**Forest at Woodland Pond**

The 125 acres of property on either side of the Beach Road entrance is deeded to the WPHOA, but is maintained in a conservancy, which means it will never be developed. The Piedmont Environmental Council prepared a book for the Virginia General Assembly of 100 Conservation Stories from Across Virginia and published them in a book entitled ‘For the Love of the Land.’

Woodland Pond’s entrance was one of the 100 properties selected. The article entitled ‘A Natural Gateway’ is included (on right).

**Architectural Standards**

New Architectural Standards have been written. They are intended to clarify some of the existing 2003 standards, and to be more expansive to improve the appearance of Woodland Pond. They will be posted on the website in January, 2015 for resident input, and a town hall meeting will be held depending on the level of interest, based on feedback. The subject will also be presented at the Annual Meeting on Nov 17, 7:30pm, at the Clubhouse – *please be there!*

Ray Walsh

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When the Woodland Pond neighborhood was built, in Chesterfield County, the developer set aside 124 acres of woodlands to remain undeveloped. This forest, at the gateway to the suburban community and bordering Pocahontas State Park, is protected by a conservation easement held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation.

Ray Walsh, the president of the Woodland Pond Homeowners Association, appreciates the way the expanse of trees on either side of the main entryway to their neighborhood can subtly affect one’s mood. “It’s something that really makes an impression when people come into the neighborhood, because they drive down this long attractive area for a half mile before they get to the first street that has homes, and it’s a nice tranquil introduction to the neighborhood... And it’s a good thing for the residents. They can get here and relax with that little drive before they get to their homes.”

The undisturbed forest that welcomes home the residents of Woodland Pond also serves as home to a variety of wildlife, including an abundance of birds. Walsh says, “I think we have 150 different birds of the 400 or so that exist in Virginia, and it’s certainly a nice habitat for them. We have all the birds of prey, the eagles, and the hawks, and—we don’t see them but they’re there at night—the barred owls and great horned owls.”

These woods are located just across the street from Pocahontas State Park, a nearly 8,000 acre park that serves as a major recreational resource in the Richmond area, offering opportunities for fishing, boating, swimming, hiking, biking, and horseback riding. The protected forests line the road approaching the park, so visitors to the park as well as people in Woodland Pond can enjoy a natural gateway and the wildlife that it supports.
Bow Hunting of Deer in Woodland Pond

Since the first residences in this community were built in the mid-1980’s, coexisting with the whitetail deer that inhabit Woodland Pond has been an issue. They have no predators here, they feed on desirable landscape plants, they pose a traffic hazard during mating season and they freely multiply.

Their density in Woodland Pond is higher than surrounding communities because of our proximity to Pocahontas State Park where the mature males live in relative safety, and have only a short distance to travel during mating season.

We have been told by some State Wildlife Biologists that we do them and ourselves a disfavor by not culling the herds each fall during hunting season. Accordingly, some residents have allowed responsible bow hunters to hunt on their property. Most use cross bows which are more powerful and more accurate. This technique is controversial in its effect in reducing the deer population and the matter of the suffering this method inflicts on the deer is also an issue. Seldom is the arrow or bolt an instant kill. The animal will usually run 100 to 500 yards before dying, and in the case of hits that are not initially fatal they can live for days in pain.

Other professionals have told us that culling them is not effective at all, and that they will reproduce back to original levels in one or two seasons.

One method the Association has promoted to coexist with them peacefully is to install plants they don’t eat. Since they’re capricious, at times they may eat plants they don’t usually eat (Acuba, Yews and Rhododendrons are examples). Even professional repellants are marginally effective in stopping them from eating plants they desire. Another factor in their diet is the availability of the foods nature provides. The acorn crop is cyclical, with 2014 being an abundant year – especially the sweet White Oak acorns that they relish.

In summary, residents should consider the following:

- Planting landscape plants they typically don’t eat is the best solution for coexisting with them. This can be difficult because their eating habits vary, but there are many desirable plants they usually shun. Most Junipers and Viburnums are safe; Boxwoods are almost always safe. They will ignore many varieties of Laurels. A relative of the Yew, the Japanese Plum Yew (genus Cephlotaxus) is a beautiful plant that exists in many sizes and shapes and is never eaten. They eat some Arborvitae (e.g. the Emerald Green variety), but not others like the Green Giants. It takes time and patience, but you can make your property look good with deer resistant plants.

