basic dues. We would like 100% participation this year. Whether you own or rent, you are a **member of this great neighborhood!** Join me in supporting Willow Oaks.

-Lynn Butler

### *Membership Committee*

For the full membership report, please see page 4. *Thank you!*

## Board Member Reports

### *Architectural Control Committee*

Since our last newsletter our committee has approved two fence installations. It is the policy of the ACC to work with the homeowners to achieve a position of mutual satisfaction. It is imperative that the homeowner request and obtain written approval, however, before proceeding with construction. It is the ACC's responsibility to maintain and uphold the integrity of the neighborhood and to protect property values. If you have any doubts about your project, call a committee member. If you plan to do any work that requires approval of the ACC, you may get the necessary request forms by contacting any of the members of the ACC or go to [www.willowoaks.org](http://www.willowoaks.org). We will process the two required forms as quickly as possible.

-Bob Hudgins

### *Grounds Committee*

My name is Liz Morris and I am the new Groundskeeper for WORA. Spring is upon us and it's the time of year property owners and/or renters start grooming their yard. Just a reminder, if your property contains a public sidewalk and has trees, shrubs, bushes, or any obstacles that may hinder people on the sidewalk, please remove the hazard before someone is hurt. The property owner can be liable for any injuries sustained.

The Board is still exploring the possibility of new entrance marquees! If you would like to make a donation towards the marquees, please send it in to Membership. A grounds workshop will be scheduled June 1 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to weed, plant flowers, and mulch the two main entrances on Willow Oaks Blvd. Please call me at 850-7996 to sign up with your name, address, number, and time you can volunteer. *Thank you.*

-Liz Morris

### *Social Committee*

The yard sale will be held the weekend of May 3-5. You will receive a three-day permit so you can sell Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. An ad will run in the newspaper Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. An ad will also be on Craigslist. If you signed up you will receive a copy of the permit. Please keep your permit available in case you need to show it. Good luck to all.

The pool will open over Memorial Day weekend. We will be cooking that weekend. Watch for information on events coming to the pool (teen party, an adult party, late night Fridays). Have a fun summer. *And one quick last thing, a special thank you to Ken for pruning the roses at the pool—you keep them looking beautiful!*

-Jean Manfred

## Calendar of Events

### **Community Yard Sale**

May 4 • 6:30 a.m.

If you'd like to do some yard sale shopping, be sure to visit your neighbors **and** the pool, where the Willow Oaks Swim Team\* will be holding a yard sale/bake sale fundraiser. Proceeds will go to new pool furniture.

### **Pool Work Party**

Saturday, May 11 • Noon-4 p.m.

Willow Oaks Pool, 236½ Beauregard

It's time to get the pool ready for the summer! Please consider volunteering; all skill sets are welcome. With questions call and/or email David Williams, Pool Manager, at 871-3430/brickit09@verizon.net.

### **Pool Opening & Memorial Day Commemoration**

Saturday, May 25 • 10 a.m.

Willow Oaks Pool, 236½ Beauregard

Join us in honoring our military at this moving ceremony. If you or a loved one would like to be named during the ceremony, please contact Rebecca Francese, WORA President. Following the ceremony, enjoy opening day at our beautiful neighborhood pool. Entrance is *free* during opening weekend!

### **Grounds Work Day**

Saturday, June 1 • 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Willow Oaks Entrances

Volunteer to weed, plant, and mulch the main entrances on Willow Oaks Blvd. See the grounds report for details.

\*For Willow Oaks Swim Team events, please see page 6.

## 2013 WORA Membership Drive

# So, what's it going to take?

I want to thank all the loyal Willow Oaks neighbors who pay their dues year-after-year, without fail.

I want to thank those who are new to paying dues this year, for seeing how important that \$1.00 a week is to maintaining our community and quality of life.

I want to encourage those who have thought about paying your dues, but haven't yet. Please pull out your checkbook now, or go online. It only takes a few minutes.

And for those who have never paid your dues, please consider your neighbors. It isn't fair to them, to take advantage of all the benefits Willow Oaks has to offer, without supporting the neighborhood financially.

### How can we reach the 40 percent?

This past Sunday, I was wearing my WORA Membership hat logging in about 60 entries, when I found myself proud and disappointed at the same time. Proud of the support we receive from many of our neighbors, but disappointed that about 40 percent still choose not to pay their fair share.

**There is no magic wand that is waved in the air to make our community so great.** It requires a dedicated Board of Directors, a vast number of volunteers and the financial backing of our neighbors. Think of what we could accomplish if we had the financial support of 100% of the community.

### Focus on what you have to gain.

To keep improving, to keep building on our foundation, we need you. As a Board, we have made great strides towards improvement and we are not resting on our laurels. We are constantly looking for ways to maintain what we have built and are looking for new or better ways to enhance our community.

Yes, your \$50 goes to preserving the appearance of the neighborhood, but it goes to so much more . . .

#### A Strong Neighborhood Watch

- Our Watch hosted a community meeting with the Hampton Police Division to discuss safety and neighborhood concerns.
- Delivered a brochure with Board and Block Captain contacts, as well as general information about WORA.
- Regularly updates neighborhood on criminal activity.