- One of the worst solutions residents employ is trying to protect desirable plants with cages and makeshift fences in front yards. These eyesores, along with many unsightly mailboxes, are the major blights of the neighborhood.

- The small effect bow hunting has on the population is not effective in reducing the total number of deer in the neighborhood, and when we consider the inhumane nature of killing them in this manner, residents should give careful thought before allowing bow hunters on their property.

Ray Walsh
2014 Lunch Bunch Restaurant Reviews

On the first Wednesday of every month, a group of people from Woodland Pond goes to a restaurant that has been recommended or one that is new to the area. The lunch bunch is open to all Woodland Pond residents and their guests. This review is based on food, service, décor, and parking availability.

**Galley**, 2805 Hathaway Rd., Richmond (Stratford Hills)
The restaurant is in a shopping center and has tons of parking. It’s shaped like a galley, long and narrow and the menu is wonderful. The service was superb, it was almost like having a private waitress. It’s been given four and a half stars by most who visit it. The noise level is average.

**Divine/Wine bar/Creperie**, 13127 Rivers Bend Boulevard, Chester
This name is very appropriate, the restaurant is divine. It’s in the Rivers Bend Shopping Center and there’s plenty of parking. The noise level is low and the wait staff and atmosphere are very good. The food is terrific. It’s a trip that is very worth the ride.

**Max’s on Broad**, 305 Brook Rd., Richmond
Oh, my goodness, this place is wonderful. It’s a Belgian Brasserie. It’s a beautiful, two story restaurant with beautiful décor. The food matches the venue, the menu is excellent. The service was perfect, the noise level is average. They have a parking lot around the corner, about a five minute walk away. Big groups should make reservations, Max’s is always packed.

**Pasture**, 416 East Grace St., Richmond
This is another restaurant with a great menu. It’s very popular, the food is available in large and small portions and all the products are Virginia grown. The chef used to work at Comfort and his menu is just that, southern comfort food. There’s street parking and the restaurant, which fills up quickly, has an above average noise level. This doesn’t seem to bother people, the place is always crowded.

**Water Coastal Kitchen**, 3411 West Cary St., Richmond
One of our favorites, this restaurant has fabulous food, sea food and others. It’s very lovely inside, the wait staff is excellent, and we never felt rushed. Being on Cary St., you’ll have to hope for street parking unless you want to walk a few blocks. If you go early enough, it should be no problem. This is the kind of restaurant you’ll bring visiting out-of-towners to for dinner. Cary St. offers lots of shopping and browsing and it’s a great way to spend the afternoon. The noise level is low. Bon Apetit!

**Tarrant’s**, 1 West Broad St., Richmond
Wonderful food with a wide variety of choices and very unusual, yet alluring and delicious. The venue is typical of Broad Street, it’s on a corner and the parking is either street or a lot near by. They have their own lot around the block with a walking exit onto Broad Street. Noise level is average. VERY well worth visiting.

**La Cucina**, 11440 West Huguenot Rd., Midlothian
This is a very good Italian restaurant with a diverse menu. The staff was wonderful and the food was delicious. It’s in a shopping center off of Huguenot Rd, so parking is very easy. The noise level is a little higher than average, but it’s not so bad that we wouldn’t go again.

(Continued on next page)
**Bistro 27, 27 West Broad St., Richmond**
The food is very good, a nice variety. The restaurant was recently refurbished and is very nice. Parking is a bit of a challenge, there are lots near by with honor paying and there's street parking. Arriving early would be a good idea, since the restaurant gets busy. There's a lot that offers free parking for Bistro 27 at dinnertime. Noise level is average.

**Wabi Sabi, 29 Bollingbrook St., Petersburg**
This is a wonderful Tapas/Sushi/American restaurant in Old Petersburg. The wait staff was wonderful, the atmosphere is lovely and the food is excellent. There's a wonderful historic quality to this whole area. There's free parking directly across the street and street parking in front of the restaurant. Noise level is low. There are tons of lovely shops to visit while you're in the area. It's an afternoon of good food, fun shopping and sightseeing. I believe the owner is opening another restaurant in the same area.

If you're interested in joining lunch bunch, please contact me at 804-796-2175 and I'll put you on the reminder list. Each month I send the name of the restaurant, the location and a brief description by e-mail.

Charlie (Charlotte) Turfboer.

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**Woodland Pond Garden Club**
Woodland Pond Garden Club has an active presence on Facebook - just search "Woodland Pond Garden Club" when in Facebook.

They also have their current October 2014 newsletter "Here's The Dirt" on the WPHA website, at http://www.woodlandpond.org/community/gardenNewsletters.cfm.

For more information, call or email
Laura Dooley (639-4077, laurajdooley@verizon.net) or
Theresa Tremper (796-6489, ttrem6172@aol.com)
about membership in the club!

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Since we do not have curbs in Woodland Pond, it is easy to take corners a little too sharp, running over the grass in well kept lawns. Please watch your turns and keep off of your neighbor's grass! Let's work together to keep Woodland Pond looking nice!
Another summer season has ended with lots of fun times and fond memories of swim meets, pizza and float nights and just plain splashing in the pool and relaxing in the sun. The Wave Swim Team had a successful season and participated in Champs and many youngsters participated in the instructional tennis program. Adults enjoyed several social events and the end of summer party with live music.

It should not be a surprise to most residents that the 25-year old club facilities are in need of substantial renovation. The board contracted with an architect and an engineering consulting firm to conduct a professional conditions assessment of the SRC facilities. This study revealed over $400,000 in repairs and renovations needed to restore the amenities. Given the need for significant improvements that well exceed the club’s available funding capacity, the SRC Board initiated a capital campaign during the summer, known as the **Brick Paver Project**, with a goal of generating $100,000. Proceeds from this Capital Campaign will be used to stabilize and renovate the pool and repair the pool decking. Any additional proceeds will be used to renovate the tennis courts and resurface the parking lot. The clubhouse recently underwent some updating as 6 double French doors as well as damaged and worn siding were replaced and the exterior was repainted.

We are very grateful to those who have demonstrated their commitment to our community and have already donated. Thanks to pledges from members and non-members totaling $65,000 and a large pledge from Midlothian Enterprises, we met our initial fundraising goal of $100,000 for renovating our pool facilities. This goal was set to avoid borrowing money at this time. However, the total costs of pool repairs are $115,000. As a result, we will continue with our current capital campaign efforts to minimize use of our limited reserve account and provide a base of funding for the renovation of the tennis courts, our next priority, estimated to cost approximately $100,000. The club is a very important asset in Woodland Pond. The amenities of our established upscale community are the basis for its reputation and play a significant role in the values of homes in our community. Visitors have been impressed with the facility’s design and appearance. Most families with children would not live here if a swimming pool was not available. Realtors say that general property values would decline without the club. It is in every property owner’s best interest to support the club and keep it viable. **Please consider becoming a member and/or contributing to our capital campaign to maintain the quality of life and property values in our community.** The pledge form is available at [www.wpsrc.org](http://www.wpsrc.org).

Please feel free to email the SRC Board with any questions at [wpsrc@aol.com](mailto:wpsrc@aol.com).

Donna Thompson
Woodland Pond Lakefront Association  
P.O. Box 286, Chesterfield, VA  23832

2014 Board of Directors
Justin Hepner, President  454-0322  
Joe English, Vice President  717-2107  
Robert Wood, Secretary  778-4960  
Paula Graham, Treasurer  717-5040  
Ronnie Blakey, Director  748-2910  
Bob Wray, Director  748-0787  
Eric Ertzner, Director  796-6736  
Check the website at http://www.woodlandpondlakefront.org for the latest information.

The center point and perhaps the most important amenity in the Woodland Pond is the lake, which covers approximately 120 water surface acres and 12 acres on the boat ramp picnic area, dam and contiguous parcels. The lake is for the private use of active members for boating, sailing, canoeing, fishing, and similar recreational purposes. The lake has a healthy fish population and excellent water quality.