#### A Vast Communication Network

- Our website, [www.willowoaks.org](http://www.willowoaks.org), is updated regularly with community news. **Bookmark it!**

# If We Build It



## they will come.

- **Like Us on Facebook!** This is a great way to get up-to-the-minute information. If you have a Facebook account, like us at [FriendsofWillowOaks](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofWillowOaks).
- **Newsletters, Email Campaigns, Flyers and Posters.** All posted or delivered to your door on a regular basis to keep you in the neighborhood loop.

#### Community Events

- **Annual Food Drive.** Supporting H.E.L.P., we raised \$450 and collected 173 bags of food. Amazing!
- **Easter Egg Hunt.** Over 60 children participated and before they left the park, their baskets were overflowing with candy and their tummies full of cake and juice.
- **Upcoming events.** Community Yard Sale, Memorial Commemoration Ceremony and Pool Opening, to name a few.

## So, what's it going to take?

If you have questions about basic dues or pool membership, please contact Melissa Savage at [melissa@melissasavage.com](mailto:melissa@melissasavage.com) or 251-2428.



Click on the  
MEMBERSHIP  
tab for details!

[www.willowoaks.org](http://www.willowoaks.org)

## Neighborhood Watch Updates



We had a wonderful turnout for the Neighborhood Watch meeting that was requested by the Hampton Police Dept. This was the most attended meeting of any citywide that the HPD had set up to date. Thank you to all for your support and participation with Neighborhood Watch. Please be sure to note the important information that the police department shared with us that is included below.

There is only one incident to report since the last newsletter. An HVAC unit was removed from the residence at 2 Blackwater Lane. It was noticed and reported to the Police Dept. on Friday, April 19. This unit was in full view from Willow Oaks Blvd.

Again, please be aware as we are fast moving from Spring to Summer, this is the time of year we have seen an increase in break-ins and attempted break-ins. Be especially diligent of seldom-used doors such as those in the back of the house or garage. This has been an often-used point of entry.

Please be aware of any suspicious or unusual activity, vehicles or persons in the subdivision while you are out and about. And again, a **big thank you to the Block Captains** for their time and support of Neighborhood Watch.

- Julie Parsons, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

### Important Phone Numbers

#### **Julie Parsons, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator**

Phone: 850-5931 or 472-0672

Email: [positive.thinking@verizon.net](mailto:positive.thinking@verizon.net)

#### **Hampton Police Department**

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency Line: 727-6111\*

Hampton PD Community Relations: 727-6574

#### **Block Captains**

All Block Captains and their contact info is listed at [www.willowoaks.org](http://www.willowoaks.org) under the Neighborhood Watch tab.

#### **\*When Should You Call the Police?**

- Any person/thing that looks suspicious, including unwanted guests or trespassing.
- Stranger peering into parked vehicles and vehicles abandoned for days.
- A person going door-to-door asking for money or food or loitering around schools, parks, secluded areas, especially after hours.
- Unusual noises (gunshots, screaming, a dog barking excessively).

### Additional Services & Resources

*Home Security Survey:* Call the Hampton PD Community Relations Unit to schedule a free home security survey. An HPD representative will come to your home to assess its security and recommend ways to help prevent burglary.

*Property Engraving:* Check out a property engraver for free from the HPD Community Relations Unit (call for details).

*Citizen Observer Updates:* Sign up for text and email updates of crime in our zip code (23669) and Neighborhood Watch group (#027) at [www.citizenobserver.com](http://www.citizenobserver.com).

#### **Important Springtime Reminders**

- Warm weather means kids are playing outside. Please drive through the neighborhood a *little slower* and be extra careful!
- When the gates are closed at Gosnold's Hope Park, the park is closed to cars *and* pedestrians. Be sure to work out or walk your dog *before* the gates close in evening.

# SPLASH! Into Summer Fun

## Join the Willow Oaks Pool

- Large main pool with lap lanes
- Diving board
- Separate toddler pool
- Large deck with barbecue area
- Refreshing concessions
- Great neighborhood functions  
(Teen Pool Party and Hawaiian Luau)



Details and rates for Willow Oaks residents and non-residents can be found at [www.willowoaks.org](http://www.willowoaks.org).

The Stingrays, our recreational competitive swim team, is a great way for our young members to make friends, keep fit and discover team spirit.

Plus, it's fun!



## Benefits of Pool Membership

- Two pools to enjoy all summer long
- Pay online at [www.willowoaks.org](http://www.willowoaks.org)
- Enjoy Willow Oaks sponsored events
- The Willow Oaks Swim Team



Like Us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/FriendsOfWillowOaks](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfWillowOaks)

# WILLOW OAKS

236-1/2 Beaugard Heights • Hampton, VA 23669

[www.willowoaks.org](http://www.willowoaks.org)

Questions about membership? Contact Melissa at [willow.oaks.org@gmail.com](mailto:willow.oaks.org@gmail.com).

## Swim Team Yard Sale/Bake Sale

Why'll you're out and about enjoying our Community Yard Sale on May 4, be sure to visit the Willow Oaks Pool from **8 a.m. to noon** where the swim team will be holding their own yard sale/bake sale. All proceeds will go towards purchasing new pool furniture for the year. See you there!

## Willow Oaks Swim Team

The swim team is open to all Willow Oaks Pool members through age 18 that can swim at least one length of the pool without assistance. For swim team registration forms, calendars and parent handouts, go to [www.willowoaks.org](http://www.willowoaks.org) and click on the Swim Team tab.

In addition to competitive swimming, the Stingrays offer an ice cream social during the parent's meeting, a pizza party and tie dying event, team building exercises, games, and the chance to make new friends!

## Upcoming WOST Events

### Swim Team Registration & Open House

Saturday, May 18 • 9 a.m.–Noon

Willow Oaks Pool – 236 ½ Beaugard Heights

### Parent Meeting and Ice Cream Social

Sunday, May 19 • 4 p.m.

Willow Oaks Pool – 236 ½ Beaugard Heights

This event kicks off the Willow Oaks swimming season. Parents are requested to attend in order to discuss important details related to the team and the GPSA league. The swimmers will get to meet the coaches and fellow teammates while enjoying ice cream and “ice breaking” games!

## Shop and Support the Swim Team

SwimOutlet.com has allowed the Stingrays to join their affiliate program to raise funds for the Willow Oaks Swim Team. All you need to do is visit [www.swimoutlet.com/willowoaks](http://www.swimoutlet.com/willowoaks) and place an order. The site will contribute 8% of the purchase price to the swim team account, which is paid out via a quarterly check. This is a great “free” way to support our local youth and help the team just by placing an order for the things you already need like caps, goggles, towels, backpacks, t-shirts, sunglasses, yoga and running equipment, and more.

**Thank you for your support!**

## Volunteers, We Need Your Help!

As I am sure that everyone can see, we are on a mission to revitalize our neighborhood and make Willow Oaks the best place in Hampton to live. We cannot do this without your help! As the summer season approaches, we will be looking for volunteers to help continue our efforts of moving forward with making Willow Oaks the best and safest neighborhood in Hampton. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me at [skwcherry@gmail.com](mailto:skwcherry@gmail.com). We will have many volunteer opportunities available (see below). Thank you for supporting your community!

- Susan Cherry, Volunteer Coordinator

## Pool Work Party



Saturday, May 11  
Noon - 4 p.m.  
Willow Oaks Pool  
236½ Beauregard

Please consider helping out for a couple of hours! We'll be painting, working on grounds maintenance and doing some general cleaning.

There's a job for every skill level and ability. Plus, each family that donates two hours of time (even if that is just one person), will receive two guest pool passes - **a \$10 value!**



Over 60 children participated in the Willow Oaks Easter Egg Hunt in Gosnold's Hope Park. Thank you to all who donated candy and their time to this wonderful family event!



## Don't Miss Our Upcoming Events...

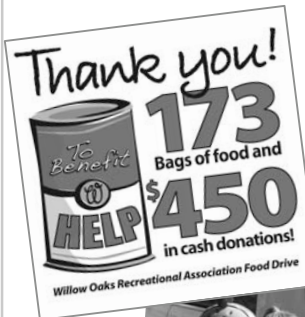


Friday-Sunday,  
May 3-4 • 6:30 am.  
Throughout the  
neighborhood and  
at the Willow  
Oaks Pool  
236½ Beauregard

Saturday, May 25  
10 a.m.  
Willow Oaks Pool  
236½ Beauregard



## ...Because 2013 in Willow Oaks has Been Great So Far!



Some of our youngest H.E.L.P.ers. Thanks to all who volunteered for and donated food and money for the annual food drive!



### WILLOW OAKS ~ HOMES FOR SALE

<u>Address</u>	<u>Bedrooms</u>	<u>Baths</u>	<u>Sq. Ft.</u>	<u>List Price</u>
119 Horseshoe Lndg	4	2.0	1,685	\$215,000
137 Wilderness Road	5	2.5	2,611	\$265,000

### CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT

<u>Address</u>	<u>Bedrooms</u>	<u>Baths</u>	<u>Sq. Ft.</u>	<u>List Price</u>
302 Little Round Top	4	2.5	2,028	\$223,900

### RECENTLY SOLD

<u>Address</u>	<u>BR / Baths</u>	<u>Sq. Ft.</u>	<u>Date Sold</u>	<u>Sold Price</u>
111 Wilderness Road	4 / 2.5	2,218	01/18/13	\$229,500
307 Rapidan Road	5 / 2.5	2,950	02/04/13	\$215,000
6 Hatteras Landing	4 / 2.5	2,500	02/13/13	\$249,000
223 Shiloh Park	3 / 2.0	1,557	02/28/13	\$175,000

Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed  
Source: Real Estate Information Network

### Hampton Real Estate Statistics Single Family Homes

Homes for sale ~ 751

Under Contract ~ 157

Sold / Closed 2013 ~ 328

Average 2013 Sales Price ~ \$144,744

**Look for updated stats in the next newsletter!**

I am always available to answer any of your specific real estate questions or concerns. *Tina*

### Your Neighborhood REALTOR



**Tina Chrismon**

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#### Office

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