Membership in the Lakefront Association is open to all Woodland Pond lot owners. There are two classes of membership: Class A, “owners of lots fronting the lake who are entitled to one (1) vote, and “class B, “ owners of lots not fronting the lake who are entitled to one-half (1/2) vote. The annual membership and business meeting is held in January. Annual dues of $180 are payable January 31st and late fees are applied monthly if paid after February 1st. Specific instructions for new and non-renewing members are provided with the invoice mailed to all lot owners. “Class B” members may elect to not pay annual dues by notifying the Lakefront Association in writing, thereby forfeiting any privilege of using the lake or its developed areas (picnic facilities, pier, etc.). Lake privileges may be reactivated at any subsequent time by providing written notice and agreeing to abide by the By-laws and Charter of the Association and paying all necessary dues.

Access and use of the lake shall be for members and their immediate families. A member must accompany all guests. Boats must be 18 feet or less and propelled manually or by battery power. Only boats owned by Woodland Pond property owners are allowed on the lake. Boat storage racks near the boat ramp are available for rental. We recently added an new boat rack: Contact Director Eric Ertzner if you are interested in renting a slot for your boat.

The Association hosts an annual fishing tournament and picnic in the Spring for all Woodland Pond residents. All family members are encouraged to participate.

All lake structures such as docks, piers and bulkheads shall be approved in advance by the Lakefront Association. Use of the lake is limited to daylight hours, normally sunrise to sunset.

The purpose of the Lakefront Association is to maintain the integrity of the lake, dam and associated property and to provide a safe and proper environment for its members’ use. A voluntary board of directors is elected and responsible for overseeing the use and maintenance of the lake. Please feel free to contact any board member in order to become involved in the Association. The board welcomes and values your input and we’re always looking for new board members!

Justin Hepner
Welcome Letters to New Residents
My name is Charlie (Charlotte) Turfboer and I'm the person who welcomes new neighbors into Woodland Pond. I use a website to follow the sales of homes and I put a letter of welcome into the mail boxes of new residents. The letter requests that they call me and set up a date for me to bring a few little gifts and lots of information to them. One of our forms is an informational one that asks for names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses. We ask for this info so everyone can be included in our annual neighborhood directory. Most of our communication will take place on-line, so we hope to get all of our neighbors to subscribe to www.woodlanpond.org updates. If you have moved in since the beginning of 2014 and have not gotten an official welcome, please call me at 804-796-2175, and Thank You!

Charlie

Woodland Pond Swim Team Fall Newsletter
The Woodland Pond Wave Swim Team enjoyed another successful and fun filled season this year under the leadership of Coach Heather Harwood. With 110 swimmers we were one of the smaller teams in the Chesterfield Aquatic League A Division, but what we lacked in numbers we made up for in heart and determination. All of our swimmers from ages 4 to 18 showed what being a member of the Wave is all about. We are extremely proud of their hard work and dedication!

We began the season with our annual kick off party at the end of May and then began our weekly meets, some at home and some away. Every meet had its challenges, but each one was fun! We finished fourth overall out of 22 teams by season’s end and that is no easy feat! We couldn’t be prouder of our 2014 team. Thanks to everyone who made the season a success.

Be on the look out for information regarding our Winter Swim program which will begin in January. Winter swim is a great place for new swimmers to learn swim strokes and meet the coaches in a non competitive environment. Come be a part of the Wave, you won’t be disappointed! We are also looking for some volunteers for the 2015 swim team committee. If you have any questions about the swim team or are interested in volunteering, please contact either Julie Garrett at cmgjt@msn.com, Leslie Roberts at leslie.roberts80@yahoo.com or Laura Knappe at LKnappe@aol.com.

Laura Knappe
WOODLAND POND DIRECTORY UPDATE

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of our directory. However, we may have missed you or otherwise made a mistake. Please take a moment to complete the following information, especially if you are new to Woodland Pond, have a new baby, or other changes to make in your directory listing, and return to:

Woodland Pond Directory Update
PO Box 136
Chesterfield, VA 23832

Or, alternately, email us the information at: wpha@woodlandpond.org.

Did you purchase a resale? If so, tell us previous owner’s last name (so we can take them out of the directory.)

Your last name(s): ____________________________________________________________
First names: _________________________________________________________________
Street Address: ______________________________________________________________
Phone: ______________________________________________________________________

Other members of your household (children will be included under parents’ names along with date of birth - not ages, because it will be incorrect in the following year’s directory.)

____________________________________________________________________________
Place asterisks by the name of any member of your household who would be interested in Babysitting (*), Pet-sitting (**), or Odd Jobs (**). We’ll get them listed.